Protection against COVID-19

**FINDINGS**

- 31% of the people state that they have not received enough information on how to prevent COVID-19 transmission.
- More than half of the people (56%) do not have enough personal protective equipment.
- Only 32% of the people perceive the use of masks as a preventive measure.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- UNAIDS encourages people to follow basic protective measures against the new coronavirus, which can be found here: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/
- UNAIDS LAC, have available communication resources (infographics and HIV information sheets) developed for this purpose. These can be found on the website: http://unaidslac.org/LAC/index.php?content=home/2020

Antiretroviral treatment and access to specialized services

**FINDINGS**

Service delivery adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, is NOT an available option for many people living with HIV.

5 out of 10 people have had difficulties obtaining their treatment.

Only 3 out of 10 respondents have ARV treatment for more than 2 months (31%). Only have it for one month. It worries that 2 out of 10 did not have enough treatment to finish one month.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- UNAIDS calls on countries, ministries of health and national AIDS programs, to adopt the MMD provision of 3 to 6 months of antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV who are in viral suppression, as recommended by World Health Organization.
- UNAIDS encourages countries to offer the promotion of HIV self-testing. You can find more information here: https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/regions/lac/healthservices/

Health services, including mental health

**FINDINGS**

Almost 7 out of 10 people stated that in order to NOT interrupt their ARV treatment they need to have a safe and confidential way to obtain them.

Only 3 out of 10 people were offered telemedicine consultation.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- UNAIDS calls on countries, ministries of health and national AIDS programs, to adopt the MMD provision of 3 to 6 months of antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV who are in viral suppression, as recommended by World Health Organization.
- UNAIDS encourages countries to offer the promotion of HIV self-testing. You can find more information here: https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/regions/lac/healthservices/

Stigma and discrimination

**FINDINGS**

- More than half (56%) of the people stated that they could suffer physical, psychological or verbal violence because of living with HIV in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Three out of 10 people have abstained from using services in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic for fear of being discriminated.
- 40% of people do not know where to go or call if they suffer from any type of violence or discrimination related to living with HIV.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- It is possible to implement an effective response to violence by maintaining a close dialogue with the population and defending Human Rights.
- UNAIDS calls for ensuring that the current public health emergency does not exacerbate prejudice and inequality, nor increase violence and discrimination against LGBTI+ people and key populations.
- It is imperative to sustain and guarantee the continuity of the work of civil society organizations and human rights defenders.
- Restrictions to free movement or isolation must be of limited duration and based on scientific evidence. They must not be applied in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner.

Social Protection

**FINDINGS**

- Some people emphasized that job loss or lack of income was one of their main concerns.
- Four out of ten people stated that they had to leave their homes to earn their daily income despite the lockdown measures.
- 4 out of 10 people require nutritional support and/or cash transfers.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- UNAIDS recommends ensuring the provision of food and other social protection services, including temporary shelters for key populations, people living with HIV and people in greater vulnerability.
- Explore opportunities to provide cash transfers to PLHIV who have lost their jobs or are in vulnerable conditions, especially among key populations.
- Ensure the provision of services and support for the population most affected by violence, especially among women, transgender women, girls, and migrant population.

**METHODOLOGY** Method used: Google forms. Inclusion criteria: Living with HIV. A total of 2,300 surveys were fully completed. Responses were received from 28 countries. Limitations: The survey was conducted online, limiting the participation of people who do not have or do not know how to use electronic tools. The work was carried out thanks to the support of Red Somos.