

CHAD

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, the number of people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment (ART) increases from 61 352 (55.7%) in 2018 to 88 000 (80%) and 68% of children born to HIV-infected mothers on treatment are kept alive.	SLOW PROGRESS	77 017 (64.1%) of adults living with HIV are on ART. In terms of paediatric care, 32% of infected children aged 0-14 years (of a target of 10 000) have been put on ART (Spectrum 2021).
80% of young people, especially young and adolescent girls, have access to combination prevention services and are empowered for responsible sexuality.	WITHIN REACH	18.5% of young girls and 27.5% of boys aged 15 to 24 years had knowledge on HIV prevention in 2019 (MICS 2019 published in 2021).
By 2021, the number of new HIV infections among newborns dropped to 6%.	SLOW PROGRESS	New infections among new-borns have continuously decreased from 17.8% in 2018 to 12.09% in 2020 (Spectrum 2021). In 2020, 71.66% of pregnant women had their first prenatal consultation, 90.85% of whom were tested and now know their HIV status. 4750 (0.79%) women were tested positive and put on ARV to prevent mother-to-child transmission. In total, 6460 pregnant women received ART in 2020 (2020 PMTCT annual report, Ministry of Health).
By 2021, strategic information is regularly produced on time.	ON TRACK	The UN Joint Team is continuously supporting the AIDS programme at national and decentralized levels for data collection and analysis. In total, 512 reports were produced in 2020.

JOINT TEAM

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, UNAIDS SECRETARIAT, FAO, IOM, OHCHR

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESULTS IN 2020

Targeted outreach within communities, and among refugee and internally displaced people in the Dar Salam camp have increased access to testing and treatment in 2020 in Chad, including in refugee camps and among pregnant women. To mitigate consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national HIV response, adoption of multi-month dispensing (MMD) of antiretroviral medicines (ARVs) has been accelerated through advocacy from the Joint Team and is now implemented nationally. The expansion of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools, through community engagement and capacity building, further raised HIV awareness and prevented new infections among children and young people. Progress in fighting stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV has been made through the adoption of Law 19 on HIV/AIDS, supported by the training of law enforcement officers. Efforts made in 2020 to expand viral load monitoring services will be built upon in 2021, to establish a viral load caravan to better monitor viral suppression in Chad.

HIV TESTING AND TREATMENT**TECHNICAL SUPPORT; ADVOCACY; POLICY ADVICE; CAPACITY BUILDING**

As part of World AIDS Day, and in partnership with the National AIDS Control Council (NAC), capacity building of managers in ten health centres helped facilitate the screening of 4566 people for HIV and Hepatitis. Among those screened, 45 people were tested positive for HIV and referred to ART centres for treatment. Besides, 2500 prisoners in 5 prisons were reached by the Joint Team with awareness messages on HIV and tuberculosis; 1000 of these prisoners were tested for HIV with 13 positive cases referred to care. With Global Fund's support, awareness sessions on HIV, COVID-19 and tuberculosis were conducted in 10 prisons with 4082 prisoners reached; volunteers for testing were referred to the nearest health facilities.

In Dar Salam refugee camp, 4466 people (2340 refugees and 2126 host community members) were reached through targeted HIV outreach. Through family index testing, 2105 people were tested with 72 positive cases (45 refugees and 27 host community members) and referred for care in the ART centres. In addition, 124 people (74 refugees, 50 internally displaced and indigenous people) were tested positive in outpatient consultation and started treatment.

As part of a food and nutritional support project, 1024 family members of people living with HIV were sensitized on HIV, and 122 index people were tested for HIV through family index testing in two districts (Baga Sola and Bol). Index cases were positive for 87 people and those were linked to treatment. In addition, 778 patients and family members including 109 pregnant and lactating women, were reached with essential family practices awareness messages (HIV testing, importance of PMTCT/HIV management and the importance of antenatal care).

Following advocacy efforts led by the Joint Team with the Minister of Health, a viral load testing campaign was launched in Ndjameña, carrying out 2500 tests among people living with HIV on treatment. Advocacy efforts also supported adoption by the Ministry of Health of MMD and community-based distribution of ARVs, which were implemented in all ARV centres, with training for 100 community workers. In 2020, 900 new patients received counselling and were subsequently put on ARVs, and 6174 patients and 68 children received ARVs for three months. Capacity building workshops were delivered in N'Djamena, Moundou, Sarh and Abéché for differentiated care across the ten largest provinces, strengthening the capacities of 100 health workers in prescribing ARVs.

PMTCT COVERAGE TECHNICAL SUPPORT; CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2020, the Joint Team strengthened testing capacity by equipping decentralized laboratories with 24 GenXpert machines that were set up for early detection viral load of people living with HIV, resulting in 86% coverage of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in the country.

The First Lady of Chad mobilized the country towards the 90-90-90 Fast-Track goals and PMTCT through a television and radio campaign supported by the Joint Team during the World AIDS Day week in Chad. A pre-recorded message was broadcasted twice a day over ten days by six radio stations (120 broadcasts) and one TV station (20 broadcasts) nationwide.

Thirty-eight health workers (18 doctors, 9 midwives and 11 nurses) were trained on PMTCT, paediatric care as well as barrier measures for COVID-19 prevention in health care settings in Mayo Kebbi East Province, reaching 2936 pregnant women; and 30 community health workers and 2 psychosocial counsellors received similar training in the health centres in Guéreta, Wadi Fira.

PMTCT services were provided to pregnant women in the maternity ward of the Dar Salam camp health centre: 968 refugee women and 827 Chadian women received counselling for screening and, 850 refugee women and 721 Chadian women were tested for HIV. 63 women (35 refugee women and 28 indigenous women) tested positive for HIV and were put on ARV treatment. Three midwives at this health centre received capacity building on PCR testing for EID of HIV, which was followed by training for a further 12 midwives and ATS midwives in other health centres in the district.

PREVENTION TECHNICAL SUPPORT; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; CAPACITY BUILDING

In the towns of Bol, Lai and Sarh, 3500 young people have been sensitized on HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 through social media, radio, a poster campaign and field outreach in 30 sessions. Additionally, 100 young peer educators were trained on the prevention of HIV/STIs and unwanted pregnancies in Bol, Liwa, Ngouri and Isseirom, capacitating them to reach 2212 young women and girls; and 6667 people were reached with sensitization and prevention messages on HIV, SRH, GBV and family planning in the provinces of Lake and Logone Oriental. Finally, 1 296 000 male condoms and 30 000 female condoms were made available to the Ministry of Public Health and National Solidarity to distribute to health facilities and NGOs.

In addition, the Joint Team ensured equitable education in Chad, through capacity building of 100 members of the Students' Parents' Association and 50 members of the Students' Mothers' Association on CSE; participants delivered peer education sessions in schools and communities on HIV/AIDS, CSE and COVID-19 in the Bol district.

Young people and adolescents have also been at the centre of preventive activities and community mobilization within the Dar Salam camp: a total of 7720 youth and adolescent participants were reached through 20 awareness sessions organized in schools, as well as through video screenings and daily discussions at the screening centre. In addition, 6255 male condoms were distributed.

In prisons in N'Djamena, Bol, Lai, Koumra and Sarh remand centres, screening activity has been coupled with HIV/COVID-19 prevention messages reaching 2500 people.

HUMAN RIGHTS, STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

ADVOCACY; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

Capacity building was provided to 49 officials from the Ministry of Justice, lawyers and civil society leaders in the technical finalization of the review of Law 19 on HIV/AIDS and to nine law enforcement officers and 40 judicial police officers (in N'Djamena and in the provinces of Chari Barguimi, Mandoul, Moyen Chari, Lac and Kanem) on international standards relating to HIV/AIDS. This process culminated in the adoption of Law 19 by the National Assembly in December 2020. The approved version of Law 19 includes specific dimensions of the HIV response, in particular PMTCT, gender equality, and access to HIV services for people in detention—which were not included in earlier provisions.

The Joint Team provided funds for cash transfers and nutritional education for the first association of people living with HIV in the department of Kaya, which was established in 2020 to support people that face stigma and discrimination because of their HIV status.

TOWARDS AN EVIDENCE-BASED HIV RESPONSE

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Joint Team provided technical support to the National AIDS Programme (NAP) and NAC in field data collection and data analysis for the review of the National Strategic Plan 2018-2020. An in-dept national data review was also supported to inform the National Strategic Plan 2021-2025 Expansion Plan, a performance framework which is based primarily on the estimate and projection data produced by the Joint Team in collaboration with NAP and the NAC.

Support was provided to review national data and identify bottlenecks to achieving the Fast-Track Initiative targets. Support was also provided to the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) to review grant implementation and to address bottlenecks related to the CCM's oversight role, with the creation of an oversight committee.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

ADVOCACY; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; CAPACITY BUILDING

The Joint Team provided technical support to the national health programme, the NAC and CCM in the development of the National Contingency Plan to limit the impact of COVID-19 on people living with HIV, key populations and vulnerable populations, providing technical support through the development of the HIV component of the proposal, ensuring mitigation measures and differential services (e.g. MMD for ARVs, social protection activities as food support for most vulnerable patients) were integrated into the proposal. Technical assistance was provided for resource mobilization through the Global Fund, for US\$8 million for the COVID-19 response.

Advocacy with the Ministry of Health led to the successful institutionalization of ARV MMD distribution to patients and community distribution nationally. The Joint Team provided funds and training to civil society organization (CSO) staff to facilitate the distribution of 3-month ARVs to 6174 adults and 68 children. Six psychosocial counsellors working in ARV dispensing facilities reached 3620 people on barrier measures against COVID-19, and re-integrated 61 people living with HIV who had been lost to follow up into treatment. COVID-19 counselling in antenatal care sites reached 2936 pregnant women on HIV and COVID-19 prevention, HIV testing and treatment services in the district of Guereda. The Joint Team provided financial support to NAC to implement the pilot project in Ndjamen and supported the training of six CSO members.

The establishment of WASH facilities at points of entry for migrants and the training of medical and laboratory staff provided by the Joint Team have significantly improved the implementation of handwashing and provision of PPE in hospitals, health centres and in NGOs. Furthermore, the laboratory capacity for COVID-19 testing has increased, through the support provided to the Ministry of Health. Additionally, technical support was provided to set up a COVID-19 diagnostic site with capacity to test 60 people per day in the Bon Samaritan hospital.

The Joint Team supported the creation of a website called 'COVID-19-tchad' which provided national epidemiological data on COVID-19 as well as prevention measures. In parallel, financial support was provided to CSOs conducting awareness activities in communities on prevention measures, as well as in using new technologies to access COVID-19 data and information, through the website. As a result, 27 000 people were reached through community awareness activities, and 57 600 visits were made to the website in three months.

The Joint Team intensified its actions towards supporting adolescents and young people by training 100 student ambassadors in Bol in Lake-Chad to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and COVID-19. Forty young peer educators were also trained in Moundou on barrier measures for the prevention of COVID-19, reaching 1276 young people. In addition, 8754 young people were reached with information on adolescent and youth SRH, HIV and COVID-19 through the COVID Info Point Kiosk programme.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTEGRATED SDG AGENDA CAPACITY BUILDING; TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Joint Team conducted HIV-sensitive social protection interventions. 1955 people living with HIV, including 706 malnourished people living with HIV or at risk of malnutrition, received unconditional cash transfers through Mobile Money for two months to enable beneficiaries to access locally available healthy and nutritious food and to support their continued treatment.

PERSISTING AND EMERGING CHALLENGES AND BOTTLENECKS	KEY FUTURE ACTIONS TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES AND UNBLOCK BOTTLENECKS
<p>COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions have hindered the implementation of activities. Currently, there is low access to viral load testing for people living with HIV.</p>	<p>Accelerate the 90-90-90 cascade by involving physicians in the monitoring of people living with HIV, raising awareness among patients and the community on the benefits/advantages of viral load testing.</p> <p>Support the organization of a workshop to determine bottlenecks to viral load testing access; and mobilize health workers and CSOs in promoting viral load testing among people living with HIV.</p>
<p>The communities and networks of people living with HIV need system strengthening for improved ARV distribution and awareness. Security issues in the Lake area make it difficult for people living with HIV to travel long distances to care centres for their ARV supply.</p>	<p>Provide technical and financial support (capacity building through trainings and webinars, sharing of best practices) on differentiated care services for the decentralization of ART centres and the task-shifting to paramedics and community in the overall HIV care.</p> <p>The Joint Team will support the implementation of the multi-month ARV dispensing strategy and community distribution.</p>

Report available on the
UNAIDS Results and Transparency Portal

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