MYANMAR 2022

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



In a challenging environment, the Joint Team worked with development partners, community-based organizations and communities to strengthen the HIV response. Standard operating procedures for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), HIV self-testing and index testing were developed to accelerate expansion of these services among key populations, including people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, female sex works and new geographical locations (WHO, UNAIDS secretariat). In addition, 433 pregnant women affected by conflicts accessed HIV testing and counselling services, of whom 333 were tested for HIV and all those diagnosed with HIV were referred to ART centres (UNICEF).

The Myanmar teachers' platform was established to provide continuous training for teachers, educators and young people through an online course on comprehensive sexuality education. Hence, 66 teachers and educators (out of the 100 people enrolled) completed the course and earned a certificate in 2022 (UNESCO).

Improving the delivery of HIV, psychosocial and legal services, the Myanmar Positive Group (MPG) and Kachin Network of People Living with HIV scaled up access to HIV treatment, adherence counselling and social support services for people living with HIV with technical and financial support from the Joint Team (UNAIDS Secretariat). In addition, 19 community members were trained as paralegals and 1300 people, including lawyers and paralegals from lawyers and legal aid associations received orientation on the national drug policy, alternatives to imprisonment and harm reduction services among people who use drugs through legal sessions and hotline consultation. As a result, 137 human rights violations were reported, and 21 cases received legal assistance (UNODC, UNAIDS Secretariat).

A sensitization campaign and training on human rights, gender-based violence and other gender related issues engaged 661 men who have sex with men, transgender people and other community members which led to the reporting of 126 gender-based violence cases in six townships (UNAIDS Secretariat).

A total of 21 healthcare facilities in HIV high-burden states and regions implemented a pilot community-led monitoring project incorporating community monitoring tools which were developed using results from 127 individual interviews and 32 focus group discussions with 208 people from key populations. Data collected from the healthcare facilities were also used to develop key advocacy messages aimed at improving access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care services among this group (UNAIDS Secretariat).

Gradual reopening of healthcare centres following the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and political instability increased access to HIV and tuberculosis services and improved linkages to social protection services among vulnerable people. As a result, 11 284 vulnerable people, including people living with HIV in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states, received food assistance and nutrition counselling while 10 097 people in peri-urban and urban areas of Yangon accessed cash transfers and nutrition counselling (WFP). Additionally, a minimum package of social protection services was developed to improve access to HIV and other healthcare services, food assistance and cash transfer programmes among vulnerable people living with HIV and key populations (UNAIDS Secretariat). In three metropolitan areas cities, 266 healthcare staff were also trained on HIV, tuberculosis and food assistance in humanitarian settings. The trained personnel sensitized more than 1500 people, including people living with or affected by HIV and tuberculosis on these issues (WFP).

KEY RESULTS

- More than 22 000 vulnerable people, including people living with HIV received food assistance, cash transfers and nutrition counselling.
- Standard operating procedures for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), HIV self-testing and index testing were developed to accelerate expansion of these services among key populations.
- 1300 lawyers, para-legals and legal aid associations were sensitized on national drug policy, alternatives to imprisonment and harm reduction services.

Joint UN Team on AIDS UNICEF WFP UNFPA

F UNODC
UNESCO
WHO
UNAIDS Secretariat

Contributing to <u>United Nations Socio-Economic</u> Resilience Response Plan in Myanmar (2021)







2022 Joint Programme Expenditure

Total US\$ 2 902 234

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

