

VENEZUELA 2022

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



Venezuela continues to make encouraging progress in scaling up access to quality HIV services, including for young people and vulnerable populations. The national HIV testing algorithms were updated and aligned with global guidelines; and viral load and tuberculosis testing improved with the procurement of GeneXpert machines—there are now 12 machines available across the country (WHO). More than 20 000 community members improved their knowledge of HIV prevention and 6200 people tested positive for HIV, through a collaboration with the health authorities and civil society organizations. HIV and syphilis testing services among adolescents improved with the establishment or upgrading of 24 differentiated adolescent consultation sites in 12 states, resulting in more than 17 450 adolescents receiving HIV and syphilis testing in 2022. Additionally, a standard of adolescent care was developed in alignment with international guidance and implemented in eight pilot centres (UNFPA).

The multimonth dispensing of antiretroviral treatment (ART) and distribution of ART in pharmacies reinforced adherence and access to treatment services across the country. Dolutegravir-based treatment regimen encouraged 1400 people living with HIV who left the country in 2018 for lack of treatment to return to the country by 2022, thanks to the technical support from the Joint Team and financial assistance from the Global Fund.

A total of 1022 children and adolescents under 15 years old living with HIV received paediatric ART for 12 months and procurement of 200 000 dual HIV/syphilis rapid diagnostic test kits and 1200 HIV sample kits expanded HIV testing and early infant diagnosis among pregnant women and HIV-exposed children (UNICEF, WHO). In addition, 382 healthcare providers improved their capacity of delivering prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and management of paediatric HIV in 12 states. As part of the national Humanitarian Response Plan, 206 health workers were also trained on clinical management of HIV testing and counselling and PMTCT in humanitarian settings in Apure, Bolivar and Zulia states.

With the implementation of the Clinical Management of Sexual Violence protocols, 684 survivors of sexual violence accessed services in 22 designated health centres (including 11 newly opened) through a collaboration with the National Forum on the Clinical Management of Rape and technical support from the Joint Team. In addition, mapping of protection service providers identified 522 available gender-based violence services (compared to 400 in 2021); and 600 humanitarian response providers were trained by the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) to strengthen the humanitarian response in Venezuela, including on the 13 gender-based violence referral pathways now available (UNFPA).

KEY RESULTS

- Continued to maintain visibility of HIV and address critical gaps despite the country's protracted humanitarian crisis.
- Supported mobilization of emergency resources for the procurement of antiretroviral medicines, saving the lives of over 60 000 people living with HIV.
- Strengthened HIV services including HIV testing, treatment, PMTCT and paediatric services through capacity building, procurement of materials and the update of care standards.
- Improved care services for survivors of gender-based violence, with over 680 people accessing services supported by the Joint Team in 2022.

Joint UN
Team on
AIDS

UNHCR
UNICEF
UNDP

UNFPA
WHO
UNAIDS Secretariat

Contributing to [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Venezuela \(2023-2026\)](#)



2022 Joint Programme Expenditure

Total US\$ 1 926 013

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

