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✓ The mid-term review underscores the urgency of intensified efforts to achieve the 95-95-95 goals by 2025.

Recommendations include **community engagement, differentiated testing approaches, and adjustments to the strategic plan.**

BACKGROUND

Our work provides an overview of the mid-term review of Tunisia's HIV National Strategic Plan (NSP) for 2021-2025, focusing on its alignment with global HIV/AIDS mortality reduction targets through the ambitious 95-95-95 objectives. : the progress achieved, lessons learned and key priorities are summarized.

DESCRIPTION

- The mid-term review utilizes 2022 national data from Tunisia's HIV care cascade, assessing key indicators including testing, treatment initiation, retention in care, and viral suppression. The setting, location, structure, and key populations are outlined, emphasizing differentiated approaches and the engagement of community actors in the NSP.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Critical findings reveal challenges in achieving the 95-95-95 goals, notably a 26% ART coverage and gaps in testing.**
- The cascade falls short, particularly among key populations. In fact, according to **the Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance survey** conducted in **Tunisia, 2021** showed a **prevalence of People Living with HIV (PLHIV)**, of **8.2%** among men who have sex with men (**MSM**) and of **11%** among **people who inject drugs**.
- Implementation gaps in differentiated testing approaches hinder targeting effectiveness, and delays in treatment initiation persist.
- The average CD4 count at the initiation of treatment is approximately 300/mm³, indicating a late-stage initiation likely due to delayed diagnosis.
- Among PLHIV on ARV treatment, 37% of the respondents occasionally miss their follow-up medication doses.
- Moreover, **79%** of surveyed **MSM**, **73%** of **transgender individuals**, and **50%** of **people who use drugs** don't adhere to scheduled follow-up appointments for ARV prescription renewal.

LESSONS CONTINUED

- Lessons learned include :
 - ✓ the significance of **community mobilization**
 - ✓ **accelerated treatment initiation**
 - ✓ HIV self-testing introduction, and the urgent launch of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) tailored to the needs of specific key populations.



Source : @CDC_HIV

CONCLUSIONS

- The mid-term review underscores the urgency of intensified efforts to achieve the 95-95-95 goals by 2025.
- Recommendations include **community engagement, differentiated testing approaches, and adjustments to the strategic plan.**
- The findings contribute to the **broader implications for HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support.**
- Strategies for optimized prevention, such as **PrEP expansion**, are vital.

➔ **Overcoming these challenges positions Tunisia to make significant strides in reducing HIV/AIDS-related mortality.**

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Source : DPH South Health District