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MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE  
**LIVING WITH HIV** IN  
RECEPTION CENTERS DURING  
THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY  
***GUIDELINES***



Dr. Alejandra Corao / UNAIDS

Provide information to shelter staff, care centers, immigrant reception centers and other spaces created during the COVID-19 pandemic so that it is possible to ensure prompt care for people on the move living with HIV.

Reduce the risks of transmission of HIV in accommodation centers created during the COVID-19 pandemic

Provide relevant information and key supplies to people living with HIV, to those who are pregnant or who recently received a diagnosis and are currently living in accommodation centers created during the COVID-19 pandemic

- What is HIV and AIDS
- Intervention areas and care procedures for people living with HIV in emergency accommodation centers
- How to proceed when treating a person on the move living with HIV



# What is HIV?

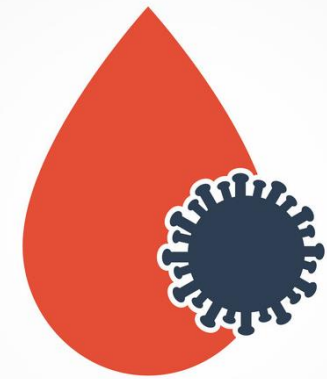
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- HIV stands for “human immunodeficiency virus”.
- HIV is a retrovirus that infects the immune system cells destroying or impairing their function.
- This virus results in a progressive failure of the immune system, leading to immunodeficiency.



# What is AIDS?

- AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and describes the collection of symptoms and infections associated with acquired deficiency of the immune system.
- Infection with HIV has been established as the underlying cause of AIDS.



**HIV / AIDS**

# How can HIV be transmitted?

- HIV can be found in body fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal discharges and breast milk.
- HIV can be transmitted through:
  - **Unsafe sexual contact:** penetrative sex (anal or vaginal) and oral sex.
  - **Exposure to infected blood:** through blood transfusions, by reusing or sharing needles and syringes in health care centers, and through drug injections.
  - **Mother-to-child:** can happen during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding.



# How is HIV NOT transmitted?

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- **It is NOT transmitted** through physical contact.
- **It is NOT transmitted** by sharing physical spaces.
- **It is NOT transmitted** by sharing bathrooms or bedrooms.
- **It is NOT transmitted** by sharing cups, cutlery or kitchen tools.
- **It is NOT transmitted** through saliva, perspiration, tears or urine.
- **It is NOT transmitted** by mosquitoes or other biting insects.



# Stigma and discrimination

Ethnicity

+ Gender

+ Sexual orientation

+ Migrant or refugee

+ Income

+ Age

+ Living with HIV



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*"I am afro descendent, man, homosexual, migrant, unemployed, old and I am living with HIV. I am not a person because everything I am, reduced me in labels"*



- 1. Violations of professional secrecy or total denial of services**
- 2. Discrimination can discourage refugees and migrants from seeking health services**
- 3. Limited access to HIV prevention and treatment services, thereby increasing vulnerability to HIV**

1. **Lack of food hurts refugees and migrants living with HIV**
2. **Economic vulnerability increases the risk of abuse and sexual and labor exploitation, including sex for survival in unprotected conditions.**
3. **The lack of economic insertion makes it difficult for refugees and migrants living with HIV to have access to antiretroviral therapy**



# Intervention areas and care procedures for people living with HIV in emergency accommodation centers



1

Intervention area nº 1: Prevent the transmission of HIV within reception centers set up during the emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic or other emergencies

2

Intervention area nº 2: Ensure access to post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for occupational or non-occupational cases (rapes or unsafe sexual contact with high-risk individuals) in health care services for people on the move

3

Intervention area nº 3: Prevent mother-to-child transmission and protect children and young people who are alone or were separated from their parents, and children and young people in situations of vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic

4

Intervention area nº 4: Provide antiretroviral treatment (ART) to refugees on the move who need it

5

Intervention area nº 5: Offer protection against human rights violations to people on the move living with HIV or members of the LGBTQI+ community in the reception centers created during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Intervention areas and care procedures for people living with HIV in emergency accommodation centers

## Prevent the transmission of HIV within reception centers



- Establish standard procedures and provide personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Ensure access to clean water and sanitation
- Include rapid tests
- Ensure condom supply

# Intervention areas and care procedures for people living with HIV in emergency accommodation centers

Ensure access to post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for occupational or non-occupational cases (rapes or unsafe sexual contact with high-risk individuals)



- Include post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) protocols for health workers and people on the move
- Support victims of sexual abuse

# Intervention areas and care procedures for people living with HIV in emergency accommodation centers

**Prevent mother-to-child transmission and protect children and young people who are alone or were separated from their parents**



- Ensure access to rapid HIV and COVID-19 tests for pregnant women primarily.
- Ensure the availability of all the necessary supplies for aseptic, safe childbirths
- Provide ARV treatment to pregnant women
- Provide care to newborns and refer them to specialists.

# Intervention areas and care procedures for people living with HIV in emergency accommodation centers

Provide antiretroviral treatment (ART) to refugees on the move who need it.



- HIV rapid test to identify people on the move living with HIV
- Provide ARV treatment (MMD)
- Establish counseling services through alternative communication channels

# Intervention areas and care procedures for people living with HIV in emergency accommodation centers

Offer protection against human rights violations to people on the move living with HIV or members of the LGBTQI+ community.



- Ensure medical care for everyone, regardless of their migration status
- Ensure emergency services respect human rights
- Treat and track human rights violations
- Promote and support the creation of mechanisms for the documentation of human rights violations



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# How to proceed when treating a person on the move living with HIV?



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## If they disclose that they are living with HIV or that they were *recently diagnosed but have not received treatment*:

- Respect the *confidentiality* principle.
- Immediately link the person to *health care services* to comply with the following protocol:
  - Confirmatory tests for HIV
  - Viral load test
  - Counseling
  - A general physical examination that includes the COVID-19 test
  - ARV treatment supply
  - Condom supply
  - Nutritional support
- Ensure the individual gets *enough supply of ARV treatment* and a proper follow-up for the rest of the migration route: according to the document “Guidelines for the Implementation of Multi- month Dispensing of Antiretrovirals”, a prescription of at least 3 months of ARV treatment is recommended.



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## If they disclose that they are living with HIV or that they were *recently diagnosed* and are receiving treatment:

- Respect the *confidentiality* principle.
- Immediately link the person to *health care services* to comply with the following protocol:
  - Viral load test
  - Review of the current treatment regimen
  - A general physical examination that includes the COVID-19 test
  - ARV treatment supply according to their current treatment
  - Condom supply
  - Nutritional support
- Ensure the individual gets *enough supply of ARV treatment* and a proper follow-up for the rest of the migration route: according to the document “Guidelines for the Implementation of Multi- month Dispensing of Antiretrovirals”, a prescription of at least 3 months of ARV treatment is recommended.



## If they are pregnant:

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- Respect the **confidentiality** principle.
- Immediately link the person to **health care services** to comply with the following protocol:
  - Confirmatory test for HIV
  - Viral load test
  - Counseling
  - Prenatal care
  - A general physical examination that includes the COVID-19 test
  - Provide them with an ARV treatment supply suitable to their status
  - Ensure the individual gets enough supply of ARV treatment, a proper follow-up for the rest of the migration route, and baby formula
  - Nutritional support



# THANKS!

If you need more information, please contact:

**Adriana Ponte/ HIV Response to migrants and refugees**



[pontead@unaids.org](mailto:pontead@unaids.org)