

BELARUS 2022

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



Advocacy, dialogue, and policy analysis enabled Belarus to make significant progress in 2022 in reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with or affected with HIV and key populations. In particular, the review process of articles 157 and 158 of the Criminal Code was facilitated in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Legal Environment Assessment (LEA) working group towards decriminalization of HIV transmission (UNDP, UNODC, WHO).

In addition, thanks to a series of dialogues with civil society actors and communities, the needs of people living with HIV and people who use drugs are clearer and new evidence supports programming (UNDP, UNODC, WHO); HIV prevention and treatment services tailored for adolescents improved through the mobilization of professionals and related new guidance (UNICEF); and HIV prevention initiatives further empowered young people to protect their health and make safe choices. For instance, the Dance4Life peer education project reached more than 1200 young people (UNFPA). To scale up HIV prevention among key populations, healthcare workers and law enforcement officers have stronger capacities on harm reduction and opioid agonist therapy services (UNODC).

People living with HIV benefit 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). The first PrEP programme targeting men who have sex with men was rolled out in Minsk in 2022, with 138 people receiving PrEP. The health system's ability to provide comprehensive care and treatment to individuals living with HIV and affected by tuberculosis significantly improved after a comprehensive approach was promoted through the training of Ministry of Health's employees (WHO).

Under the BelAU-UNAIDS Projects on Service Delivery, Domestic Violence and HIV/AIDS, a shelter for survivors of domestic violence who are living or affected by HIV opened in Minsk and provides comprehensive services to women (UNDP, UNAIDS Secretariat). Various health promotion initiatives also targeted migrants and refugees from Ukraine through humanitarian programmes, including access to medication and referrals to healthcare facilities, and raising awareness of migrants on HIV and other health issues (IOM). Lessons learned from these initiatives showed the need to take into account the rising migration in the region and remove discrimination and stigma to ensure equitable access to HIV prevention services for key populations.

KEY RESULTS

- Advocated for the decriminalization of HIV transmission by supporting the review of Articles 157 and 158 from the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus.
- PrEP pilot implemented in Minsk reached 138 people and will inform scale up.
- New HIV clinical protocol with updated testing algorithm and revised treatment guidelines.
- Conceptual framework developed to ensure sustainability of HIV and TB funding.

Joint UN
Team on
AIDS

UNHCR
UNICEF
UNDP
UNFPA

UNODC
WHO
World Bank
UNAIDS Secretariat
IOM

Contributing to [United Nations Development Assistance Framework in Belarus \(2016-2020\)](#)



2022 Joint Programme
Expenditure
Total US\$ 433 067

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

