

EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Number of PWID: 80,000 (National Drug Use Survey, 2021); 326,100 (UNAIDS, 2021).
- HIV prevalence among PWID: 10.9% (National strategic Plan 2022).
- HCV and HBV prevalence among PWID: HCV prevalence is 3.3% among PWID and 3.9 among women (National Drug Use Survey, 2021). HBV prevalence is 7.8% among PWID and 7.4 among women (National Drug Use Survey, 2021).
- Number of needle and syringe services and number of clients: A pilot NPS was initiated in September 2020.

CHALLENGES

1. Criminalization of PWUD.
2. Stigma and discrimination against PWUD, including those living with HIV.
3. Inadequate access to treatment among people with SUDs.
4. Lack of political will for providing treatment facilities for PWUD.
5. Inadequate political and legislative framework for harm reduction implementation as punitive laws still exist that criminalises drug use in Nigeria.
6. Inadequate financial and human resources for harm reduction.
7. Outdated research, weak data management system especially for harm reduction.
8. Poor data collection system for monitoring the accessibility of services and treatment of people with SUDs.
9. Lack of policy documents for quality HIV prevention and treatment among people in custodial centres in Nigeria.
10. Lack of integration between health facilities in custodial centres and the public health system.

PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS

1. Harm reduction in Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT), Community distribution of Naloxone and Needle Syringe Programme.
2. Policy influencing and legislative hearings on harm reduction.
3. Improving data management by strengthening data collection, collation, analysis and use for decision making.
4. Provide research such as Drug Use Survey, Prison Index Study, Substance Use Categorization Study in Nigerian Prisons etc.
5. Capacity Building for the drug use community as well as national and sub-national officers within the harm reduction space in Nigeria.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

- 1 As issues arise, ongoing advocacy visits to top management staff of government agencies and parastatals, as well as civil society organizations, on the development of targeted HIV interventions catering to the needs of PWUD and people in prisons.
- 2 Support the HIV harm reduction technical working group meetings.
- 3 Participation in the national prevention technical working group meeting, where UNODC chaired the Key Populations sub-committee, which included PWIDs and People in Prisons, contributed to the next steps for HIV prevention and care, a review of the status of work covering Southwest states, including AYP/AGYW, Key Populations-specific HIV prevention data, and the identification of priorities for the next quarter of 2021.
- 4 Participation in the review of the National Strategic Plan for Viral Hepatitis in Nigeria where UNODC contributed to the development of sections on Institutional and Regulatory Framework, National Policy, Legislations and Guidelines, International Policies and Guidelines, and Operationalizing the strategies at the state and lower levels amongst others. UNODC also led a group that worked on “Strategic direction 4: Engage, empower communities and civil society”.
- 5 UNODC implemented a project – “Strengthening the capacity of the Nigerian Correctional Service to rehabilitate and reintegrate people in prison held for an alleged association with Boko Haram” funded by the German government. The main objectives of the project were to: 1) Strengthen core prison management practices related to security, safety and humane treatment; 2) Enhance the access of people in prison to education and vocational training and other constructive activities; and 3) Further support the well-being of people in prison through the provision of spiritual and psych-social care.
- 6 UNODC participated in a mission to provide oversight to data collection process for the National Situation and Needs Assessment of Women's Health in Nigeria at Port Harcourt Maximum Custodial Centre in Nigeria.
- 7 The creation of KP subcommittees in the relevant TWGs at national and sub-national levels have made for a greater and more meaningful participation of PWUD and people in prisons in HIV related planning, monitoring and evaluation.