

NICARAGUA 2022

Summary of the Joint Programme's support to the national HIV response in 2022



In Nicaragua, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services, including viral load testing among pregnant women living with HIV significantly improved thanks to the Joint Team's financial and technical support in 2022. This included the 16 526 dual HIV/syphilis rapid diagnostic tests donated to 17 Local System of Integrated Assistance in Health (SILAIS) in priority territories; 342 healthcare providers trained on the delivery of PMTCT service; effective monitoring and follow up of people living with HIV, especially pregnant women, children and adolescents living with HIV and HIV-exposed children in 112 clinics nationwide as well as support to sample transportation from the North Caribbean Coast (UNICEF). Additionally, 117 mothers, fathers, children and adolescents living with or affected by HIV improved their knowledge of antiretroviral treatment, adherence and self-esteem through five monthly workshops held at the Hospital La Mascota (UNFPA).

The Government approved standard operating procedures for the delivery of comprehensive health care for adolescents, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health, which are implemented in 54 municipal health units and the comprehensive adolescent care clinic at the Bertha Calderón Roque Hospital. Adolescent forums led by trained adolescent leaders galvanized a total of

1526 adolescent and young people from 18 SILAIS and 20 prioritized municipalities, including rural areas to promote prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, stigma reduction, self-care and positive living. Information materials on the same topics were also distributed during these events to reinforce knowledge (UNFPA).

Twenty female sex workers strengthened their knowledge of HIV, STI and gender-based violence prevention through information sessions and were oriented on the access to HIV services, including HIV self-testing and condoms. More than 291 000 male condoms were distributed to people from key populations in four SILAIS with highest density of population and HIV burden—Chinandega, Managua, Masaya and Matagalpa (UNFPA).

The completion of size estimation and HIV prevalence studies among key populations, and the National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA) in 2022, will be critical in the tailoring of effective interventions, policy making and resource allocation to address gaps in the HIV response in light of the development of a new National Strategic Plan, expected in 2024.

KEY RESULTS

- Supported implementation of the newly approved standard on the delivery of comprehensive health care for key populations and youth.
- Strengthened PMTCT services through capacity building, procurement of HIV/syphilis tests, and support to sample transportation.
- Guided prioritization of over \$9 million from the Global Fund for 2022-2024 to scale up HIV services in the country.

Joint UN
Team on
AIDS

UNICEF
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2022 Joint Programme
Expenditure
Total US\$ 154 538

2022 expenditure data
available at the time of
the update (August 2023)

