



HIV treatment works

**TREAT  
MORE  
TREAT  
BETTER**



**World Health  
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

World AIDS Day 2013

# HIV Treatment Works

## **The benefits of HIV treatment for the person living with HIV**

- It delays the progression of the disease
- It prolongs life
- It improves quality of life

## **The benefits of HIV treatment for the population**

- HIV treatment is proven cost effective
- HIV treatment reduces the risk of transmission of the virus from an infected person to others
- Early treatment on a large scale will reduce the number of new HIV infections

# Treat More



Antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV infection should be made widely accessible to all those who need it. No one should be denied treatment on grounds of age, gender, risk behaviour, ethnicity, race or any other reason.

- Start treatment earlier
- Expand treatment eligibility to include more people
- Address stigma in health care settings
- Reach out to those most at risk and to those with the least access to services
- Ensure that more people living with HIV have been tested for HIV and received their result
- Facilitate the linkage of those who test HIV positive to care and treatment
- Make sure that all those eligible for ART are receiving it
- Improve the quality of services to retain those on treatment in lifelong successful care

# Treat Better



- Use potent, less toxic, easy-to-take medicines
- Ensure better monitoring of patients' response to treatment
- Promote and support adherence
- Ensure an uninterrupted supply of HIV medicines
- Ensure meaningful involvement of people living with HIV in the planning and delivery of treatment services



**People living  
with HIV can lead  
normal lives with  
treatment**

# Regional initiative to end the HIV Treatment Crisis

In January 2013, Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, called for renewed commitment and urgent action to End the HIV Treatment Crisis in the Region.

All countries should ensure that:

- More people living with HIV have access to services, receive an HIV test and are informed of the result
- People who are diagnosed with HIV are linked to and retained in care
- People in need of life-saving antiretroviral treatment are getting it
- People who receive antiretroviral therapy are retained in quality lifelong care and treatment.

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WHO-EM/STD/154/E