


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

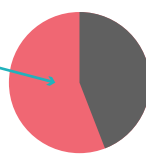
- UNAIDS calls to guarantee access to comprehensive care for PLHIV, even if they are isolated or in lockdowns, for example, through telemedicine options, websites, phone chats and SMS messages.

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

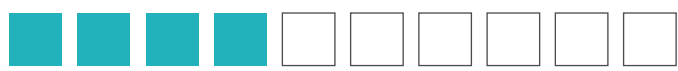
- It is recommended that national AIDS programs and health care services, that are able to do so, offer mental health care to PLHIV.


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.