Building resilient HIV Services in the context of COVID-19

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Reduction of HIV incidence, mortality slowing & varied results in the 90/90/90 targets

Source: UNAIDS/WHO

- **Global**
  - PLHIV who know their status: 81% average
  - PLHIV receiving ART: 67% average
  - PLHIV who are virally suppressed: 59% average

- **African Region**
  - PLHIV who know their status: 84% average
  - PLHIV receiving ART: 70% average
  - PLHIV who are virally suppressed: 61% average

- **Region of the Americas**
  - PLHIV who know their status: 80% average
  - PLHIV receiving ART: 67% average
  - PLHIV who are virally suppressed: 56% average

- **South-East Asia Region**
  - PLHIV who know their status: 77% average
  - PLHIV receiving ART: 60% average
  - PLHIV who are virally suppressed: 54% average

- **European Region**
  - PLHIV who know their status: 78% average
  - PLHIV receiving ART: 58% average
  - PLHIV who are virally suppressed: 53% average

- **Eastern Mediterranean Region**
  - PLHIV who know their status: 37% average
  - PLHIV receiving ART: 24% average
  - PLHIV who are virally suppressed: 21% average

- **Western Pacific Region**
  - PLHIV who know their status: 77% average
  - PLHIV receiving ART: 65% average
  - PLHIV who are virally suppressed: 61% average
We will miss the 2020 targets for all populations

Number of new child HIV infections, global, 2000–2019, and targets

Number of children accessing antiretroviral therapy, global, 2000–2019 and targets
Indirect effect of COVID-19 on HIV—THE COST OF INACTION is HIGH
HIV services must be maintained...

Suspension of prevention of mother to child transmission services for 6 months could result in dramatic increases in new HIV infections among children in 2020/2021

Maintaining Essential Health Services

- **Recommends practical measures** to take at national, subnational, and local levels to organize and maintain access to services in full safety with the highest quality.

- **Provides indicators for surveillance of essential health services and describes considerations of when to stop and when it safe to restart essential health services during COVID-19.**

- **Divided in two parts**
  - Part 1: Operational strategies to maintain essential health services
  - **Part 2: Specific information regarding specific diseases**
  - Annexe: Indicators for following EHS

- [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/10665-332240](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/10665-332240)
Differentiated Service Delivery Policies including Multi-month dispensing of ARVs

https://www.hivpolicylab.org/map/
Countries with MMD policy per WHO region (n=129): frequency of ARV pick-up

- ARV MMD policy is adopted in most countries.

- Data available for 144 countries:
  - 129 (90%) adopted MMD policy

- Country cases suggest COVID-19 effect on MMD is double-edged:
  - Sufficient ARV stock → intensified MMD (Namibia, Malawi...)
  - Uncertain ARV stock → shorter MMD (Indonesia, Botswana..)

Countries with MMD policy per WHO region (n=129): frequency of ARV pick-up

ARV stock availability and ARV disruptions due to COVID-19 from June to November 2020

- Data available for **102 countries (November 2020)**
- **12 countries** reported ARV stock availability for major first line drugs (TLE/TEE/TLD) of **three months or less**

### ARV 1st line stocks among WHO regions (n=102)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>&gt;3 months</th>
<th>≤3 months</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region of the Americas</td>
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<td>South-East Asia Region</td>
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<td>European Region</td>
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<td>Eastern Mediterranean Region</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Pacific Region</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WHO HIV/HEP/STI COVID-19 Questionnaire, November 2020

- **75% reduction in ARV disruptions due to COVID-19**
- From **34 to 9 countries**; LMIC most affected

Global HIV, Hepatitis and STIs Programmes (HSS), WHO, 2020
Countries reporting on ARV disruptions due to COVID-19, 2020

Results compiled from a survey conducted by WHO between April and June 2020 (n=127): 34 countries reported ARV disruptions

Source: WHO HIV/HEP/STI COVID-19 Questionnaire, June and November 2020

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Global HIV, Hepatitis and STIs Programmes (HSS), WHO, 2020
Countries reporting on ARV disruptions due to COVID-19, 2020

Results compiled from a survey conducted by WHO between April and June 2020 (n=127): 34 countries reported ARV disruptions

Results compiled from a survey conducted by WHO in November 2020 (n=152): 9 countries reported ARV disruptions

Source: WHO HIV/HEP/STI COVID-19 Questionnaire, June and November 2020

Change in the number of pregnant women tested for HIV per month, compared to baseline, selected countries, 2020

- Change in number of pregnant women tested for HIV in 5 SSAfrica countries
- Initial disruption and rebound

Note: The baseline is the average of January and February reports.
Note: The six countries selected were among 13 that fulfilled the following criteria: (a) had data for January 2020; (b) had more than 50 pregnant women in January; (c) had more than 90% of facilities reporting or data from 90% of estimated births; and (d) had at least six months of data.

COVID-19 Impact on reduced testing and partial rebound on newly initiating ART by month, Mar-Sept 2020

Monthly trends of persons tested and put on treatment = March to September 2020

Stories from countries and regions...  
https://www.who.int/health-topics/hiv-aids/#tab=tab_1
Existing HIV and TB laboratory systems facilitated COVID-19 testing in Africa

• 412 laboratories in 17 African countries (SLIPTA)

• 78 laboratories achieving accreditation ISO standards.

• > 20 million HIV viral load tests and > 11 million molecular TB test in 2019

• **Platforms repurposed for COVID-19 test & >10 million tests conducted**

• Machines, infrastructure, sample transport systems, and highly skilled staff shared

• Led to disruptions for HIV and TB testing but on rebound now
Successful continuation of ART delivery during COVID 19 – best practices from the South East Asia Region

- 8 of 10 issued guidelines for MMD of ARV drugs and take-away doses of OST drugs
- ART decentralized to primary health care and community facilities
- Training ART teams on Covid-19 protection with hand sanitizers
- WhatsApp and google hangout meetings are being conducted
- Home delivery of ARV medicines by community outreach
- Police have been sensitized to allow peer workers to deliver ARVs
- NGOs provide nutrition support to 385 PLHIV
Continuing PrEP services for adolescents in Brazil despite COVID-19 disruptions

• PrEP1519 study team ensured a contingency plan to minimize effects of the pandemic disruptions

• Continued to access PrEP and other sexual health services

• Telehealth platforms such as text messages, online social media (Instagram and Facebook), and an artificial intelligence chatbot
Pre-exposure prophylaxis services in Thailand during COVID-19; self-care

- Thailand’s key populations adapted PrEP services and implemented a range of innovations at the community level.

- PrEP-prescriptions from 3 to 6 months

- Telehealth consultations to minimize clinic visits & Xpress delivery services for medication

- **STI self-sampling & MSM clients to choose to stop, re-start** and tailor daily or event-driven use to their HIV risk.

- **PPE and protection** – KP and lay providers in community-based clinics were not prioritized; improvised plastic shields and other protective equipment to help protect themselves and their clients.
Exciting new developments to increase prevention options and access to treatment for children

- WHO’s PQ - has approved the **dapivirine vaginal ring** which will give women an additional prevention choice to protect against #HIV
- 1.8 million children have HIV; 53% on ART and 95,000 die every year.
- **New dispersible, strawberry-flavoured DTG for children**
- Price agreement that will lower the price from > $480 per child to under $120 per child
Conclusions

Let’s take a minute to thank everyone working to end AIDS

• #BuildBackBetter
Thank you

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