

## COVID-19 and HIV: Weekly Digest

24 April 2020

The Children and AIDS Learning Collaborative's COVID-19 and HIV digest compiles recent knowledge and updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic of interest to those working on HIV among children, adolescents, and pregnant women. The selections below represent views of the authors and do not reflect UNICEF positions.

### COVID-19 AND THE HIV RESPONSE

#### [Keeping HIV Treatment Available in Pakistan during COVID-19](#)

15 April 2020, *UNAIDS*

The Pakistan Common Management Unit for AIDS, TB and Malaria, in collaboration with UNAIDS and other partners, is working to ensure uninterrupted supply of antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV.

#### [Community Networks Playing a Central Role in Ensuring Access to HIV Treatment during India's COVID-19 Lockdown](#)

20 April 2020, *Aidsmap*

Networks of people living with HIV have been critical in ensuring access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and supporting service delivery during India's strict COVID-19 lockdown.

#### [What South Africa Learned from AIDS](#)

16 April 2020, *The Economist*

Professor Salim Abdool Karim notes that South Africa's response to COVID-19 is building on lessons from the HIV/AIDS response. This includes centering medical experts in determining policy and increasing community outreach.

#### [Egypt: COVID-19 threatens treatment for HIV patients](#)

22 April 2020, *Human Rights Watch*

In March, Egypt designated the country's fever hospitals, the only centers where people living with HIV can get medication, as testing centers for Covid-19. HRW urges Egyptian authorities to ensure that people living with HIV can continue to safely access lifesaving medication.

### GLOBAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19

#### ['Will We Die of Hunger?': How COVID-19 lockdowns imperil street children](#)

15 April 2020

*The Guardian*

According to those working with young people in Kenya and elsewhere, children who rely on the streets for food and shelter are exceptionally vulnerable when cities lock down.

#### [Children, Women Casualties of Uganda's Coronavirus Transport Ban](#)

21 April 2020

*Al Jazeera*

Movement restriction imposed to curb COVID-19 spread, but critics say it left no realistic provision for emergency care.

See also: [Uganda's 'Urban Poor' Fear Dying of Hunger during COVID-19 Lockdown](#)

#### [The Pandemic's Hidden Victims: Sick or dying, but not from the virus](#)

20 April 2020

*The New York Times*

The pressures of the pandemic on the U.S. health care system are threatening treatment and care for all patients, especially those with chronic illnesses.

#### [Coronavirus Spread Triggers World Bank Pandemic Bond Payout](#)

20 April 2020

*Reuters*

The World Bank projected an increase in global poverty for the first time since 1998 ([POLITICO](#)). While allocations are yet to be decided, the Bank confirmed activation of the Pandemic Emergency Financing (PEF) facility.

### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

#### [Early Peek at Data on Gilead Coronavirus Drug Suggests Patients Are Responding to Treatment](#)

16 April 2020, *STAT News*

The University of Chicago Medicine recruited 125 people with COVID-19 into Gilead's two Phase 3 clinical trials. All the patients were treated with daily infusions of remdesivir. While there was no control group, early results were positive.

See also: The [latest update](#) from WHO's Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN) describing four promising therapies included in the Solidarity Trial.

#### [Physicians Launch HIV and COVID-19 Registry](#)

16 April 2020, *POZ*

Physicians from the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland in Baltimore and Arizona Liver Health in Chandler announced the launch of the CURE (Coronavirus Under Research Exclusion) HIV-COVID Database. The registry aims to better understand the natural history of COVID-19 in people living with HIV, to determine the effects of various treatments and to share findings with providers around the world.

<p><a href="#">New Resources to Track the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV Prevention Research</a> 21 April 2020, AVAC</p> <p>AVAC has developed an <a href="#">infographic</a> on COVID-19 effects on key HIV prevention trials, a <a href="#">table</a> with status updates on ongoing and planned prevention trials, and a new <a href="#">webpage</a> dedicated to guidance from regulatory bodies and research updates.</p>	<p><a href="#">African Regulatory Agencies, Ethics Committees to Expedite COVID-19 Clinical Trial Reviews</a> 20 April 2020, WHO</p> <p>Under the platform of the African Vaccines Regulatory Forum (AVAREF), national regulatory authorities and national ethics committees from across Africa agreed to combine their expertise to expedite clinical trial review and approvals for new multinational preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic interventions to COVID-19.</p>
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## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

<p><a href="#">Busting Coronavirus Myths Will Take More Than science: Lessons from an AIDS study</a> 17 April 2020, <i>The Conversation</i></p> <p>To tackle the proliferation of misinformation about the pandemic, Professor David Dickinson recommends looking beyond scientific messages and connecting to the beliefs held in the community.</p>	<p><a href="#">Lockdowns Affecting HIV Trials/Treatment in Africa</a> 20 April 2020, <i>MedPage Today</i></p> <p>In this video interview, Dr. Rashida Ferrand discusses her experiences with the nationwide lockdown in Zimbabwe and disruptions faced by the HIV programme.</p>	<p><a href="#">Africans Facing Coronavirus Must Not Suffer the Injustices They Saw with AIDS</a> 18 April 2020, <i>The Guardian</i></p> <p>Drawing on her family's experiences with HIV/AIDS in Uganda, Lydia Namubiru calls for ethical clinical trials in African countries that does not delay the continent's access to effective vaccine or treatment.</p>
<p><a href="#">COVID-19 Will Hit Children Hard. Here's Why</a> 17 April 2020, <i>City Press</i></p> <p>Kholofelo Mphahlele presents evidence on the long-term impact of trauma, such as living through the pandemic, on children and how South Africa's response to COVID-19 will affect them.</p>	<p><a href="#">Prepare for Collateral Damage as Devastating as the Virus</a> 17 April 2020, <i>The Washington Post</i></p> <p>The Post Editorial Board highlights the potential for the SARS-CoV-2 virus to disrupt health care systems and hinder treatments for other conditions.</p>	<p><a href="#">Are Children Forgotten in the Response to the Pandemic?</a> 20 April 2020, <i>The Jakarta Post</i></p> <p>Esther Indriani advocates for an integrated approach to COVID-19 that prioritizes continued health services to vulnerable populations like children.</p>

## AROUND THE UNITED NATIONS

- The COVID-19 pandemic will likely kill at least 300,000 Africans and risks pushing 29 million into extreme poverty, according to the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), which called for a \$100 billion safety net. ([Reuters](#))
- UNICEF and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees pledged "to accelerate work to expand refugee children's access to protection, education, clean water, and sanitation, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across the globe." ([UN News](#) and [UPI](#))
- According to new figures from the World Food Programme (WFP), the lives and livelihoods of 265 million people in low and middle-income countries, especially in Africa and the Middle East, will be under severe threat unless swift action is taken to tackle the pandemic. ([WFP Insight](#) and [The Guardian](#))
- Initial results from data collected as part of the United Nations' 75th anniversary initiative (UN75) revealed overwhelming support for international cooperation, especially after the start of the pandemic. ([UN News](#))

## RECENT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

<p><a href="#">COVID-19 in Children in the United States</a> <i>Journal of Public Health Management and Practice</i> 16 April 2020</p> <p>This study estimates that for each child who requires intensive care for COVID-19, there are 2,381 children with infections. The authors recommend all state health departments and the CDC to report confirmed COVID-19 cases in age-specific tables, using the standard 5-year age groups for health surveillance.</p>	<p><a href="#">COVID-19 in Patients with HIV: Clinical case series</a> <i>The Lancet HIV</i> 15 April 2020</p> <p>A letter to the <i>Lancet HIV</i> presented preliminary findings from an analysis of 543 COVID-19 patients in Barcelona. Of these, five were living with HIV. Their clinical characteristics, antiviral and antiretroviral treatment, and outcomes are described. (See also: <a href="#">COVID-19 in Barcelona: first cases in people living with HIV reported</a>)</p>
<p><a href="#">Not a Luxury: A call to maintain sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian and fragile settings during the COVID-19 pandemic</a> <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> 21 April 2020</p> <p>The Inter-Agency Working Group for Reproductive Health in Crises suggest approaches to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on sexual and reproductive health in crisis and in fragile settings.</p>	<p><a href="#">The Burden of COVID-19 in People Living with HIV: A syndemic perspective</a> <i>AIDS and Behavior</i> 18 April 2020</p> <p>This paper presents a syndemic framework, including considerations of the biological, behavioral, psychosocial and structural drivers of disease, to conceptualize the potential impact of COVID-19 among people living with HIV in order to inform health programming services.</p>

New resources for global, regional and country level practitioners working on HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic are presented below. To find additional documents and join the discussion, visit: [www.childrenandaids.org/covid19](http://www.childrenandaids.org/covid19)

## RESOURCES

<p><b>Questions and Answers for Adolescents Living with HIV in Time of COVID-19</b> <i>UNICEF</i></p> <p>This Q+A was developed by UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office in partnership with Y+ Global and country-level networks of adolescents and young people living with HIV (A&amp;YPLHIV) in Eastern and Southern Africa.</p>	<p><b>Assessing the Needs of Young Key Populations in Asia and the Pacific in the Context of COVID-19</b> <i>UNAIDS</i></p> <p>The Interagency Task Team (IATT) on young key populations (YKPs) in Asia and the Pacific, a regional platform composed of UN agencies and networks of YKP, launched a survey to assess the needs and ability of YKPs in accessing information, medication and other HIV services during the pandemic. The survey can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><b>Policy Brief: The impact of COVID-19 on children</b> <i>UN</i></p> <p>There are three main channels through which children are affected by COVID-19: infection with the virus; the immediate socioeconomic impacts of measures to stop transmission of the virus and end the pandemic; and the potential longer-term effects of delayed implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.</p>
<p><b>National Policies on Multi-Month Supplies of HIV Medications</b> <i>Georgetown University</i></p> <p>The HIV Policy Lab at Georgetown University released a tracker of national policies on access to ART during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p><b>Positive Living in the Time of COVID</b> <i>GNP+</i></p> <p>This April newsletter highlights how young people living with HIV are contributing to pandemic response and includes resources for youth.</p>	<p><b>COVID-19 Resources</b> <i>Africaid-Zvandiri</i></p> <p>These videos and booklets are tailored for community adolescent treatment supports (CATS) and other young people to understand COVID-19 and learn how to talk about it.</p>
<p><b>COVID-19 Aftershocks</b> <i>World Vision International</i></p> <p>Based on research from the 2014-16 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa, this report estimates the secondary health impacts of COVID-19 on children in the world's poorest and most fragile countries and makes recommendations for the global community.</p>	<p><b>COVID-19 and Its Impact on Pregnancy and Potential Mother-to-child SARS-CoV-2 Viral Transmission</b> <b>WEBINAR</b> 15 April 2020</p> <p>The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) hosted a webinar on current research and data on COVID-19 and pregnant women living with HIV.</p>	<p><b>COVID-19: What paediatric HIV programmes need to know</b> <b>WEBINAR</b> 20 April 2020</p> <p>The Children and AIDS Learning Collaborative hosted a discussion on the basic science related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and HIV, emerging research on children and pregnant women in the context of COVID-19, impact on HIV programmes for this population and voices from health care providers at the frontline of the pandemic.</p>
<p><b>Perspectives from Recipients of Care During COVID-19</b> <b>WEBINAR</b> 21 April 2020</p> <p>The International Treatment Preparedness Coalition in collaboration with ICAP at Columbia University and the DSD Initiative of the International AIDS Society hosted a south-to-south discussion on Differentiated Service Delivery and the COVID-19 Response.</p>	<p><b>COVID-19 and HIV: Lessons learned from healthcare workers around the world</b> <b>WEBINAR</b> 21 April 2020</p> <p>Two sessions from the IAS Educational Fund included health care worker perspectives from Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Lebanon, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States.</p>	<p><b>Africa: Confronting COVID-19</b> <b>WEBINAR</b> 22 April 2020</p> <p>ICAP at Columbia University in partnership with the Columbia Global Centers in Nairobi and Tunis hosted a webinar with a global discussion on the SARS-CoV-2 virus as well as programming updates from regions in Africa.</p>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 28 April 2020: Kaiser Family Foundation and the Global Health Council will present a discussion on resource mobilization in response to COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries. 12:00-1:00 pm ET >> [More](#)

To submit feedback or content for inclusion in our weekly digests, please email Rikke Le Kirkegaard at [rlkirkegaard@unicef.org](mailto:rlkirkegaard@unicef.org).