



UNAIDS



Biennial report for
UN Joint Programme on
AIDS in *China*



List of abbreviation	1
Introduction of UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China	3
I. UNAIDS and the UN Joint Programme on AIDS	4
II. Context of HIV epidemic and response in China	7
III. The 2020-2021 UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China	10
Main Achievements	13
I. Prevention of sexual transmission of HIV	14
1. Chinese stakeholders are informed about international guidelines and best practices on HIV combination prevention, including CSE	14
2. NGO/CBO have improved capacity and engagement in HIV prevention project planning and implementing	17
3. HIV prevention strategies for young people, key population and their partners are updated and implemented based on reliable strategic information	20
4. Increased accessibility of comprehensive interventions for key populations and young people	23
II. HIV test, treatment and care	26
1. People have increased up-taking of HIV testing and	



Contents

improved linkage to high-quality care	26
2. Promoted high-quality and affordable treatment regimen for PLHIV in China	27
3. Integrated management of HIV and other health issues such as TB, HCV, cervical cancer, etc.	28
4. Ensured foreign nationals living with HIV to access quality treatment, care and support in China	29
III. Elimination of Mother to Child transmission.....	30
IV. Anti-stigma and discrimination, Gender equality and Human rights	32
1. Anti-stigma and discrimination.....	32
2. Gender equality	37
3. Human rights to full employment, healthcare and legal services.....	37
V. International exchange and south-south cooperation.....	40
1. HIV response.....	40
2. Public health and health commodities.....	42
VI. Contribution to the COVID-19 urgent response	44
VII. Challenges and Lessons Learned	48

List of abbreviation

AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AMA	The African Medicines Agency
ARV /ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAFNGO	China AIDS Fund for Non-governmental organizations
CAITEC	Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation
CALSS	Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security
CASAPC	Chinese Association of STD/AIDS Prevention and Control
CBO (s)	Community-based organization(s)
CCDC	The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China CDC
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DTG	Dolutegravir
eMTCT	Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission
FOCAC	Forum on China–Africa Cooperation
FTC	Emtricitabine
GAM	Global AIDS Monitoring
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDAHOT	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
KOL	Key Opinion Leader
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMD	Multi-month Dispensing
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men

NCAIDS	The National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention
NGO (s)	Non-governmental organization(s)
NHC	The National Health Commission of People's Republic of China
PCB	Programmes Coordinating Board
PLHIV	People living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
SCAWCO	The State Council AIDS Working Committee (Office)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI	Sexual Transmitted Infection
TB	Tuberculosis
TDF	Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDAF	The United Nations Development and Assistant Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN RCO	The United Nations Residential Coordinator Office
UNSDCF	The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNWomen	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
U=U	Undetectable=Untransmittable
WAD	World AIDS Day
WFP	UN World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WNAC	Women's Network Against AIDS in China



Introduction of UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China

Biennial report for UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China (2020-2021)



UNAIDS and the UN Joint Programme on AIDS



The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is a cosponsored programme, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and eleven agencies of the United Nations system (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank). It leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths and works closely with global and national partners in supporting efforts towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Forty years since the first cases of AIDS were identified and twenty-five years since UNAIDS was created, the world has proof of concept that ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 is possible with the knowledge and tools currently in-hand. Much progress has been made among some groups of people and in some parts of the world. A few countries have reached HIV epidemic control, and others are close to doing so. By 2019, more than 40 countries had surpassed or were within reach of the key epidemiological milestone towards ending AIDS. Millions of people living with HIV now enjoy long and healthy lives and the number of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths are on the decline.

Despite the successes, AIDS remains an urgent global crisis. The world did not reach the 2020 Fast-Track prevention and treatment targets committed to in the 2015 UNAIDS Fast-Track Strategy and the 2016 United Nations Political Declaration on Ending AIDS. Most countries and communities are not on-track to end AIDS by 2030. This was true before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the impact of that pandemic is making continued progress against HIV, including the need for more urgent action, more difficult.

To put the world back into the way and accelerate the progress towards the goals of ending AIDS by 2030, the UN General Assembly held its fifth high-level session on HIV and AIDS in June 2021 and adopted UN Political Declaration on AIDS together with the 2021 Global AIDS Strategy. With these two documents, all United Nations leaders committed once again to do far more to prepare for and respond to the dual pandemics in a way that addresses inequalities rather than deepens them.



GLOBAL AIDS STRATEGY 2021-2026

END INEQUALITIES. END AIDS.



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

POLITICAL DECLARATION ON HIV AND AIDS: ENDING INEQUALITIES AND GETTING ON TRACK TO END AIDS BY 2030

Adopted by the General Assembly
on 25 September 2016, at its 71st session,
during its 68th plenary meeting,
on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General
on the progress of the implementation of the
Declaration on HIV and AIDS, 2011-2015, and the
report of the Secretary-General on the progress of the
implementation of the Declaration on HIV and AIDS,
2016-2020, and the report of the Secretary-General
on the progress of the implementation of the Declaration
on HIV and AIDS, 2021-2025.

The Secretary-General
reports on the progress of the
implementation of the Declaration
on HIV and AIDS, 2011-2015,
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on HIV and AIDS, 2021-2025.

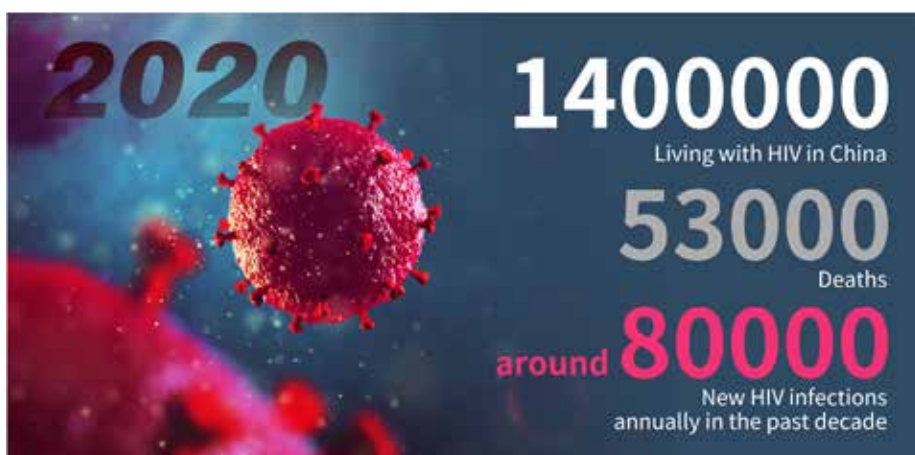
1976/Rev.1/Amend.
9 June 2017





Context of HIV epidemic and response in China

China diagnosed the first AIDS case in 1985 and identified its first domestic HIV epidemic in southwestern borderline areas among people who injecting drugs in 1989. In the past decades, HIV epidemic in China was evolving. According to the latest published information from National Health Commission (NHC), People's Republic of China, there were about 1.40 million living with HIV in China as of 2020, accounting for about 0.1% of its total population. Around 53,000 deaths occurred among HIV infections in 2020 as a direct result of consistently large number of late-stage diagnoses (approx. 35% of newly diagnosed cases during 2015-2020). The estimated number of new HIV infections in the country stood at around 80,000 annually in the past decade.



In the first 10 years of the 21st century, the nature of the HIV epidemic in China has undergone significant changes, with the primary modes of transmission having shifted from injecting drug use and blood product to sexual transmission, which is

now the predominant driver of new HIV infections (>95%). While heterosexual transmission accounts for roughly 75% of HIV infections, the number of infections among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) has also increased markedly over the years, now representing approximately a quarter of all new cases. Overall, males account for a disproportionate number of new infections in China compared with females at a ratio of 3.6 to 1.



The Government of China has shown high political commitment to and great effort in HIV response with the support from international organizations. The State Counsel AIDS Working Committee (SCAWC), chaired by Vice Premier and engaged ministers and governors of key provinces, coordinates national HIV response since 2004. *Four Free One Care* policy since 2004, AIDS Regulation since 2006, four rounds of Five-Year Action Plans on AIDS Response from 2001-2020 and the latest *Implementation Plan to Curb the Spread of HIV/AIDS (2019-2022)* secured continued financial and human resource inputs to HIV response. In 2020, 1.4 billion US dollars were invested to HIV response and 99.9% of them were domestically funded.



Globally, China plays more important roles in global health diplomatic areas. China is the member of UNAIDS PCB since 1996 and chaired the board in 2019. From the aspect of HIV prevention, China is one of the 28 member states of Global HIV Prevention Coalition since 2017. Through the network of UNAIDS and South-South Collaboration platforms, Chinese experience on HIV and COVID-19 response contribute to the global public health visions, including ending AIDS by 2030. China also plays an important role in global health commodity market. Technologies, HIV-related health products, and funds are mobilized from China to support global efforts to end AIDS as a public health threat in a wider context of Universal Health Coverage.



The 2020-2021 UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China

The UN Joint Programme on AIDS entered China since its establishment in 1996 and united the joint efforts from WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, ILO, UNDP, UN Women, UNHCR and the UNAIDS Secretariate in China.



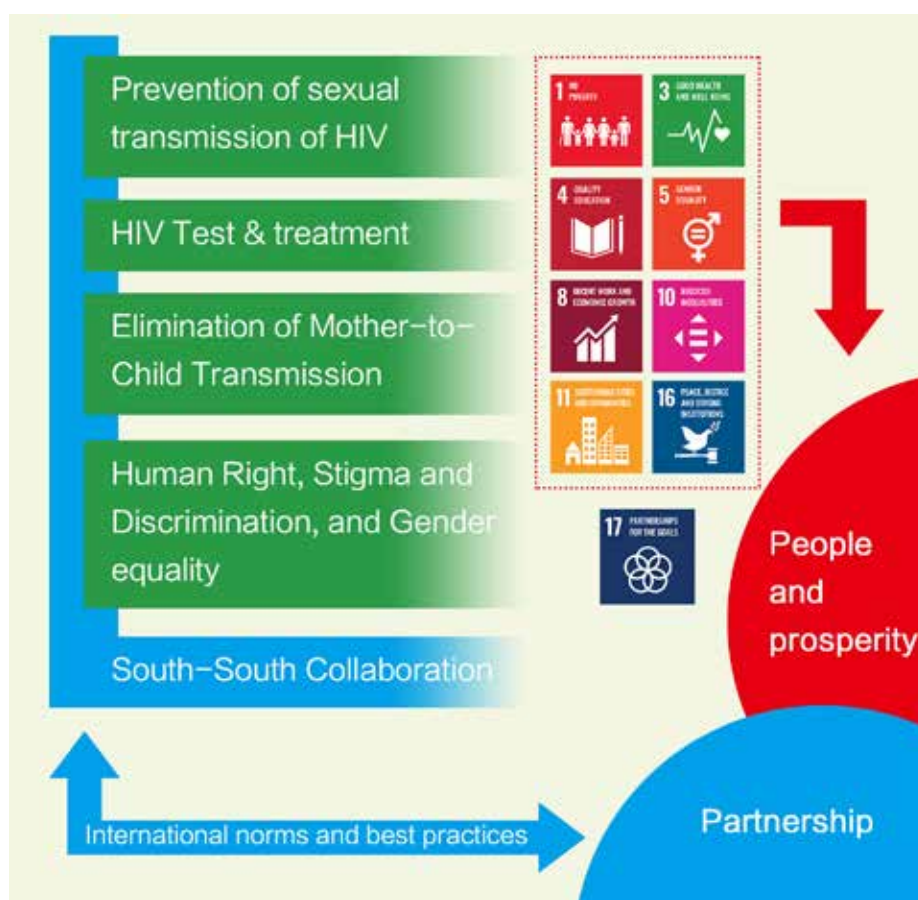
To better support China's HIV epidemic response, the UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China developed its 2020 priorities through a wide consultation process with national partners, based on previous achievements in past decades and in reference to related documents including the *13th Five Year Action Plan on HIV Response (2015-2020)*, the *Implementation Plan for HIV Transmission Prevention (2019-2022)*, the *Global AIDS Strategy (2016-2021)* and *UN Development and Assistance Framework for China (2016-2020)*.

The COVID-19 pandemic started in early 2020 is eroding the achievements of HIV responses globally and locally and affecting the approaches to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. In this context, the *Global AIDS Strategy (2021-2026)* was developed from the lens of addressing inequality. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for China (2021-2025) focuses on fostering high-quality development and international collaboration in three main country priorities – People & Prosperity, Planet and Partnership.

Guided by the above-mentioned instructive frameworks, the 2020-2021 UN Joint Work Plan on AIDS in China were designed

and implemented to ensure that UN agencies in China use their strengths to provide added value to support the national AIDS response in four focus areas in the continuous way during this transition period despite of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

The focus areas as shown in the below table and chart also demonstrated 2020-2021 targets of the UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China and how the Joint Programme contributed to the 2021-2025 UNSDCF.



UN Joint Programme on AIDS contributes to the UNSDCF in China

Focus areas of UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China

Focus Areas	Targets	Contributing Agencies
Prevention of sexual transmission of HIV	Young people, key population and their partners have increased access to HIV combination prevention services, including comprehensive sexuality education	UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, UNAIDS Secretariate
HIV testing and treatment	Children, adolescents, and adults living with HIV have access to HIV test, know their HIV status and are linked to high-quality health services in a timely manner	WHO, UNHCR, UNAIDS Secretariate
Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (eMTCT)	National eMTCT strategy generated and rolled out in the country to reach the goal of eMTCT	UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS Secretariate
Human rights, stigma and discrimination, and gender equality	Policies to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination in employment, educational and health-care settings are aligned to international best standards and practices and capacity of national partners is developed to implement them.	UNDP, ILO, UN Women, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNAIDS Secretariate
South-South cooperation	China's political, technical and financial resources are mobilized to support and benefit from the global efforts to end AIDS as a public health threat.	UNAIDS Secretariate and all agencies



Main Achievements



Prevention of sexual transmission of HIV

With the successful control of HIV transmission via injecting drugs in the past decades, sexual transmission has become the predominant transmission mode for HIV in China. In 2020, more than 95% of newly diagnosed HIV cases were self-reported requiring HIV by sexual contacts.

Together with national partners, UN Joint Programme supported HIV prevention activities at all levels, introduced new HIV prevention strategies to the people in need, shared global guidance and best practices on HIV prevention and comprehensive sexuality education. Main achievements were summarized as below:

Chinese stakeholders are informed about international guidelines and best practices on HIV combination prevention, including CSE

- The Chinese Government and communities participated in the consultation process of developing *2021-2026 Global*



AIDS Strategy.

The Global AIDS Strategy and the new UN Declaration on AIDS were well recognized by Chinese stakeholders and authorities

through UNAIDS presentations at national and subnational platforms, such as National AIDS Conference, Yangtze River Delta Region HIV Prevention Summit, Commemorative Meeting of the 40-year AIDS Response, and various workshops with community groups.



- Stakeholders in National Health Commission (NHC) and National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention (NCAIDS) gained better awareness of PrEP and chem-sex prevention through several regional workshops and community-led research in 2020 and 2021. Meanwhile the demands for PrEP from communities are mobilized through four joint advocacy events supported or convened by UNAIDS and WHO, together with NCAIDS, Chinese Association of STD/AIDS Prevention and Control (AIDS Association) and the communities.
- UNAIDS released a Chinese-language compendium of UN policies and documents on HIV published between 2016 and 2021, synthesizing all major UN annual reports,



thematic reports, and technical guidelines on HIV prevention and control. The compendium provided policy and technical reference and support for people working in the area of HIV response in China.

■ WHO-UNESCO joint initiative of "Making every school a health-

promoting school" was introduced to the Ministry of Education together with two technical documents about the Global Standards and Indicators and Operational Guidance on Health Promoting School.

- Ministry of Education was engaged in joint research organized by UNESCO, UNFPA and IPPF on CSE implementation in Asia-Pacific region. The global report captured two case studies from China and the summary report for the region was translated into Chinese for dissemination.
- More than 200 participants from NGOs, schools, academic institutions and the government have improved awareness and exchanged experience on promoting school-based CSE in light of the current policy and social environment, through a multi-stakeholder CSE conference supported by UNESCO and UNAIDS in Xi'an.



NGO/CBO have improved capacity and engagement in HIV prevention project planning and implementing

- UNAIDS has strengthened the collaboration with China AIDS Fund for NGOs (CAFNGO), the largest CBO fund management platform in 2020 and 2021:

As a member of the advisory committee, UNAIDS provided technical support to CAFNGO on project implementation and evaluation, best practice documentation, fund raising, advocacy and international communication and HIV response experience exchange.

CAFNGO managed to earmark CNY 100 million to support 980 CBO-led HIV prevention, treatment and care projects 2021-2022 and about 300,000 people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV benefit from these projects annually.

CAFNGO conducted a survey in May and June of 2020 among 971 CBOs to understand the status and challenges of CBO-led HIV services during COVID-19 pandemic, with support of UNAIDS.

- UNAIDS supported China Foundation for STD and HIV Prevention and BlueD community to organize the 8th Zero AIDS for Youth campaign in November 2021. The event used new approaches such as live streaming on social media to attract young audience. The internet-based



HIV combination prevention services awareness was widely promoted among young people and key populations.

- UNAIDS supported CBOs to organize two workshops in 2021 on internet-based HIV services and community legal support in southwest and northeast China. More than 100 CBOs participated in the workshops and their knowledge and capabilities were improved.



- UNAIDS cooperated with Beijing Love Without Borders to organize workshop on U=U knowledge sharing in Beijing in 2020. More than 70 community partners attended this workshop and shared the challenges and lessons-learned in providing HIV services during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Over 90 HIV-related community organizations from across the country improved their understanding about HIV prevention, CSE and legal advocacy through the 2021 HIV/AIDS Law



and Human Rights Workshop co-organized by Beijing Love Without Borders Foundation, UNAIDS, UNDP and UNESCO in November 2021.

- 50 low-income people living with HIV from Sichuan and Yunnan provinces have increased knowledge and skills to deal with the challenges for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and discrimination during employment through two capacity-building workshops co-organized by ILO, UN WOMEN and UNAIDS in June and September 2021.
- Jointly with UNDP, UNAIDS facilitated CBO partners to join Global Dialogue on Strategies for Strengthening Civic Space and Civil Society Engagement in HIV response. And one of China CBOs shared experience in the meeting.
- In 2021, UNAIDS strengthened the cooperation with Tibet



AIDS Association by providing technical support, exchanging experience and generating advocacy products on HIV response in Tibet area.

HIV prevention strategies for young people, key population and their partners are updated and implemented based on reliable strategic information

- China's efforts on HIV response were well monitored with the support from UNAIDS and shared with other developing countries through UNAIDS platforms such as Global AIDS Monitoring, Global HIV Prevention Coalition, Asia and Pacific HIV Data Hub, etc. Strategic information was developed by UNAIDS with these up-to-date HIV data and shared with national partners and UN agencies for programme planning, implementing and M&E.
- HIV prevention data and China's status on implementing HIV Global Prevention Coalition 2020 Road Map 10 action points were validated and updated with the joint efforts from UNAIDS, UNFPA and national partners in 2020 and 2021. China's comments and recommendations contributed to the development of 2025 Prevention Roadmap in 2021.
- 40 HIV experts from NCAIDS and local CDCs, including Health Department of Hong Kong SAR, have better

understanding on the estimation method and improved capacity to conduct HIV epidemic estimation through a four-day workshop organized by UNAIDS in January 2021. The estimation results have contributed to the global AIDS updates through GAM in 2020 and 2021.

- HIV prevention information for female sex workers, MSM and people who use drugs in Yunnan was used to pilot the HIV prevention cascades, which contributes to the development of *HIV Prevention Cascade Guidance* of UNAIDS.
- Strategic information has been generated and disseminated to promote public health approach to PrEP implementation and expansion in China, including on the cost-effectiveness and budgetary impact of in China as well as the needs, barriers and recommendations for PrEP roll-out in China through community-led study. The findings will inform WHO China Office strategy in coming years to support China to scale up PrEP to reduce new infections. In addition, through the engagement of various stakeholders, awareness and demands for PrEP from communities have been raised and mobilized.
- Status of internet-based combination HIV prevention for key populations was mapped with the joint efforts from UNAIDS and BlueD in 2021, followed by recommendations and suggestions on how to further promote HIV prevention information dissemination through digital-based platforms. The study report also contributed to a broader review of internet-based HIV prevention intervention status in Asia-

Pacific region led by UNAIDS Regional Support Team at Asia Pacific Region.

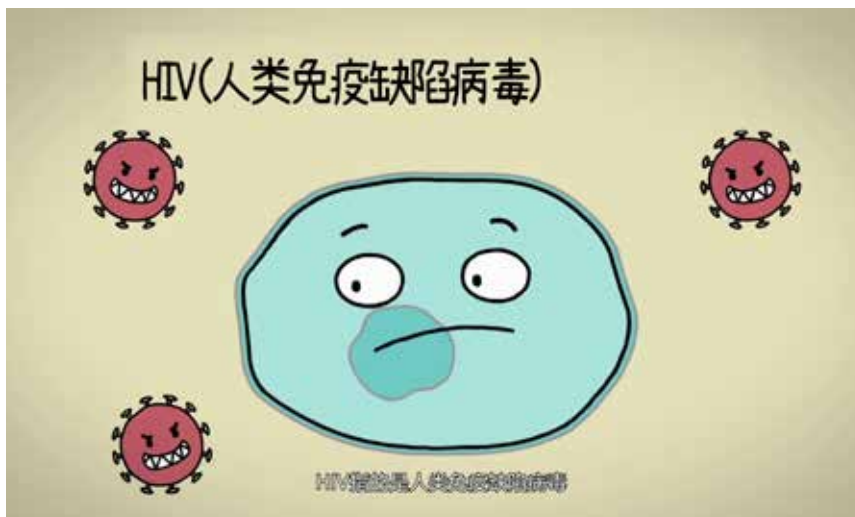
- The CSE Technical Guideline has been finalized according to the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education in line with China's context by a group of national CSE experts under UNFPA and UNESCO's support in 2018-2021. The Guideline will serve as a reference source for policymakers, CSE practitioners, young people, and the general public in designing, implementing, and monitoring scientific, gender-responsible, culturally-sensitive, and age-appropriate sexuality education for children and young people of all ages.
- The delivery of "sexuality education" has been officially written into the *Law of the P.R.C on the Protection of Minors*, which was passed in 2020 and has taken into effect in June 2021. UNFPA joined the consultation meeting hosted by the National People's Congress Department of Legal Affairs, and provided written comments to promote Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and the delivery of CSE for adolescents and youth, including to improve their knowledge on preventing sexually transmitted diseases.
- On November 9th, 2021, the Ministry of Education published two letters about its strategies and actions in promoting SRH, including HIV prevention for adolescents and youth, and acknowledged UNFPA's important contribution in addressing ASRH education and youth-friendly services.

Increased accessibility of comprehensive interventions for key populations and young people

- National Medical Products Administration approved FTC/TDF's indication for PrEP use in China in August of 2020, as the results of years of advocacy from WHO and UNAIDS.
- UNAIDS and WHO provided technical support to AIDS Association to form Technical Committee of PrEP and PEP, which will play an important role in PrEP promotion from the aspect of clinical management.
- WHO provided technical support to AIDS Association to establish Technical Committee on New Media and Digital Technology in HIV Response. WHO guidelines, global good practices and considerations in using digital tools in HIV testing, prevention, PLHIV treatment and care were shared.
- WHO provided technical and financial support to NCAIDS to implement the project of *Social media-based interventions among key populations in China*. The main outcomes include: an internet-based self-risk assessment tool was developed and used nationwide in 2021; a series of cartoons on *HIV prevention among college students* was produced and published social media platforms of NCAIDS, selected provinces and universities with the total page views topping 10,000; a short video on HIV situation, prevention and testing was developed and broadcasted on *Fanka (MSM app)* and *TikTok* with more than 10,0000 views.
- 1,200 transgender women and male sex workers in

Shanghai and neighbouring areas have benefited from a three-year UNAIDS project supported by MAC Fund, with their knowledge of HIV prevention increased and access to HIV prevention and healthcare services improved through harmonized working and referral mechanisms between hospitals, CDC and communities.

- Through an agreement with AMAZE, UNESCO adopted short videos on CSE into Chinese, and disseminated them via popular video platforms such as Bilibili and Baidu and received nearly 1 million views in less than 6 months in 2021. UNAIDS also supported the dissemination by posting the videos on its Weibo account and the video on HIV has been viewed over 6,200 times. China Family Planning Association have also selected 32 videos to share in their own network and social media platforms to support their adolescent and parents SRH training programme. 24 videos were adopted into sign language will be used to benefit children and adolescents with disabilities.



- Through partnership with education department in Chongqing Municipality and local CSOs, UNESCO supported 16 CSE training workshops for over 500 school principals and teachers as well as social workers from



different provinces and supported them to deliver 1,552 CSE lessons with a total student attendance of 104,287, directly benefiting at least 20,000 students.

- More than 2,000 middle school students aged 13-15 from Qinghai, Sichuan, and Yunnan provinces in China received an eight-session CSE course through live streaming in 2020 developed by UNFPA and Marie Stopes International China. The concepts of STI/HIV prevention and treatment and PLHIV support have been integrated into the course. The course was developed in line with the *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education*,



with support of the UNFPA Innovation Fund, the Government of Denmark, and the China Family Planning Association.



HIV test, treatment and care

HIV test and treatment is one of the main priorities for HIV response in China since early 2000s. About 280 million HIV tests were conducted nationwide in 2020, which helped China to stand at about 75-93-96 against the 90-90-90 HIV test and treatment targets, i.e. about 69% of all people living with HIV have received lifesaving treatment and had no risk of HIV transmission.

UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China supported China's HIV testing and treatment efforts in several ways:

People have increased up-taking of HIV testing and improved linkage to high-quality care

- WHO's latest guidelines on HIV testing were translated into Chinese and shared with NCAIDS and other partners, contributing to the updated *National Guideline on HIV Testing (2020 edition)*. The Chinese version of WHO HIV Test Service app has been introduced to China.
- Intensive technical support has been provided to NCAIDS and AIDS Association for the establishment of Technical Committee of HIV Testing.
- Technical support provided to NCAIDS led to the development of national technical guidelines on HIV and syphilis testing services for medical institutes with the focus on strengthening dual test of HIV and syphilis in the departments of dermatology, urology and anorectal surgery in hospitals.

- WHO-NCAIDS joint project *Developing and disseminating operational guidance on HIV testing services among people seeking STI services in China* helped develop National Guidelines (trial) on Provider-initiated HIV Testing and Counselling in STD-related Clinics.
- WHO collaborated with KOLs Alistair and Liu Ceng Lou to produce a short advocacy video *I'm getting tested for STIs in China*. The video was watched one million times and received very positive feedback.
- China CDC's annual HIV testing campaigns around World AIDS day were organized with the support from UNAIDS and WHO, engaging government officials, health professionals, CBOs, academia and young people in promoting HIV prevention and testing. Videos of best practices on HIV prevention, testing and eMTCT were produced and translated into English and shared with other countries.

Promoted high-quality and affordable treatment regimen for PLHIV in China

- A community-led study on the needs, barriers, and recommendations for transitioning to DTG-based ART regimens in China has been conducted and the findings will be used to support China to plan and implement the transition process to WHO-recommended ARV regimens to achieve better treatment outcomes and reduce deaths.
- UNAIDS worked with Nantong University to develop and test a pharmacoeconomic model to simulate the

cost-effectiveness of available HIV regimens. Taking the perspectives of the government, PLHIV and healthcare providers, the model aims to build evidence for policy advocacy on providing better drugs for PLHIV in China. The related report will be shared with NHC.

Integrated management of HIV and other health issues such as TB, HCV, cervical cancer, etc.

- WHO facilitated the shaping of national strategies and policies and supported the acceleration of actions to eliminate viral hepatitis. The efforts have been reflected in the National Action Plan on HCV Elimination (2021-2030) released in August 2021. In addition, actions have been taken to use integrated approach to conduct HCV testing and treatment among PLHIV.
- A nationwide referral platform has been built for PLHIV to improve accessibility, availability, and quality of diagnosis, treatment and care for non-AIDS-related conditions, with joint efforts from UNAIDS, Beijing Ditan Hospital, Capital Medical University, and community-based organizations.
- A multidisciplinary study covering more than 4,000 PLHIV in 11 provinces in China was conducted by WHO, UNFPA, ILO, UNWOMEN with the inputs from UNAIDS and UNDP in 2020 and 2021. The findings show the HIV-affected families were at risk of slipping back into poverty caused by catastrophic healthcare expenditure and loss of employment opportunities. The consolidated report with recommendations will be presented to the government and used for policy advocacy

for poverty eradication, social protection, universal health coverage and public health reform.

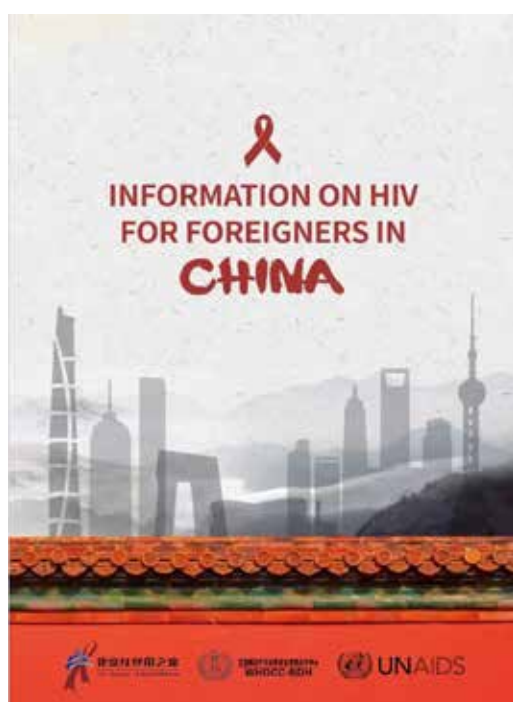
- UNAIDS presented outcomes of HIV and HPV response at the High-level Symposium on Public Health organized by the Chinese Academy of Medical Science. The presentation increased the participants' knowledge and awareness on correlation of HIV and HPV and the importance of elimination of inequality and gender-based violence. Government and university leaders on public health and cervical cancer and more than 10,000 students participated in the event.

Ensured foreign nationals living with HIV to access quality treatment, care and support in China

- Foreigners living with HIV in China received technical and financial support from UNAIDS and CBOs on HIV treatment, healthcare, study, employment and residency in 2020 and 2021, including 24 foreigners who were stranded in China during COVID-19 pandemic.



- Four people referred by UNHCR were diagnosed with HIV and received medication. One of them received 2880 RMB monthly financial assistance from UNHCR for her medication and the other three received free medication.
- Supported by UNAIDS, an overview of how international PLHIV accessing ART in China with recommendations on promoting HIV services was developed by AIDS Care in 2020. It also reflected challenges faced by international PLHIV



in China during COVID-19 pandemic. UNAIDS supported Red Ribbon Center of Beijing Ditan Hospital to produce a brochure to provide HIV test and treatment information for international people living with HIV and improve their access to HIV services in China.



Elimination of Mother-to-Child transmission

China strengthened its efforts in preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B with the

support from UNICEF, WHO and UNAIDS and by engaging the community of women living with HIV. In 2020, the rate of MTCT of HIV in China is estimated to be 3.6%.

The main activities and achievements from UN Joint Programme 2020-2021 are listed as below:

- UNICEF, WHO, and UNAIDS supported the completion of final evaluation of national pilots of triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis. The agencies developed evaluation protocols, paid field visits to Yunnan, Zhejiang, Guangdong and Beijing and provided concrete recommendations to the Department of Mother and Child Health of NHC and related provinces on how to strengthen data system, service provision as well as engagement of community in eMTCT.
- As part of the support for China's national PMTCT agenda, UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO helped NHC to release the *National Working Standards for Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B (2020 edition)* in November 2020.
- The evidences and best practices generated from 2017-2020 NHC-UNICEF Demonstration Project on eMTCT of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B have paved the way for a national action plan to be released in mid-2022 with time-bound targets for nationwide eMTCT validation in China, one of the countries to initiate elimination of the three diseases.

- 28 best practices from the 2017-2020 NHC-UNICEF demonstration project on eMTCT of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B have been identified to support the implementation of China's National eMTCT Action Plan. The achievements, success factors, and considerations of each best practice were documented to support eMTCT scale-up in non-UNICEF project provinces. Three best experiences were presented at the NHC-UNICEF Wrap Up Conference. 11 best practices were documented for international experience sharing through South-South cooperation platform.
- Evaluation tools for human rights, gender equality and community engagement for eMTCT validation were developed by National Center for Women and Child Health (NCWCH) in 2021 to promote meaningful engagement of community in the development of national eMTCT plan.



Anti-stigma and discrimination, Gender equality and Human rights

People living with or affected by HIV are facing persistent social stigma and discrimination and are unequally treated when seeking public services, such as hospitalization, education, employment and legal services, etc.

Together with national partners, UN Joint Programme are dedicated to protecting the rights of people living with or affected by HIV, raising public awareness on human rights,

advocating for a friendly and supportive social environment for HIV and other pandemic response.

■ Anti-stigma and discrimination

Public awareness on human rights, anti-discrimination and gender-based violence is improved as a result of joint campaigns and expanded utilization of multimedia platforms.



■ Online advocacy campaigns were successfully organized on Zero Discrimination Day, Candle-light Memorial Day and IDAHOT to support people living with HIV and LGBT against stigma and to pull through COVID-19 crisis in 2020.

■ Feature stories and videos of HIV test, U=U, anti-discrimination, providing HIV service and living assistance to PLHIV, LGBTI and other key populations under the COVID-19 pandemic were developed and disseminated through UNAIDS and partners' platforms and raised awareness among millions of audiences in 2020.



- Short videos of HoAs and Goodwill Ambassadors of co-sponsor agencies and posters of celebrities were disseminated through a various media platforms or channels around World AIDS Day (WAD) to deliver key messages of the theme of this year's WAD *Global solidarity, Shared responsibility* in 2020.



- An online poster exhibition organized for WAD with the engagement of 11 UN agencies around theme *Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility*. As of December 8th 2020, the hashtag #2020 世界艾滋病日 (# 2020WAD) has received more than 69 million views and 45,000 comments on Weibo.
- Through an online interactive media training workshop co-organized by UNAIDS, SCAWCO, NCAIDS and Kangzhong Health Education Center in November 2021, more than 30 media professionals from major traditional and digital media had better understanding about latest HIV prevention strategies and increased awareness and skills on how to protect the rights of PLHIV and key populations when reporting HIV-related news.



- Three online campaigns were coordinated by UNAIDS with the support from UN Communications Group and co-

sponsors around Zero Discrimination Day, World Health Day, World AIDS Day. Multi-media products were produced and received positive feedback.

- Various communication products including 20 plus videos, 25th anniversary stamp folder, UNAIDS China Office brochure, seven fact sheets on zero discrimination, and more than six feature stories were produced and released in 2021 to support HIV-related campaigns.
- 10 issues of Equal Eyes e-journal supported by UNDP and UNAIDS and 2 features stories produced by UNAIDS, ILO and UNESCO were published and widely circulated on social media in 2021.

道路虽长 行则将至 | 联合国艾滋病规划署成立25周年



ROAD AHEAD IS **LONG** AND HARD. PERSIST, WE WILL BUILD AN AIDS-FREE WORLD

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF  UNAIDS

■ Gender equality

- With the support from UN Women, a CBO network was established in 2020 with two CBOs as the main convener, creating space for regular communication in an effort to end violence against women. In addition, training workshops on enhancing capacity of WLHIV have been organized jointly with the national network.
- As part of the multidisciplinary study on the relationship between HIV and vulnerability, 575 women living with HIV were surveyed. The findings showed clearly that WLHIV had multi-dimensional vulnerabilities, including significantly heavier financial burdens compared to men living with HIV and susceptibility to gender-based violence.
- UN Women partnered with three civil society organizations to conduct workshops and community-based group activities on strengthening both response, prevention, and awareness raising against gender-based violence for WLHIV as well as high risk population.
- UN Women's and UNESCO's online campaign on eliminating sexual violence against women and anti-xenophobia campaign by using UNAIDS experience on anti-discrimination both in 2020 and 2021.

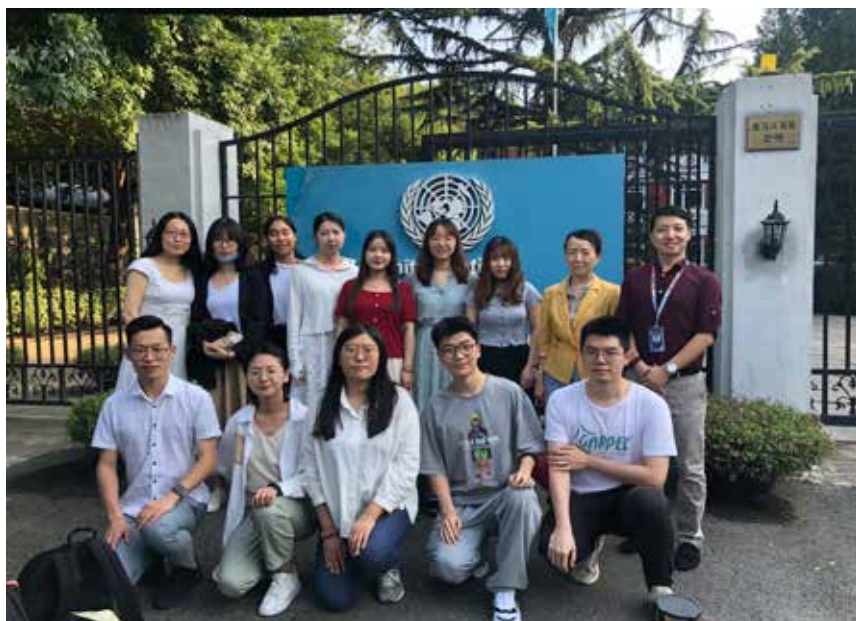
Human rights to full employment, healthcare and legal services

- ILO worked together with Women Network of AIDS in China to produce two videos on PLHIV facing challenges in

employment. Released around 2021 World AIDS Day, the videos were well received by the general public and PLHIV.



- ILO and UNAIDS worked together to publish two articles on HIV and employment discrimination in China. The two pieces advocating changes of attitudes and behaviours of the public toward PLHIV were released on WAD 2021 through The Beijing News (one of the most popular newspapers in China) and reached many readers.
- Forty post-graduate students from Human Rights Center of China University of Political Science and Law have increased awareness on eliminating discrimination on the grounds of Gender, HIV, Disability, Sexual orientation (LGBTIQ+) through round-table discussions supported by ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP and UN Women in 2020 and 2021.



- Working together with UNDP and LGBTIQ+ NGO, ILO developed and piloted the Self-Learning Guide on LGBTIQ+ Inclusion and the World of Work in 10 companies, aiming to eliminate discrimination and violence towards LGBTIQ+ populations. The piloting report has been submitted to ILO HQs to support their finalization of the learning guide.
- Supported by ILO, Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security (CALSS) organized two meetings with big state-owned companies with projects overseas to introduce the International Labour Standards. A preliminary agreement has been reached to integrate International Labour Standards into the companies' training programmes, such as Convention on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation, Recommendation on HIV and AIDS and the World of Work.

- UNDP has supported a series of capacity building workshops covering more than 500 participants including representatives from civil society organizations, individual advocates and expert partners to increase their participation in social dialogue and advocacy with various stakeholders including policy makers and legislators and promote cooperation between them and academia, private sector, health, media, and youth development partners. The organizing partners include national HIV/AIDS advocacy groups such as Love Without Borders and Jingshi Legal Network.
- UNDP continued to promote inclusive and protective policies for PLHIV and LGBTI groups by engaging academia and experts to conduct evidence-based research and analysis. UNDP has supported the publication of several studies including *a Review of Judicial Rulings of LGBTI-related Legal Cases*, *a National Survey on Workplace Inclusion and Diversity in Private Sector*, *Analysis of the Civil Code on LGBTI and HIV-related Issues*. These research findings have provided a basis for advancing inclusive policies for these marginalized populations.

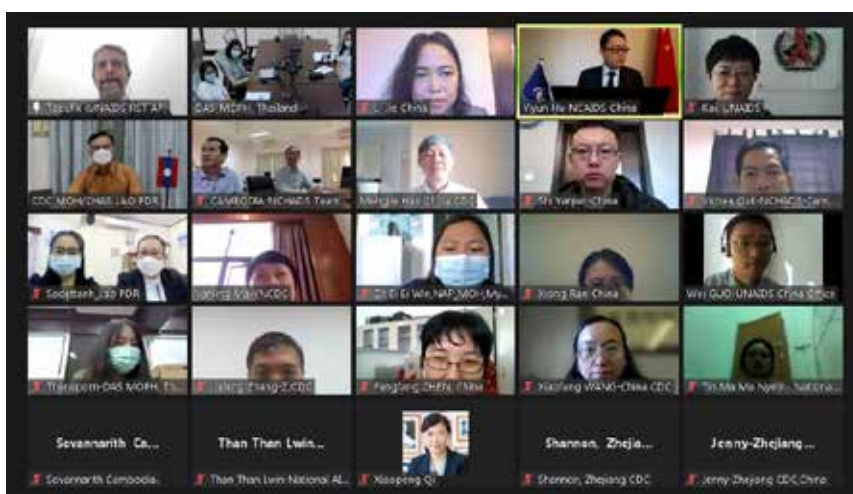


International exchange and South-South Cooperation

■ HIV response

- With support of UNAIDS, the 4th and the 5th Annual South-South Collaboration Workshops on AIDS were organized virtually by NCAIDS in 2020 and

2021 despite of the impact of COVID-19. HIV experts from African and Asian had interactive and in-depth discussions with Chinese colleagues on the lessons and experiences of HIV prevention, testing and treatment during COVID-19 pandemic. China expressed interest in further promoting South-South learning on HIV with support of UNAIDS.



- An online pre-departure training course was developed by China International Travel Health Association with support of UNAIDS and ILO to increase the awareness of Chinese overseas enterprises about HIV knowledge and fair employment, as well as international norms that will guide Chinese business going abroad. The course was launched during the World AIDS Day 2021 at a hybrid online and offline event of Global Healthcare Summit. The event was also supported by the UN Global Compact reflecting the valuable participation of the private sector in achieving SDGs by 2030.



- As members of UN Result Group on Partnership, UNAIDS, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF provided training to Chinese enterprises going abroad to strengthen advocacy for HIV response and corporate social responsibilities.
- UNAIDS shared views and experiences of China's transition from donation recipient country in the AIDS response to become one of the leaders of South-South Cooperation at the Global Development Cooperation in Transition, organized by UNDP and Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC).
- UNAIDS co-organized the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) follow-up discussion on Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, in collaboration with CAITEC and shared China's experience in domestic AIDS response and provided views on how China can contribute to global AIDS response. The event paved the way for future China-Africa health collaboration.

■ Public health and health commodities

- Two international conferences on global health and COVID-19 response were organized by Chinese government in 2020 with support of UNAIDS and other international agencies. Deputy Executive Director's video message on using the experience of HIV response for COVID-19 and promoting people's vaccine has been reported widely by the media and well received by the Chinese government and the Chinese people.
- UNAIDS and the Gates Foundation co-organized a high-



level Dialogue on China-Africa Health Cooperation, supported by the African Union Commission, African Diplomacy and collaboration partners in China. The recommendations generated from the dialogue, such as strengthening collaboration in infectious disease including HIV prevention and control, promoting access to medicines, enhancing drug regulation capacities and accelerating the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) have been well reflected in the outcome documents of the 8th ministerial meeting of FOCAC, including *China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035, Dakar Declaration and Dakar Action Plan*.



Contribution to the COVID-19 urgent response

China reported COVID-19 outbreak in the early 2020 and Wuhan City in Hubei Province was the epidemic centre at that time. The continuation of healthcare services for PLHIV during COVID-19 pandemic was secured with the joint efforts from UN agencies and national partners. Experiences and lessons learned have been documented and shared with other countries for their preparedness.

- A quick assessment on healthcare needs for 1,014 PLHIV was conducted in early February 2020 and another in-depth survey covering more than 5,000 PLHIV across the country was co-organized with Sun Yat-sen University from February to April to understand the status and risks of drug disruption during the outbreak and quick response to

COVID-19. Results from these studies have led to changes in healthcare service approaches and multi-month dispensing (MMD) policy in China.

- With support of UNAIDS Global Center and UNICEF China Office, 5,000 sets of personal protection equipment (PPE) were donated to Hubei CDC and local CBOs to ensure the continuation of HIV treatment and other HIV services in



the epidemic centre. Additional 500 masks and 300 gloves were mobilized and donated to three CBOs working on the frontline of COVID-19 response.

- A hotline was established by a local CBO in Wuhan with support of UNAIDS and it responded to 6,500 phone calls from PLHIV, key populations and general public in Wuhan requesting information and support on HIV, COVID-19 prevention and treatment from February to May of 2020.



- A study report was generated to reflect the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and related regulation policies by

surveying 2,280 PLHIV in China, co-organized by UNAIDS, Sichuan University and China National Health Development Research Center during May and July 2020.

- Drug supply chain status and the implementation of MMD policy reviewed by NCAIDS, NHC and UNAIDS to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 and improve the preparedness for potential new public health emergency.
- About 40 Chinese and foreigners living with HIV being stranded out of their resident cities or countries received free ARV through the joint efforts from UNAIDS country offices in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America.



- Three webinars were organized for more than 350 doctors in three African countries (Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan)

and members of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition to share China's experience on COVID-19 responses.



- Short videos and posters of UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador and other celebrities were developed and disseminated on public platforms to advocate inclusive and non-discriminative environment for HIV and COVID-19 dual pandemic responses with the support from other UN agencies.
- UNAIDS and co-sponsors contributed to the United Nations Residential Coordinator Office (RCO)-led assessment of COVID-19 impact on socio-economic conditions in poor rural areas and generated a synthesis report on social cohesion during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Jointly supported by ILO, NHC, Peking Union Medical College, more than 650 healthcare workers in Hubei Province had better awareness and skills to deal with the hazard of occupational exposure to infectious diseases (HIV,

COVID-19, HBV, etc), discrimination and other risk factors in their daily work through a series of HealthWISE training workshops in 2020 and 2021. Based on these achievements, the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations in Healthcare Settings are under development by NHC.



Challenges and Lessons Learned

- The stigmatization and discrimination of PLHIV and key populations persisted in society, constraining the ability for resource mobilization and the advocacy for human rights on their behalf. However, China initiated an HIV advocacy campaign in five settings (schools, hospitals, workplaces, communities and homes) that should help strengthen HIV prevention and address stigma and discrimination.
- Although new laws had explicitly made it mandatory, the major educational institutions seemed reluctant to adopt concrete measures to implement CSE in schools because it remained controversial. UN joint efforts to continue to support CSE in and out of schools is needed for an increased prevention of HIV and other STI among young people.
- Innovative prevention and treatment measures need to be scaled up. Insufficient coverage of HIV services among key populations and slow up-take of prevention strategy e.g. PrEP, and late diagnosis and out-of-date treatment regimens are still the key challenges.

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