

Sudan 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\$ 2 316 955



In 2022-2023, the Joint Programme in Sudan focused on ensuring the continuity of HIV services among vulnerable and key populations while addressing the impact on the healthcare system of the armed conflicts that erupted in 2023. Over 4000 people living with HIV who were lost to follow up post-conflict were traced and successfully re-enrolled on treatment following the mapping of their displacements through networks of volunteers living with HIV, treatment centres in stable states (UNDP, WHO).

The Federal Ministry of Health was supported to establish three alternative HIV antiretroviral medicine and tuberculosis commodity storage hubs in Gezira, Red Sea and White Nile states to replace the central hub in Khartoum made inaccessible. HIV commodities and medicines were also procured in collaboration with the Global Fund to ensure continuity of services (UNDP).

Communities of people living with HIV played a crucial role in delivering HIV services. For instance, the Sudanese People Living with HIV Care Association (SPCA), which represents people living with HIV across the 18 states, reached 498 people living with HIV with services. An additional 355 people affected by HIV accessed HIV testing, and those found positive were linked to care and treatment, thanks to the strategic support from the Joint Programme (UNFPA).

Despite the acute disruption of prevention services in 2023, over 9600 people from key population groups were reached with HIV prevention and more than 9000 people accessed HIV testing services (UNFPA).

Notable interventions were implemented among prison inmates in the Khartoum state in 2022, including the assessment of risk factors associated with the transmission of HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, the development of a comprehensive package for prison health services, and the training of 80 healthcare providers, which resulted in over 1200 prison inmates benefiting from

HIV services. Although prisons in Khartoum were evacuated following the armed conflict, developed packages of health services and results of the assessment of risk factors are of great value to prison interventions in other states of the country (UNODC).

Services for the prevention of vertical transmission for HIV improved in refugee camps in the Gadarif state. For instance, in the Um Rakooba camp, four awareness-raising sessions attracted around 500 people, including pregnant women, of whom 30 women accessed HIV testing and counselling services. Also, a total of 50 healthcare providers in refugee settings, including midwives, improved their skills in the delivery of services for the prevention of vertical transmission of HIV (UNICEF). With a focus on war-affected zones, 50 healthcare professionals improved their capacity of clinical management of rape cases, while 25 healthcare workers received training on stigma reduction (UNFPA).

There is stronger strategic evidence for the national HIV response after a gender assessment and analysis of human rights related barriers to HIV services in the context of the ongoing armed conflict (UNDP). In addition, an assessment of HIV surveillance systems further identified gaps, challenges and opportunities in the response; and a comprehensive directory of all surveillance activities, surveys and studies that took place in the country since the beginning of the national HIV response was published with significant support from the Joint Programme (UNAIDS Secretariat).

The latest National AIDS Spending Assessment gathered critical evidence on the flow of HIV financial resources, expenditures and the funding gap for the national response (UNAIDS Secretariat). In addition, over US\$ 19 million were successfully mobilized from the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 to support the national HIV response in 2024-2026, thanks to the Joint Programme's support.

KEY RESULTS

- Engagement of networks of people living with HIV was crucial during the conflict to help over 4000 people living with HIV who were lost to follow up to enrol back on treatment, and to improve access to testing services.
- Improved knowledge on gender equality, human rights barriers, surveillance systems and HIV financial resources guide the national HIV response.
- More than US\$ 19 million was mobilized from the Global Fund for the national HIV response in 2024-2026.

Joint UN Team
on AIDS

UNICEF
UNDP
UNFPA

UNODC
WHO
UNAIDS Secretariat

Contributing to
the UNSDCF
and SDGs

