

# BRAZIL

*Report prepared by the Joint UN Team on AIDS*

## PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FAST-TRACK TARGETS

COUNTRY PRIORITIES/ TARGETS BY END OF 2021	STATUS	RESULTS, END OF 2020
By 2021, more than 90% of people diagnosed with HIV are on treatment (75% in 2017).	<b>ON TRACK</b>	In 2020, 70% of all people living with HIV are estimated to be on ART. (UNAIDS Special Analysis 2021). To note that among those diagnosed, 75% were on ART in 2019. No data was reported on the second 90 for 2020.
By 2021, key populations—including young people—have increased access to tailored combination prevention services (including condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), PMTCT, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases).	<b>ON TRACK</b>	Total HIV new infections slightly increased, from 47 000 in 2019 to 48 000 in 2020. A total of 15 074 people received PrEP, and 468 256 398 male and 10 685 875 female condoms were distributed (GAM 2021). In addition, there were 126 171 PEP dispensations in the year (PEP monitoring panel, Ministry of Health).
People living with or affected by HIV, especially key populations, have their rights protected, and HIV-related stigma and discrimination is reduced in health care facilities, workplaces and communities.	<b>ON TRACK</b>	The Zero Discrimination Strategy has been developed through a process of community dialogues, and a workshop for health professionals, activists and civil society supported the development of the health services strategy. Healthcare practitioners from 250 facilities received training to support strategy implementation. The Joint Team has been supporting the ongoing development of a Massive Open Online Course for health professionals on zero discrimination, in partnership with Brazilian Association (Abrasco) and Israelita Albert Einstein Hospital. This course will be launched in October 2021.

### JOINT TEAM

UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN WOMEN, ILO, UNESCO, WHO-PAHO, WORLD BANK, UNAIDS SECRETARIAT, IOM

## JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESULTS IN 2020

*The intense difficulty of the COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, Brazil has continued to make progress towards the 90-90-90 targets; the #BoraSaber project working with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to raise awareness of the importance of 'knowing your status' in major cities has reached young people and key vulnerable populations; and PrEP, mobile prevention services, outreach, rapid testing and self-testing have all been used as effective modalities, particularly among migrants, refugees and indigenous populations. Zero-discrimination strategies are being implemented within healthcare services, and people living with HIV and key populations are now further enabled to access HIV/STI services from healthcare workers trained to operate without stigma and discrimination.*

### TESTING AND TREATMENT

#### UPSTREAM ADVOCACY; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, local health departments and NGOs between August and December 2020, the #BoraSaber Project (focused on adolescents and young people) increased access to HIV testing, ensuring linkages to health services for ART initiation and retention in the major cities of Boa Vista, Pacaraima and Belém. This project involved 45 young trainers who conducted community-based outreach activities to key populations, promoting peer to peer awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS/STI prevention, and offering voluntary oral fluid rapid HIV testing, counselling and inputs, and information about public health services. People who tested positive for HIV were linked to immediate ART initiation and treatment retention support groups. In Boa Vista and Pacaraima, 670 young people aged 15-29 were tested, and seven people started on ART. In Belém, 558 were tested, and three people started on ART.

In Recife, 85 health professionals were trained on HIV and STI prevention in order to strengthen the use of HIV rapid tests in primary care. Rapid testing was scaled-up to 94 primary health care unit, seven polyclinics, four maternities and four prison units, resulting in 2481 tests and 106 HIV positive identified cases.

In collaboration with an NGO, the Joint Team also provided technical and financial support for the rapid expansion of self-testing for HIV in shelters of Operation Welcome in Roraima, as well as among key populations (especially sex workers and transgender people) in Boa Vista; over 400 people were tested for HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and C during testing mobilisations, from which three were tested positive for HIV and 16 people were diagnosed with Syphilis. All of them were linked to treatment. In addition, Syphilis testing was strengthened in Roraima through the procurement of laboratory equipment to optimise serological screening, resulting in a 40% increase in the treatment coverage of Syphilis so far, especially among key populations.

### PREVENTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, KEY POPULATIONS, REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

#### POLICY ADVICE; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With technical and financial support from the Joint Team, outreach programmes in Belém, Boa Vista, Pacaraima, Recife, Salvador and Vitória have reached over 8000 key populations including young people with combination prevention messages and opportunities to access PEP, PrEP and testing.

The #BoraSaber Project also disseminated HIV/STI combination prevention information and inputs towards young people and key populations, including men who have sex with men, transgender people, migrants and refugees; 3171 young people aged 15-29 were reached in Boa Vista and Belém, and over 1500 female and 3500 male condoms were distributed. Additionally, 27 young people received PEP and seven were engaged in PrEP programmes.

The Youth Aware initiative was supported in Belém, Boa Vista, Recife, Salvador and Vitória, promoting information and peer education regarding HIV and STI combined prevention, testing and linkage to treatment in 2020, resulting in over 5000 people including key populations being tested for HIV, and establishing a consolidated support group for treatment retention. In Boa Vista, 10 HIV/STI testing field activities were organised between December 2019 and May 2020. Three hundred people were tested for HIV, of which 277 were young people (15-24 years); two people were found HIV-positive, and one was linked to treatment in the health service. Referrals were made for two people for PEP/PrEP, and 83 people were referred for other STI tests. Additionally, 10 500 male condoms, 600 female condoms, 8000 lubricant gels and 220 Spanish language flyers were distributed. A revised online version of the activity was then implemented in Salvador, Recife and Belem to accommodate COVID-19 prevention measures, through online training of 43 youth for acting as multipliers, supporting the distribution of self-testing, and engaging in the distribution of hygiene kits and COVID-19 qualified information. 5500 vulnerable populations, primarily adolescents and youth, received information about combined HIV testing, prevention and available services and 1100 rapid HIV tests were performed.

Regional workshops on comprehensive sexuality and gender education in schools were conducted in 2020 (including on HIV preventive education, treatment education, advocacy, and prevention strategies for STIs/HIV/AIDS). Information materials were developed and validated by relevant Brazilian stakeholders, and introduced to the Brazilian Ministry of Education. Additionally, online courses have been developed for youth leadership in the themes of sexual and reproductive health, combination prevention, and social participation. An online course targeting 16-29 years old population focusing on sensitization of HIV prevention in COVID times was developed, having more than 2450 participants so far.

A call for proposals was launched for testing and combination prevention interventions ('Viva Melhor Sabendo') in Belém, Recife, Salvador and Vitória, four major urban cities in Brazil. Work was undertaken to expand PrEP and self-testing in Boa Vista and Pacaraima: 70 municipal health professionals were trained for the expansion of PrEP and HIV self-testing in basic health units, and capacity was strengthened for 50 members of shelter health committees to implement the self-testing and combined prevention actions including Venezuelan indigenous refugees and migrants.

Eight people trained to advise on combination prevention were mobilised to support combined prevention peer activities in three shelters in Roraima, as well as among the host community. A bilingual leaflet (Portuguese and Spanish) on combined HIV/STI prevention was developed and disseminated; illustrative leaflets for HIV self-testing were translated into Spanish, printed and distributed to refugees and migrants in Roraima. An HIV/STI prevention booklet was also produced for the indigenous Tikuna community.

Support has been provided to the development of workshops with indigenous populations and Venezuelan indigenous migrant populations, to work on HIV, STIs and COVID-19 prevention through educational materials for indigenous schools, and audio-visual material for use on cell phones. Twelve videos were produced in indigenous languages for the Wapichan, Ticuna, Yanomami, Yek'wana, Macuxi and Warao ethnic groups, and published in YouTube, reaching 3000 young people, leading to approximately 12 000 indirect beneficiaries.

### **GENDER EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY DIALOGUE; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; PARTNERSHIPS**

In partnership with a national television network, the 'Everything Starts with Respect' campaign has posted videos to raise awareness on issues including women's rights and violence against women. Broadcasted by Globo (the largest broadcast channel in Brazil), the campaign has reached an estimated 100 million people.

Through the mobilization of local parliamentarians, civil society, academia and local AIDS programmes, local seminars were held in Manaus, Recife, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Brasilia Federal District, and Rio de Janeiro to disseminate findings of the first wave of the Stigma Index led in 2019, with disaggregated results by cities and key populations, to create greater visibility for marginalised populations. The second wave of implementation is planned for 2021/2022.

A seminar was conducted together with 78 participants from the transgender community, civil society, medical doctors, international and national researchers, health managers, and the Public Ministry of Labour, to finalise recommendations for governments and services to improve access to health services for transgender persons. Additionally, with support from the Joint Team, a kitchen helper training programme ('Cozinha & Voz') was launched, targeting transgender persons to empower them through an alternative source of income; the programme included combination prevention classes, and provided a socioeconomic baseline and risk assessment for the 150 programme beneficiaries.

### CONTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

To guarantee access to life-saving treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Joint Team successfully advocated for a national response to guarantee multi-month dispensing (MMD) of ART to people living with HIV on stable treatment.

In partnership with the NGO Barong and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a community-based pilot project distributed antiretroviral medicines for people living with HIV with a higher risk for COVID-19. Implemented in São Paulo ('Project Balaio'), the project also distributed food and hygiene kits for 800 people living with HIV and LGBTI+ population in extreme vulnerability, and food and dignity kits for 500 people living with HIV and LGBTI+ living in favelas in Rio de Janeiro.

A technical guideline on community therapy was developed and launched, to be used by networks of people living with HIV to address mental health issues related to the pandemic. This guideline was made available to the four networks of people living with HIV in Brazil, covering around 130 000 people.

Technical and financial support has been provided to the Volunteer Campaign for the Americas initiative of the Latin America and Caribbean Movement of Women Living with HIV, aiming to provide technical and financial assistance (including food baskets and referral to social and psychological support) to women living with HIV during the pandemic in vulnerable social, family, or health situations. The project served 564 girls and women until the end of June 2020.

### CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTEGRATED SDG AGENDA

Through the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Partnerships Framework (UNSDPF), the Joint Team in Brazil is supporting the country in achieving the SDGs by 2030. Efforts are continuously leveraged to reach out and protect most vulnerable people, including indigenous populations and refugees, leaving no one behind. For instance, Venezuelan refugees and migrants with disabilities in Boa Vista received training on Brazilian culture, entrepreneurship, customer service, and sales, towards their economic empowerment.

<b>PERSISTING AND EMERGING CHALLENGES AND BOTTLENECKS</b>	<b>KEY FUTURE ACTIONS TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES AND UNBLOCK BOTTLENECKS</b>
<p>Travel and self-isolation restrictions linked to COVID-19 caused a delay in the implementation of certain programme activities; some planned activities could not be implemented, such as the acquisition of diagnostic equipment in support of improving local laboratory capacity.</p> <p>Economic consequences of lockdowns have affected the capacity of people to reach health services, in particular HIV/STI testing, especially those in most vulnerable situations.</p>	<p>Advocate for ensuring access to essential health services, including HIV testing and treatment, particularly focusing on key populations; promoting self-testing among young people, while mobilising and engaging adolescents and young people in HIV awareness and education, and supporting the existent network of people living with HIV/AIDS in their online activities.</p> <p>Support provision of diagnostic equipment, and distribution of combined COVID-19/HIV prevention kits (mask, alcohol gel, soap, prevention supplies, HIV self-test).</p> <p>Support community-based HIV interventions adapted to the COVID-19 operational environment.</p>
<p>The Venezuelan population in Roraima accounts for almost 50% of all HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in the state in 2019. This has been compounded by COVID-19, increasing gender inequality and violence, economic vulnerabilities due to unemployment, and reduction/closure of SRH and protection services.</p>	<p>Through the R4V programme, continue to support activities in border regions towards fighting stigma and discrimination and improving access to health services for refugee populations.</p>
<p>HIV-related stigma, associated with xenophobia, and discrimination on race, language, sexual orientation, and gender identity, constitute important challenges for the HIV response.</p>	<p>Continue to address stigma and discrimination through capacity building of health care professionals via online courses on zero discrimination.</p> <p>Provide technical support and guidance to the biggest Worldwide Pride Parade in Sao Paulo that will have an HIV/AIDS theme. This will include the provision of materials and guidance on HIV/AIDS and related topics, a comprehensive communication kit with products and dissemination strategies, and a monitoring and evaluation framework.</p>
<p>Despite all investments made by Brazilian government in the last years, the country still faces challenges with a lack of budget, poor infrastructure and insufficient health professionals. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the health system collapsed in many states of Brazil.</p>	<p>Mobilise external resources from UN-UN agreement used in a catalytic way with support from the Joint Team, including for the development of city-level implementation strategies.</p> <p>Build monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity in fast-track cities to contribute to the progress of the HIV response strategy beyond 2021.</p>



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