

Country progress report - Kuwait

Global AIDS Monitoring 2018



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HIV prevention; Key populations - 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

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

Knowledge of HIV and access to sexual reproductive health services - 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

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

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

AIDS out of isolation - 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

Overall

Fast-track targets

Progress summary

The National AIDS Control Committee (NACC) is a division of public health sector in the Ministry of Health, the sector that is responsible mainly for prevention of diseases. The national response to HIV in Kuwait is mainly by the active engagement of NACC in policy and programme discussions and overall policy guidance.

NACC has a firm commitment to implement, support and update the national strategic plan for HIV/AIDS in Kuwait 2017-2021, that has specific targets with plan of actions to achieve the goals and vision.

NACC has membership from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs , Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Kuwait University, Public Authority for applied Education & Training, UNDP and UNESCO. The NACC has two subcommittees, one is the technical committee that looks into technical issues, such as treatment, rights of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and operational policy, and the Information and Education Subcommittee that looks into mass-media communication.

HIV testing and treatment cascade

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

Progress summary

Activity:

Ensure that people infected with HIV know their status

- Systematic screening of pregnant women
 - Systematic screening of STI patients
 - Systematic screening of Hep B and C positive patients
 - Continued screening of blood donors, pre-employment, pre-marital, food handlers occupational health (selected occupations), hospital patients, Expatriates renewing visas, HIV contacts, people who inject drugs, kidney dialysis patients, prisoners, people seeking AIDS certificates etc
 - Availability of voluntary counselling and testing
 - Availability of self-testing
 - Improved contact tracing
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Activity 2:

Implement international guidelines for treatment of HIV positive patients

- Continue to insure that people who are diagnosed with HIV are linked to treatment
- Insure adequate ART supply
- Increase the number of providers trained to deliver HIV care and treatment

Activity 3:

System for Collecting and analysing routine monitoring data for monitoring and evaluation of HIV testing & treatment programme :

- Implement electronic linking to monitor the data and indicators
- Standardize recording and reporting formats to facilitate monitoring of the prevention and treatment cascade:
 - Linkage from testing to treatment
 - Retention in treatment
 - Suppressed viral load
- Collection system for routine monitoring purposes and periodic assessment
- Measuring patient's and client's satisfaction with the health services

Policy questions (2017)

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

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?

No threshold; 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

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission

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

Progress summary

Included in commitment 1, please see above

Policy questions (2016)

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; 1999

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

HIV prevention; Key populations

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

Activity : Implement interventions to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS

- Mass media, knowledge and awareness campaigns for general population
- Education about HIV and STIs in schools
- Education of health care providers
- Conduct mapping and size estimation for key population and scale up interventions for size estimation
- Counselling on means of medical protection and up-to-date messages among high risk groups including:
 - Male and female STI patients
 - Young people
 - Prisoners
 - Other key population
- Increased use of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and pre-exposure prophylaxis

(PrEP)

Policy questions: Key populations (2016)

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

Sex workers

No

Men who have sex with men

-

People who inject drugs

No

Policy questions: PrEP (2017)

Has the WHO recommendation on oral PrEP been adopted in your country's national guidelines?

Yes, PrEP guidelines have been developed and are being implemented

Gender; Stigma and discrimination

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

Activity: Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and participation plus multiciliary approaches:

- Institutional participation: Religious organizations, civil society & NGOs, women`s group, Academic institutions: universities & schools, private sector, businesses, and UN agencies.
- Activate the role of government key actors: Ministry of education, Ministry of Religious affairs, Ministry of Information, ministry of social affairs, ministry of interior, Public authority for sport etc.

Activity 3: provide budget support for prevention activities and Increase national investment on prevention.

Policy questions (2016)

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

What protections, if any, does your country have for 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

Knowledge of HIV and access to sexual reproductive health services

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 (2016)

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

Social protection

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

Progress summary

Activity : Stigma reduction message

- Ensure media reporting become more sensitive with zero stigma
- People living with HIV need to be actively involved in reduction effort

Activity : Target key audiences

- Promote sensitizing the stakeholders, healthcare provider, school teachers, family members and community on stigma reduction.

Activity : Review national laws and regulations and make sure it reflect current scientific information regarding HIV transmission and prevention

Policy questions (2016/2017)

Yes and it is being implemented

a) Does it refer to HIV?

No

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

No

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?

No

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?

No

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

No

What barriers, if any, limit access to social protection programmes in your country?

Not sure

Community-led service delivery

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

Policy questions (2017)

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

No

What safeguards in laws, regulations and policies, if any, 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:

-

AIDS out of isolation

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 (2016)

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