


**Protection against COVID-19**
**FINDINGS**

- **31%** of the people state that **they have not received enough information on how to prevent COVID-19 transmission.**



- More than half of the people (**56%**) do not have enough personal protective equipment.

- Only **22%** of the people perceive the use of masks as a preventive measure.


**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- UNAIDS encourages people to follow basic protective measures against the new coronavirus, which can be found here:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

- UNAIDS LAC, have available communication resources (infographics and information sheets) developed for this purpose. These can be found on the website:

<http://onusidalac.org/1/index.php/internas/item/2555>


**Antiretroviral treatment and access to specialized services**
**FINDINGS**

**Service delivery adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, is NOT an available option for many people living with HIV.**



**5 out of 10** people have had difficulties obtaining their treatment.



Only **3 out of 10** respondents have ARV treatment for more than 2 months and **almost half (49%)** only have it for one month. It worries that **2 out of 10** did NOT have enough treatment to finish one month.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- UNAIDS calls on countries, ministries of health and national AIDS programs to adopt the MMD provision of 3 to 6 months of antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV who are in viral suppression, as recommended by World Health Organization.

- UNAIDS encourages countries to offer the promotion of HIV self-testing. You can find more information here:

<https://www.who.int/hiv/topics/self-testing/en/>

- A call is also made to ensure the continuity of the provision of pre-exposure prophylaxis to HIV (PrEP) in key populations, ideally with a minimum supply of 3 months.


**Health services, including mental health**
**FINDINGS**


- **Almost 7 out of 10** people stated that in order to NOT interrupt their ARV treatment they need to have a safe and confidential way to obtain them.

- **Less than two** out of ten people (**17%**), have access to home delivery of their ARVs.



- **Only 3 out of ten** people were offered telemedicine consultation.



- **Four out of ten (43%)** people say they require psychological support to deal with anxiety generated by COVID-19.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- UNAIDS calls to guarantee access to comprehensive care for PLHIV, even if they are isolated or in lockdowns, for example, through telemedicine options, websites, phone chats and SMS messages.

- Use ARV dispensing modalities not based on health care facilities, for example, home delivery.

- It is recommended that national AIDS programs and health care services, that are able to do so, offer mental health care to PLHIV.


**Stigma and discrimination**
**FINDINGS**

- **More than half (56%)** of the people stated that they could suffer physical, psychological or verbal violence because of living with HIV in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.



- **Three out of 10** people have abstained from using services in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic for fear of being discriminated.



- **40%** of people do not know where to go or call if they suffer from any type of violence or discrimination related to living with HIV.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is possible to implement an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while defending Human Rights.**

- UNAIDS calls for ensuring that the current public health emergency does not exacerbate prejudice and inequality, nor increase violence and discrimination against LGBTI+ people and key populations.

- It is imperative to sustain and guarantee the continuity of the work of civil society organizations and human rights defenders.

- Restrictions to free movement or lockdowns must be of limited duration and based on scientific evidence. They must not be applied in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner.


**Social Protection**
**FINDINGS**

- Some people emphasized that **job loss or lack of income** was one of their main concerns.



- **Four out of ten** people stated that they had to leave their homes to earn their daily income despite the lockdowns measures.



- **4 out of 10 people require nutritional support and/or cash transfers.**

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- UNAIDS recommends ensuring the provision of food and other social protection services, including temporary shelters for key populations, people living with HIV and people in greater vulnerability.

- Explore opportunities to provide cash transfers to PLHIV who have lost their jobs or are in vulnerable conditions, especially among key populations.

- Ensure the provision of services and support for the population most affected by violence, especially among women, transgender women, girls, and migrant population.