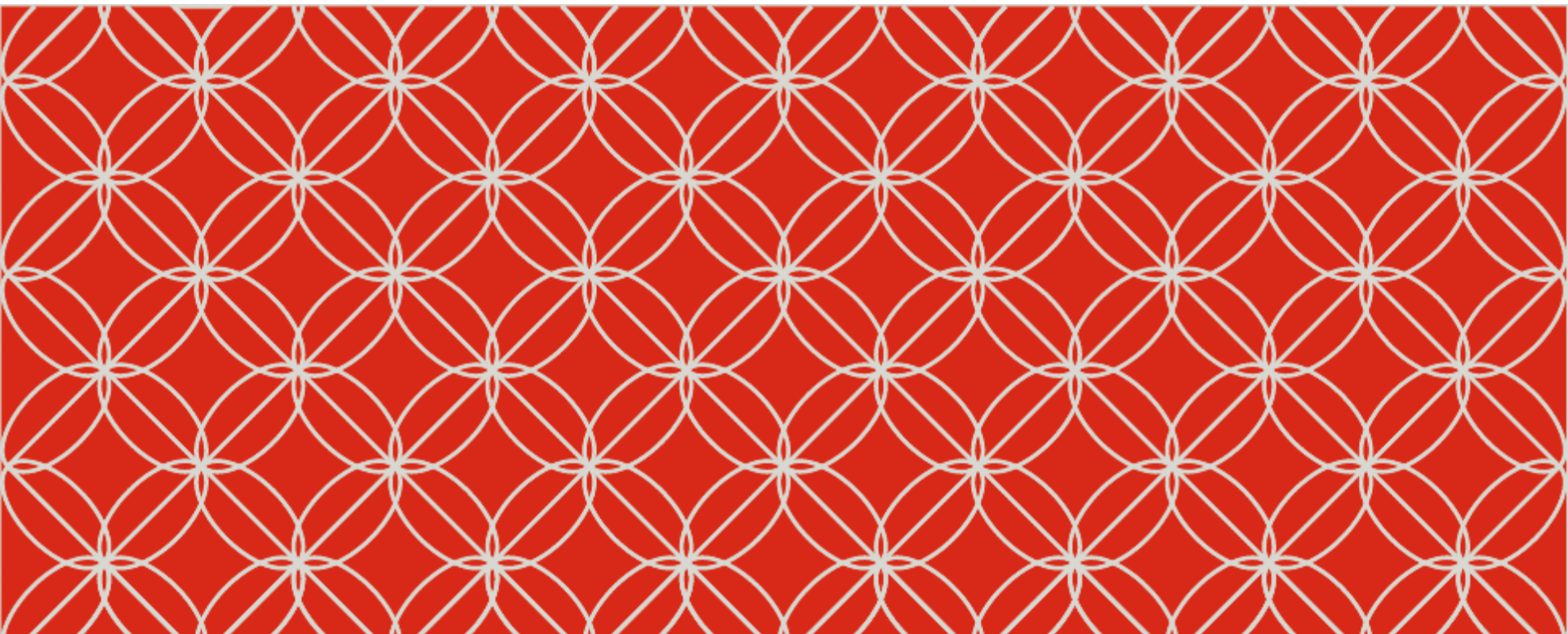


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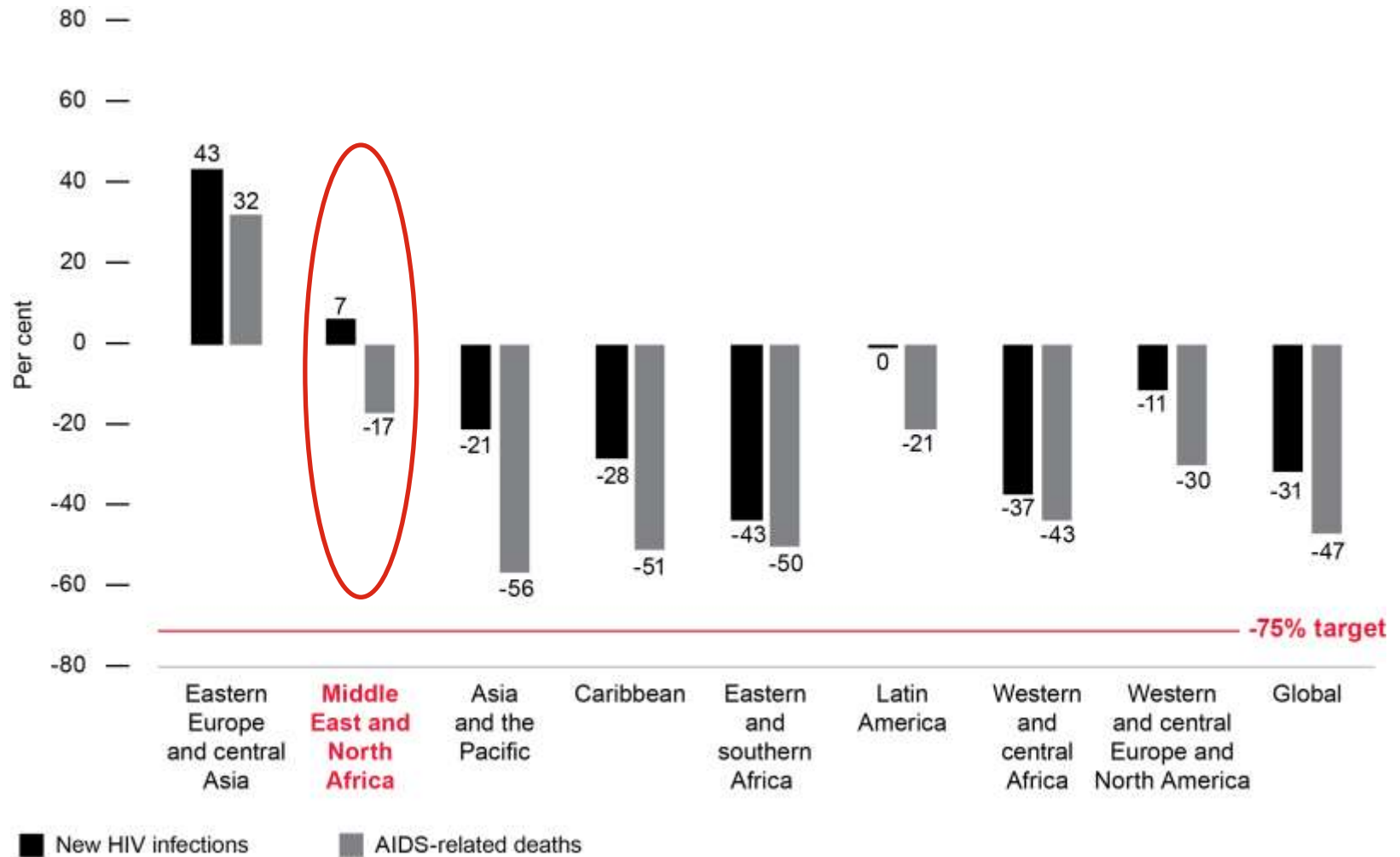
# HIV, GENDER EQUALITY AND ENDING INEQUALITIES

**DIHAD, 16 March 2022**

**SHEREEN EL FEKI,  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
UNAIDS**

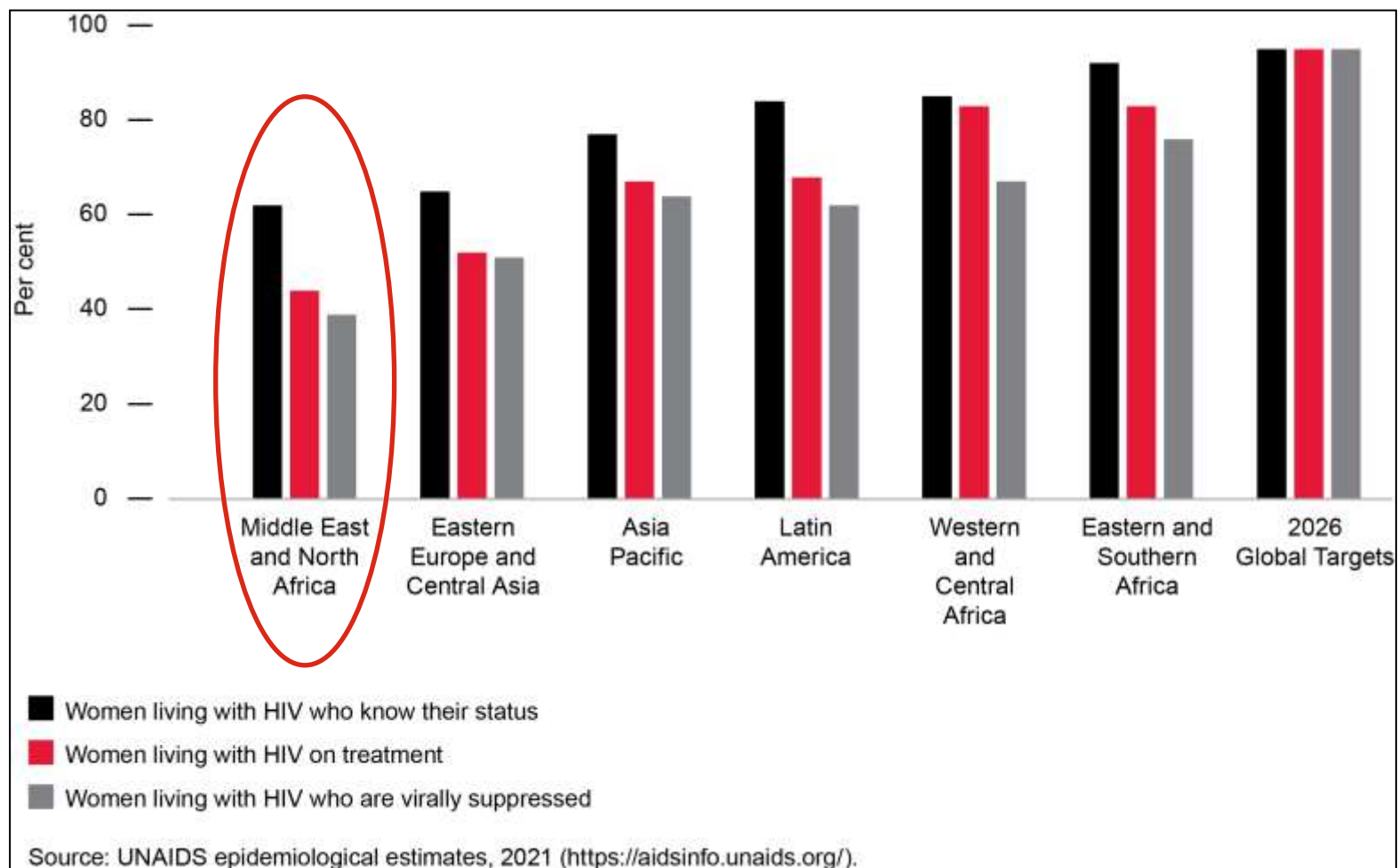


# Change in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, by region and global, 2010–2020

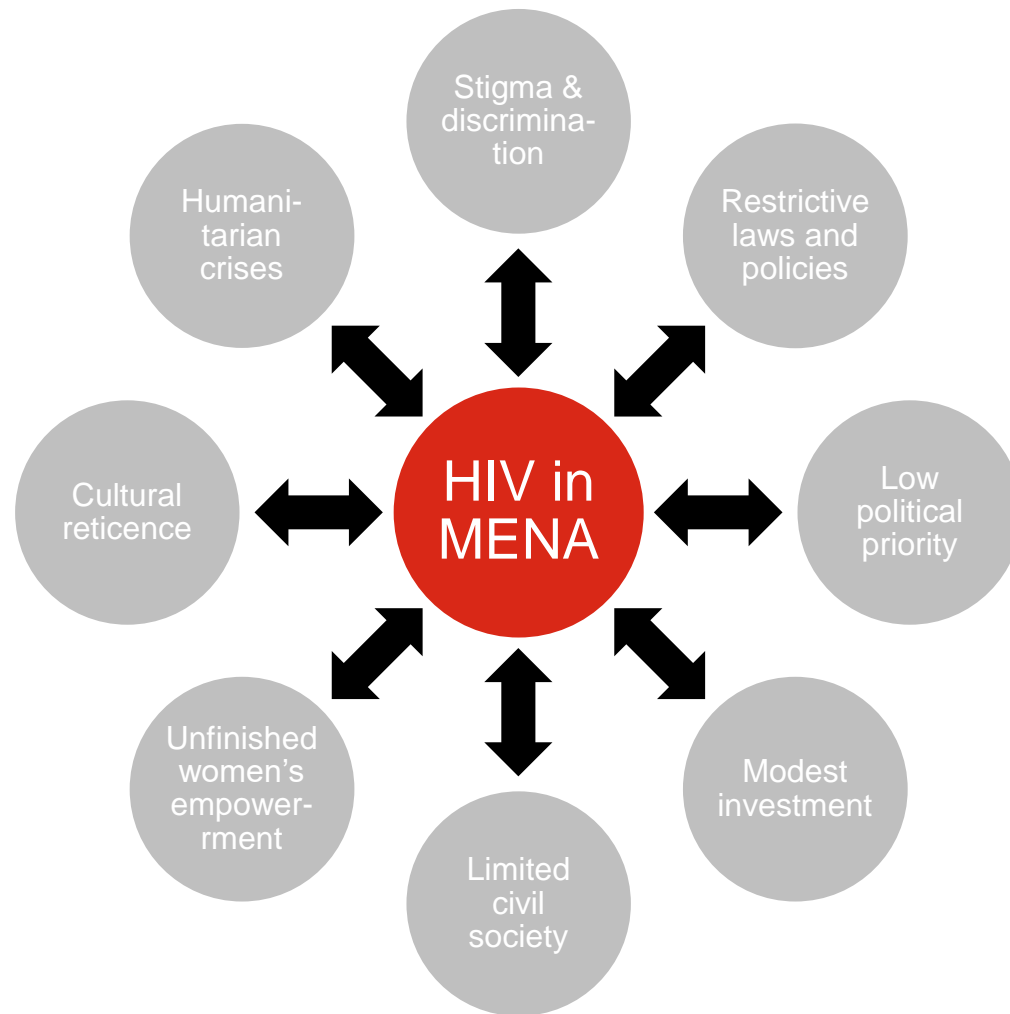


Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2021 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

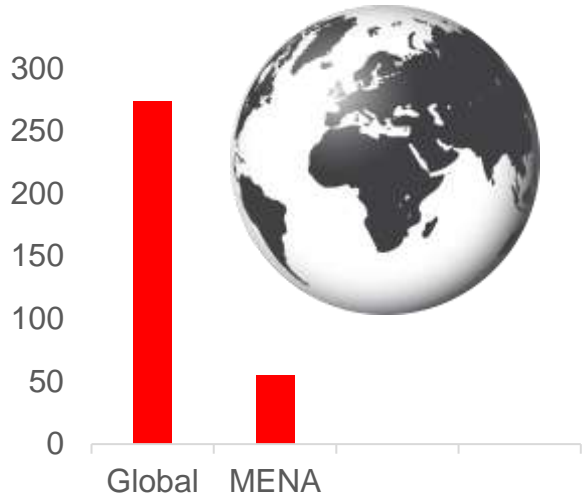
## HIV Testing and Treatment Cascade, Women (Aged 15+), 2020



# HIV in MENA: Mirror and Motor of Inequalities



# Humanitarian Crises and HIV



274 million people globally in need of humanitarian assistance and protection (2022) of which >55 million live in MENA

Source: OCHA, 2022



1 in 14 people with HIV living in humanitarian crisis setting (2016)

>50%



Without access to ARV treatment (2016)

“ Dear Ms Shereen,

*I'm 29 years old Syrian living in Erbil, and I'm registered as asylum seeker in Iraq.*

*While I was renewing my residency, I was tested HIV positive and based on the rule here, they are going to deport me to my country of origin which I already ran from the bad situation there three years ago to Iraq.*

*I'm so despaired and I don't know how to act, I am here with my family and no one knows about my infection, and wanted to keep it that way, please help me. ”*

7 out of 10 women aged 15-49 in conflict settings and in refugee populations are exposed to sexual and gender-based violence



In many of these settings, women who have experienced violence are 50% more likely to be living with HIV.

# Inequalities approach to HIV



## ENDING INEQUALITIES AND GETTING ON TRACK TO END AIDS BY 2030

A summary of the commitments and targets within  
the United Nations General Assembly's  
2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS





# Priorities in MENA

- Innovative Prevention-Testing-Treatment
- Information for Transformation
- Empowering community-led responses
- Rights and Gender
- HIV and Humanitarian Responses

## Global Fund's Middle East Response grant (MER)

- Joint initiative between GF, IOM, WHO, UNAIDS
- Provides access to diagnosis and treatment to refugees, migrants, IDPs, key affected and hard to reach population in 6 countries
- Coordinated through national AIDS, malaria and TB programmes



## Global Fund's Middle East Response grant (MER)

**\$51.4<sub>M</sub>**  
investment between 2019-2021

**>100,000** 

Voluntary HIV testing among key affected and other vulnerable individuals (2018-2020)

**>5,000** 

Antiretrovirals for PLHIV per year

“ Dear Dr. Shereen,

*After receiving your previous email, the next day , your colleague contact me, he provides me with the needed information based on his experience.*

*Two days ago I received a call from the protection department [UNHCR] regarding the letter they have applied to the Mol [Ministry of Interior] to stop the deportation and the respond from the Mol was positive. So, they are now just negotiate about the possibilities of having a residency.*

*Also yesterday they informed me that they refer my medical case to the department of preventive health and I have to go their to receive me medication.*

*I really can't find words to thank you enough. What you have done for me was very important and I do appreciate it. ”*

For more information, please visit  
[www.unaidsmena.org](http://www.unaidsmena.org)

