

Kenya ranked fourth worldwide in HIV infections

Nairobi, Thursday

KENYA has the fourth highest number of Aids infections in the world.

The HIV prevalence in the country stands at 1.6 million people, the Ministry of Health revealed Wednesday.

South Africa, with a prevalence of 5.6 million leads, ahead of Nigeria (3.3 million) and India (2.4 million), according to statistics from the UNAIDS and World Health Organisation (WHO).

An estimated 191,840 of the people living with the HIV virus in Kenya are children. Some 58,465 people died of HIV-related illnesses in 2013.

A new report, 'The National HIV and Aids Estimates', launched Wednesday by Cabinet Secretary for Health James Macharia says there are at least 100,000 new infections in Kenya annually.

Mr Macharia called for concerted efforts, incorporating all stakeholders, to combat the scourge.

Kenya will need about Sh1.75 trillion by 2030 to prevent at least 1.5 million new HIV infections, the reports says.

The Treasury allocated Sh670 million to the National Aids Control Council in the 2014/15 Budget.