

GUINEA

Report prepared by the Joint UN Team on AIDS

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FAST-TRACK TARGETS

COUNTRY PRIORITIES/ TARGETS BY END OF 2021	STATUS	RESULTS, END OF 2020
Boost testing and care through differentiated approaches in the Mandiana prefecture.	ON TRACK	In 2020, it is estimated that 51% of people living with HIV in Guinea knew their HIV status, 97% of people living with HIV who knew their status were on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 73% of people living with HIV on ART had viral suppression (NSSLP Progress Report, 2020). Differentiated approaches are being reinforced in Guinea with support from the Joint Team. For instance, the two first community-based ART distribution points were established in 2020 in the Mandiana prefecture. Access to treatment was also supported through the implementation of the multimonth dispensing of ARVs in 2020.
At least 80% of pregnant women living with HIV and their children in our areas of intervention have had access to quality prevention services for mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT).	ACHIEVED	In 2020, 94% pregnant women living with HIV received ART to prevent HIV mother-to-child transmission. However, mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Guinea remains high at 17% in 2020 (GAM 2021). 27 new structures were integrated into health facilities implementing PMTCT services, increasing the total number of PMTCT sites from 731 in 2019 to 747 in 2020.
At least 80% of vulnerable populations (adolescents and youth, migrants, detainees, persons with disabilities and persons in humanitarian emergencies) have lower-risk behaviours.	ON TRACK	With support from the Joint Team, 3807 girls benefited from modern family planning methods in 2020. Also, 163 public primary and secondary schools have integrated comprehensive sexuality education into their training curriculum, following the capacity building of 237 teachers on unwanted pregnancies, family planning, STIs/HIV and gender-based violence.

<p>80% of civil society organisations have the technical and operational capacity to support the acceleration plan by the end of 2021.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>	<p>The COVID-19 contingency plan developed by the country made it possible to revitalise and strengthen more than 80% of the associations of people living with HIV, ensuring their effective involvement in the continuity of services. For instance, a total of 132 members of the Network of People Infected and Affected by HIV were trained to effectively convey messages in their communities to encourage people living with HIV to access HIV services during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
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JOINT TEAM

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS SECRETARIAT, OHCHR

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESULTS IN 2020

With support from the Joint UN Team on AIDS, differentiated and innovative testing and treatment modalities were strengthened in Guinea in 2020. Through the development of guidance, the training of health providers and the mobilization of communities, joint efforts contributed to the continuity of HIV services despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Technical support and capacity building initiatives were essential in reaching thousands of adolescent and young people with HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health information and services. Moreover, comprehensive sexuality education was integrated in public primary and secondary schools' curricula to further build on these initiatives. Following the "leaving no one behind" principle, the Joint Team provided nutritional assistance to vulnerable people living with HIV/tuberculosis and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring their adherence to treatment and improving their health outcomes.

ACCESS TO HIV TESTING AND TREATMENT

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; PARTNERSHIPS

A rapid assessment survey conducted by the Joint Team among people living with HIV provided feedback on the difficulties they encountered in obtaining treatment. In response, the Joint Team provided technical support to improve access to ART services for people living with HIV. For example, a community-led listening and referral cell with two accessible, toll-free telephone numbers was set up to help space ART refill appointments, including through a 3-6 multimonth dispensing approach, and provide advice and guidance to meet the needs of people living with HIV. Through these hotlines, 153 people have been counselled and referred to the appropriate services in 2020. In addition, this referral cell also provided information on the availability of COVID-19 prevention and treatment services.

With support from the Joint Team, a technical guide on ART refill appointment spacing and the differentiated service delivery model was developed to improve access to ART services for people living with HIV. Three hundred copies of the guide were distributed to treatment and care centres across the country. Guidelines on the introduction and management of preventive treatment for tuberculosis using isoniazid (INH) were also disseminated to 29 large-cohort care

sites. A total of 118 health care providers were trained on these guidelines and on dolutegravir transition protocols to improve health outcomes for people living with HIV. In addition, through a partnership with the Network of people Infected and Affected by HIV (REGAP+), 132 members participated in a three-day training to mobilize their communities and support the continuity of HIV care, treatment, and support services.

Approximately 38 HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) awareness initiatives were carried out in the Kouankan refugee camp, reaching 1936 people (798 women and 1130 men). All received HIV testing and counselling services, and 25 people tested positive for the virus and were linked to treatment services. A total of 17 784 male condoms and 632 female condoms were also distributed during these events.

Furthermore, the Joint Team provided 4 000 HIV-1/2 Ag/Ab test kits, 1023 SD Bioline HIV 1/2 and 800 Trinity Biotech Uni-Gold HIV-1/2 test kits to the National HIV and Hepatitis Programme (PNLS-H) to further support HIV testing services in the country.

PMTCT COVERAGE

POLICY DIALOGUE; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; PARTNERSHIPS

As a result of support provided to the national programme on HIV/AIDS and hepatitis (PNLSH), out of the 46 536 pregnant women who attended their first antenatal care consultation in 15 health facilities, 33 947 (73%) received HIV testing, of whom 441 tested HIV positive, and 401 (90%) of the pregnant women living with HIV were enrolled on ART. Additionally, 107 HIV-exposed infants had early infant diagnosis of whom 10 (9%) were diagnosed with the virus.

HIV PREVENTION AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

POLICY ADVICE; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Joint Team procured 10 800 000 male condoms to the Ministry of Health to improve access to and consistent use of condoms as a double protection against HIV and unwanted pregnancies among vulnerable populations, including young people. The Joint Team also contributed to the thematic working group established to guide a comprehensive national condom programme based on the comprehensive market approach.

Technical and financial support was provided to the Blue-Écoute youth centre in Kaloum, Conakry, including the procurement of laptops, hygiene kits and contraceptives to ensure the continuity of reproductive health services for adolescents and young people at the centre. As a result, 13 258 adolescent and young people were sensitized on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and their rights in 2020; while 3807 girls received information on prevention of early sexual onset and unwanted pregnancy and accessed family planning commodities. The laptops were used to track and report on the progress and impact of the youth led Foniké FM 96.5 radio programme for young people, promoting SRH services offered at the Bleu-Écoute centre.

Following the capacity building of 237 teachers on SRH, including HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), family planning and gender-based violence, 163 public primary and secondary schools have integrated comprehensive sexuality education into their curricula.

In line with the “Leaving no one behind” principle, training on HIV testing and access to treatment services was provided for 132 representatives from prison authorities and civil society organizations in all 33 prefectures. At the end of the training, two focal points were designated per prison to ensure continuity of awareness-raising activities and follow-up of prisoners.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Joint Team provided financial and technical support to national authorities and civil society organizations to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people living with HIV and key populations. The health facilities in Nzérékoré and Macenta, which house refugee camps, received thermo-flashes, hydroalcoholic gel, soap and handwashing stations, 2000 surgical masks, and 2000 non-sterile gloves. Personal protective equipment, COVID-19 prevention posters and medical equipment were also distributed to prison inmates in Conakry's Central House and to people with disabilities to sustain quality and access to HIV care and treatment services during the pandemic.

With support from the Joint Team, 1199 community workers and 534 community leaders were trained on COVID-19 prevention to support the continuity of HIV, SRH, family planning, gender-based violence and obstetric fistula services in health facilities in the urban municipalities of Kankan, Mandiana and Siguiré.

As a result of technical and financial support provided to an association of young bloggers (*Association des Blogueurs de Guinée*, ABLOGUI), the KO COVID-19 digital platform was created with the aim of debunking false myths about COVID-19. The Joint Team also supported the production of 30 interactive programmes and six public programmes on SRH, family planning services and COVID-19 prevention, which were broadcast by 10 radio stations in the intervention sites of Kankan, Kindia, Labé, Mamou and N'zérékoré. In addition, 15 artists were trained and recorded music videos on COVID-19 prevention measures to promote safe behaviour within the broader community. The clips were broadcast on public and private television and radio channels across the country and placed on various social media.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTEGRATED SDG AGENDA

The Joint Team contributed to the annual review process of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022, ensuring that no one would be left behind in the national HIV response. Moreover, in collaboration with national stakeholders, technical assistance was provided for the assessment of Guinea's progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Results from this assessment will be used to evaluate advances made on the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) and feed into the development of the PNDES 2.

In 2020, a total of 3057 people living with HIV who were enrolled on ART and 500 malnourished people diagnosed with tuberculosis received cereal and sugar-based nutritional support for a period of 6 months to improve their health outcomes. Additionally, over 16 800 family members living in the same household as these beneficiaries also received food baskets containing rice, vitamin A-enriched oil, peas and iodized salt in order to minimize the sharing of rations and ensure the success of nutritional support services among the main beneficiaries.

PERSISTING AND EMERGING CHALLENGES AND BOTTLENECKS	KEY FUTURE ACTIONS TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES AND UNBLOCK BOTTLENECKS
<p>COVID-19 pandemic-related loss of livelihoods and disruption of ready-to-use specialized complementary foods have posed serious challenges to vulnerable populations, especially people living with or affected by HIV/tuberculosis.</p>	<p>Continue to provide technical and financial assistance for the provision of (a) nutritional support to people living with or affected by HIV/tuberculosis, and (b) assistance and cash transfer for households of people living with HIV.</p>
<p>High rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV remains a significant challenge in Guinea.</p>	<p>Support the strengthening of PMTCT services through the effective involvement of community leaders.</p>
<p>Low capacity of civil society organizations in the implementation and monitoring and evaluation of HIV programmes.</p>	<p>Support and empower civil society and communities to ensure continuity of HIV services and to encourage uptake of HIV prevention, care and treatment services among people living with HIV and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacities of CSOs through an in-point analysis and involve them more for an effective demedicalization of HIV care and support services.</p>

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