



## **HIV Epidemic Overview and Trends in Egypt in 2012**

Egypt has low HIV prevalence among the general population (below 0.1%) and a concentrated epidemic (above 5%) among some populations. Until the end of 2011, 2,471 Egyptians are known to be living with HIV; among whom, 388 (15.7 %) developed AIDS. Over the past ten years, the number of detected cases has seen exponential increase as shown in the trend graph below. This could be attributed to both the increase in testing for HIV and a potential increase in HIV infections. During 2011 only, a total of 468 new HIV cases were detected.

Cumulatively and till 2010, most transmissions occurred sexually (66.8%) with (46.2%) heterosexual and (20.6%) homosexual transmissions, while Transmission through injecting drug use represents (28.3%) of all cases. Among detected cases in 2010, (4.9%) were children of various ages denoting increase in mother to child transmission. Transmission through blood/blood products including renal dialysis was not determined lately but has been a serious problem in the recent past.<sup>1</sup>

There is a special vulnerability for women and girls due to lower socioeconomic status as well as weak access to prevention and services. UNAIDS/WHO estimates that there are 1,500 (1000-2900) women of 15 years and over living with HIV till 2011 (UNAIDS, 2012). Very few women present for voluntary counseling and testing (less than 20% of VCT attendees)<sup>2</sup>. Coverage of services for preventing mother to child transmission remains limited in Egypt.

Risk determinants for a wider epidemic exist due to a large population of young people with very low knowledge of HIV (4.8% and 18.3% of females and males respectively have comprehensive knowledge of HIV)<sup>3</sup>; poverty (21.6% of population under poverty line which reaches 66% in Upper Egypt ), the continued presence of illiteracy in the general population (38%) especially among women, high rates of unemployment of 9.4%, and up to 40 % among women below 30 years<sup>4</sup>; and high rates of risk behaviors and very low condom use.

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly Report, Egypt 2012

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly Report, Egypt 2012

<sup>3</sup> EDHS 2008, El Zanaty et al

<sup>4</sup> Challenges Facing Egypt, Heba Handoussa et al 2010

### **Website**

[www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

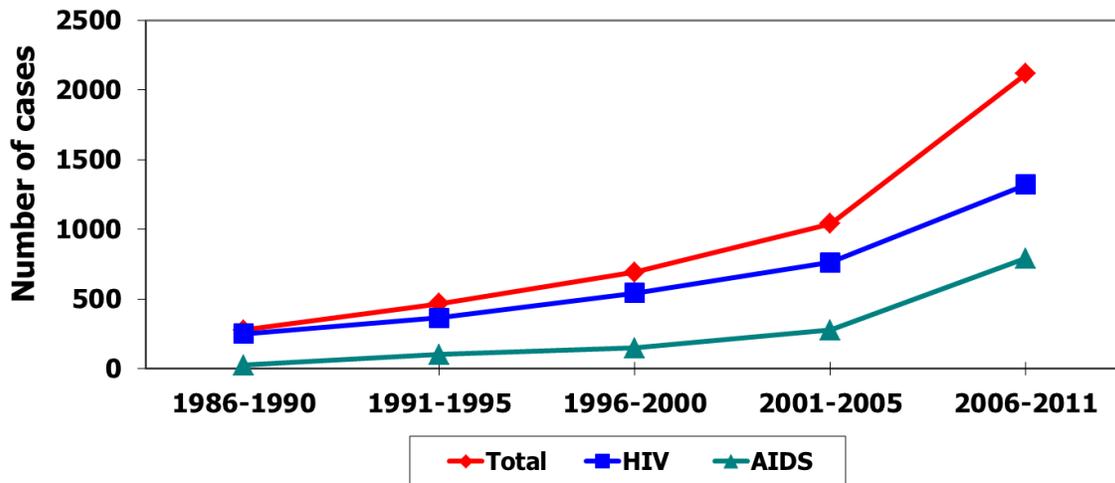
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## Number of HIV/AIDS reported cases in Egypt, 1986-2011



### National Response to HIV in Egypt

Egypt has strengthened anonymous voluntary counseling and testing facilities, availed free antiretroviral medication for people living with HIV, and initiated various peer-education programs for vulnerable populations including women and youth.

Civil Society Organizations are supported to implement peer-education programs on HIV for vulnerable and most-at-risk populations groups (street children, refugees, prisoners, etc). The network of Egyptian NGOs against AIDS established since 2004, is composed of 27 NGOs, and actively works on recruitment and capacity development for NGOs to better engage in the HIV response.

A people living with HIV association has been established (Friends of Life) to ensure meaningful involvement of people living with HIV in Egypt in the HIV response. The association has actively contributed to several large scale advocacy campaigns. The National AIDS Program recently developed an updated situation and response analysis for HIV; and a strategic framework for the next five years (2012-16).

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