PATA COVID-19 SURVEY: Emerging findings from sub-Saharan Africa

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Rationale

- Uncertainty about how COVID-19 will affect essential health services, especially given high burdens of disease with HIV, TB, and malaria

- Objectives of the survey:
  - To better understand critical gaps and needs in COVID-19 response and possible impacts on HIV service delivery
  - To amplify the voices of health providers across sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting their reality and prioritizing areas of support needed to fight the pandemic

Demographic profile

- 188 respondents from 17 countries, most responses from East and Southern Africa.

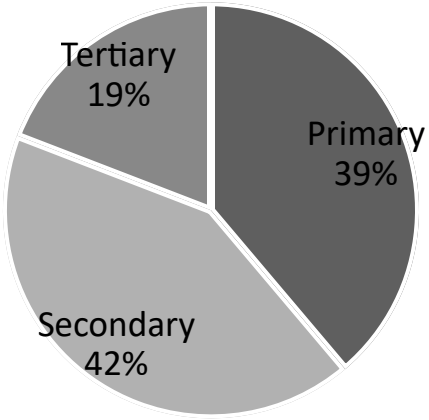
- Majority (96%) of respondents involved with providing services, care, or programming for children, adolescents, and young people living with HIV.

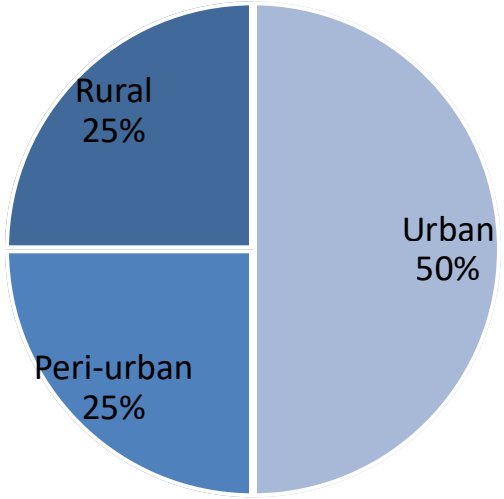
- 93 respondents (49%) were involved in clinical roles, as doctors, nurses, midwives, or counsellors : this group is referred to as health providers

Location of work

Respondents were employed at primary level facilities (n=73), secondary level facilities such as local or district hospitals (n=79), and tertiary facilities such as regional or provincial hospitals (n=36).

Half of all respondents work at urban-based facilities, while 25% work in peri-urban settings and 25% in rural settings .





Preparing for COVID-19: information and training

- Of all 188 respondents, 15% said that they did not have access to information that is reliable, helpful, and practical, and 70% cited needing more information.
- Similarly, respondents identified their communities' most pressing need as access to information and awareness on COVID-19 on how to keep themselves safe and healthy.
- Respondents overwhelmingly cited the need for more information and training on COVID-19

Preparing for COVID-19: information and training

How to treat and care for someone with COVID-19	93%
How to support colleagues and patients that show signs of distress and anxiety	84%
How to identify and diagnose someone with COVID-19	80%
How to manage other routine services during COVID-19	80%
How COVID-19 is affecting my country and region	78%
How to keep myself and my family safe from COVID-19	60%

Treating and caring for COVID-19 patients:

- *What impact that COVID-19 has on those who are living or personally affected with HIV/AIDS* (Community worker, Zambia)

Managing other routine services during COVID-19:

- *What I should tell my peers to do when their appointment dates come, because there is no transport?* (Peer supporter, Uganda)

Keeping myself and my family safe from COVID-19:

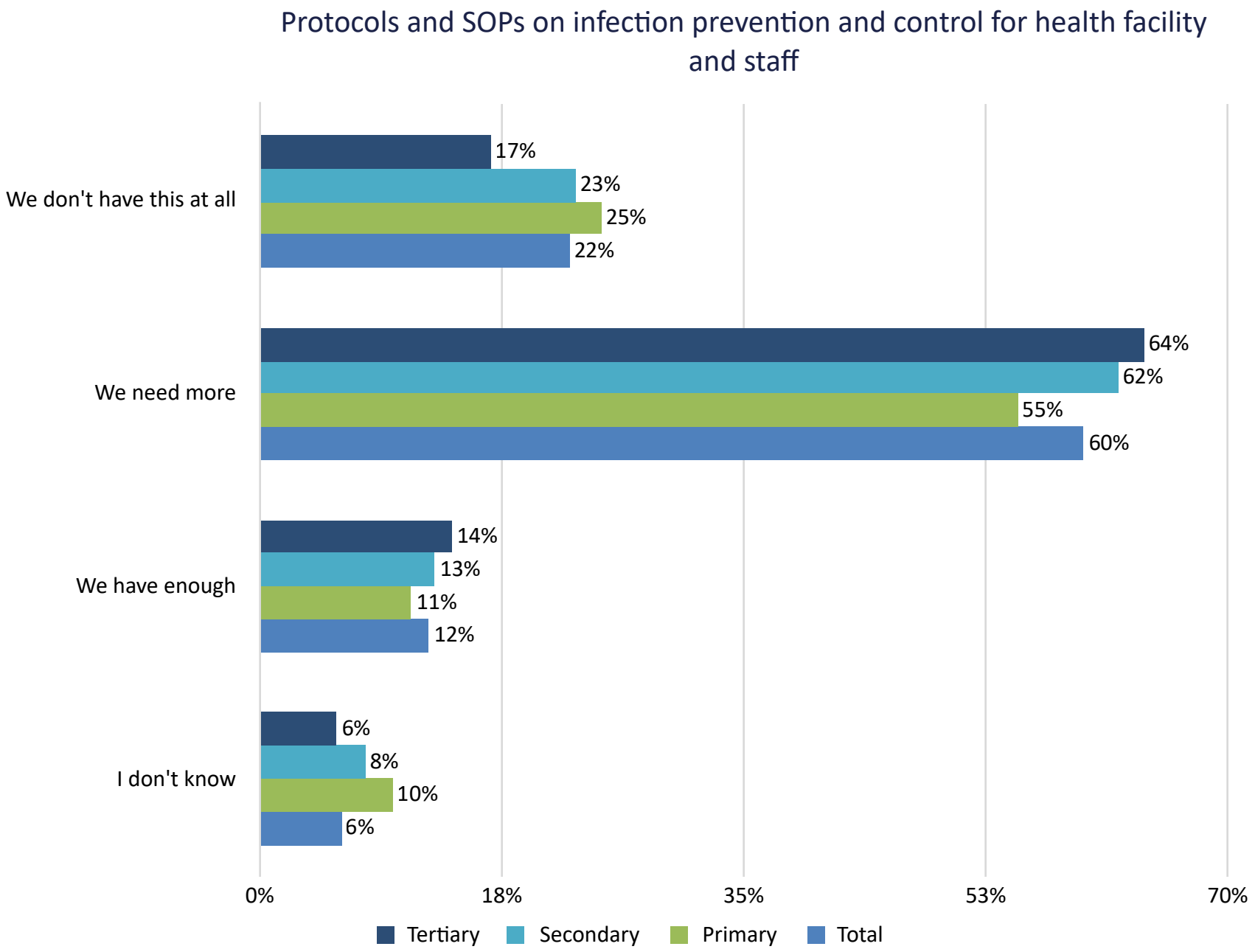
- *How to live with a person who recovered from the disease and came back to the family* (Clinician, Tanzania)

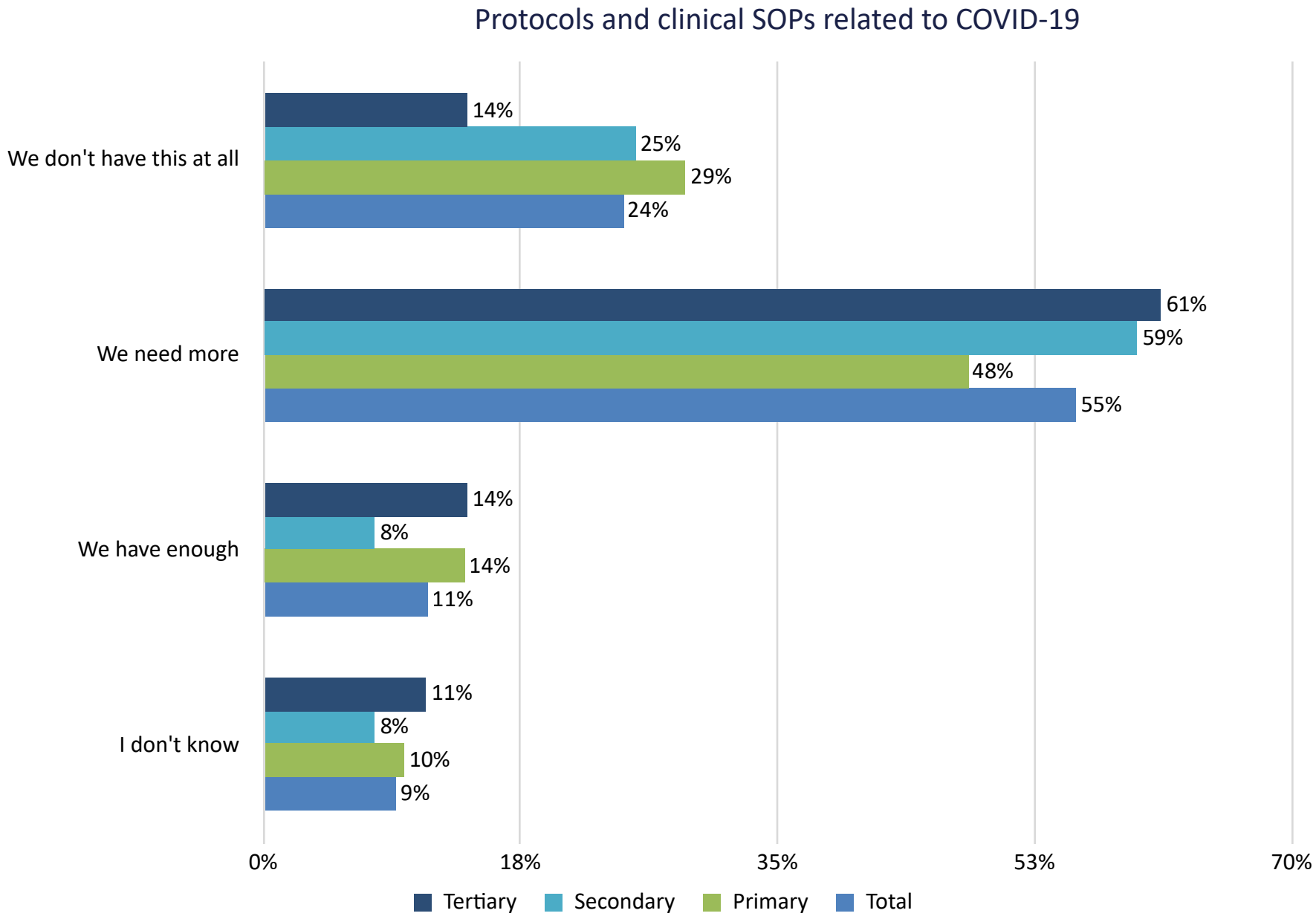
Preparing for COVID-19: systems and SOPs

- 24% of respondents reported that their facilities did not have any protocols or clinical SOPs related to COVID-19, with 55% reporting needing more

- Regarding protocols and clinical SOPs for infection prevention and control to ensure health safety, 22% of respondents reported having none at their facilities, 60% needing more

- 22% of all respondents reported that their facilities had no systems for managing physical distancing in their facilities


Protocols and SOPs on infection prevention and control for health facility and staff
We don't have this at all
17%
23%
25%
22%
We need more
64%
62%
55%
60%
We have enough
14%
13%
11%
12%
I don't know
6%
8%
10%
6%
0%
18%
35%
53%
70%
Tertiary
Secondary
Primary
Total


Protocols and clinical SOPs related to COVID-19
We don't have this at all
14%
25%
29%
24%
We need more
61%
59%
48%
55%
We have enough
14%
8%
14%
11%
I don't know
11%
8%
10%
9%
0%
18%
35%
53%
70%
Tertiary
Secondary
Primary
Total

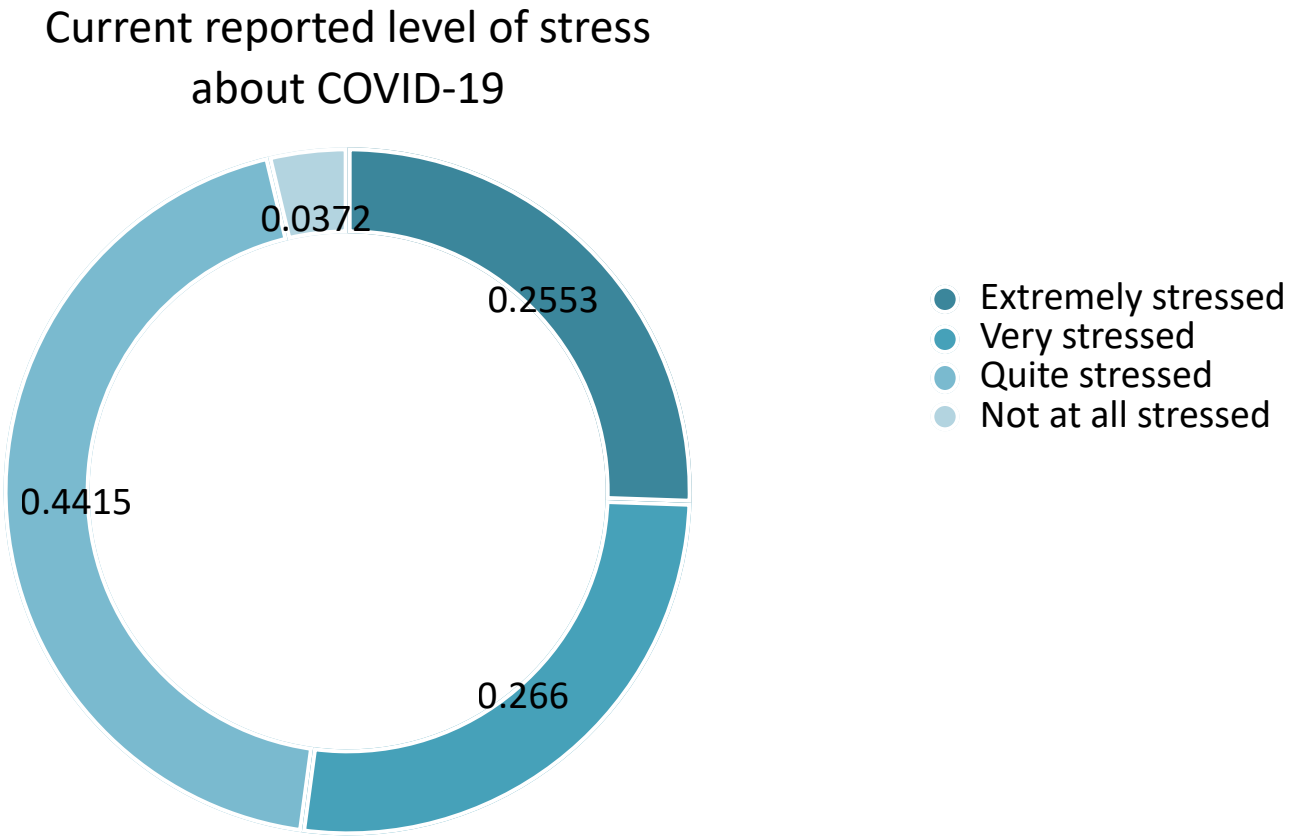
Longer hours in the past week

"Providing health education and counselling for children and young people living with HIV on COVID-19 and adherence" (Programme manager, Zimbabwe)

"Planning work schedules for personnel in my department, encourage my pregnant women patients to show at appointments and take the ARVs" (Midwife, Cote d'Ivoire)

"Responding to emergency plans for children focusing more on mental health issues and protection from abuse - higher probability in confined spaces during lockdown" (Mental health consultant, South Africa)

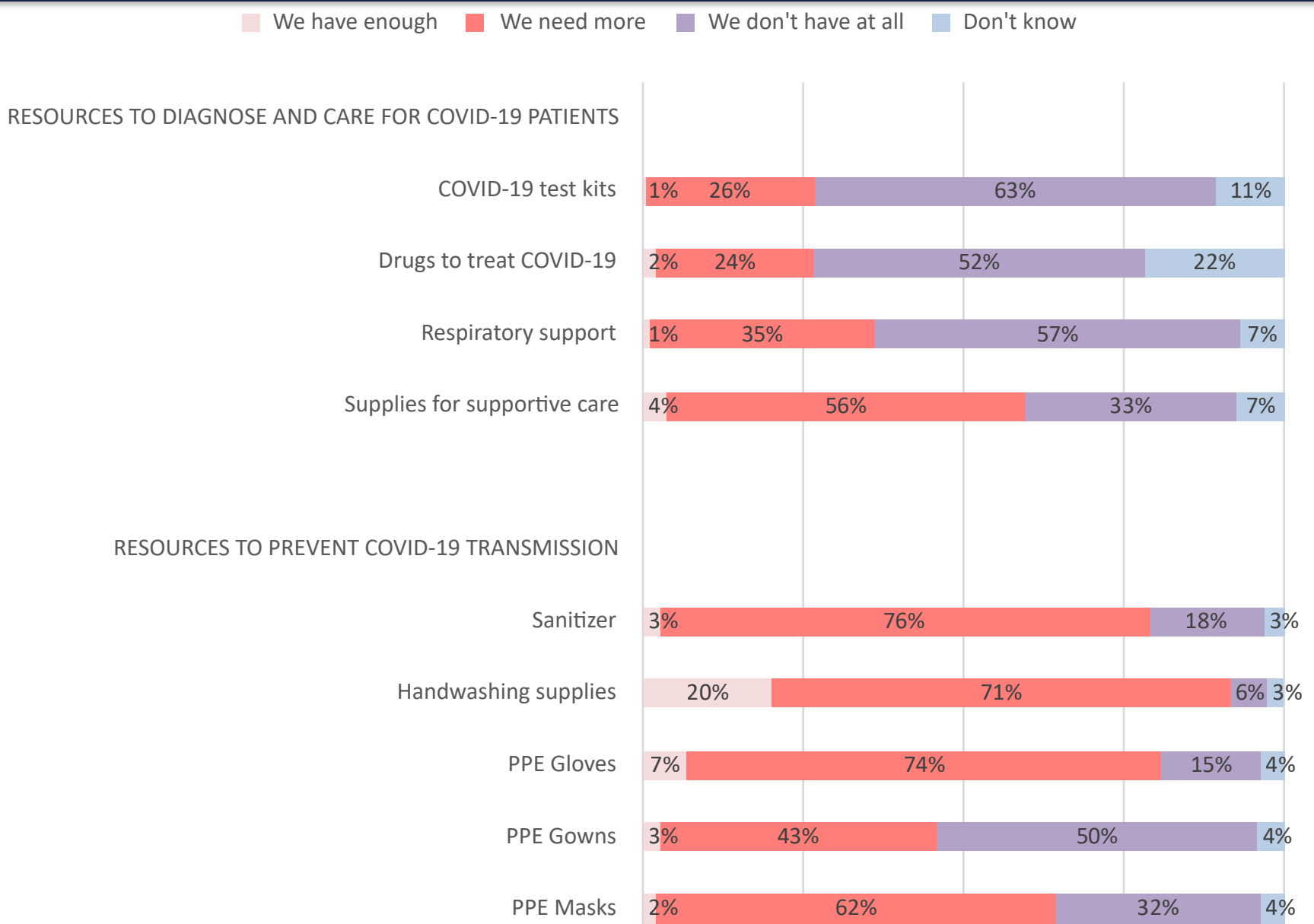
Psychosocial support and stress

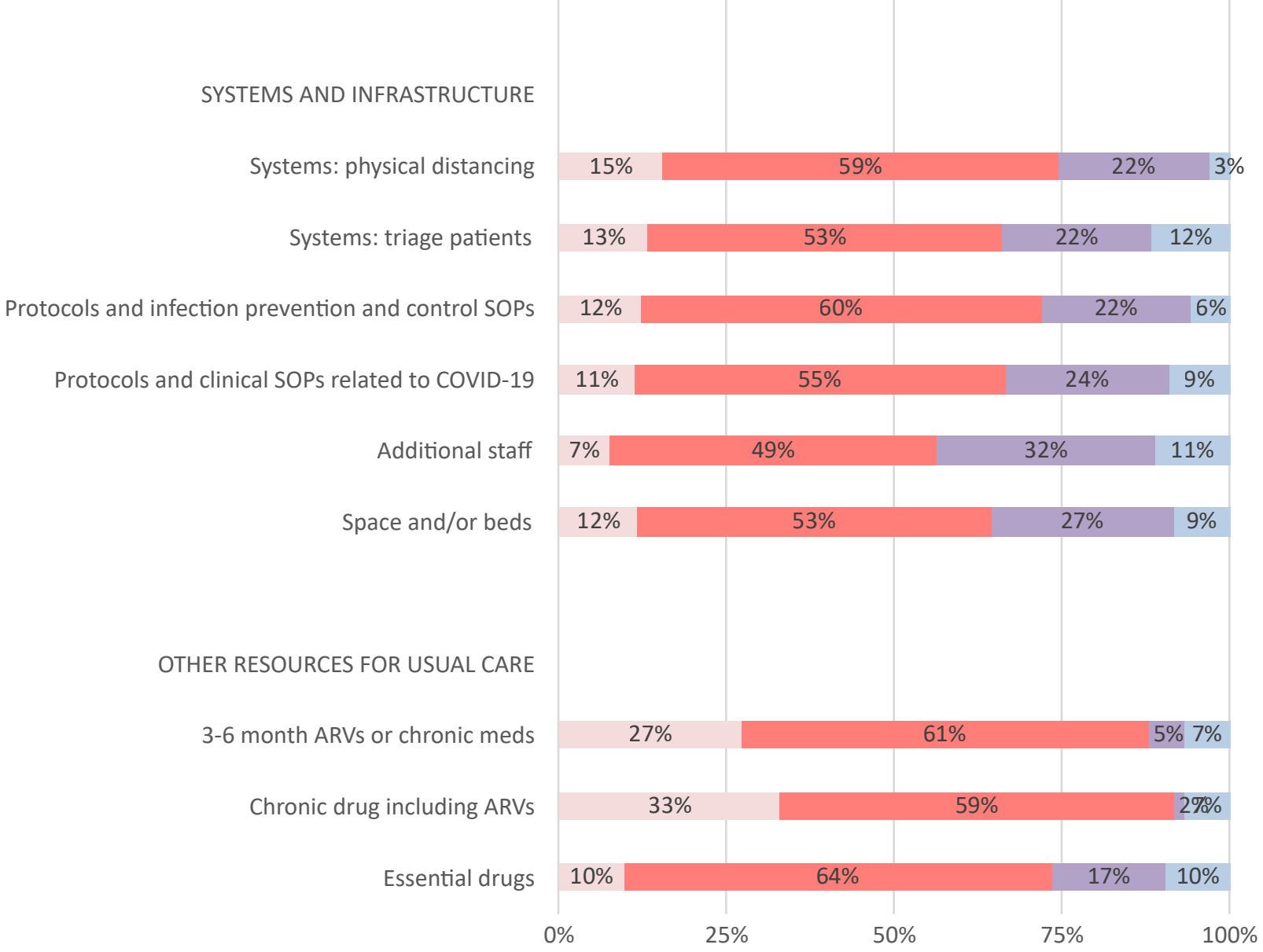


Stressors

- Individual: “Risk of being infected with COVID-19 while caring for others” (Nurse, Zimbabwe)
- Community: “If it strikes in our community of operation, would people really survive?” (M&E Officer, Kenya)
- Systems: “How COVID-19 is affecting the daily life of citizens” (Clinician, Tanzania)

Resource Needs




SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Systems: physical distancing
15%
59%
22%
3%
Systems: triage patients
13%
53%
22%
12%
Protocols and infection prevention and control SOPs
12%
60%
22%
6%
Protocols and clinical SOPs related to COVID-19
11%
55%
24%
9%
Additional staff
7%
49%
32%
11%
Space and/or beds
12%
53%
27%
9%
OTHER RESOURCES FOR USUAL CARE
3-6 month ARVs or chronic meds
27%
61%
5%
7%
Chronic drug including ARVs
33%
59%
2%
7%
Essential drugs
10%
64%
17%
10%
0%
25%
50%
75%
100%

Key take away

- Primary and secondary health facilities are:
  - Less prepared for COVID-19
  - Less able to continue essential HIV services

- Reasoning being:
  - Less access to information and training
  - High level of stress and with several stressors
  - High needs for a variety of resources

- Last but not least health providers will be affected as the pandemic takes hold in Africa, we need more data on health worker infections and deaths.

Call to action: all frontline health providers need some level of preparation, support and additional resources to respond to COVID-19 as well as continuing essential HIV service delivery.

Thanks

We thank all of the contributors to this survey – every voice counts.

#NothingForUsWithoutFrontlineHealthProviders

Health providers at the frontlines of service delivery

PROGRAMMTIC INNOVATIONS & ADAPTIONS IN THE DELIVERY OF HIV & SRHR SERVICES TO PREGNANT WOMEN, CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS LIVING WITH OR AT HIGH RISK OF HIV

Bwire Moses

Executive Director, Peer To Peer Uganda (PEERU)

28 May 2020

UNICEF COVID-19, Paediatric, Adolescent HIV Programme Delivery

Impact of COVID-19 (& lockdown)

- Disruption of vital primary health care
- Community not able to travel to health facilities
- Interrupted ART, lack of SRH services
- Social impacts: YP out of school, GBV, food insecurity, increasing levels of poverty

Other factors:

- Lake Victoria has burst its shoreline and the impact of the ever rising water levels affecting fishing community.

PEERU´s response

PEERU received a small grant from PATA, supporting:

- Mobilisation of community peer leaders, community sensitization, awareness
- Development & distribution of targeted COVID-19 IEC materials (English & local language)
- Awareness raising on good hygiene practices for infection control
- Purchase of PPE (facemasks, gloves, sanitizers)
- MMD ART and delivery to patients improving adherence and retention
- Integrated COVID-19 , SRH and HIV online campaign
- Online peer support and follow ups– ART adherence & psychosocial support.

REGIONAL SRHR POLICIES THAT CAN BE LEVERAGED ON IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

1. SRHR Organisations and consortiums should put much focus on intersectionality

2. The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25

Leverage on previous commitments made towards the promotion of SRHR during the ICPD Nairobi Summit

3. Declaration of the African Population Development a key document that truly encompasses SRHR issues

4. Re- emphasize activist movements as key platforms where disaster management can be discussed.

5. Intergration of Education and Economic Stagnation while addressing SRHR & HIV

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How to use a mask?



Before putting on a mask
Clean hands with alcohol based hand rub or soap and water.

While wearing a mask
1. **Cover youth mouth and nose.** Make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask
2. **Avoid touching the mask.** If you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
3. **Do not re-use single use masks.** Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp.

To dispose of the mask
1. **Do not touch the front of the mask** Remove the mask from behind using the strings.
2. Discard the mask **immediately in a closed bin.**
3. **Clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water**

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Report any suspected covid-19 cases to a health facility or call Ministry of Health toll-free on 0800-203-033 & 0800-100-066

I Am Living With HIV. What Can I Do To Maintain Good Mental Health During A Coronavirus Covid-19 Epidemic In My Country?

It is normal to feel sad, distressed, worried, confused, scared or angry during a crisis. If you are living with HIV you may experience increased levels of stress or anxiety. If this happens talk to people you trust, contact your friends and family. If you feel overwhelmed, consider talking to a health worker, a social worker or another trusted person in your community (e.g., religious leader or community elder)

#StaySafeUg



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www.peertopeeruganda.org

I'M PREGNANT. HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST COVID-19



Wash your hands with soap and running water frequently

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

Cough or sneeze into your bent elbow or a tissue

Put space between yourself and others

If you have fever, cough or difficulty breathing, seek care early. **Call before hand and follow medical advise**

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Report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility or call Ministry of Health toll-free lines 0800-203-033 & 0800-100-066

HOME CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19

Take care of yourself and your family

For ill people

If you are ill with fever and cough

Frequently clean hands with soap and water or with alcohol-based hand rub.

Stay at home; do not attend work, school or public places. Rest, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

When coughing or sneezing, cover mouth and nose with fixed elbow or use disposable tissue and discard after use. If you experience difficulty breathing, Call your health care facility immediately.

Stay in a separate room from other family members, but if not possible wear a medical mask and keep a distance of atleast 1 meter (3 feet) from other people. Keep room well-ventilated and if possible use a dedicated bathroom.

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WHAT CHILDREN CAN DO TO STOP SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS



Wash hands with soap and running water

Read story books
Draw pictures
Do coloring games

Tell stories
Sing and dance indoors

Tell your parents/ caregiver if you feel sick

Speak to an adult if you have questions about CoronaVirus

Help with housework such as mopping, sweeping washing utensils

Make crafts and playing materials using locally available materials

Speak to an adult if anyone tells you to do anything uncomfortable

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Report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility or call Ministry of Health toll-free lines 0800-203-033 & 0800-100-066





Community peer leaders conducting integrated COVID-19, SRH and HIV community sensitization & awareness campaigns

Advice for innovations & adaptions

1. MMD ART and delivery to patients and/or community points
2. Information sharing online – increasing levels of community awareness
3. Peer support online – ART adherence, psychosocial support and online follow-ups
4. Need to involve young people in the national and district level COVID-19 task forces

Thanks

- PEERU and colleagues
- UNICEF
- PATA

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Adapting Lesotho's Young Mothers Programme to COVID-19

COVID-19, Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Programme Delivery Webinar

Maria L. Vivas, HIV Specialist, UNICEF Lesotho
Shadrack Mutembei, Country Director, Help Lesotho
Shasha Makhauta, Youth and Gender Coordinator, Help Lesotho

28 May 2020



Help Lesotho

Sweden Sverige

unicef for every child

OUTLINE

- Young Mothers Programme (YMP) Overview - UNICEF
- Theory of Change - UNICEF
- COVID-19 in Lesotho - UNICEF
- COVID-19 Adaptations - UNICEF
- Implementing Partners Perspectives-HL
- Lessons Learned-HL



THE YMP IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN 2 DISTRICTS

PURPOSE



Strengthen integrated SRHR/HIV and SGBV services in East and Southern Africa

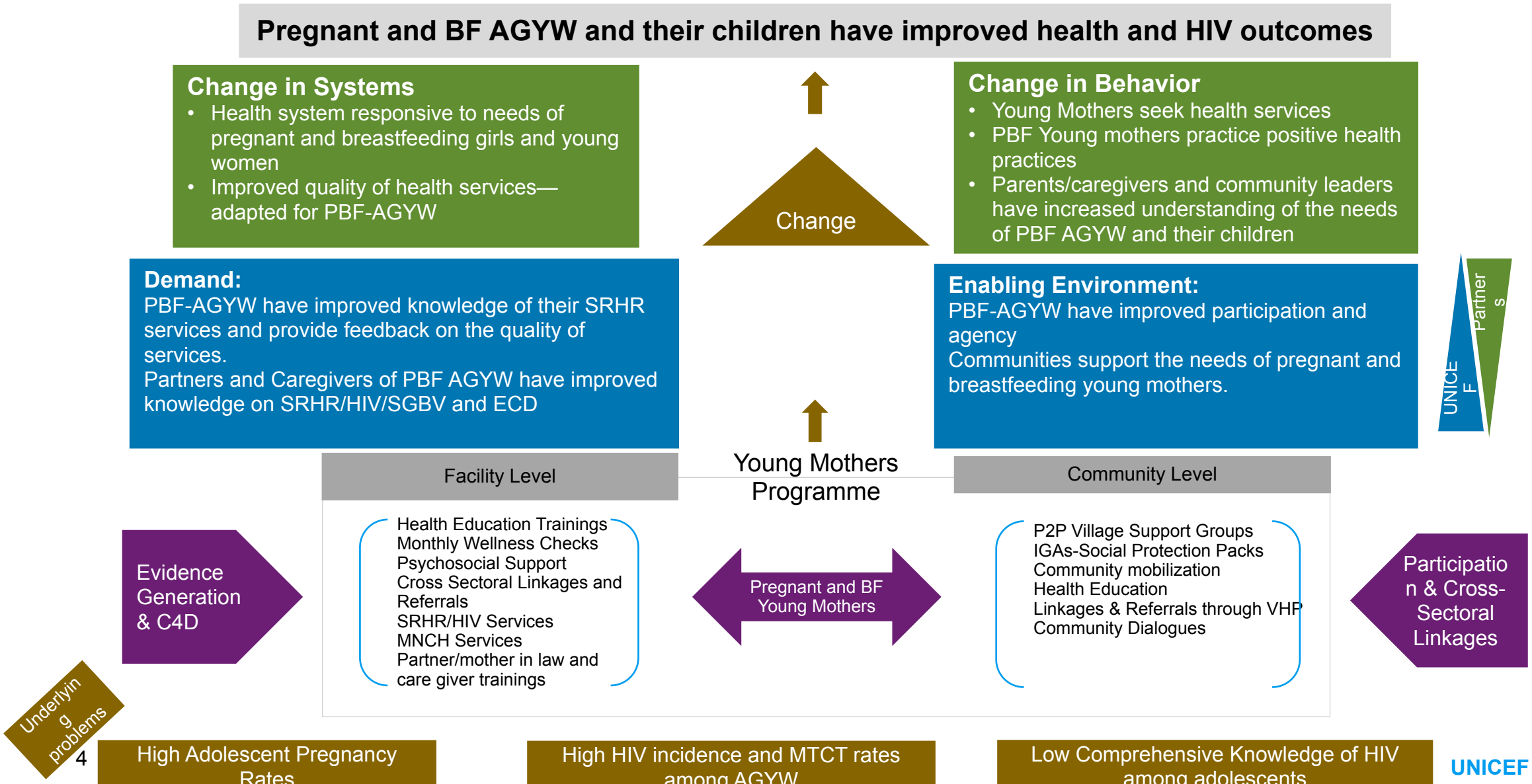
Use of **peer to peer mentorship** as an approach to improve health and HIV outcomes for young mothers and their children

Empower young mothers to access the SRHR/ HIV/MNCH and SGBV services of their choice

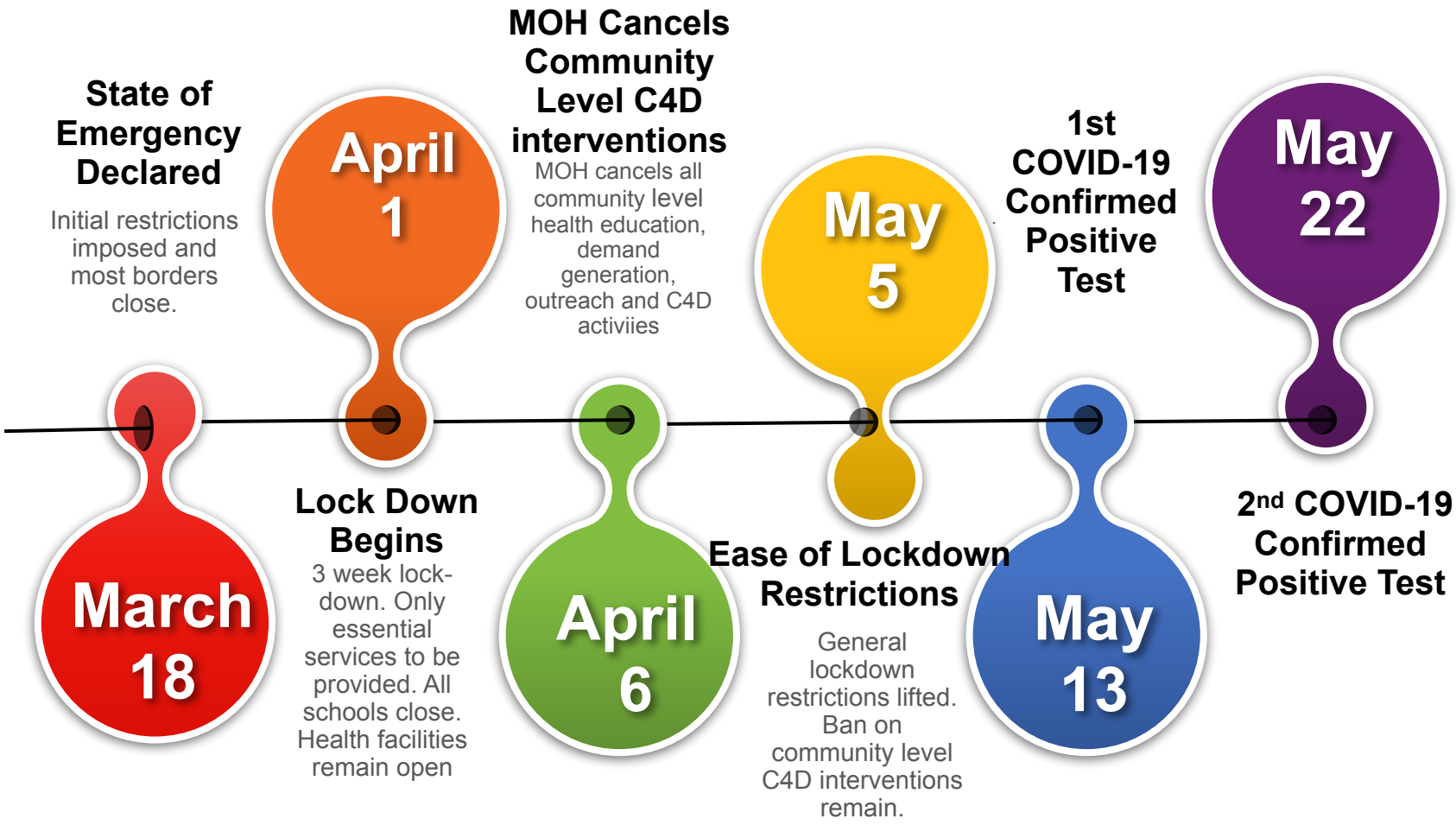
Empower communities to support **the needs of pregnant and breastfeeding young mothers**.

Generate evidence to advocate for action on adolescent mothers' issues

THE YMP AIMS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND HIV OUTCOMES OF PBF-AGYW AND THEIR CHILDREN



SINCE APRIL 6, THE MOH CANCELED ALL COMMUNITY LEVEL C4D INTERVENTIONS



THE COVID-19 ADAPTATIONS ARE ALIGNED TO UNICEF ESARO's GUIDANCE ON HIV PROGRAMMING IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Short-Term (Lockdown)

- Remote psychosocial support through WhatsApp and phone calls
- Health Education (SRHR/HIV/ COVID-19) through WhatsApp and SMS
- Wellness checks (HIV/MNCH/SRH/ COVID-19/food insecurity)

Referrals to health center through Village Health Worker Programme

Medium Term (Post-Lockdown)

- PPE for village support groups
- Health Information (SRHR/HIV/COVID-19)- and link to U-Report
- Provide outreach in small groups as permitted by the government
- Social Protection (food parcels & IGA seed funding)
- Community dialogues with partners and mothers in laws
- Linkages to long-distance education, ECD, and vocational training

**All following physical distance measures and as allowed by the MOH*

Long-Term (Recovery)

- SGBV Community Dialogues
- Cohort 3 training and mentorship
- Cohort 2 graduation
- Continue with remote PSS for those young mothers interested
- Increase linkages with Child Help Line
- Documentation of COVID-19 & SRHR/HIV

Young Mothers Programme

Evidence Generation & C4D

Facility Level

Health Education
~~Monthly Wellness Checks~~
Psychosocial Support
Cross Sectoral Linkages and Referrals
SRHR/HIV Services
MNCH Services
~~Partner/mother in law and care giver trainings~~

Pregnant and BF Young Mothers

Community Level

~~P2P Village Support Groups~~
~~IGAs – Social Protection Starter Packs~~
~~Community mobilization~~
~~Health Education~~
~~Linkages & Referrals through VHP~~
~~Community Dialogues~~

Participation & Cross-Sectoral Linkages

ACTIVITIES CANCELLED DURING THE LOCKDOWN

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER'S PERSPECTIVE

PREPARING FOR COVID-19



Development of **guiding documents** on COVID-19

Support to programme staff to work from home & COVID-19

Understanding **community myths** on COVID-19

LESSONS LEARNED

What we've learned so far

Referrals

While health centers continued providing services, young mothers were not aware or were afraid — referrals through the Village Health Worker were important to provide on continuity of services to ensure adherence to key services (contraceptives, HIV services, immunization, nutrition counselling).

Community Level

Village Support Groups are important for young mothers' support network. It is essential to continue discussing issues remotely.

Young mother mostly living in remote and hard to reach areas had little knowledge & myths about COVID-19 which caused them anxiety and stress. They felt relaxed after receiving the facts about COVID-19, how to protect themselves, and others.

Programme Implementation

Approximately 60% of young mothers have access to cell phones. They were encouraged and shared COVID-19 information with their neighboring young mothers while staff reached other small groups through cell phones on loud speakers to cater for those without cell phones.



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for every child

UNICEF LESOTHO WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION TO LESOTHO'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR ITS LEADERSHIP AND ACKNOWLEDGE HELP LESOTHO FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE PROGRAMME'S IMPLEMENTATION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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