



Image Disclaimer

The images presented do not imply or provide any information regarding the HIV status of individuals depicted. No assumptions should be made about their HIV status based on the visuals displayed.

People living with HIV during humanitarian emergencies

53rd PCB MEETING

12 – 14 December 2023

Image from the humanitarian emergency in the Democratic Republic of Congo % Deutsche Welle

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Snapshot of current humanitarian emergencies

Image % The World Economic Forum

A shared understanding about humanitarian emergencies

“Natural,” “man-made,” and complex disasters

“It is difficult to have a clear understanding of what we mean by 'humanitarian emergency'. Promoting human welfare through urgent action is central. However, not all emergencies are sudden, with a clear beginning. In MENA, acute economic and other difficulties have been building and compiling for years.”

– Maher Sleiman / Frontline AIDS, MENA Lebanon

What is a humanitarian emergency?

Event or series of events (natural, man-made or both) “impacting the lives and well-being of a large number of people or a significant percentage of a population and requiring substantial multi-sectoral assistance. For a WHO response, there must be clear public health consequences.*”

* WHO definition



Image from the humanitarian emergency in Venezuela
% Americas Quarterly

A minimum package of HIV-related interventions during humanitarian emergencies

- A minimum 3-month supply of ARVs
- Adequate food, water, and shelter
- Appropriate HIV-related health care
- Capacity building for community health and social workers
- Cash transfers/employment/income

“Ensuring a reliable and continual supply of ART is crucial, access to regular check-ups, laboratory tests, specialized care for HIV related complications are important, addressing the holistic needs of individual PLHIV is crucial to prevention of AIDS.”

- William Mabior Achuil / Executive Director, Food and Agriculture Development Agency, Republic of South Sudan

Let communities lead during humanitarian emergencies

Given increasingly complex emergencies, climate breakdown and dwindling humanitarian funds, we need a renewed humanitarian methodology based on local community leadership and capacity

“Communities and people living with HIV need to be capable of bringing their needs to the table. This is harder to do if they have not been included prior to a humanitarian emergency: if civil society representatives were not involved as a partner before, they will be less likely to be able to contribute once there is a humanitarian emergency.”

- Eva Marly Steide / Housing Works, Haiti

Letting Communities Lead

By 2025, communities expect to minimally deliver 30% of testing and treatment services, 60% of programmes supporting the achievement of societal enablers, and 80% of HIV prevention services.

Communities need support in order to effectively lead during humanitarian emergencies: stronger healthcare system partnerships; speedier access to funding; and improved opportunities for leadership.



Image of service delivery in Afghanistan % UNODC

Call to Action

“UNAIDS could focus on educating its UN family people internally about prioritising HIV, supporting collaboration and building bridges between communities and policy makers and governments, and backing leadership and advocacy by communities and people living with HIV.”

– Daxa Patel / National Coalition of People living with HIV, India

Call to Action - some highlights

Agree a common understanding of the impacts of humanitarian emergencies on the HIV response, and specifically on people living with HIV.

Identify a minimum package of interventions for people living with HIV during humanitarian emergencies.

Coordinate the development of an investment strategy for building and sustaining the leadership of communities and people living with HIV during humanitarian emergencies.

Revisit the progress made on DPs at a future PCB meeting



Image from the humanitarian emergency in Ukraine % ICRC



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