

UNAIDS 2025

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# Results in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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2024 Regional Report



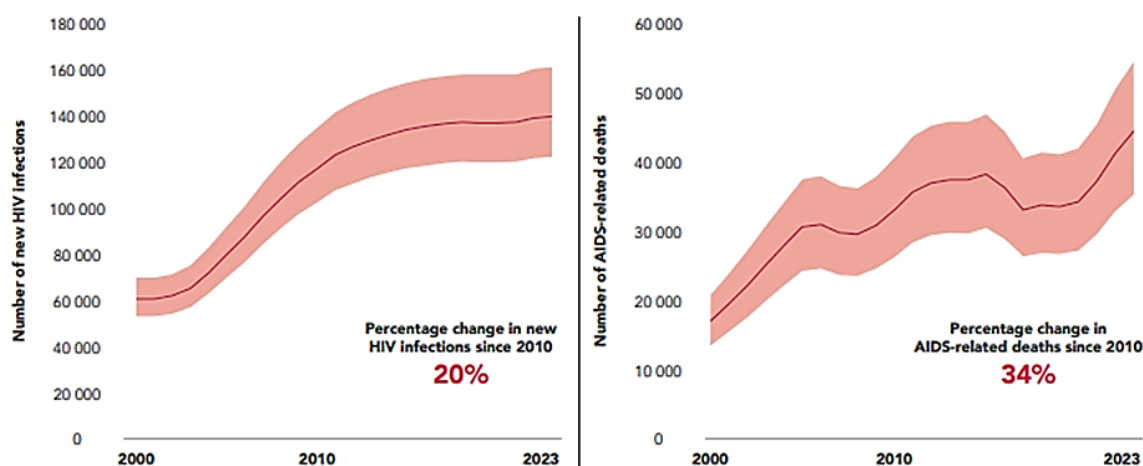
## Eastern Europe and central Asia

**9 countries with Joint UN Plans** aligned to national priorities and the Global AIDS Strategy

Total expenditures and encumbrances<sup>1</sup> of the Joint Programme (Cosponsors and Secretariat) in 2024: **US\$ 23.6 million**

### Progress towards saving lives

#### Number of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, eastern Europe and central Asia, 2000–2023



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

### Selected UBRAF indicators progress in 2024

- 9** countries received support to scale up combination HIV prevention programmes.
- 8** countries have a national plan for the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV and implement the “treat-all” policy for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- 9** countries received support for the incorporation and expansion of community-led HIV responses.
- 8** countries received support to remove or amend punitive laws and policies, and/or develop protective ones in relation to the HIV response.
- 2** countries received policy, advocacy or technical support to implement gender-responsive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services that are free of gender-based discrimination and violence.
- 4** countries have developed and reported implementation of measures advancing full and sustainable HIV financing.
- 2** countries implemented interventions/services for key populations in humanitarian settings.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on budget implementation breakdown, please see the Executive Summary of the 2024 Performance Monitoring Report.

## Key results

- *PrEP scaled up in all countries across the region.*
- *3.5 million adolescents and young people and some 500 000 adults reached through targeted digital media on HIV prevention, testing, treatment and non-discrimination of people living with HIV.*
- *Actions to secure the future of public health and the HIV response in central and eastern Europe and central Asia launched by the Rise and Decriminalize Movement, uniting five community-led regional networks.*
- *Reduction in criminal prosecution of HIV exposure, non-disclosure and transmission following endorsement of Undetectable=Untransmissible by the Regional Judges Forum on HIV, Human Rights.*
- *Support provided to networks of women living with HIV and women in key populations advanced policy reform, economic well-being and access to services.*

### **UBRAF Outcome 1: People living with, at risk of and affected by HIV obtain equitable access and reap equitable benefits from HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.**

A new platform, established at a high-level event, organized by the Rise and Decriminalize Movement helps coordinate efforts of communities, civil society, politicians, experts and other stakeholders to maintain and/or expand the space for civil society and communities to act for more sustainable public health, including HIV and specifically on decriminalization of HIV in the region (UNFPA, WHO and Secretariat).

The #PutPeopleFirst EECA campaign engaged over 240 000 people, generated over 110 media articles and mobilized global HIV organizations, international media and policymakers on the region's growing HIV epidemic, stigma, restrictive policies and the impact of the war in Ukraine (Secretariat). Progress against HIV and gaps, informed by AIDS 2024<sup>2</sup> and [UNAIDS Global AIDS Report](#), were highlighted in the media across multiple countries, with the help of a cohort of trained journalists from the region (Secretariat).

Thanks to the Joint Programme's advocacy and technical support, momentum for PrEP uptake has increased. Nearly all countries in the region have incorporated PrEP in their comprehensive prevention package, with national PrEP guidelines updated in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. About 120 national specialists across central Asia gained increased capacity on innovative PrEP delivery models, which resulted in increased access to PrEP (UNFPA, WHO and Secretariat).

Efforts to reduce risk of HIV and improve services for people in prison and other closed settings and for people who used drugs led to further progress. In Uzbekistan, 22 law enforcement officers gained partnership skills and developed action plans including to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on referral systems (UNODC). In Kyrgyzstan, capacity-building programmes enhanced the psychosocial counselling skills of 80 prison and probation officers and virtual outreach skills of 25 medical professionals and NGO activists for people living with HIV and/or using new psychoactive substances (UNDP and UNODC). In Kazakhstan, a national survey on prevalence and impact of high-risk drug use that put people at risk of acquiring HIV will inform national strategies, policies and efforts for drug demand reduction and HIV prevention. In Kyrgyzstan, 68 convicted women started or continued ART, drug dependence, and TB and hepatitis C treatment (UNODC).

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<sup>2</sup> The 25th International AIDS Conference held in Munich, Germany on 22–26 July 2024

Armenia maintained its focus on reducing vertical transmission of HIV and it successfully maintained its certificate for the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, while Moldova retained its certificate for the elimination of paediatric syphilis. Information on evidence-based programming for reduction of vertical transmission was widely disseminated and the methodology for calculating key indicators to validate the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV and syphilis was harmonized and integrated into the Electronic HIV Case Management System (UNICEF and WHO).

In Albania, HIV programme quality improved within prisons and communities as part of sustainability planning. In Georgia, stigma and discrimination against key populations was reduced through policy advocacy. This was informed by the Stigma Index Study and anti-stigma interventions for quality sexual and reproductive health and HIV services included in the Global Fund request. In Belarus, a study on prolonged ART consequences and adherence determinants helped improving ART outcomes (UNFPA).

An integrated service delivery model of youth health centres/clinics in Kazakhstan and Moldova improved access to services for 16 000 adolescents (UNICEF). In Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, capacity-building of multidisciplinary teams and outreach workers improved mental health and psychosocial support services for over 11 000 people living with HIV, including 1,600 children and adolescents. An innovative digital platform reached over 400 000 adolescents with key messages to stop stigma in Uzbekistan (UNICEF). In Ukraine and Tajikistan women living with HIV enhanced their leadership skills through advocacy training, strategic communications, and engagement in national HIV-related policy dialogues for more gender-responsive HIV prevention, treatment and care services. These efforts led to government funding for essential health services and supported women's participation in planning and political decision-making (UN Women).

**UBRAF Outcome 2: Communities of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including key populations, women and young people, are empowered, enabled and effectively resourced to lead HIV service delivery, advocate for and enjoy their right to health, and social and structural drivers of the HIV epidemic are removed.**

Over 2.1 million students in nine countries across the region gained comprehensive HIV, reproductive health and relationships education, thanks to over 17 000 trained teachers, quality learning materials, and advocacy for mandatory HIV and health education (UNESCO). More than four million adolescents, young people and adults across the region learned about HIV services, sexual and reproductive health, gender and relationships, violence and bullying prevention (UNESCO). In Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, over half a million parents improved their parenting skills about HIV prevention and treatment, gender-based violence prevention through digital media (UNESCO). In Armenia, over 200 000 young people, mostly men, were motivated to prevent gender-based violence through a campaign (UNESCO and Secretariat). The regional youth organization Teenenergizer expanded peer-led online HIV and sexual and reproductive health and mental health counselling services for adolescents and youth, with up to 1.5 million adolescents and youth reached through a youth-friendly online campaign (UNFPA). Youth-driven advocacy and education initiatives created safe spaces for open dialogue and reduced judgment around HIV among young women and men in Kyrgyzstan. A "positive deviance" model to mobilize young women and men to dismantle HIV-related stigma fostered leadership and encouraged health-seeking behaviours among young men and women (UN Women).

A regional community of practice supported efforts to promote comprehensive sexuality education and stronger engagement with key stakeholders (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO and Secretariat).

The [Rise & Decriminalize Movement](#), led by communities and uniting five regional networks to strengthen joint advocacy for the rights of vulnerable populations, engaged in high-level dialogues to advance health and human rights and called for the urgent decriminalization of key populations and for sustainable community-led responses (UNDP, UNFPA and Secretariat).

Community-led monitoring initiatives progressed and are now more integrated in national frameworks across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, thanks to collaboration with the Health Advocacy Coalition (Secretariat). A shared interregional community-led monitoring roadmap, technical assistance and commitments to enhance collaboration between communities and the government were agreed upon at a gathering of 119 participants from 17 countries within the eastern Europe and central Asia and Asia-Pacific regions. In central Asia, a regional community-led monitoring consensus resolution further guides the operationalization of practices and fosters alignment across countries (Secretariat).

Legal and policy reforms, guided by the Joint Programme, contributed to expanding access to HIV services for vulnerable communities across the region such as through the [SCALE initiative](#). For example, in Kazakhstan, the first direct ministerial partnership with HIV-service organizations led to the expansion of legal aid, healthcare and capacity-building for over 500 professionals. In Kyrgyzstan, legal victories against police misconduct and drug law amendments promoted harm reduction service access. In Tajikistan, over 100 legal experts gained knowledge and HIV decriminalization policies was advanced. In Ukraine, advocacy mobilized over 30 decision-makers, reached over 3,000 people, and shaped the 2024–2026 State Strategy to strengthen protections for key populations (UNDP). In Tajikistan women living with HIV and lawyers built their capacity to understand legal rights, challenge HIV criminalization, and advocate for gender-sensitive legal protection, contributing to national efforts to revise discriminatory laws and reduce barriers to justice (UN Women). To highlight specific forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination faced by women living with HIV in Tajikistan, the national network of women living with HIV prepared an alternative report to the Committee of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and engaged in a dialogue with the government during a mock CEDAW session (UN Women).

The Regional 10–10–10 Taskforce regularly brought together key population communities, UN agencies, and other partners to drive accountability for the 10–10–10 targets and advance key population-led law reform (UNDP and Secretariat). Key population groups used the interactive Digital Good Practice Compendium to engage decision-makers and an evidence review on pathways for achieving the 10–10–10 targets led to the development of a new tool for key population-led law and policy reform (UNDP). At the Sixth Regional Judges Forum, 20 judges from six countries discussed challenges and implications of the current drug policies and harm reduction in the region (UNDP and UNODC). A landmark [U=U statement for judges](#) to enhance understanding of HIV and human rights was issued after a series of webinars (UNDP).

Kazakhstan amended 16 laws, including the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Offenses, to enhance women's rights and children's safety, including through the criminalization of domestic violence and stricter penalties for offenses. As a result, some 100 000 women sought protection, leading to 72 000 protective orders being issued (UN Women).

Multi-country campaigns promoted stigma-free HIV services in seven countries, through multimedia materials. The active involvement of Regional Goodwill Ambassador, with 13.5 million Instagram followers, further amplified the stigma-free messages (Secretariat).

Gender assessments resulted in action plan development and gender capacity-building for key actors in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Furthermore, two new additional gender assessments were conducted in Moldova and Tajikistan (UN Women and Secretariat). Evidence-based interventions resulted in enhanced access to essential HIV and gender-based violence services among women who use drugs, sex workers, women living with HIV and internally displaced women in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine. Women reported a significant increase in their ability to identify and report violence and abuse, and a decrease in self-stigma when reaching out for support from public services. One third of the participating women accessed HIV and STI testing, and where necessary, were linked to treatment, care and counselling (UN Women).

**UBRAF Outcome 3: Increased availability of effective, equitable and sustainable systems to achieve and maintain the 2025 targets, through robust financing for national budgets and community responses, greater service integration for people-centred delivery, expanded HIV service access in emergency settings, and effective pandemic preparedness and responses.**

Efforts continued and intensified to sustain essential HIV services and save lives amid the region's humanitarian crisis. In Moldova, the Joint Programme's support enabled 10 746 people to access harm reduction services, 3,337 to obtain screening for HIV, TB and hepatitis C, and the referral of 2,046 people to specialized care, along with the provision of mental health support and social services (UNHCR and Secretariat).

In Ukraine, HIV service access and awareness among internally displaced people increased. After capacity-building interventions, 87% of site managers reported improvements in their abilities to connect people living with HIV with appropriate services post-training (UNHCR). Approximately 833 pregnant, lactating women and adolescents with HIV in nine regions close to the frontline and constantly affected by the ongoing armed conflict were supported to access HIV-related services thanks to the leadership of Ukraine people living with HIV network "100% Life". The network further supported 136 women with newborns, including 30 internally displaced women, 29 pregnant women and 77 women living with HIV from vulnerable groups in Dnipro City and the Dnipropetrovsk Region of Ukraine, received social services, including counselling on ART adherence, transportation and group sessions for coping with difficult life circumstances (UNICEF).

Thirteen nongovernmental grassroots organizations sustained essential support (food and hygiene, shelter, access to HIV and TB services, and opioid agonist therapy) benefiting 60 094 individuals, including key populations and people living with HIV (Secretariat).

Successful evidence-informed Global Fund requests and funding implementation for impact were facilitated and guided through technical support, including capacity-building for Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Montenegro (UNDP, WHO and Secretariat). This was further boosted by the provision of mock a Technical Review Panel review which informed technical approaches and strategic choices (WHO) as well as the technical assistance provided to Belarus, Georgia and Montenegro to develop successful funding requests (Secretariat).

Thanks to the Joint Programme's support, sustainable and innovative financing for HIV and health and improved service delivery across the region progressed. For example, Tajikistan finalized its sustainability roadmap for the HIV response (Secretariat). In Kazakhstan, an analysis of bottlenecks to NGO funding further informed expansion of social contracting and doubled the number of HIV-serving NGOs in 11 of 20 regions (UNDP).



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