HIV in prisons and other closed settings

2021 UPDATE



Data matters: Prison population and occupancy rates



Prisoners per 100.000 population



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Global AIDS Monitoring 2020: HIV prevalence in prisons

Global data:

- HIV prevalence 4.3% (5.2% in women vs 2.9% in men)
- People in prison 6 times more likely to be living with HIV than adults in the general population

Regional data:

- 3.5% in western and central Africa
- 12% in eastern and southern Africa
- up to 11% in eastern Europe and central Asia
- up to 4.5% in western and central Europe and North America





Global AIDS Monitoring 2020: HIV service coverage





Political commitment to responding to HIV in prisons

Health in prison is not a political priority:

- Lack of coordination with and poor integration into public health programmes
 - \rightarrow Limited availability and access to HIV testing and treatment services

Global commitments:

Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 - End Inequalities. End AIDS

 Ensure that key populations enjoy human rights, equality and dignity, free of stigma and discrimination

Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030

 Prioritize HIV prevention and tailor HIV combination prevention approaches to meet diverse needs of key populations

E/RES/2021/26 adopted by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Scale up HIV services and ensure that they reach key populations



Joint Programme support in addressing HIV in prisons

Support for countries:

- Builds national capacities to respond to HIV in prison settings
- Helps develop normative guidance documents and SOPs
- Holds regional training and sharing good practices among various stakeholders
- Supports meaningful engagement of civil society organizations
- Provides catalytic funding to initiate / scale up effective HIV services





Key messages of the paper

- People in prison systemically left behind in the global HIV response
- Availability and sustainability of HIV services in prison threatened by crises
- Need for scaled up gender- and age-responsive services
- Call for legal, policy and criminal justice reform to address overcrowding
- Partnership with civil society organizations for better reach





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Recommendations

- Build political will in addressing HIV and related health conditions in prisons (use non-custodial measures, reduce overcrowding)
- Develop national strategies and guidelines tailored to the prison context
- Allocate resources for HIV services in prison (integrate into public health systems)
- Establish linkages with public health facilities (continuity of care, data collection and monitoring of service provision)
- Ensure meaningful engagement of CSOs as essential partners

