

Country progress report - Switzerland

Global AIDS Monitoring 2017



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Overall

Fast-track targets

Progress summary

The Federal Office of Public Health publishes the most important statistics on positive HIV tests, new AIDS cases and reports of the sexually transmitted infections chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis in its bulletin and on the Internet. These statistics are based on the reporting of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis, on the reporting of confirmed positive HIV tests and other related medical reports, and of AIDS cases. All such reporting is mandatory in accordance with the Reporting Ordinance.

Commitment 1

Ensure that 30 million people living with HIV have access to treatment through meeting the 90-90-90 targets by 2020

Progress summary

Switzerland will work hard to achieve the 90-90-90 target by 2020. We made enormous progress already and achieved the second and third goal of >90%. However, the first goal is hard to achieve and even harder to proof.

Policy questions

Is there a law, regulation or policy specifying that HIV testing:

a) Is solely performed based on voluntary and informed consent

Yes

b) Is mandatory before marriage

No

c) Is mandatory to obtain a work or residence permit

No

d) Is mandatory for certain groups

No

What is the recommended CD4 threshold for initiating antiretroviral therapy in adults and adolescents who are asymptomatic, as per MoH guidelines or directive, and what is the implementation status?

According to the recommendations of the SHCS; Implemented countrywide

Does your country have a current national policy on routine viral load testing for monitoring antiretroviral therapy and to what extent is it implemented?

a) For adults and adolescents

Yes, fully implemented

b) For children

Yes, fully implemented

Commitment 2

Eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2020 while ensuring that 1.6 million children have access to HIV treatment by 2018

Progress summary

In Switzerland the care for pregnant women is good. We aim at suppressing the viral load of HIV-positive pregnant women, which some times (in about 15% the VL is >500 cells/ml within 2 months before birth-giving) is more difficult. But fortunately since 2009 we had no vertical infection anymore and we hope this will remain like that. To avoid any transmission under birth, the children of HIV-positive mothers are treated with ART for 1 month after birth.

Policy questions

Does your country have a national plan for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV?

Yes

Target(s) for the mother-to-child transmission rate and year: 0

Year: 2009

Elimination target(s) (such as the number of cases/population) and Year: 0

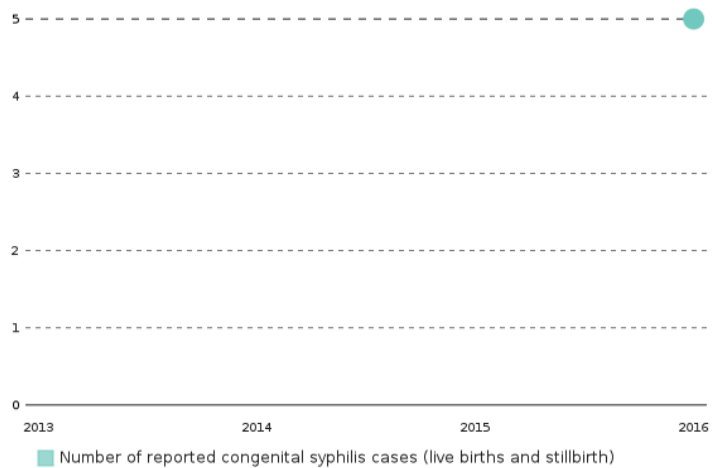
Year: 2009

Do the national guidelines recommend treating all infants and children living with HIV irrespective of symptoms and if so, what is the implementation status of the cut-off?

Treat All

Not implemented in practice

2.5 Congenital syphilis rate (live births and stillbirth), Switzerland (2011-2016)



Commitment 3

Ensure access to combination prevention options, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, harm reduction and condoms, to at least 90% of people by 2020, especially young women and adolescent girls in high-prevalence countries and key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs and prisoners

Progress summary

To challenge the HIV-epidemic a combined prevention is important. In Switzerland we have ensured the easy access to treatment for everybody by an almost 100% insurance coverage. The costs for PEP are also covered by Insurance. PrEP is available for high risk persons, but not covered by insurance. Our yearly LoveLIFE campaign promotes condom use in the general population. For high risk populations we offer low-level access to counselling and testing. With our 4 piles strategy for injecting drug users we succeeded to lower the transmission of HIV among this population dramatically mostly by the needle exchange program. In most prisons we provide new needles for those prisoners addicting to drugs.

Policy questions: Key populations

Criminalization and/or prosecution of key populations

Transgender people

Neither criminalized nor prosecuted

Sex workers

Issue is determined/differs at subnational level

Men who have sex with men

Laws penalizing same-sex sexual acts have been decriminalized or never existed

Is drug use or possession for personal use an offence in your country?

Possession of drugs for personal use is specified as a non-criminal offence

Legal protections for key populations

Transgender people

A third gender is legally recognized

Sex workers

Sex work is recognized as work

Men who have sex with men

Prohibition of discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation

People who inject drugs

Yes

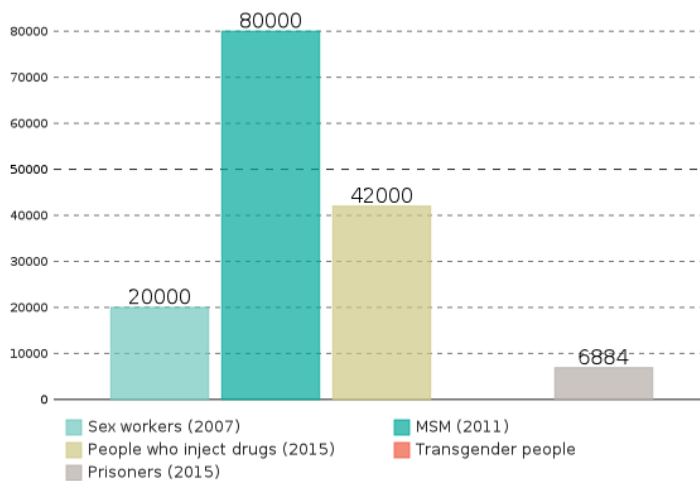
Policy questions: PrEP

Is pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) available in your country?

Yes

Provided as part of a pilot project

3.2 Estimates of the size of key populations, Switzerland



Commitment 4

Eliminate gender inequalities and end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, people living with HIV and key populations by 2020

Progress summary

Switzerland's legislation is strict concerning punishment of violence and discrimination. The legal equality of gender and the equality of society is regulated by law. Discrimination against HIV positive people is not allowed and punished.

Policy questions

Does your country have a national plan or strategy to address gender-based violence* and violence against women that includes HIV

Yes

Does your country have legislation on domestic violence*?

Yes

Does your country have any of the following to protect key populations and people living with HIV from violence?

General criminal laws prohibiting violence

Specific legal provisions prohibiting violence against people based on their HIV status or belonging to a key population

Interventions to address torture and ill-treatment in prisons

Does your country have policies in place requiring healthcare settings to provide timely and quality health care regardless of gender, nationality, age, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, language, socio-economic status, HIV or other health status, or because of selling sex, using drugs, living in prison or any other grounds?

Yes, policies exists and are consistently implemented

Commitment 5

Ensure that 90% of young people have the skills, knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from HIV and have access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2020, in order to reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women to below 100 000 per year

Progress summary

Since all children and adults have to go to school for at least 9 years we have the possibility to ensure that skills and knowledge is part of their education and part of the curriculum in schools adjusted to different levels. Additionally we provide services for young people for questions about reproductive and sexual health. The endemic of HIV is fortunately not within adolescent girls and young women but still within men who have sex with men. For questions of discrimination we offer free access to council provided by AIDS Hilfe Schweiz.

Policy questions

Does your country have education policies that guide the delivery of life skills-based HIV and sexuality education*, according to international standards*, in:

a) Primary school

Yes

b) Secondary school

Yes

c) Teacher training

Yes

Commitment 6

Ensure that 75% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection by 2020

Progress summary

In Switzerland this aim is achieved due to the respective strict legislation.

Policy questions

Yes

a) Does it refer to HIV?

Yes

b) Does it recognize people living with HIV as key beneficiaries?

Yes

c) Does it recognize key populations (sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people, prisoners) as key beneficiaries?

Yes

d) Does it recognize adolescent girls and young women as key beneficiaries?

Yes

e) Does it recognize people affected by HIV (children and families) as key beneficiaries?

Yes

f) Does it address the issue of unpaid care work in the context of HIV?

Yes

Do any of the following barriers limit access to social protection* programmes in your country

-

Commitment 7

Ensure that at least 30% of all service delivery is community-led by 2020

Progress summary

This is not tailored to Switzerland since we run a different financing system in form of mandatory health insurance for everybody.

Policy questions

Does your country have a national policy promoting community delivery of antiretroviral therapy?

No

Are there any of the following safeguards in laws, regulations and policies that provide for the operation of CSOs/CBOs in your country?

Registration of HIV CSOs is possible

Registration of CSOs/CBOs working with key populations is possible

HIV services can be provided by CSOs/CBOs

Services to key populations can be provided by CSOs/CBOs

Number of condoms and lubricants distributed by NGOs in the previous year

a) Male condoms:

16000000

b) Female condoms:

8000

c) Lubricants:

-

Commitment 8

Ensure that HIV investments increase to US\$ 26 billion by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6% for social enablers

Progress summary

Our international engagement is ongoing especially in underdeveloped countries with the aim to train people in their own country. This will prohibit brain drain which is most dangerous for these countries.

Commitment 9

Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights

Progress summary

In Switzerland people at risk have access to counselling and testing. People living with HIV are covered by the mandatory insurance.

Policy questions

In the past two years have there been training and/or capacity building programmes for people living with HIV and key populations to educate them and raise their awareness concerning their rights (in the context of HIV) in your country?

Yes, at scale at the national level

Are there mechanisms in place to record and address cases of HIV-related discrimination (based on perceived HIV status and/or belonging to any key population)?

AIDS Hilfe Schweiz provides assistance

Does your country have any of the following accountability mechanisms in relation to discrimination and violations of human rights in healthcare settings?

Procedures or systems to protect and respect patient privacy or confidentiality

Does your country have any of the following barriers to accessing accountability mechanisms present?

-

Commitment 10

Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C

Progress summary

In Switzerland, thanks to our strong health system high quality health care is provided to everybody in need. Medication for tbc treatment, cervical cancer and hepatitis is available.

Policy questions

Is cervical cancer screening and treatment for women living with HIV recommended in:

a. The national strategy, policy, plan or guidelines for cancer, cervical cancer or the broader response to non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Yes

b. The national strategic plan governing the AIDS response

Yes

c. National HIV-treatment guidelines

Yes

What coinfection policies are in place in the country for adults, adolescents and children?

Isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) or latent TB infection (LTBI) prophylaxis for people living with HIV

Intensified TB case finding among people living with HIV

TB infection control in HIV health-care settings

Co-trimoxazole prophylaxis

Hepatitis B screening and management in antiretroviral therapy clinics

Hepatitis C screening and management in antiretroviral therapy clinics

Hepatitis B vaccination provided at antiretroviral therapy clinics

Hepatitis C treatment (direct-acting antiviral agents) provided in antiretroviral therapy clinics