

# EQUATORIAL GUINEA

*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 2025, 50% of children and adults living with HIV know their status and are enrolled on antiretroviral treatment (ART).	<b>ON TRACK</b>	At the end of 2020, 48% of the people living with HIV in Equatorial Guinea knew their HIV status, of whom 38% adults and 28% of children aged 0-14 years accessed ART. The number of people living with HIV enrolled on antiretroviral treatment (ART) increased from 22 900 in 2019 to 25 703 in 2020 (GAM 2021).
HIV prevention among adolescent and young people.	<b>ON TRACK</b>	No recent data available. The Joint Team supported distribution of more than 50 000 condoms, particularly to young people across the country.

### JOINT TEAM

UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, UNAIDS SECRETARIAT

## JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESULTS IN 2020

*In Equatorial Guinea, the United Nations Joint Team made efforts to improve and scale up HIV prevention and treatment services among adults, pregnant women, and children. These included decentralization of antiretroviral treatment services, tracking and re-enrolling people living with HIV who are lost to follow-up; procuring diagnostic kits; and training of health care workers. Advances have also been made in improving the knowledge of various communities, including adolescent and young people around prevention of HIV and COVID-19 and sexual and reproductive health.*

### STRENGTHENED HIV CARE

#### UPSTREAM ADVOCACY; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Joint Team provided technical assistance to improve HIV testing and treatment programmes in Equatorial Guinea, including support efforts to trace people living with HIV and people diagnosed with tuberculosis who are lost to follow up via telephone calls and enrolling them back to treatment; coordination with civil society organization to decentralize treatment services and improve community-led treatment programmes; and procurement of reagents for

HIV and tuberculosis diagnostic testing, and provision of refresher training courses for bacilloscopic and on the use of GeneXpert for focal points in all districts and transport allowances for weekly HIV screening services.

Support was provided for the development of plans, strategies, and guidelines and other critical documents on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and paediatric treatment, including the National EMTCT Plan 2020-2024 and assessment on decentralisation of PMTCT services and Option B+. The Joint Team also assisted in the procurement of 500 HIV test kits and 1000 dried blood spot test kits, and additional 500 test kits, two Thermomixer and two Thermoblock are expected to arrive in the country to support the PMTCT programme. Training was provided for 42 healthcare providers in 6-7 health provinces improving their skills on management of paediatric HIV and tuberculosis cases.

### **HIV PREVENTION AMONG ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY ADVICE; TECHNICAL SUPPORT; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

In 2020, the Joint Team supported distribution of more than 50 000 condoms, particularly to young people across the country. Support was also provided for the integration of HIV, tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and nutrition services.

In partnership with Bocamandja—a theatre company in Equatorial Guinea—around 1000 young people were sensitized on HIV prevention, treatment, and care services through art. Support was provided for the development of a five-minute video and the *Living and Coexisting with HIV* booklet to promote safe and healthy lifestyle among people living with HIV. Religious leaders and healers across the country were engaged in community mobilization initiatives focused on HIV prevention initiatives.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE**

The Joint Team provided technical and financial support to the Government, civil society organizations, and communities to curb new HIV and COVID-19 infections, ensure continuity of HIV and essential health services, and limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people living with HIV. For example, personal protective equipment (PPE) was procured and distributed to 25 000 people living with HIV across the country in ART units in general hospitals. PPE was also distributed to 497 women and 112 men living with HIV in Bata and Malabo cities, who participated in the Joint Team-led survey on social and health impacts of COVID-19 among this group. Additional 100 women living with HIV received skill building training and US\$ 25 seed funding to produce washable cloth masks and generate income for their families.

Over 800 000 adolescent and young people across the country improved their awareness on HIV and COVID-19 prevention and care services through traditional and social media campaigns supported by the Joint Team. Youth-focussed sensitization campaigns, launched in more than 20 schools enabled more than 1000 students to improve their understanding of COVID-19/HIV prevention and SRH programmes.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTEGRATED SDG AGENDA**

Under the United Nations Development and Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019-2023, the Joint Team in Equatorial Guinea provides support to the country towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and leaving no one behind. In the spirit of “Delivering as One”, the United Nations Country Team is engaged in strengthening the management and coordination of the UN system in the country, and as such, is strongly contributing to the UN INFO integrated monitoring system.

**PERSISTING AND EMERGING CHALLENGES AND BOTTLENECKS**

The COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges in the provision of healthcare and community support services in the country.

Travel restrictions between the island, mainland and districts prevented people living with and affected by HIV from accessing necessary HIV prevention and treatment services or adhere to treatment and care programmes.

In-school HIV prevention campaigns were also strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, hindering the access to information and services among adolescent and young people.

**KEY FUTURE ACTIONS TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES AND UNBLOCK BOTTLENECKS**

Provide technical and financial support to increase demand for HIV combination prevention services among adolescent and young people, and women of reproductive age (15-49 years).

Continue technical support to improve SRH service coverage to address the needs of adolescent and young people.

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Report available on the  
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