

# Belarus 2022-2023

Summary of the Joint Programme's support to the national HIV response in 2022-2023

Total Joint Programme  
expenditure in 2022-2023:

US\$ 1 378 190



Belarus continued to scale up HIV prevention, treatment and support services among vulnerable and key populations with strategic support from the Joint Programme. People living with HIV benefitted from improved clinical management of HIV thanks to the development of a new national HIV treatment guideline, which introduced high-quality treatment regimens, access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and implementation of rapid HIV diagnostic testing algorithms (WHO).

More than 300 people at high risk of HIV accessed PrEP services during the initial phase of a pilot programme in Minsk—demonstrating a high demand among key populations, especially men who have sex with men. Results from the pilot programme assessment were also incorporated into the national HIV strategy for scaling up PrEP services across the country (UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS Secretariat).

As part of the *TravelForLife* education initiative, more than 3500 young people from 15 cities and smaller towns improved their knowledge of HIV and other STIs prevention, safe online behaviour and reduction of violence and substance use through a comprehensive training package. The project also empowered 54 champions to conduct peer trainings on these issues. These initial accomplishments further enabled BeIAU—a nongovernmental organization implementing the project—to secure government funding for the next two years (UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS Secretariat).

In addition, more than 500 adolescents in 10 cities coordinated 10 volunteer initiatives to reach out to Ukrainian adolescents about HIV prevention (UNICEF, UNAIDS Secretariat).

More than 400 vulnerable women also accessed comprehensive and gender-sensitive services, including HIV prevention, treatment and referrals through a newly established shelter in Minsk while 30 women were provided with an all-day accommodation and support services (UNFPA, UNAIDS Secretariat).

Review of the national HIV and tuberculosis programme, guided and supported by the Joint Programme identified critical enablers, challenges, and bottlenecks, including legislative, programme governance, financing and health service delivery issues. These findings and recommendations strengthened evidence for the development of National Strategic Plan on HIV 2025-2030 which was approved by the Ministry of Health as well as the approval of the US\$ 15.2 million Global Fund grant proposal for the 2025-2027 cycle (UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS Secretariat).

## KEY RESULTS

- Newly developed national HIV treatment guideline introduced high-quality treatment regimens including pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Thousands of young people in 15 cities improved their literacy of HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), violence and substance abuse.
- National Strategic Plan on HIV for 2025-2030 developed and approved by the Ministry of Health.

Joint UN Team  
on AIDS

UNICEF  
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the UNSDCF  
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