

## Summary of preferred terminology

| Do not use this                         | Use this   |
|---|--|
| HIV/AIDS                                | Use HIV unless specifically referring to AIDS. Examples include people living with HIV, the HIV epidemic, HIV prevalence, HIV prevention, HIV testing, HIV-related disease; AIDS diagnosis, children made vulnerable by AIDS, children orphaned by AIDS, the AIDS response. Both HIV epidemic and AIDS epidemic are acceptable.  |
| AIDS virus                              | There is no "AIDS virus". The virus associated with AIDS is called the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV. Please note: the phrase HIV virus is redundant. Use HIV.  |
| AIDS-infected                           | Avoid the term infected. Use person living with HIV or HIV-positive person. No one can be infected with AIDS, because it is not an infectious agent. AIDS is a surveillance definition meaning a syndrome of opportunistic infections and diseases that can develop as immunosuppression deepens along the continuum of HIV infection from primary infection to death. |
| AIDS test                               | There is no test for AIDS. Use HIV or HIV antibody test.   |
| AIDS sufferer or victim                 | The word "victim" is disempowering. Use person living with HIV. Use the term AIDS only when referring to a person with a clinical AIDS diagnosis.  |
| AIDS patient                            | Use the term patient only when referring to a clinical setting. Preferred: patient with HIV-related illness.   |
| Risk of AIDS                            | Use risk of HIV infection; risk of exposure to HIV.  |
| High(er) risk groups; vulnerable groups | Key populations at higher risk (both key to the epidemic's dynamics and key to the response)   |
| Commercial sex work                     | Sex work or commercial sex or the sale of sexual services  |
| Prostitute                              | Use only in respect to juvenile prostitution; otherwise use sex worker.  |
| Intravenous drug user                   | Use injecting drug user. Drugs may be injected subcutaneously, intramuscularly or intravenously.   |
| Sharing (needles, syringes)             | Use non-sterile injecting equipment if referring to risk of HIV exposure; use contaminated injecting equipment if the equipment is known to contain HIV or if HIV transmission has occurred.   |
| Fight against AIDS                      | Response to AIDS   |
| Evidence-based                          | Evidence-informed  |
| HIV prevalence rates                    | Use HIV prevalence. The word 'rates' connotes the passage of time and should not be used here.   |
| Acronyms and abbreviations              | Please spell out all terms in full. For example PMTCT should be prevention of mother-to-child transmission, etc.   |