

SENEGAL

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 the end of 2022, HIV-related mortality is reduced by 80% from 2018 (aligned with the national strategic plan).	ON TRACK	AIDS-related deaths were reduced to 1100 in 2020 compared with 1600 in 2018 (GAM 2021).
By the end of 2021, mother-to-child transmission of HIV is reduced to less than 2%.	ON TRACK	No recent data. Early diagnosis and initiation of ARV prophylaxis for children increased, but efforts are still needed to reach the targets set.
Reduction of new infections by 75% by the end of 2021.	SLOW PROGRESS	1200 new infections were recorded in 2020, compared with 1300 in 2018; incidence is 0.08 per 1000 population (GAM 2021).

JOINT TEAM

UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN WOMEN, UNESCO, WHO, UNAIDS SECRETARIAT

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESULTS IN 2020

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and early infant diagnosis programmes have been scaled up to reduce new infections in Senegal in 2020, alongside technical assistance for increased efficiency in data collection on HIV testing and treatment. Support has also been provided to strengthen data collection among communities of people who inject drugs, as part of efforts to prevent HIV in key populations. Outreach for young people has been expanded through delivery of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information in schools and via a mobile app, as well as through some joint work to develop key indicators on health, HIV/STIs and gender-based violence (GBV) to better assess the needs among young people nationally. Sensitizing and mobilizing vulnerable women and girls to the prevention of HIV and gender-based violence has been an area of focus in 2020 and will be further intensified by the Joint Team in 2021.

HIV TESTING, TREATMENT AND CARE **CAPACITY BUILDING; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Guidelines for decentralisation of HIV testing were provided to health facilities. The ongoing decentralisation of HIV testing was also supported with the training of 31 nurses and 32 midwives in Kaffrine, followed up by on-site coaching by the district team; This onsite coaching also guided and facilitated the transition to dolutegravir (DTG) as a first line regimen for adults receiving ARV.

Technical assistance supported data validation to improve the quality of the HIV data entered in the DHIS2 platform, via a workshop for the chief district hospital physicians from all twelve districts. A harmonisation meeting was held to address identified discrepancies and training needs.

As part of a food and nutritional insecurity assessment among people and households living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, the Joint Team provided support to strengthen health care providers in diagnosing and initiating treatment for malnutrition at early stages, as well as to strengthen psychosocial support for children. 14 doctors, a state midwife, a nutritionist, a social assistant, and three nutrition focal points were trained from the regions of Louga, Matam and Saint Louis on nutritional and psychosocial care for children and adolescents living with HIV.

ELIMINATING HIV VERTICAL TRANSMISSION **CAPACITY BUILDING; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Technical and financial assistance has supported the enrolment of Dakar, Tambacounda, Kaffrine, Kédougou, Kolda and Sedhiou regions to implement a continuity-of-care strategy for pregnant women living with HIV and to improve the eMTCT programme in these regions. This approach will support midwives in their care of mothers and infants in relation to HIV testing, treatment and management, and reduce new infections, benefitting already 201 pregnant women living with HIV in 2020 with home-visits and transport reimbursement; it also allowed testing of 93 children for HIV who had been lost to follow up. Moreover, the Mother 2 Mother (M2M) strategy has been scaled up to a total of 67 health centers by the end of 2020, supporting efforts to identify new recruits to the eMTCT programme.

In eight pilot sites, the Points of Care strategy facilitated 157 early diagnostic tests for children, speeding up the process of treating infants who are infected with HIV. This pilot has been scaled up, with three additional health facilities in Ouakam, Tamba and Kédougou.

SRH AND HIV PREVENTION **CAPACITY BUILDING; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT;** **FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS**

In partnership with the regional network ECOWAS, youth networks, and CSOs, advocacy for high-level political commitment in the Western and central Africa region, including in Senegal, for educated, healthy, and fulfilled adolescents and young people was promoted. In preparation for a national consultation, technical assistance has supported the development of 15 key indicators for SRH among adolescents and young people, including adolescent pregnancy, child marriage, HIV, GBV, and education.

The Hello Ado app was launched in May 2020, targeting people between 10-24 years old including those in key populations, who are most at risk of HIV, early and unwanted pregnancies, and GBV. The app provides education and information on SRH, local protection and legal support services in four cities (Dakar, Kolda, Mbour, Ziguinchor). By the end of 2020, there had been 1000 users.

A teacher training module has been developed to integrate content on school-related GBV, human rights and gender equality into curricula, and capacities building delivered to 1479 teachers from 40 schools in the Pikine-Guédiawaye Academic Inspectorate. This activity has reached an average of 45 600 girls and boys in 64 schools.

400 women and girls have been sensitised through the development of a community movement led by youth and women groups, religious people, and schools, for the prevention of GBV and HIV in Tamba, Kolda and Dakar. Awareness-raising activities for girls and women have been held in November, especially during the 16-Days of Activism campaign with a focus on the World AIDS Day, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection. Outreach, awareness-raising and social mobilisation activities for women were further supported in Tambacounda and Kolda, with the aim to engage men and traditional and customary leaders in HIV prevention.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) guidelines were validated in collaboration with the National Alliance of Communities for Health (ANCS) and the Division for the fight against AIDS and STIs, and training modules developed. With funding from the Global Fund and PEPFAR, four health care facilities and mobile clinics out of the 22 identified have already started PrEP.

A training course on anonymous reporting of aggregated information on people who use drugs in contact with social services and treatment centres took place at the end of December 2020, for members of the community network against drugs, in partnership with the Ministry of Health. This training resulted in equipping the network with a tool for data collection, and will contribute to the harmonisation of practices; 25 trained participants are now able to act as mediators and have shared their newly acquired knowledge with the rest of their colleagues.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

ADVOCACY; CAPACITY BUILDING; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Working on risk communication, community engagement and epidemiology, the Joint Team supported the Ministry of Health in developing and implementing a communication strategy to manage the COVID-19 response.

A formative supervision of eight HIV care sites was organised in August 2020 to support sites in the Thiès region for holistic HIV care in the context of COVID-19, identifying the constraints and solutions related to HIV care and the management of data, updating providers on revised guidelines, data collection, and formulating recommendations and a follow-up operational plan, which is being implemented.

Resources were allocated to support women and girls living with HIV to strengthen their resilience to the pandemic. 100 women benefited from online training on hygiene products, as well as materials for their manufacture, to equip them with new income-generation skills. Another 80 women who were victims of violence or living with HIV were trained in soap / bleach production and/ or enriched flour production in Tambacounda and Kolda. Additionally, food kits were distributed to a national network for women living with HIV, which benefited 150 women, and another 130 vulnerable women received food kits through government support, in partnership with the Joint Team.

As part of the health security protocol for the resumption of learning in schools, capacity building support was delivered to 30 members of the monitoring and psychosocial support committees of the academies of Thiès, Saint Louis, Diourbel, Ziguinchor and Dakar.

Finally, personal protective equipment (PPE) was provided to a mental health network comprised of more than twenty associations, present in all 14 regions of Senegal, to support volunteers working with those affected by psychological disorders.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTEGRATED SDG AGENDA

The United Nations Country Team in Senegal supported the country's development efforts through the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019-2023. As such, joint work is being undertaken to ensure an inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and improve the access to quality social services and social protection for all. For instance, advocacy and technical support contributed to the preparation of a multisectoral action plan to protect children's rights in Senegal, promoting community involvement and expanding care for children in need. Also, support has been provided to promote the rights of girls and young women, and to reduce violence against women.

PERSISTING AND EMERGING CHALLENGES AND BOTTLENECKS	KEY FUTURE ACTIONS TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES AND UNBLOCK BOTTLENECKS
<p>The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions hindered the proper implementation of the workplan: many HIV activities have been postponed, cancelled or rescheduled.</p>	<p>Support work to implement activities that have been delayed or cancelled in order to protect the HIV response.</p>
<p>The lack of guidance and knowledge on the DHIS2 lead to gaps in HIV data reporting.</p>	<p>Through capacity building, strengthen HIV data quality monitoring at all levels using DHIS2. Strengthen monitoring of the implementation of interventions and transition plans to new ARV molecules.</p>
<p>The delegation of tasks is not yet effective in all the care sites, and the strategy has not been extended to the entire country. Additionally, providers are unfamiliar with the new WHO recommendations for paediatric care.</p>	<p>Support the implementation of task shifting for a better decentralisation of testing, care and eMTCT activities. Continue the scaling up of the mother-mentor and continuity-of-care strategies by following up on sites already enrolled. Support orientation of providers on the new WHO recommendations on paediatric care followed by on-site coaching. Document Point of Care strategies and family testing.</p>
<p>Reproductive health services for young girls and boys are still insufficient.</p>	<p>Support a national consultation to gather recommendations that contribute to the drafting of the Western and Central Africa's commitment to educated, healthy and empowered adolescents and young people. Support the expansion of mapping of SRH, protection, and legal support services available in the Hello Ado app to 10 new cities nationwide. Support the strengthening of the teacher training manual on responding to sexual and GBV with content on reproductive health; and support capacity building of teachers in these areas.</p>
<p>There is insufficient consideration of the needs of girls and young women in national policies.</p>	<p>Revise and elaborate policy documents, to strengthen the integration of gender and GBV in the programmes and governance mechanism of the HIV/AIDS response. Empower women and girls living with HIV/AIDS through supporting access to basic services. Strengthen the empowerment of women and girls in HIV/AIDS prevention through training, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection.</p>

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