

# Country progress report - Kuwait

Global AIDS Monitoring 2017





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# Overall

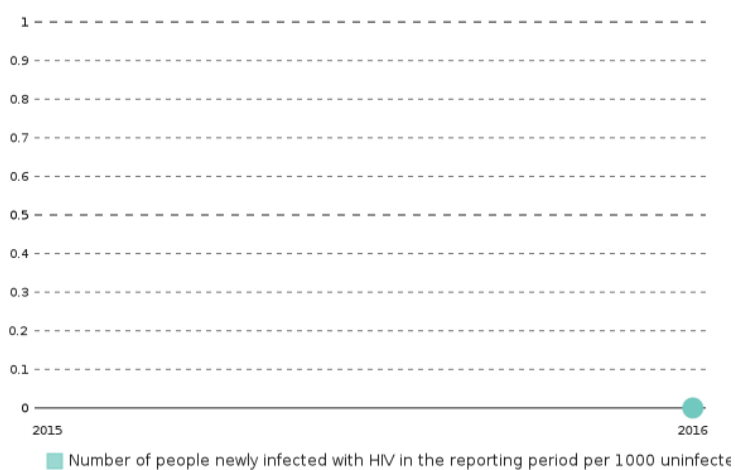
## Fast-track targets

### Progress summary

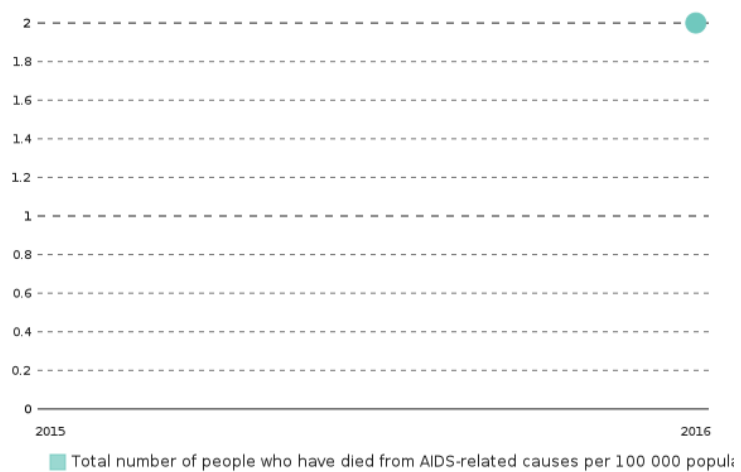
The national AIDS committee in Kuwait continue to hold regular meeting to address all aspects and issues related to HIV/AIDS in Kuwait, including prevention, diagnosis, management and the rights of people living with HIV.

The average infection rate did not change in the last few years and at end of 2016 there was 346 person diagnosed and living with HIV in Kuwait.

### 3.1 HIV incidence, Kuwait (2015-2016)



### 3.1 AIDS mortality, Kuwait (2015-2016)



# 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**

There is no estimation data regarding the undiagnosed cases of HIV in Kuwait, and an estimation study just started in cooperation with UNAIDS on 2017. However, the regional data suggest that only 37% of people living with HIV in EMRO region are aware of their infection.

Introducing voluntary, confidential and anonymous testing and counseling service will be our priority during this year.

Adherence to care still big challenge and a new strategies should improve adherence must be included in the service.

The availability of most of new STR of antiretroviral medication and accessibility to HIV genotyping and other resistance assay explain why most of people on antiretroviral therapy has undetectable viral load.

### **Policy questions**

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

**a) Is solely performed based on voluntary and informed consent**

No

**b) Is mandatory before marriage**

Yes

**c) Is mandatory to obtain a work or residence permit**

Yes

**d) Is mandatory for certain groups**

Yes

**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?**

TREAT ALL regardless of CD4 count; 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?**

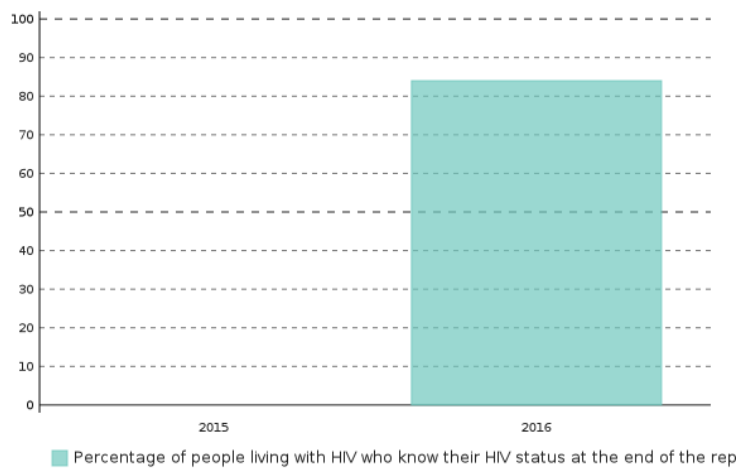
**a) For adults and adolescents**

Yes, fully implemented

**b) For children**

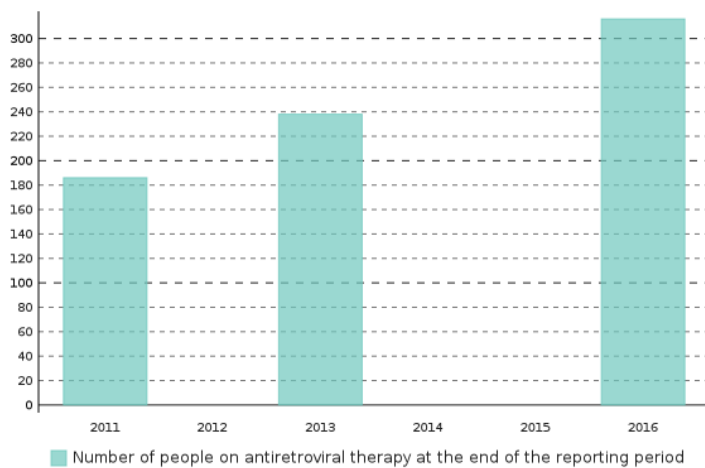
Yes, fully implemented

## **1.1 People living with HIV who know their HIV status, Kuwait (2015-2016)**

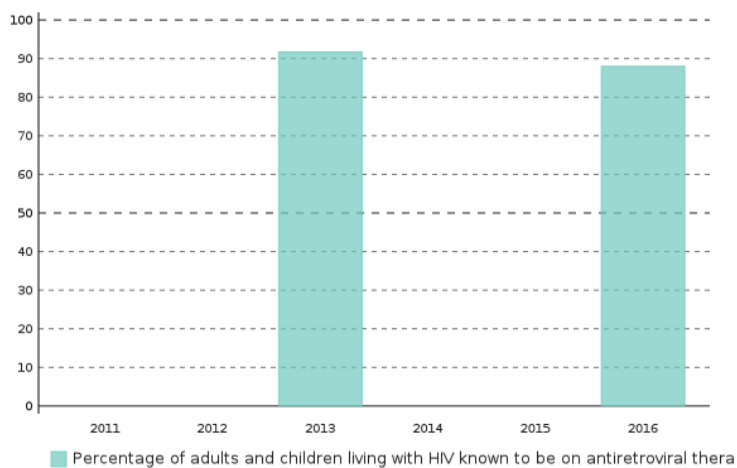




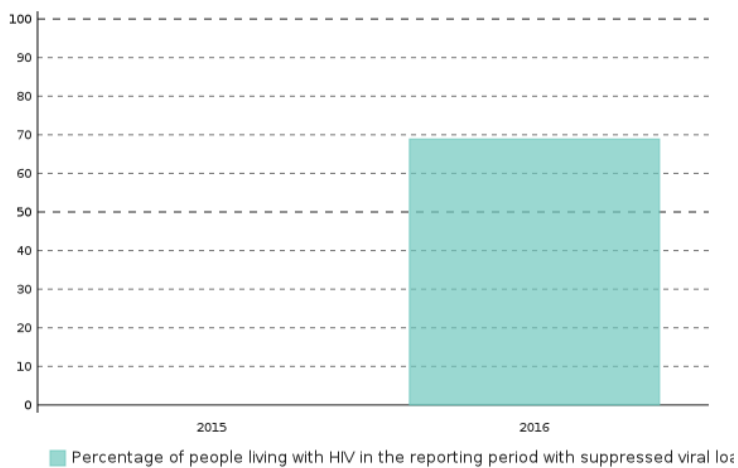
## 1.2 People living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy, Kuwait (2011-2016)



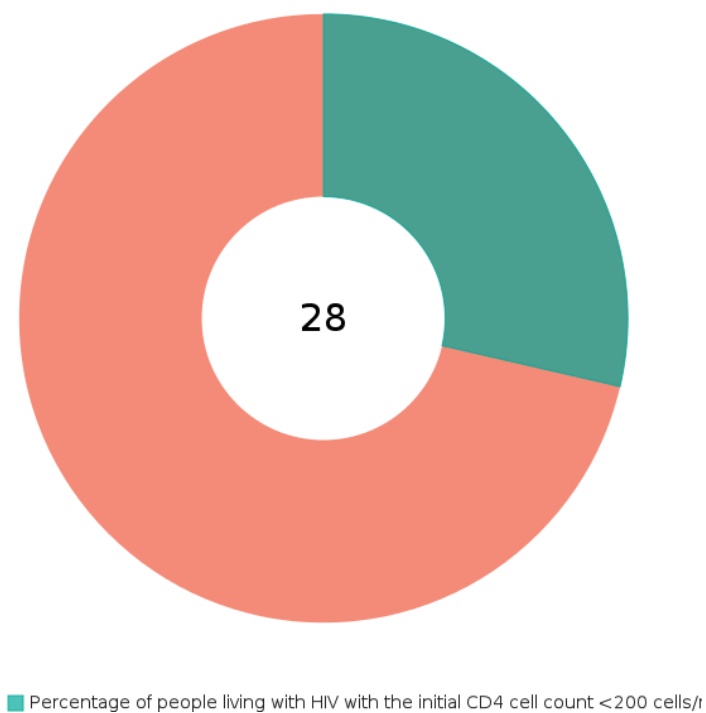
## 1.3 Retention on antiretroviral therapy at 12 months, Kuwait (2011-2016)



### 1.4 People living with HIV who have suppressed viral loads, Kuwait (2015-2016)

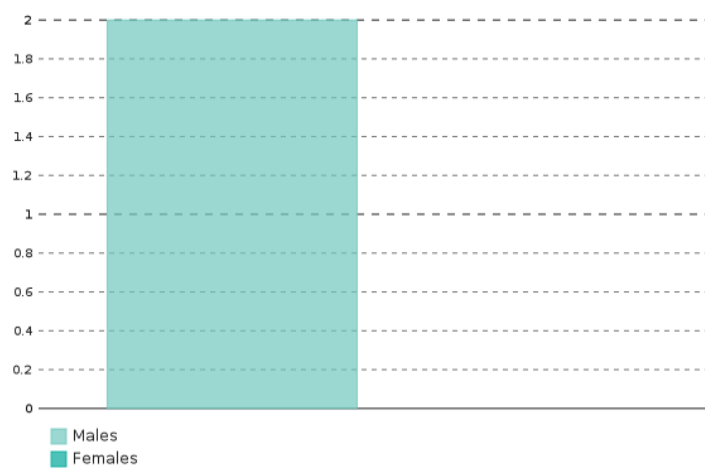


### 1.5 Late HIV diagnosis, Kuwait (2016)



## 1.7 AIDS mortality, Kuwait (2016)

Number of people dying from AIDS-related causes in 2016



# 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**

On January 2015 a new law introduced by MOH and states that HIV testing is mandatory for all pregnant women attending public and private anti-natal clinics. This should have a strong impact in eliminating new HIV infection among children. Accessibility of genotyping and other resistance assay with availability of most ARV regimens ensure that all children have an access to HIV treatment and can reach undetectable viral load.

### **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: 1999

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

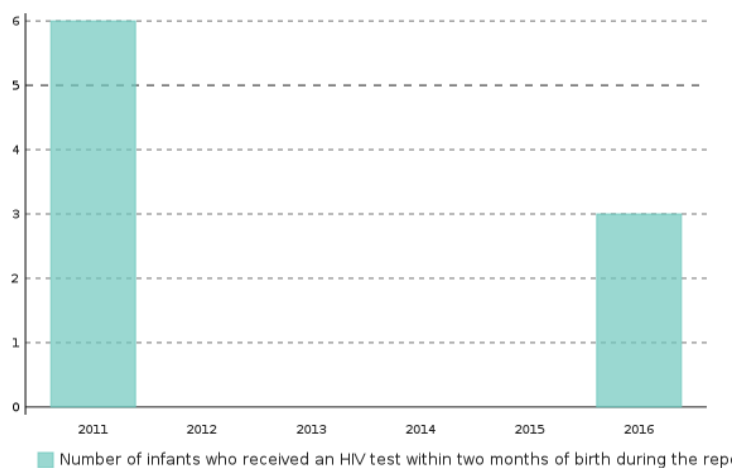
Year: 1999

**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?**

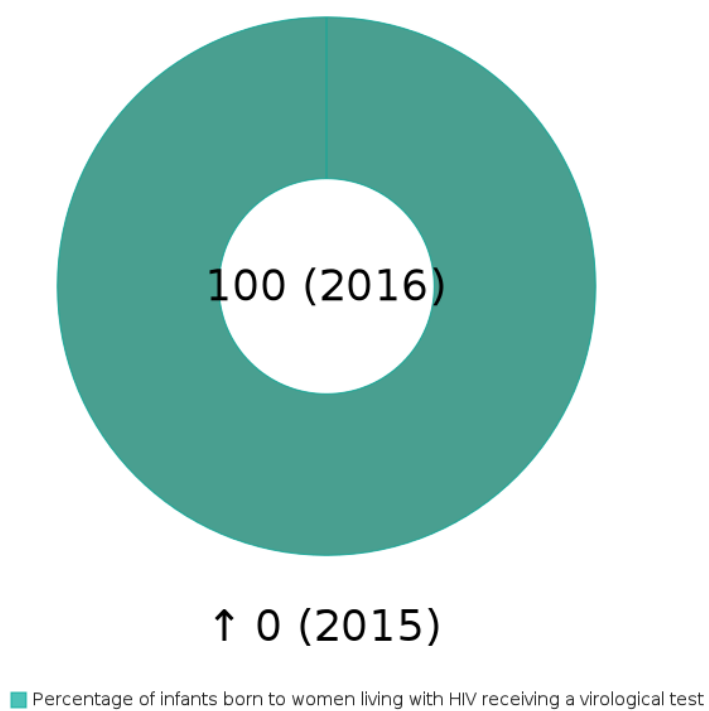
Treat All

Implemented countrywide

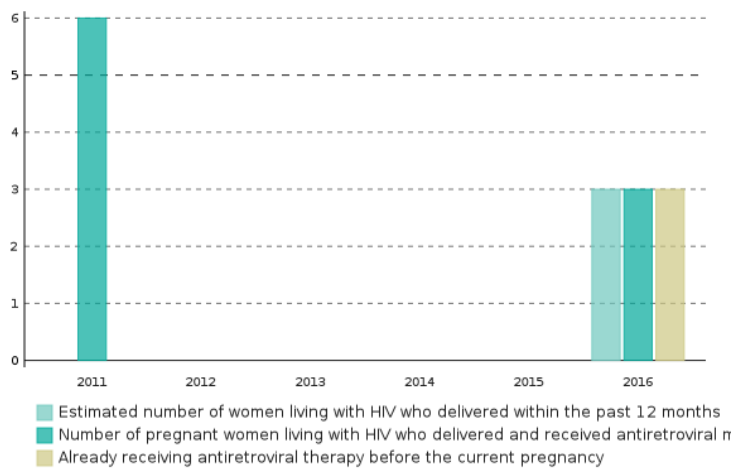
## 2.1 Early infant diagnosis, Kuwait (2011-2016)



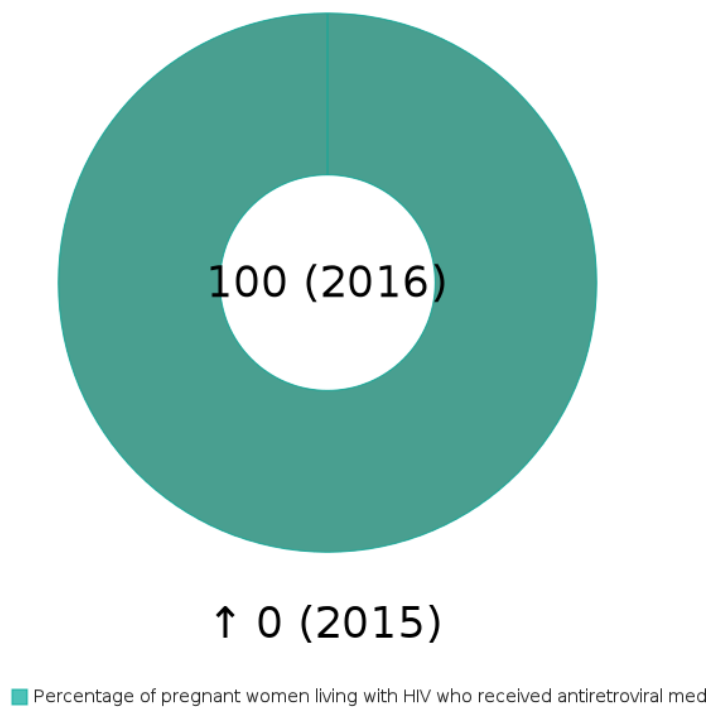
## 2.1 Early infant diagnosis, Kuwait (2015-2016)



### 2.3 Preventing the mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Kuwait (2011-2016)



### 2.2 Preventing the mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Kuwait (2015-2016)



# 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**

A combination of intervention options are available in Kuwait free of charge, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, post exposure prophylaxis, training & education and others.

## **Policy questions: Key populations**

### **Criminalization and/or prosecution of key populations**

#### **Transgender people**

Both criminalized and prosecuted

#### **Sex workers**

Selling and buying sexual services is criminalized

#### **Men who have sex with men**

Yes, imprisonment (up to 14 years)

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

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

## Legal protections for key populations

### Transgender people

Constitutional prohibition of discrimination based on gender diversity

There is no legal protection for transgender people, because it is criminalized. However, there is prohibition of discrimination based on gender.

### Sex workers

No

### Men who have sex with men

-

### People who inject drugs

No

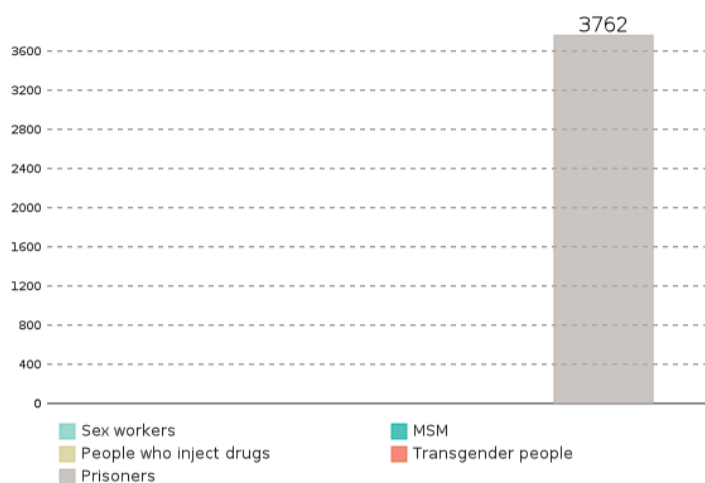
## Policy questions: PrEP

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

Yes

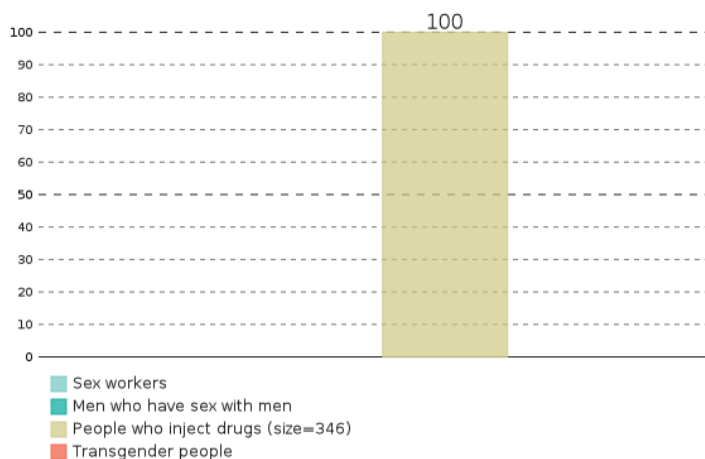
Provided as a national policy

## 3.2 Estimates of the size of key populations, Kuwait



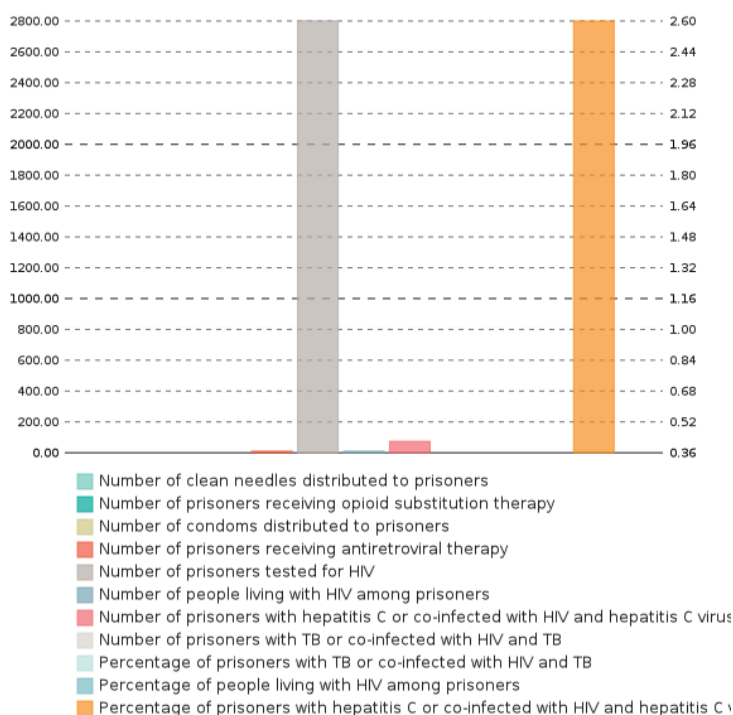


### 3.5 Antiretroviral therapy coverage among people living with HIV in key populations, Kuwait



We do not have exact figure for any of these groups. However, the antiviral coverage for people diagnosed with HIV in general is 80% on 2017.

### 3.13 HIV prevention programmes in prisons, Kuwait (2016)



### 3.15 People receiving pre-exposure prophylaxis, Kuwait (2016)



# 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**

Women in Kuwait are among the most emancipated women in the Middle East region. In 2014 and 2015, Kuwait was ranked first among Arab countries in the Global Gender Gap Report. No specific regulation regarding women living with HIV, but it is part of the general laws against violence and discrimination.

### **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\*?**

No

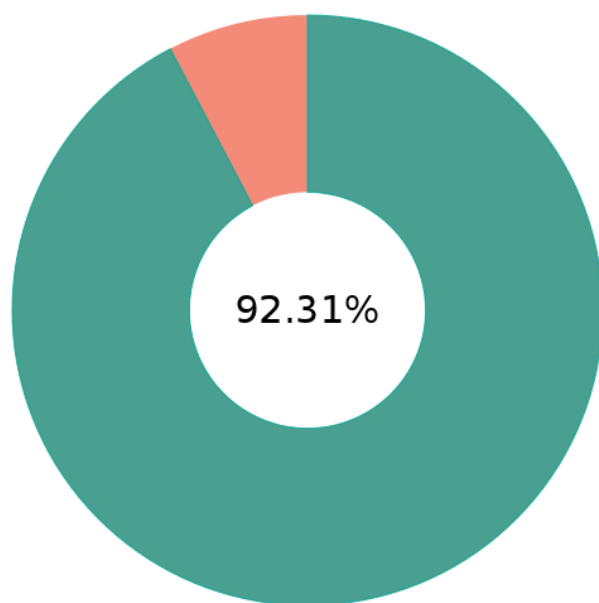
**Does your country have any of the following to protect key populations and people living with HIV from violence?**

General criminal laws prohibiting violence

**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

**Percentage of Global AIDS Monitoring indicators with data disaggregated by gender**



12 / 13

# 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**

## **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**

No

**b) Secondary school**

No

**c) Teacher training**

No

# Commitment 6

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

## **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**

Not sure

# Commitment 7

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

## **Progress summary**

Giving the small population of HIV infected patients in Kuwait, and the availability of resources, all services are delivered by Ministry of Health in Kuwait.

## **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

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

**a) Male condoms:**

-

**b) Female condoms:**

-

**c) Lubricants:**

-

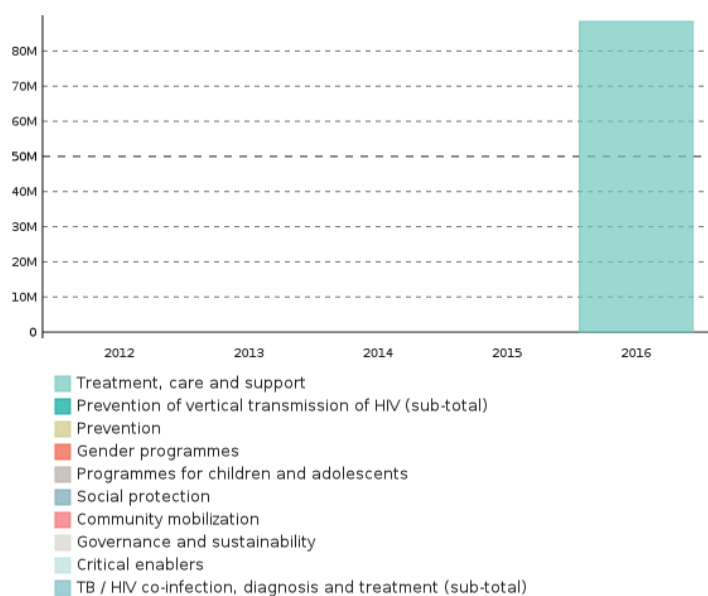
# Commitment 8

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

## Progress summary

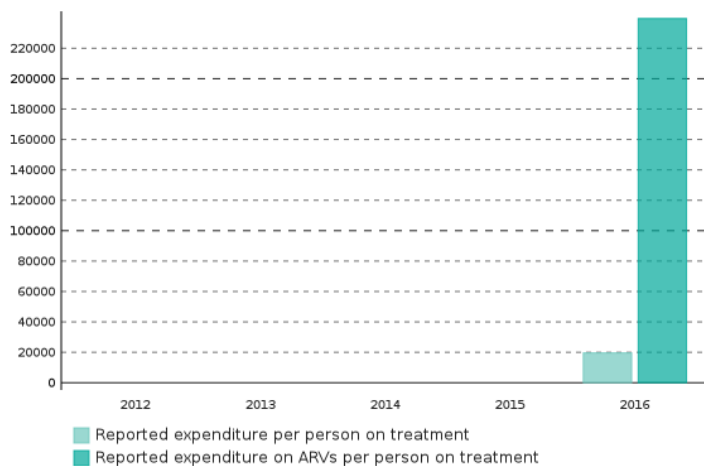
A regular donation from Kuwait to all international partners every year take place to fight HIV/AIDS.

### 8.1 Domestic and international HIV expenditure by programme categories and financing sources, Kuwait (2012-2016)



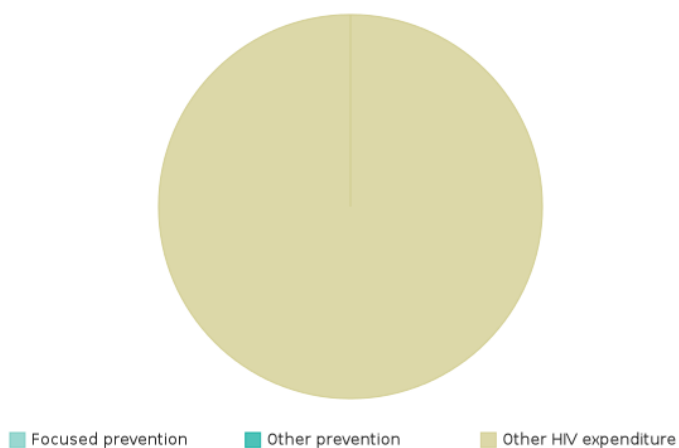


## Expenditure per person on treatment, Kuwait (2016)



This figure is incorrect and Rough estimate of spending per HIV person per month in Kuwait is \$ 2490 which means \$ 29880 per year

## Share of effective prevention out of total, Kuwait (2016)



# 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**

Access to justice and legal services are available to all people living with HIV in Kuwait and for the key populations.

## **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, one-off activities

**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)?**

No

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

-

**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**

## **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?**

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 B vaccination provided at antiretroviral therapy clinics

### 10.6/10.8 Hepatitis B and C testing, Kuwait (2015-2016)



### 10.10 Cervical cancer screening among women living with HIV, Kuwait (2016)

