

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND in HIV-RESPONSE



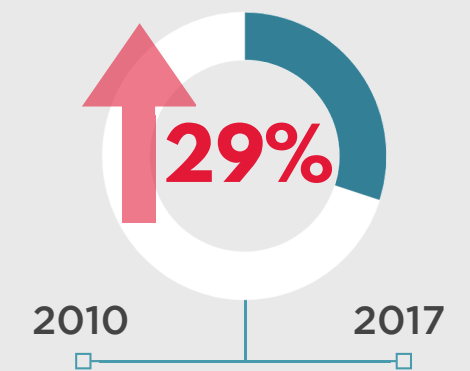
| *in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Unlike the downward trend in new HIV infections globally, Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the only region reporting an increasing drift. Despite recent positive changes such as increased HIV testing coverage, improved access to prevention programmes, and extended protection of vulnerable groups, the HIV prevalence rate and HIV infections in the region remain alarmingly high. More precisely, the number of new HIV

infections increased by almost 30% between 2010 and 2017. As of 2017, the HIV incidence rate has been increasing and the region has the fourth highest number of people living with HIV, with the Russian Federation accounting for 70% of them. Compared to 2014, the HIV prevalence rate of adults aged 15 to 49 rose by 0.2 percentage points, shifting from a 0.6 to a 0.8 HIV prevalence rate in 2017.

NEW HIV-INFECTIONS



Source: UNAIDS 2018 Estimates

2017



130 000
new HIV infections



1.4 million
people living with HIV



4th
highest HIV prevalence rate globally



34 000
number of AIDS-related deaths



36%
people living with HIV receiving ART



130 000
new HIV infections



1.3 million
people living with HIV

2015



37 000
number of AIDS-related deaths



25%
people living with HIV receiving ART

Source: UNAIDS 2018 Estimates

Such a persistently high HIV prevalence rate causes several **spill-over effects**, worsening the living conditions and lowering the social status of **the most vulnerable groups**. Recent evidence and cases have brought to light worrying phenomena such as:



INCREASED VULNERABILITY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, especially **adolescent girls and young women (15-24 years)** who make up **56%** of new HIV infections among all people 15-24 years.



THE FEMINIZATION OF THE EPIDEMIC in the region: the share of women living with HIV is estimated to be at **39%**, and **30%** of new cases are among women (15+) in 2017.

Source: UNAIDS 2018 Estimates, UN Women data 2018

HIV Response

in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

2015

HIV PREVALENCE RATE

2017

0.7 [0.6 - 0.8]
HIV prevalence rate



0.8 [0.7 - 0.9]
HIV prevalence rate



0.8 [0.8 - 0.9]
men aged 15-49



0.9 [0.9 - 1.0]
men aged 15-49



0.5 [0.5 - 0.6]
women aged 15-49



0.6 [0.6 - 0.7]
women aged 15-49



0.2 [0.1 - 0.2]
young men (15-24)

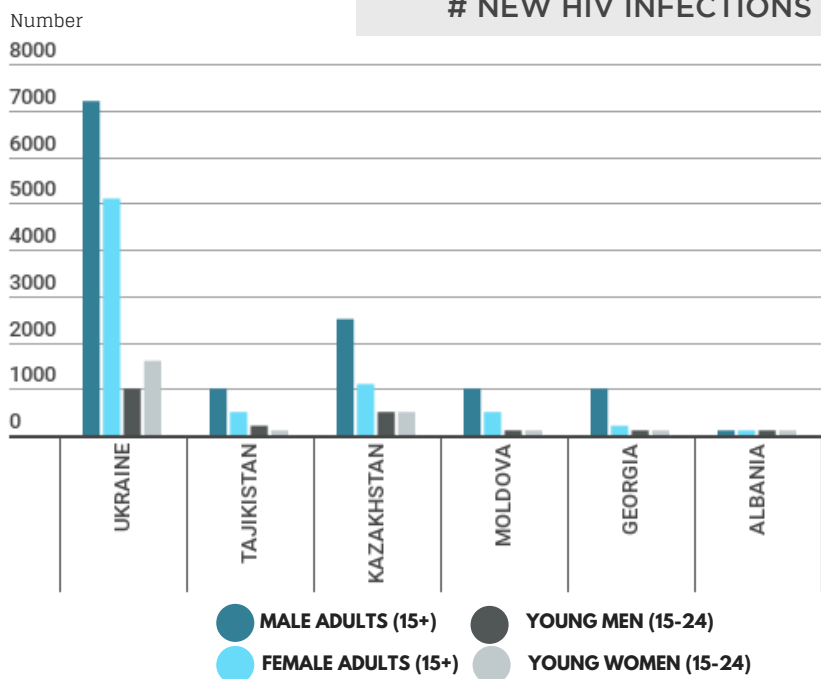


0.2 [0.2 - 0.3]
young women (15-24)

Source: UNAIDS 2018 Estimates

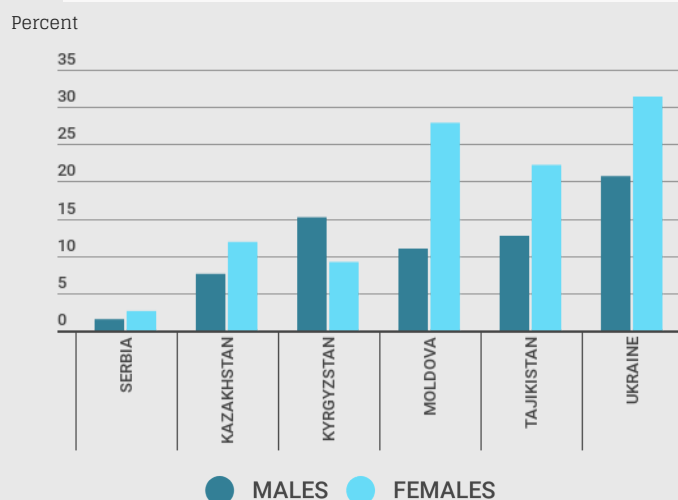
COUNTRY-SPECIFIC DATA (2017)

NEW HIV INFECTIONS



Source: UNAIDS 2018 Estimates

HIV PREVALENCE RATE (%) IN PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS (ADULTS 15-49)



Source: UNAIDS 2018 Estimates

TAJIKISTAN

Case-study: patterns and new trends

15 000 people living with HIV in 2017

23% proportion of women (15+) among new cases in 2017

From 2010 to 2017, the percentage change in new HIV infections was estimated at

-2%

1300

New infections in 2017

The most affected population in 2017 and their HIV prevalence rate:

- PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS** 13.5%
- COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS** 3.5%
- MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN** 2.3%



<100 number of children newly infected with HIV due to mother-to-child transmission in 2016

MAIN DRIVERS

Sources: UNAIDS Estimates, Moscow Conference EECAAC, ILO, Gender analysis of the national policy on HIV and AIDS prevention in the Republic of Tajikistan (2015)



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & STIGMA

Persisting patterns of discrimination, stigmatization, and gender inequality hinder an effective response to HIV. Gender-based violence is a widespread practice in the region, as **one in three women experience violence from their sexual partner**. This doubles the risk of contracting HIV. In addition, due to the intersectional dimensions of HIV, women tend to suffer more from stigma.



DRUG USE

HIV infection prevails among people who inject drugs, and among their sexual partners. **Intravenous drug use accounts for 39% of new HIV infections in 2017**, representing the main form of HIV transmission in the region, where drug trafficking is deep-rooted. In countries such as **Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Serbia, and Ukraine**, female drug users' HIV prevalence rate is dramatically higher than men's.



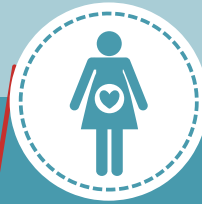
COMMERCIAL SEX

The region displays an increase in the percentage of sexually-related HIV transmission, as **66% of new HIV infections are estimated to be contracted through heterosexual contact**. Female sex workers are the most at risk. As women who use drugs are more likely to become sex workers (62% in **Kyrgyzstan** and 84% in **Azerbaijan**) the phenomenon stands out as particularly pressing.



MIGRATION

Regional cases have shown the possibility of a new pattern of transmission related to the **interconnection of migrants, sex workers, and women**. Evidence suggests that labour migrants tend to be more exposed to the possibility of HIV infection and to spreading the infection in their countries of origin. In **Tajikistan**, 50.4% of women declare to have migrant workers as sexual partners.

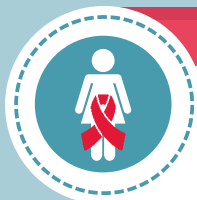


MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION

Vertical HIV transmission can occur from a mother with HIV to the child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding. The prevention of mother-to-child transmission has proven effective in reducing neonatal infections. **Armenia and Belarus have eliminated vertical transmission**, while **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan** have achieved major improvements in the matter.

Source: Moscow Conference EECAAC, UN Women (2012)

RECOMMENDATIONS



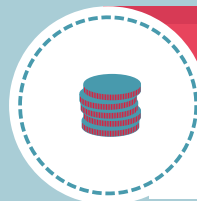
GENDER RESPONSIVE POLICY

States should mainstream gender equality approaches in National HIV Prevention Programmes while fighting women's stigmatization and gender-based violence.



YOUTH-TARGETED ACTION

Adolescents and young people must be provided with sexual education and have access to sexual health services.



SMART BUDGETING

At least 25% of HIV budgets should be dedicated to HIV prevention programmes and to gender-sensitive action.



DELIVERY of HIV SERVICES

Increasing accessibility to HIV services for migrants (especially pregnant women), gay men, and men who have sex with men must be a priority.