Country progress report - Dominica

Global AIDS Monitoring 2020
I. Overall - Fast-track targets

II. 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

III. 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

IV. 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

V. 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

VI. 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

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

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

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

X. 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 National HIV and Aids Response Programme (NHARP) of Dominica which falls under the Ministry of Health, Wellness and New Health Investment, a Programme guided under the Ministry’s health mission, “partnering for optimum health for all” (Building a Resilient Public Service: A Collective Response”). The vision is to promote the wellbeing of all citizens of the Commonwealth of Dominica through the provision of preventative, curative, promotion, and rehabilitative health care. This was Developed to be compatible with the universal standard of human health rights, at a cost that is affordable and sustainable and a level of equitable and accessibility to persons. With this mission and vision as a guide, the NHARP focuses on four main components in an effort to fulfill the marked vision and mission of the Ministry of Health. The 4 components are as follows; 1. prevention and promotion of healthy sexual and reproductive practices, 2. Treatment, care and Support of PLHIVs, 3. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis and finally, 4. Collection of data through Monitoring and evaluation. With these components the aim is to meet the UNAIDS 90/90/90 Target by the year 2030.
3.1 HIV incidence rate per 1000, Dominica (2015-2019)

Number of people newly infected with HIV in the reporting period per 1000 uninfected population

[Bar chart showing incidence rates for 2015 to 2019]

1.7 AIDS mortality per 100 000, Dominica (2016-2019)

Total number of people who have died from AIDS-related causes per 100 000 population

[Bar chart showing mortality rates for 2016 to 2019]
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

Resources are limited in the attempted to meet the needs of the clients which continues to impact greatly on attaining the 90/90/90 target set for 2020. As adequately trained professionals are slowly migrating, the access to vulnerable populations continues to present challenges. In addition, we have recuperated 6 of our initial 9 community testing sites; one site is not managed by the public Health system, and in addition no trained personal is available. In that vein, although testing to the general public is available, reaching the key and vulnerable populations (SW, MSM) is not impacting as much as needed and by extension testing for this populations in low. The department has been without a social worker for the past 2 years; therefore, Lost-to-Follow-up Clients are hard to locate. Properly trained professionals, as it relates to keeping the client’s adherent and compliant to medication and remaining in care and HAART (Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy) also suffers., a more robust monitoring process of persons who are enrolled in care is also needed for a more on point follow-up outside of their Medical practitioner clinical appointments. There is also a need for established support system for PLHIV (People Living with HIV) also need to be addressed.
1.1 People living with HIV who know their HIV status, Dominica (2017-2019)

Number of people living with HIV who know their HIV status

1.2 People living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy, Dominica (2011-2019)

Number of people on antiretroviral therapy
1.3 People living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment who have suppressed viral load, Dominica (2017-2019)

Number of people living with HIV with suppressed viral loads

1.6 AIDS mortality rate per 100 000, Dominica (2016-2019)

Total number of people who have died from AIDS-related causes per 100 000 population
1.6 AIDS mortality rate per 100 000 among adults, Dominica (2016-2019)

Total number of adults who have died from AIDS-related causes per 100 000 population

1.7 HIV testing volume and positivity, Dominica

Percentage of HIV-positive results returned to people (positivity) in the calendar year

Number of HIV tests conducted = 3 751
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 country has just completed the Elimination of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis validation assessment, and we are awaiting further contact and possible decision from the Validating committee. This provided the opportunity to identify the strengths and weakness in our monitoring system, which aided in identifying an approach to mending the gaps and strengthening our functions. The PMTCT component of the program focuses identify gaps in surveillance, and also fostering a strong collaboration with Maternal and child Health care system. This is very vital in reaching the proposed landmark.
2.1 Early infant diagnosis, Dominica (2011-2019)

Number of infants who received an HIV test within two months of birth

2.1 Early infant diagnosis, Dominica (2018-2019)

Percentage of infants born to women living with HIV receiving a virological test for HIV within two months of birth

100.0% (2019)
↑ 75.0% (2018)
2.3 Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Dominica (2011-2019)

Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received antiretroviral medicine to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

2.3 Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Dominica (2018-2019)

Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received antiretroviral medicine to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
2.4 Syphilis among pregnant women, Dominica (2019)

Percentage of pregnant women tested for syphilis

![Pie chart showing 100.0% tested for syphilis]

2.4 Syphilis among pregnant women, Dominica (2019)

Percentage of pregnant women tested positive for syphilis

![Pie chart showing 0.6% tested positive for syphilis]
2.4 Syphilis among pregnant women, Dominica (2019)

Percentage of pregnant women on treatment among those who tested positive

2.5 Congenital syphilis rate (live births and stillbirth), Dominica (2013-2019)

Number of reported congenital syphilis cases (live births and stillbirths)
2.6 HIV testing in pregnant women, Dominica (2018-2019)

Percentage of pregnant women with known HIV status

- 0.2% (2019)
- 0.5% (2018)
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 prevention and promotion of sexual and reproduction health is a highly prioritized component of the NHARP Programme, focusing on the sensitization and awareness approach. With the constant creation of social behavioral change communication and in addition to Educational strategies, we attempt to cover the prevention combination option. This would include commodities distribution, pamphlets, leaflets, radio programs, social media platforms, community interventions (private and public), visiting academic institutions, Professional establishments, and FBOs etc.

Encouraged access to care for vulnerable populations is also part of the strategy employed for said targeted population, which is being bridged through strong collaborative efforts. We continue to employ a Community Sex Worker animator who attempts to meet the health needs of this population, yet there is great need for MSM Community sex animator. The MSM population still presents with great social determinants to be open about sexuality and sexual orientation. Under the Global fund, attempts are being made to develop strategies to better reach these populations through social contracting and sustainability plans. The need for Country PREP plan is also paramount but importantly; training of these Key populations as to reaching their peers has also been discussed.
3.1 HIV incidence rate per 1000, Dominica (2015-2019)

New HIV-infections in the reporting period per 1000 uninfected population (Adults, ages 15-49)

3.3 HIV prevalence among key populations, Dominica (2011-2019)

Percentage of specific key populations living with HIV
3.4 HIV testing among key populations, Dominica (2016-2019)

Percentage of people of a key population who tested for HIV in the past 12 months, or who know their current HIV status

3.5 Antiretroviral therapy coverage among people living with HIV in key populations, Dominica (2016-2019)

Percentage of the people living with HIV in a key population receiving antiretroviral therapy in the past 12 months
3.6 Condom use among key populations, Dominica (2011-2019)

Percentage of people in a key population reporting using a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse

3.7 Coverage of HIV prevention programmes among key populations, Dominica (2016-2019)

Percentage of people in a key population reporting having received a combined set of HIV prevention interventions
3.19 Annual number of condoms distributed, Dominica (2019)

Number of condoms distributed during the past 12 months

3.19 Annual number of condoms distributed, Dominica (2019)

Number of condoms distributed during the past 12 months
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

During 2019, capacity building has continued assistance with assistance by and with these populations. A 2-month self-development plan was conducted along with one of the CSOs: MiriDOM. This was geared at providing professional training for young persons including; MSM, SW and PLHIV. Topics encapsulating professionalism, time management, ethics, negotiating safe sex, adherence and compliance. Miridom has also launch petition to exclude the sodomy laws from the country’s law. The need for training of these key population as it relates to their rights, together with anti-discriminatory and stigma trainings for health care professionals is also needed and an approach to eliminating self-discrimination, and individual human rights needs to be put at an upscale.
Percentage of Global AIDS Monitoring indicators with data disaggregated by gender

90.0%

9 / 10
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

Collaborating with the CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs needs continuous strengthening. We attempt to work and collaborate as much as needed. As previously mentioned, training has been carried out, but a more intimate working relationship needs to be fostered. Champions need to be identified for the targets to be reached and greater awareness of the importance of such to be established. Collaborative efforts with establishments and institutions and organizations like FBOs, schools, youth groups continue to allow provision of education on safe sex, morals, standards and immediate long- and short-term effects of life decisions.
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

The support and care treatment aspect of the Programme liaises with the PLHIV support group “La Fouche”. Recent training was also focused on that population, as best practices to confront both intrinsic and extrinsic stigma and discrimination as these personal ideas has impacted on client’s interaction with both the Health care system and the support group. The counsellor works alone-side these clients as best practices are discuss and implemented and social referral is carried out when necessary.
Community-led service delivery

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

Progress summary

The community service is provided through district testing sites, so that counselling and testing services are available to anyone within the general population looking for preventive services.
HIV expenditure

Ensure that HIV investments increase to US$ 26 billion by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6% for social enablers
8.2 The average unit prices of antiretroviral regimens (in US$), Dominica (2018-2019)

8.3 HIV expenditure by programme category, Dominica (2013-2019)
Share of effective prevention out of total, Dominica (2019)
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

The country provides universal health coverage to the citizens with just minimal services maintenance cost charged. Services provided within the public health care system; cervical cancer and hepatitis screening are available, especially for Ante-natal clients. There was a piloted HPV vaccination campaign recently carried out with an over 95% coverage of young adolescent women.

Number of HIV-positive new and relapse TB patients started on TB treatment during the reporting period who were already on antiretroviral therapy or started on antiretroviral therapy during TB treatment within the reporting year.

10.2 Proportion of people living with HIV newly enrolled in HIV care with active TB disease, Dominica (2015-2019)

Total number of people living with HIV with active TB expressed as a percentage of those who are newly enrolled in HIV care (pre-antiretroviral therapy or antiretroviral therapy) during the reporting period.

Number of men reporting urethral discharge in the past 12 months; number of men reported with laboratory-diagnosed gonorrhoea in the past 12 months