

HIV Situation in Egypt

Egypt like other countries in the MENA region has been one of the low prevalence countries among general population (below 0.1%). However most recently, alarming numbers of new infections has been recorded, putting Egypt in the fourth place in relation to number of new cases in the region, with an increasing trend of new infections among youth. 11,000 are estimated to be living with HIV, 25-30% annual increase in new cases and 76% growing trend since 2010, were reported by the end of 2016.

Egypt’s HIV epidemic is on the rise, at a time where many countries are able to control the spread. **Incorrect information among young people, and a hindering stigma and discrimination remain key challenges**, in addition to the decreased funding especially to prevention.

Treatment and Care:

The Ministry of Health provides treatment to diagnosed cases through 14 treatment facilities distributed over 10 governorates in Egypt.

Gender and Human Rights: Challenges in the HIV response:

Regarding stigma, Stigma Index study conducted in 2013 showed that the stigma associated with HIV status resulted in discrimination against people living with HIV PLHIV in several areas namely; employment, access to housing and healthcare as shown below;

Discriminatory issue	Males	Females
Lost employment	40%	80%
Forced to change residence	20%	21%
Unable to rent residence	55.4%	35.3%
Denied access to health services	51.3%	53.1%

National Response to HIV:

Egypt has launched an ambitious new strategy 2015-2020 adopting global targets in prevention and to reach 90-90-90 treatment targets and 80% prevention coverage by 2020.

Government represented by Ministry of Health’s Program- National AIDS program- works closely with UN agencies, Civil Society and people living with HIV groups.

UNAIDS works in collaboration with other UN agencies through a Joint Programme focused on national priorities and has **four main pillars**:

- ✘ Scaling up prevention efforts to key and vulnerable populations
- ✘ Scale up testing and treatment to reach 90-90-90 targets
- ✘ Enhance the enabling environment while addressing gender and human rights
- ✘ Strengthening coordination mechanisms for better integration and sustainability.