COVID-19 and HIV in ESA region: Impact, implications and early programming experience

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UNICEF ESA Region
20 April 2020
OUTLINE

- Context
- Programming priorities and early implementation
- Emerging needs and asks
## SITUATION IN SELECT ESA COUNTRIES

(20/4/20 8AM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th># Reported Cases</th>
<th># Reported Deaths</th>
<th># Reported Recovered</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>3,158</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
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<td>55</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eswatini</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>97</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,209</strong></td>
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[https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6 (JHU)]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last updated</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Closure of educational institutions</th>
<th>Banning of mass gatherings, closure of public spaces</th>
<th>Limitations on prison and hospital visits</th>
<th>Curfew</th>
<th>Partial lockdown</th>
<th>National lockdown</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
IMPLEMENTATION CONTEXT IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Epicentre of global HIV epidemic
- Widespread poverty, young populations and areas of high population density
- Ongoing emergencies – drought, conflict, locusts, political unrest and economic distress.
- Weak health infrastructure and limited health workforce
- While the early and strong response measures may be controlling COVID-19, they are also affecting movement, prices and income, food security and availability/access to social services
PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS

- Who and where are the most vulnerable populations and how can they be prioritized?
- What are the COVID-19 response measures in place and how do they affect service delivery and vulnerability?
- What are the short, medium and longer term needs?
OUTLINE

Context

Programming priorities and early implementation

Emerging needs and asks
PRIORITY POPULATIONS

We do not know if PLHIV are more likely to acquire COVID-19 and we do not know for certain if there is a different disease progression for PLHIV.

We can infer that PLHIV who are immunosuppressed may be more at risk of complex and severe forms of COVID-19 and mortality.

May include children, adolescents and PBF women LHIV who are undiagnosed, not on ART, in treatment failure or unstable on ART and possibly young children who are exposed and uninfected.

Data are Limited, Preliminary, Some of Poor Quality, and Change Almost Daily
Estimated 425,000 children LHIV not on ART

76% are in seven countries: South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Angola, Uganda, Malawi Tanzania

Unknown number of adolescents LHIV not on ART; issues with adherence/VLS

Three countries have the highest AIDS-related adolescent deaths: Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique

Low retention / seroconversion among pregnant and breastfeeding women LHIV

National and sub-national stacked bar analysis can help to quantify and locate these women

Unknown considerations for 10.6m children who are HIV exposed and uninfected

77% are in six countries: South Africa, Uganda, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya

UNAIDS July, 2019
PRIORITIES FOR HIV PROGRAMMING IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

C
Continuity of HIV services and supplies

P
Prevention and protection for PLHIV and HWs

R
Research and documentation on HIV and COVID-19
## Continuity of HIV Services & Supplies

### Context
- Reports of declines in clinic attendance from several countries, even where exempt from lockdown (fear, transport)
- Redeployment of health workers to COVID-19 response
- Looming ARV shortages, possibly test kits too
- Community-based and outreach HIV services curtailed

### Implementation
- Governments introducing modified and interim health care guidance around COVID-19 and HIV
- Ramping up MM refills and expanding eligibility criteria (though children, adolescents and pregnant women are often excluded from this guidance)
- Aligning MM refills guidance with the supply of ARVs
- Different models of community delivery of ARVs depending on movement restrictions and PPE availability
- Modifying clinic flow for physical distancing or separate service areas
- Less information on testing, but some promotion of self-testing
- Remote and virtual platforms being expanded for appointment tracking and adherence support (e.g., SMS, WhatsApp, U-report, etc.)
EMERGING NATIONAL GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 AND HIV SERVICE DELIVERY
# Prevention & Protection for PLHIV & HWs

## Context
- Limited supply of PPE and limited physical space for IPC at facilities
- Community-based peer support, teen clubs, other face-to-face activities halted in many countries
- Myths and misconceptions highly prevalent and creating fear

## Implementation
- Procurement of PPE for HWs; emerging efforts as well for community cadres
- Tailored FAQs and other resources on COVID-19 prevention for PLHIV are being created and adapted to local context and target audience
- Radio, social media, phone-based and digital information and outreach, including tailored and interactive for adolescents
  - Reinforce prevention measures
  - Reduce misconceptions and myths
  - Provide MHPSS
- Engagement of PLHIV/ALHIV in the COVID-19 response
EMERGING INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITIES

COVID-19 and HIV: What you need to know

We realize that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing much uncertainty around the world, including for people living with and affected by HIV. Here you can find the latest HIV and COVID-19 related information and ways that you can get involved.

What people living with HIV need to know about HIV and COVID-19

UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa
COVID-19 and HIV
Questions and Answers for Adolescents living with HIV in time of COVID-19
## Context
- No standard reporting form/template as yet for COVID-19 and HIV coinfection
- Limited COVID-19 testing coupled with difficulty identifying asymptomatic and mild cases challenges research efforts, especially for statistical analysis

## Implementation
- Countries selecting and monitoring indicators to quickly detect lapses in service delivery, for example increases in missed appointments.
- Rapid assessments undertaken and being planned in some countries (KAP, Survey Monkey, etc).
- There is some planning underway for research of COVID-19 and HIV interaction (e.g., South Africa, INGOs).
- However, we have not yet explored this systematically or comprehensively and would welcome information on specific activities.
EMERGING NEEDS AND ASKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordination</th>
<th>Supply</th>
<th>Innovation</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How can the rapidly emerging information resources, guidance and support be brought together more coherently to leverage greater impact and results?</td>
<td>With the expansion of MM refills and travel / movement restrictions, what can be done to prevent stockouts of ARVs and other supplies (e.g., test kits, SRH supplies)?</td>
<td>What new ways can be found to provide services and support across the continuum while physically distancing? How can new approaches be rapidly evaluated?</td>
<td>What indicators should be tracked on service continuity to rapidly detect declines? How can monitoring and research be promoted and standardized?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- UNICEF ESARO HIV/AIDS Team
- UNICEF COs in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and their respective Governments and implementing partners
- UNICEF HQ HIV/AIDS Team
The coronavirus is coming to Africa, and with creative actions, large and small, Africans are aiming to meet it head on.

Wafaa M. El-Sadr, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A., and Jessica Justman, M.D.
LINKS TO SOME PROGRAMMING RESOURCES

For adolescents and young people

- [https://ureport.in/](https://ureport.in/)
- [https://www.internetofgoodthings.org/](https://www.internetofgoodthings.org/)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ap1XXyRolo&t=152s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ap1XXyRolo&t=152s)

Pregnancy and COVID-19 with considerations for HIV