

*acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)*: syndrome caused by HIV. It is marked when a person's immune system is so weak that it can no longer fight off infection that a healthy immune system easily could. Nowadays, an HIV-positive individual getting the proper treatment will probably never get AIDS.

*antiretroviral therapy (ART)*: type of treatment for HIV that involves taking various combinations of medications targeting different parts of the HIV life cycle. ART reduces the likelihood of HIV transmission and slows HIV's progression in the body, helping people stay healthy for a longer period of time.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*: U.S. federal agency that not only researches but specifically responds to outbreaks of infectious diseases. CDC also researches some noninfectious diseases.

*chronic disease*: disease that lasts more than a year and requires regular medical attention, such as arthritis and diabetes.

*endemic*: typically prevalent within a defined geographic location or among a specific group of people.

*epidemic*: an increase, often sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is typical for a certain population in an area.

*Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*: U.S. regulatory agency that decides whether or not certain drugs and foods are safe to sell to the American public. A drug has to be approved by rigorous and expensive research process before the FDA will permit doctors to prescribe it.

*human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)*: virus that causes AIDS. It is transmitted through bodily fluids such as blood, semen, and breast milk, but not saliva. HIV attacks the body's immune system until it can no longer defend itself against disease and infection.

# Glossary: Global Health

*immunization*: process of protecting or strengthening people's immune systems to fight off particular infectious diseases, usually accomplished through vaccines.

*infectious disease*: also called communicable, a disease that spreads via people, animals, insects, or contaminated food and water—such as the flu, chickenpox, or Ebola.

*multi-payer system*: health-care system in which citizens are covered through a variety of plans, both public and private. Coverage may or may not be universal, depending on the country.

*National Institutes of Health (NIH)*: U.S. federal agency tasked with researching issues of public health and making grants to private researchers doing the same.

*noncommunicable disease*: disease that cannot be transmitted via people or animals. Examples include cancer and diabetes.

*pandemic*: disease outbreak that has reached at least several countries, affecting a large group of people.

*retrovirus*: type of virus that uses RNA, instead of DNA, to replicate itself. HIV is a retrovirus.

*single-payer system*: national health-care system in which all citizens are covered by a health-care plan that is fully funded by the government, the so-called single payer.

*socio-demographic index (SDI)*: type of grade assigned to a country by health researchers that takes into account the country's income, education, and fertility. Unlike other indexes, such as the Human Development Index, SDI does not take into account a country's overall health so that researchers can isolate the variable.

*universal health coverage (UHC)*: the goal, as defined by the United Nations,

health research and response.

*years lived with disability (YLDs)*: way to measure the effect of disease on someone's quality of life, based on a mathematical formula that factors in the severity of the disease and how long it lasts.