

AIDS

Acquired

Acquired means that people are not born with the disease. They are infected with the HIV virus.

Immune

Immune or Immuno- talks about the immune system. The immune system is the part of the body that fights off disease.

Deficiency

Deficiency means not enough. An immuno-deficiency is where the immune system cannot fight diseases to keep the body healthy.

Syndrome

Syndrome is a collection of symptoms, or problems in the body.

A virus called **HIV** causes a syndrome called Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Because the immune system is damaged and cannot fight off disease, people with AIDS show a collection of symptoms which doctors call the "Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome." Children affected by the HIV/AIDS aren't getting enough life-saving treatment.

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks cells that help the body fight infection, making a person more vulnerable to other infections and diseases.

First identified in 1981, HIV is the cause of one of humanity's deadliest and most persistent epidemics. It is spread by contact with certain bodily fluids of a person with HIV, most commonly during unprotected sex, or through sharing injection drug equipment.

However, by taking HIV medicine (called antiretroviral therapy or ART), people with HIV can live long and healthy lives. In addition, there are effective methods to prevent getting HIV through sex or drug use.

AIDS affects 3.2 million Children

In 2013 there were about 3.2 million children living with the HIV virus. Many of them live in Africa and were born with the virus. It was passed from their mothers while they were pregnant, when they were born or from breast milk.

All children born with HIV have the right to go to school. Even more so, healthy children need to know more about the virus too. This is the main way to encourage openness about HIV rather than silence or shame.

There has been a lot of good research for a cure for AIDS, but the human body can't get rid of HIV and no effective HIV cure exists. So, once you have HIV, you have it for life. By taking HIV medicine (called antiretroviral therapy or ART), people with HIV can live long and healthy lives.

There isn't enough money to help doctors and scientists treat both adults and children in poorer countries. Many will have to work together to raise more money available to train healthcare workers and give them more of the right medicines to help everyone.

Furthermore, scientists have to develop medicines specifically for children with HIV/AIDS that ordinary people can afford.



World AIDS day is December 1st every year. It is a way to raise awareness to help fight HIV. The red ribbon has become the symbol for AIDS awareness. People wear them in support of people living with HIV and in remembrance of those who have died. The red ribbon is also a symbol for the major illnesses, like heart disease and stroke.



17 PROMISES Make the world better

The 17 United Nations (UN) Sustainability Development Goals, or SDGs, are in fact 17 Promises made by grown ups to children.