

EL SALVADOR 2022

Summary of the Joint Programme's support to the national HIV response in 2022



In 2022, the Joint Team supported El Salvador in developing guidelines and building capacity of health professionals to further guide delivery of quality HIV services. For instance, 40 health workers were oriented on the latest HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) counselling guidelines, while 235 representatives of the National Health System and regional offices received training on the new national condom distribution guidelines to strengthen estimation, management and distribution of condoms in the country (UNFPA). Besides, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is now available in facilities delivering HIV/STI prevention, testing and treatment services (VICITS) to further prevent new HIV infections (UNAIDS Secretariat). The Humanitarian Response Plan was also revised and now includes HIV prevention and treatment as well as mental health services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, in line with the minimum package of sexual and reproductive health services.

With technical and financial support from the Joint Team, Rosales National Hospital established a counselling and clinical care unit for adolescents, including adolescents living with HIV to provide friendly and differentiated HIV prevention and treatment, STI, sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services. The family orientation guide on HIV, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence was completed becoming the first resource in the country on this subject, thanks to the technical support from the Joint Team and collaboration with government institutions, networks of people living with disabilities, and academia. In addition, 94 healthcare providers completed the online courses on these subjects via the University of Antioquia. A total of 5670 students also

received comprehensive sexuality education from 379 trained teachers (UNFPA).

All eligible people living with HIV were transitioned to Dolutegravir-based antiretroviral treatment regimen in line with global guidelines, thanks to the technical support from the Joint Team. As part of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, chagas and hepatitis B (EMTCT Plus) framework, 123 healthcare providers are better equipped to deliver vertical transmission prevention services among pregnant women and HIV-exposed children; epidemiologists received training to promote EMTCT surveillance in five health regions; a national validation committee was established to support the EMTCT verification process and health personnel from four Comprehensive Care Centers (IAC) was trained in nutrition and healthy meals preparation. In addition, 50 pregnant and breastfeeding women and HIV-exposed children under five years old received financial assistance for three months to improve their food security and health outcomes (UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS Secretariat).

A total of 130 women living with HIV who experienced discrimination due to their HIV status strengthened their leadership skills and self-esteem through their participation in workshops, and received dignity and self-care kits; and 21 women entrepreneurs living with HIV were trained and received digital technologies, including smartphones, data packages and internet access to boost their income generating activities, in partnership with the nongovernmental organization Visión Propositiva (UNDP, UN Women).

KEY RESULTS

- Integration of services, development of guidance and capacity building initiatives scaled up and improved the quality of HIV services.
- Friendly sexual and reproductive health services expanded among adolescents, young people and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Capacity building of health professionals in delivering HIV services and in nutrition advanced the country's efforts towards EMTCT and improved health outcomes among mothers and HIV-exposed children.
- Supported prioritization of \$14 million mobilized from the Global Fund for 2022-2024 to scale up services for key populations, including men who have sex with men, transgender people, and sex workers.

Joint UN
Team on
AIDS

UNICEF
WFP
UNDP
UNFPA

WHO
UN Women
UNAIDS Secretariat
IOM

Contributing to [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in El Salvador \(2022-2026\)](#)



2022 Joint Programme Expenditure

Total US\$ 611 499

2022 expenditure data available at the time of the update (August 2023)

