

CONFRONTING THE HIV, TB AND MALARIA BURDEN IN SOUTH SUDAN

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in South Sudan serves as the Principal Recipient (PR) for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria on behalf of the Government of South Sudan. Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health, UNDP has been managing the Global Fund's HIV, TB, and Health Systems Strengthening grants and as well as the Covid-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) launched in April 2020.

The Global Fund project is designed to reduce the HIV infections, reduce death among men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, and contribute to building resilient and sustainable systems for health. This is achieved by scaling up

provision of comprehensive HIV and TB services in over 170 health facilities, enhancing the role of people living with HIV PLHIV, TB survivors and community networks, health workers, mobile TB/HIV services and community-led treatment services, and as well as close monitoring and coordination with the Ministry of Health and the South Sudan Aids Commission (SSAC).

The project has been very instrumental in strengthening the capacity of national health systems, including laboratory services, supply chain management, health management information systems and human resources for health and as well as leadership and coordination at the Ministry of Health (MOH) and SSAC.

The HIV, TB and Malaria burden in South Sudan



HIV prevalence in South Sudan has progressively been reducing over the past three years. It currently stands at **2.1%** (UNAIDS Spectrum, 2021) **down from 2.5% (2020) and 2.7% (2019)**.



The TB incidence rate per 100,000 population is 227 (WHO Global TB Report, 2021). This was **232/100,000 in 2020** and **227/100,000 in 2019** respectively. The population assumption for South Sudan is 11,000,000.

Vital statistics by June 2021

173,807 **43%**

Estimated People Living With HIV/AIDS in 2021

Degree of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS. The PMTCT coverage remains low owing to low Antenatal Care (ANC) attendants among pregnant women

19,000

Number of new HIV infections in 2021 with one in every four persons living with HIV and knowing their HIV status.

Over 170

Functional health facilities providing ART in the country by June 2022.

284:

Functional health facilities providing comprehensive TB services in the country by June 2022.

OUR IMPACT

58.02%:

Degree of reduction of death among women and children living with HIV (against a target of 61.95) from 13,531 in 2017 to 8,000 in 2021

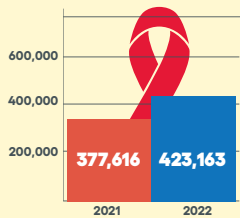
27%:

Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) coverage among adults and children based on the 2021 Spectrum Estimates. This remains low due to inadequate resources for expansion services.

12%:

Percentage of the reduction of TB burden in 2021 from 257 per 100,000 population (2019) to 227 per 100,000 population (2020) but again went up by 1.02% to 232 per 100,000 population in 2021.

OUR REACH



423,163: People tested of HIV/AIDS in 2021 surpassing the number tested in 2020 (377,616). Out of the people tested in 2021, a total of 18,702 were positive indicating 4.4% positivity rate.



23,253: Number of Female Sex Workers (FSWs) sensitised on HIV prevention through the network of people living with HIV (PLHIV) as part of our prevention interventions targeting vulnerable populations in 2021.



16,283: TB cases diagnosed and enrolled on treatment in 2021

13,875: New and relapse TB cases enrolled (diagnosed and put on treatment) in 2021

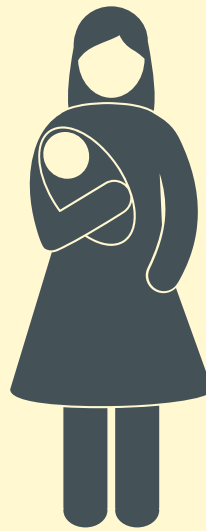


123: Number of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) patients detected in 2021 compared to 68 (2019) and 116 in 2020. This followed the expansion of GeneXpert diagnostics and improved specimen transport network that the project supported.



120: Health facilities equipped with handwashing stations in support of the national COVID-19 management and response and measures to prevent health facilities from becoming hotspots for the pandemic's transmission. The health facilities were also given Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and were supported to set up functional triage and screening areas.

19,754: Internally displaced individuals sensitized on HIV prevention as part of our focus on vulnerable population segments in 2021.



2,082: Number of HIV positive pregnant and lactating women were provided access to ART in 2021

22,731: Pregnant and lactating mothers reached with prevention messages on HIV, TB, STI, SRH and GBV, nutrition and positive living.

1,055: Pregnant and lactating mothers who defaulted were traced and returned to treatment by the mentor mothers from the various locations.

10,336: Pregnant and lactating mothers who were referred for ANC in 2021; while 2,388 others were referred for delivery at the facilities, 237 were referred for postnatal care.



02: Number of multi-disease laboratory diagnostic GeneXpert machines of higher testing capacity procured to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and HIV and TB in the country. The machines enabled the Ministry of Health to expand and decentralize COVID-19 testing

02: Number of modern containerized medical incinerators equipped with adequate emission control that were acquired and installed to elevate the national public health laboratory's capacity to manage health- and COVID-19-related waste at global standards.



640: Oxygen cylinders procured to support the country's management and response to COVID-19

CHALLENGES

- The fragile political and security situation, economic hardships and humanitarian crisis has adversely affected the national health system and access to health services by the population.
- A weak health infrastructure with limited number of qualified health workers. This is worsened by a high attrition rate of those available.
- Low national budgetary allocation to the health sector and delayed payment of health workers.

OUR PARTNERS

Our interventions are enabled by a strong collaboration of partners in resource mobilization and utilization. They include Government of South Sudan, the national ministry of health, the United State Government through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), development partners, UN agencies, funds, agencies and programmes, CSOs, community systems, victim populations and beneficiaries.

