Continuity of HIV Care in the Presence of COVID-19

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HIV Care at a time of Crisis
Experiences from AHF Africa Programs
## Regional data: HIV Data for Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Adults &amp; Children living with HIV</th>
<th>Adults &amp; Children newly infected with HIV</th>
<th>Adult and child deaths due to AIDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East and Southern Africa</td>
<td>20.6 Million (18.2-23.2 million)</td>
<td>800,000 (620,000 – 1 million)</td>
<td>310,000 (230,000 – 400,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>5 million (4.0 – 6.3 million)</td>
<td>280,000 (180,000 – 420,000)</td>
<td>160,000 (110,000 – 230,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>240,000 (160,000 – 390,000)</td>
<td>20,000 (8,500 – 40,000)</td>
<td>8,400 (4,800 – 14,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimates</td>
<td>25.84 Million</td>
<td>1.1 Million</td>
<td>478,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 56% of global HIV disease burden
- 61% of new infections are in Sub-Saharan Africa
- About 13.8 million PHAs accessing ART

Source: UNAIDS 2019 Data report
1\textsuperscript{st} confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported in Egypt on 15\textsuperscript{th} Feb 2019

May 6\textsuperscript{th} 2020:

- 49,352 Confirmed cases
- 16,315 recoveries
- 1,959 Deaths
- 53/55 countries impacted (Lesotho & Western Sahara no cases reported)

Source: Africa CDC: https://africacdc.org/covid-19/
13 Countries of Operation; 668,763 HIV patients in Care
Challenges: COVID 19 pandemic & HIV Care

Challenges in ART clinics:
1. Large volume clinics with high attendance
2. Lack of adherence to appointment times
3. Over crowding
4. Limited space for clinical care vis-a-vie patient volumes
5. Staffing challenges
6. Shortages of PPEs
7. Curtailed provision of other services—monitoring tests, linkage, psychosocial support, HIV testing
# Patients Scheduled for the Month of April 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06th April 2020-Monday</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07th April 2020-Tuesday</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08th April 2020-Wednesday</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09th April 2020-Thursday</td>
<td>652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th April 2020-Friday</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th April 2020-Monday</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st April 2020-Tuesday</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd April 2020-Wednesday</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd April 2020-Thursday</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th April 2020-Friday</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overcrowding: Majority of clients arrive at the clinic before 11 am leading to overcrowding.
Due for VIRAL LOAD Vs VIRAL LOADs Done

- Number Due for VL
- Number Done

January: 1858, 1832
February: 1143, 1386
March: 3460, 2780
April: 2287
May: 3014
Aims:
1. Patient safety
2. Access and availability of sufficient ARV doses
3. Staff safety and knowledge
4. Enhance community knowledge on COVID
5. Harness past experience dealing with Ebola to shape the emergency response
Emergency response

Preparation
1. Patient centred response
2. Enhanced communication & Information sharing:
   - Emergency response plans
   - Lean communication tree
   - Technology to aide response

Response
1. Emergency response teams
2. Intercountry & Interdepartmental collaboration
3. PPE procurement
4. Staff education on COVID
5. Multi-month dispensing of ARVs
6. Addressing food insecurity
Emergency response

• Implementation of Infection control procedures:
  • hand washing
  • wearing masks
  • physical distancing at facility level

• Home delivery of meds
• Multi month prescriptions 3 – 6 months
• Information sharing – WhatsApp
• Online E-health education for staff
• Procurements of PPEs and support between countries
Patient Safety – Physical distancing

COVID-19 preventive measures at Ithembalabantu clinic – AHF South Africa
Home delivery of ARVs

My treatment for 3 months delivered thanks so @AHFUganda and @SafeBoda don’t miss your treatment keep good adherence to achieve undetectable viral load to end new infections #UequalsU @BR999

Kweeta @KweetaUganda · 8h
Simon Bukenya has become a household name among people living with HIV/Aids. He is the reason they can continue taking their Anti-retroviral (ARVs) drugs without any interruption or fear of missing out on their next refill under #COVID19 lockdown in Uganda stories4humanrights.com/in-uganda-volu...
Recovery:
Goals:
1. Protect and Preserve: Safety for patients and HWs at all times
2. Adapt efficient modes of delivering ARVs closer to communities:
   - Automated Machine dispensing of ARVs
   - Enhanced ARV distribution channels e.g community pharmacies,
   - home delivery networks e.g CAGs, motorcycle/ bicycle deliveries

Mitigation:
Advocacy : Global support for a Global Public Health Convention
Ongoing challenges

Patient and Facility level:

- Insufficient stocks of PPES
- Invalid phone contacts, addresses
- Insufficient ARV stocks due to lockdowns in China & India
- Misinformation about COVID
- Food insecurity
- Lack of community level support due to lockdown
- Stigma and discrimination
- Loss to follow up
- Lack of transport due to lockdowns