

Country progress report - United Arab Emirates

Global AIDS Monitoring 2018



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Social protection - Ensure that 75%% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection by 2020

Community-led service delivery - Ensure that at least 30%% of all service delivery is community-led by 2020

HIV expenditure - Ensure that HIV investments increase to US\$ 26 billion by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6%% for social enablers

Empowerment and access to justice - Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights

AIDS out of isolation - Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C

Overall

Fast-track targets

Progress summary

The development of this Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM) Report 2016 was undertaken under the auspices of His Excellency Abdulrahman Mohammed Al-Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention, and Dr. Hussain Al Rand, Assistant Undersecretary for Clinics and Health Centers Sector. High-level officials of the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health in Abu Dhabi and Dubai Health Authority have been involved from the beginning and provided support to the entire data collection, validation and review processes.

The national response can be distinguished at two levels:

1) High-level commitment and political support for the national HIV response continue to be crucial, as there are still a number of challenges in this area: overall, the profile of HIV/AIDS on the national agenda needs to be strengthened. Specific achievements and challenges in this field are reflected at: 1) the institutional and organisational level; 2) in policy and programme development; and 3) in terms of allocation of human and financial resources.

2) programme implementation: All nationals in need have the right to free HIV treatment and care. There are good models of comprehensive treatment, care and support for HIV patients, with multidisciplinary hospital teams of clinicians, psychologists and counsellors providing high-quality services, which respond to the needs of PLHIV. Furthermore, Emirati PLHIV enjoy legal protection in terms of their rights to health, employment, education and non-discrimination. ANC screening provides HIV-infected women and men the possibility to protect their unborn child against HIV infection.

HIV testing and treatment cascade

Ensure that 30 million people living with HIV have access to treatment through meeting the 90-90-90 targets by 2020

Progress summary

UAE is committed to help the world reaching its target by covering all HIV cases needing treatment in the country; as well as is committed to the international organizations in their activities by fund-contributions to support prevention and treatment activities all over the world

Policy questions (2016)

Is there a law, regulation or policy specifying that HIV testing:

a) Is solely performed based on voluntary and informed consent

Yes

b) Is mandatory before marriage

Yes

c) Is mandatory to obtain a work or residence permit

Yes

d) Is mandatory for certain groups

No

What is the recommended CD4 threshold for initiating antiretroviral therapy in adults and adolescents who are asymptomatic, as per MoH guidelines or directive, and what is the implementation status?

TREAT ALL regardless of CD4 count; -

Does your country have a current national policy on routine viral load testing for monitoring antiretroviral therapy and to what extent is it implemented?

a) For adults and adolescents

Yes, partially implemented

b) For children

Yes, fully implemented

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission

Eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2020 while ensuring that 1.6 million children have access to HIV treatment by 2018

Progress summary

The UAE is committed to help the world reaching its target by preventing HIV infection among children by providing comprehensive services, such as pre-marital screening, ante-natal care with all deliveries are hospital attendants along with universal PMTCT services. this is to ensure zero (0) cases in UAE. Moreover, UAE is committed to the UNICEF and other international organizations in their activities by generous contributions to support prevention and treatment activities all over the world

Policy questions (2016)

Does your country have a national plan for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV?

Yes

Target(s) for the mother-to-child transmission rate and year: 0; 2016

Elimination target(s) (such as the number of cases/population) and year: 0; 2016

Do the national guidelines recommend treating all infants and children living with HIV irrespective of symptoms and if so, what is the implementation status of the cut-off?

Treat All; Not implemented in practice

HIV prevention; Key populations

Ensure access to combination prevention options, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, harm reduction and condoms, to at least 90%% of people by 2020, especially young women and adolescent girls in high-prevalence countries and key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs and prisoners

Progress summary

The NAP in UAE is providing several preventive activities to reduce and eliminate the HIV infection for both the general population and those at risk

Policy questions: Key populations (2016)

Criminalization and/or prosecution of key populations

Transgender people

Both criminalized and prosecuted

Sex workers

Selling and buying sexual services is criminalized

Men who have sex with men

-

Is drug use or possession for personal use an offence in your country?

-

Legal protections for key populations

Transgender people

-

Sex workers

-

Men who have sex with men

-

People who inject drugs

No

Gender; Stigma and discrimination

Eliminate gender inequalities and end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, people living with HIV and key populations by 2020

Progress summary

UAE is committed to ensure gender-equality in the country, not only in health services but in all activities and other services available for the population. moreover, Reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS has high political support in UAE

Policy questions (2016)

Does your country have a national plan or strategy to address gender-based violence and violence against women that includes HIV

No

Does your country have legislation on domestic violence*?

Yes

What protections, if any, does your country have for key populations and people living with HIV from violence?

General criminal laws prohibiting violence

Programmes to address intimate partner violence*

Programmes to address workplace violence

Interventions to address torture and ill-treatment in prisons

Does your country have policies in place requiring healthcare settings to provide timely and quality health care regardless of gender, nationality, age, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, language, socio-economic status, HIV or other

health status, or because of selling sex, using drugs, living in prison or any other grounds?

Yes, policies exists and are consistently implemented

Knowledge of HIV and access to sexual reproductive health services

Ensure that 90%% of young people have the skills, knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from HIV and have access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2020, in order to reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women to below 100 000 per year

Progress summary

Empowering youth with correct information on HIV/AIDS transmission and how to protect themselves from getting infected is vital to build-up the capacity in UAE and reach the goal of zero new cases in the UAE

Policy questions (2016)

Does your country have education policies that guide the delivery of life skills-based HIV and sexuality education, according to international standards, in:

a) Primary school

No

b) Secondary school

Yes

c) Teacher training

No

Social protection

Ensure that 75%% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection by 2020

Progress summary

This is important but not relevant to the country; where in UAE social protection is available to people living with HIV and their families

Policy questions (2016)

Yes and it is being implemented

a) Does it refer to HIV?

Yes

b) Does it recognize people living with HIV as key beneficiaries?

Yes

c) Does it recognize key populations (sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people, prisoners) as key beneficiaries?

No

d) Does it recognize adolescent girls and young women as key beneficiaries?

Yes

e) Does it recognize people affected by HIV (children and families) as key beneficiaries?

Yes

f) Does it address the issue of unpaid care work in the context of HIV?

No

What barriers, if any, limit access to social protection programmes in your country?

-

Community-led service delivery

Ensure that at least 30%% of all service delivery is community-led by 2020

Progress summary

This is important but not relevant to the country

Policy questions (2016)

Does your country have a national policy promoting community delivery of antiretroviral therapy?

No

What safeguards in laws, regulations and policies, if any, provide for the operation of CSOs/CBOs in your country?

-

Number of condoms and lubricants distributed by NGOs in the previous year

a) Male condoms:

-

b) Female condoms:

-

c) Lubricants:

-

HIV expenditure

Ensure that HIV investments increase to US\$ 26 billion by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6%% for social enablers

Progress summary

This is important but not relevant to the country

Empowerment and access to justice

Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights

Progress summary

UAE has issued a resolution to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS since 2010; this is to preserve their rights and prevent any violations

AIDS out of isolation

Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C

Progress summary

This is important and in UAE a universal health coverage approach is adopted that ensure the management and providing comprehensive healthcare services to HIV patients including proper management of co-infections (with TB or hepatitis) and screening and preventing cancers

Policy questions (2016)

Is cervical cancer screening and treatment for women living with HIV recommended in:

a) The national strategy, policy, plan or guidelines for cancer, cervical cancer or the broader response to non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Yes

b) The national strategic plan governing the AIDS response

No

c) National HIV-treatment guidelines

No

What coinfection policies are in place in the country for adults, adolescents and children?

Isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) or latent TB infection (LTBI) prophylaxis for people living with HIV

Intensified TB case finding among people living with HIV

TB infection control in HIV health-care settings

Co-trimoxazole prophylaxis

Hepatitis B screening and management in antiretroviral therapy clinics

Hepatitis C screening and management in antiretroviral therapy clinics

Hepatitis B vaccination provided at antiretroviral therapy clinics

Hepatitis C treatment (direct-acting antiviral agents) provided in antiretroviral therapy clinics