



Global Fund HIV Grant: Accelerated response to HIV through effective prevention, treatment, care and support interventions for Key Populations and surveillance in high-risk areas

Summary

UNDP Pakistan is the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund to implement its HIV project in Pakistan for July 01, 2021, until Dec 31, 2023. UNDP established a program Management Unit (PMU) which is responsible for overall implementation of the grant. UNDP Pakistan works closely with sub-recipients in the implementation of the grant which includes community-based organizations (CBOs), the National and Provincial AIDS Control Programme, the national Association of Persons Living with HIV, and UN and academic partners. Additionally, we work in close partnership with other governments and partner

PROJECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased coverage of the prevention services for MSM by 39% (of Population Size Estimates - PSE) by 2023 from the 2019 baseline.
- Increased coverage of the prevention services for FSW (of PSE) by 44% by 2023 from the 2019 baseline.
- Increased coverage of the prevention services for TG (of PSE) by 56% by 2023 from the 2019 baseline.
- Increased coverage of the treatment services for PLHIV by 35% (of the estimated PLHIV)

organizations including UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF and UNODC to assure alignment with international and national guidance and best Practices.

The grant contributes to the achievement of the overall, strategic goals of the Pakistan AIDS Strategy IV - PAS-IV on addressing low prevention and testing coverage among key populations. This will be done through scaling up community-based interventions, improving treatment access for all, and challenging stigma and discrimination through training of health care workers. In addition to strengthening the national M&E system for improved cascade monitoring.

Background

Pakistan has received investments from the Global Fund in the HIV response since 2003 for a cumulative amount of nearly 750 million USD. Despite significant progress in the accelerated response to HIV through effective prevention, treatment, care, and support interventions for Key Populations (KP), access to HIV prevention, care and support services are limited. Available data indicate that the country has a concentrated HIV epidemic among KP, namely: men having sex with men (MSM), people who inject drugs (PWID), transgender populations (TG), male sex workers (MSW), and female sex workers (FSW) with prevalence less than 0.1% in the general population, based on Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) Round V 2016-17. As per Spectrum estimates for the year 2020, the country has an estimated 183,705 people living with HIV (PLHIV), of which 91% live in Punjab and Sindh, the most populous and highest HIV burden provinces in the country. The highest proportions of the estimated population of PLHIV are to be found among PWID (22.9%) and MSM (17.2%). Disease progression trends show an escalating epidemic in KP with a faster rate among sexual networks especially MSM and sex workers. Overall, the KP prevention and testing program coverage remains among the lowest in the Asia Pacific region. It was estimated that in 2018 only

14% of PLHIV in Pakistan knew their status; clearly well below the 95% target set by UNAIDS.

Major Achievements

With the critical support of the government, CBO and UN partners the HIV response program implemented by UNDP has seen important successes. Prevention efforts in Pakistan have seen for the first time the introduction of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and HIV self-testing for key populations in Pakistan. While the roll-out and expansion are still underway, these prevention technologies will play a large role in averting new HIV infections in Pakistan. UNDP will continue to work with the National AIDS Control Programme and Provincial AIDS Control Programmes on innovative ways to ensure that the communities that most need all HIV prevention services can access them. Since July 2021, prevention services to key populations have increased by more than 125%, and 2023 will see an expansion of prevention services to 18 new cities in Pakistan, including Quetta and Peshawar.

Having the right skills and knowledge to effectively deliver HIV services is critical to improving the quality of care and ensuring that people start and stay on HIV treatment if needed. UNDP, in partnership with provincial AIDS control programmes, has supported training for all ART Centre staff across the four provinces. In 2023, UNDP will work with partners to deliver an updated training to gynecologists working with women living with HIV to safely deliver babies. Working with UN partners such as NACP, UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF has seen the delivery of a wide range of training and support to community-based organizations delivering HIV services such as HIV self-testing, clinical management of sexually transmitted infections, and improving counselling and outreach support for key populations.

Knowing the epidemic is the only way Pakistan will end HIV in the country. UNDP engaged an expert

Democratic Governance

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in Health Management Information Systems to provide support to the government to improve the system that the country uses to collect and monitor HIV- related data and make the data more accessible to decision makers. UNDP also supported provinces to assess their data monitoring and use plans and give tangible support to overcome the challenges identified.

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