



Of Pandemics and Wars

Chair:
Clare van Halsema

This educational event is supported by



Of Pandemics and Wars

Sanjay Bhagani

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, UK

Of Pandemics and Wars: Lessons for HIV Care in Europe

Sanjay Bhagani

Royal Free London/UCL

Immediate Past-President EACS



Conflicts of Interest:

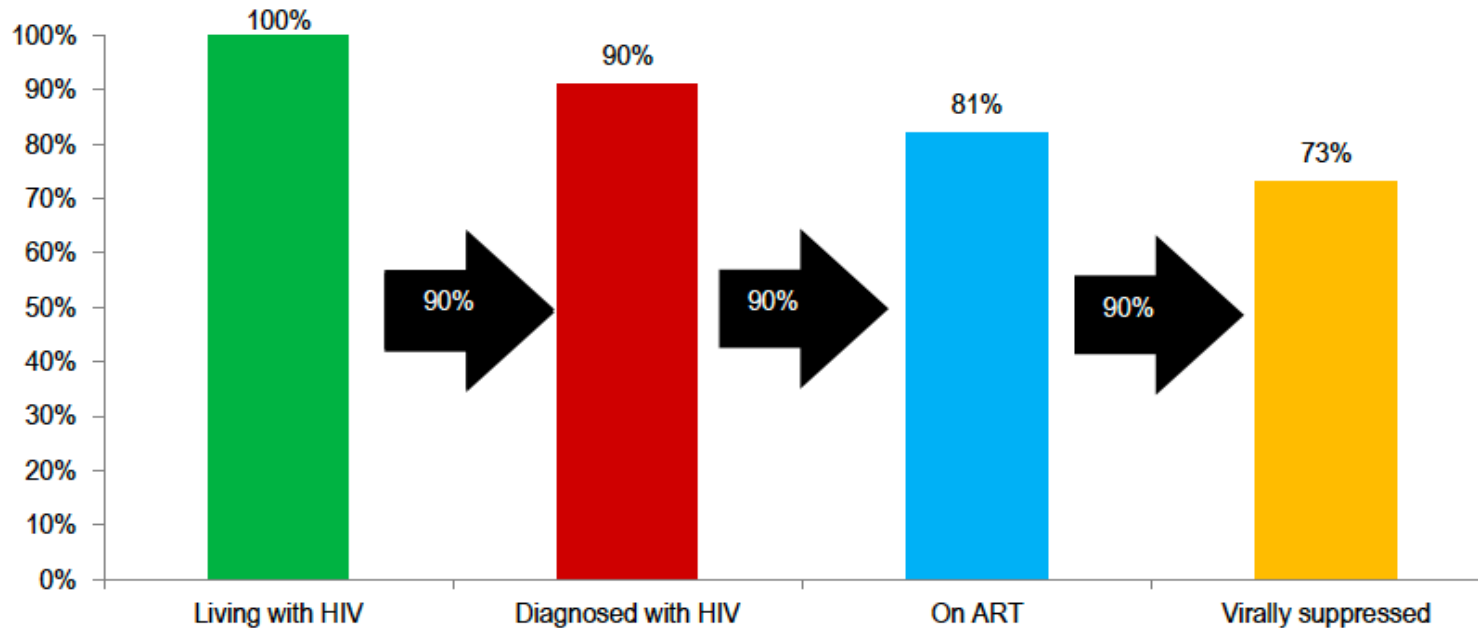
- None for this presentation
- I have received honoraria for educational presentations/advisory boards and research funding (to RFL)
 - Abbvie
 - Gilead
 - MSD
 - Medscape
 - Peerview
 - Pfizer
 - Roche
 - Viiv/GSK

Outline:

- The cascade of HIV care in Europe
- COVID-19
- Invasion of Ukraine
- Mpox
- Future of healthcare for people living with HIV across Europe

UNAIDS targets for 2020

Figure 2. Continuum of HIV care as envisaged by the 90-90-90 UNAIDS targets for 2020



Discrepancies across the region

Figure 5. Percentage of all people living with HIV who know their status in 45 countries of Europe and Central Asia, reported in 2020¹⁸

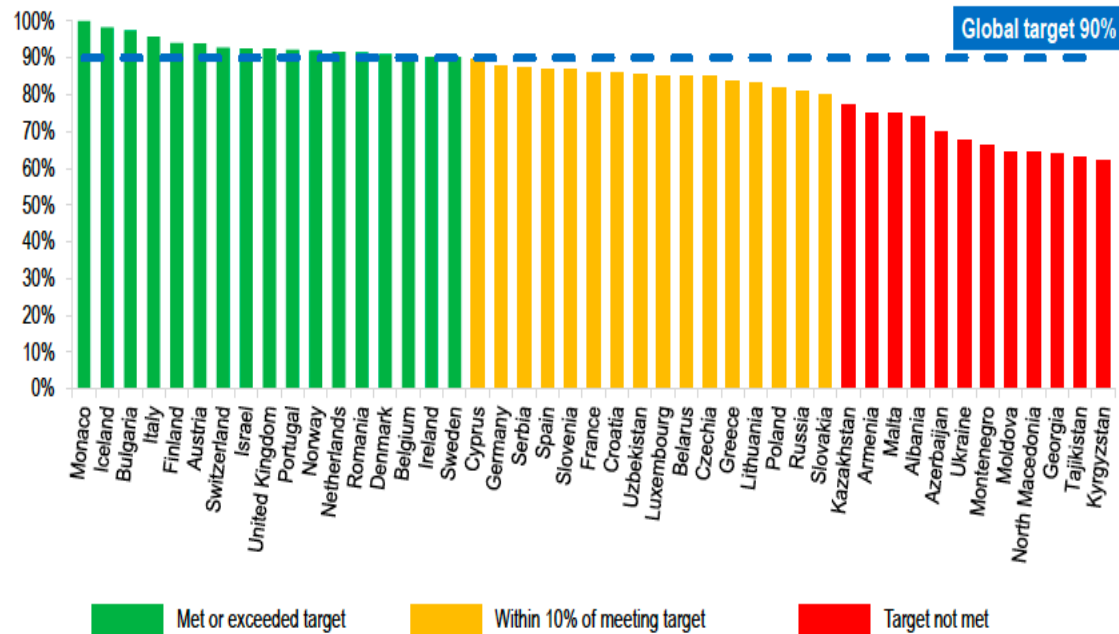
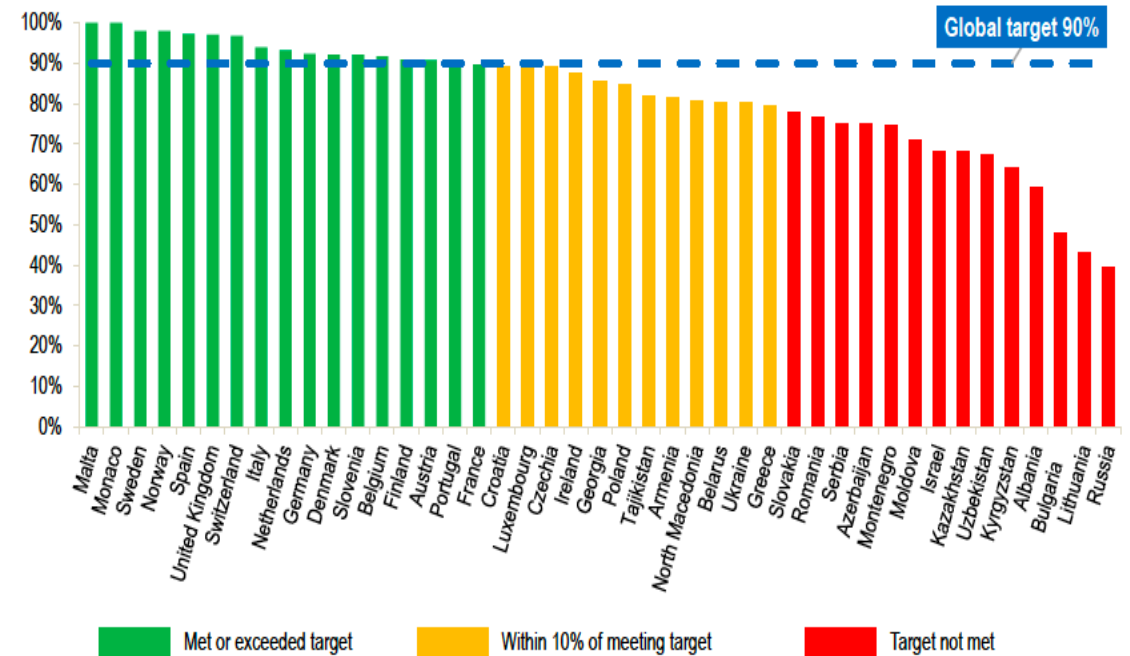
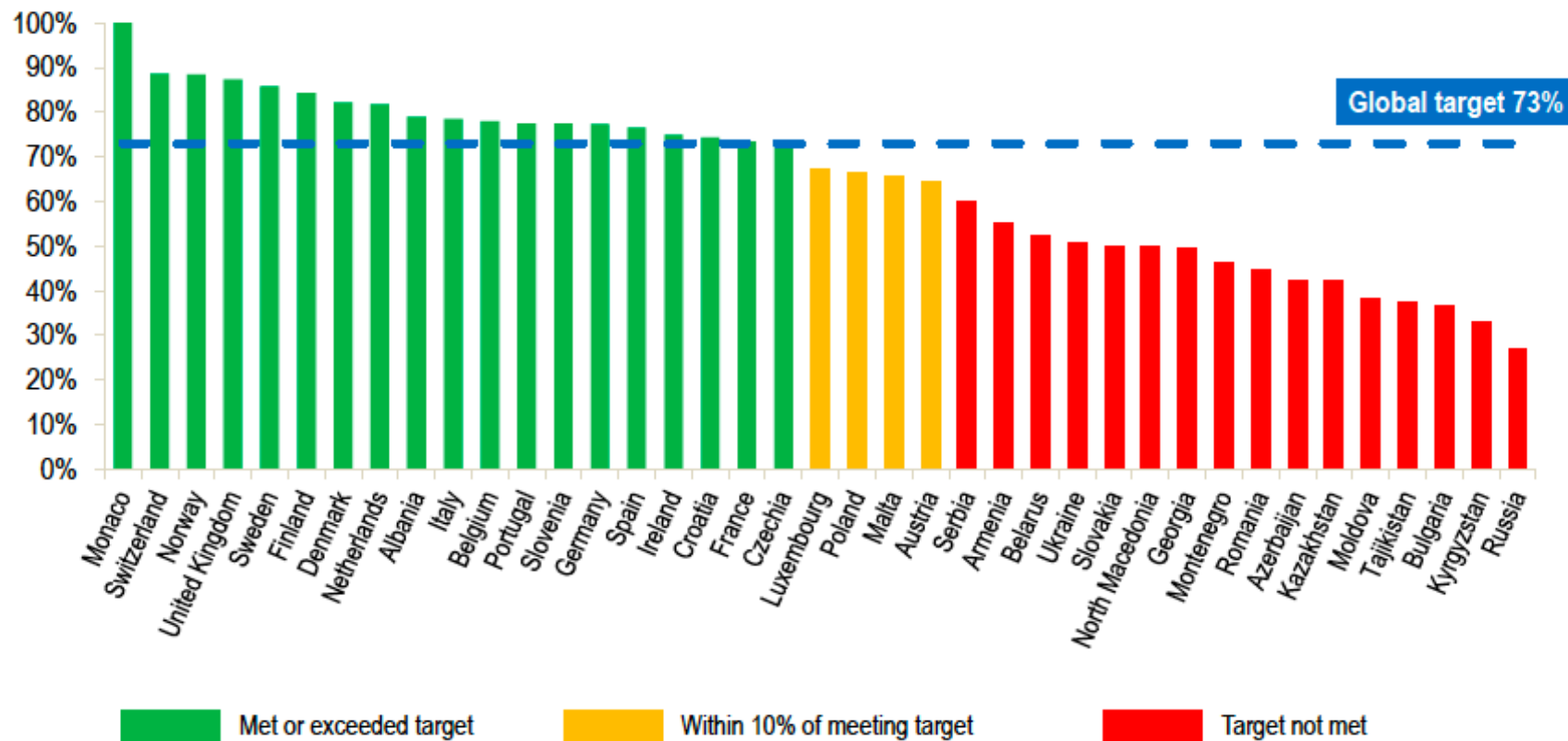


Figure 6. Percentage of all people living with diagnosed HIV who are on treatment for 43 countries of Europe and Central Asia, reported in 2020²⁰



Discrepancies across the region

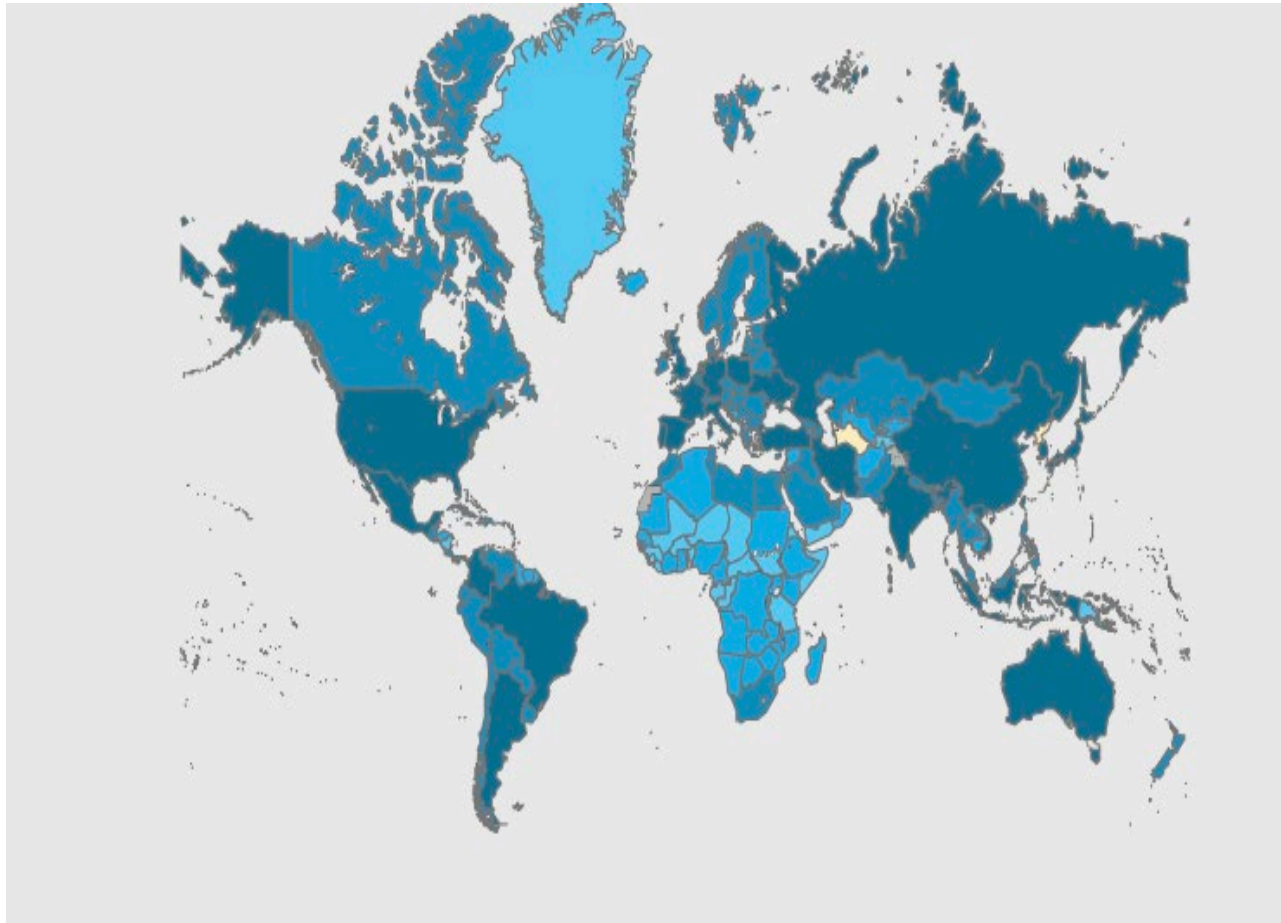
Figure 8. Percentage of all people living with HIV who know their status, are on treatment and are virally suppressed in 40 countries across Europe and Central Asia, reported in 2020²⁴



2020 onwards....unprecedented time Globally (and in Europe)...

- COVID-19
- Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Mpox

Global COVID-19 Deaths: April 2023



- >700 million cases
- >6.5 million deaths
- Every country in every continent affected

<https://covid19.who.int>: accessed April 2023

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HIV services

- Hospitals dedicated to COVID-19 care/clinics shut down
- Healthcare workers re-deployed to COVID-19 care
- 'lockdown', curfew and quarantine measures imposed to limit transmission
- Reduced footfall 'non life-threatening' healthcare services

Major impacts

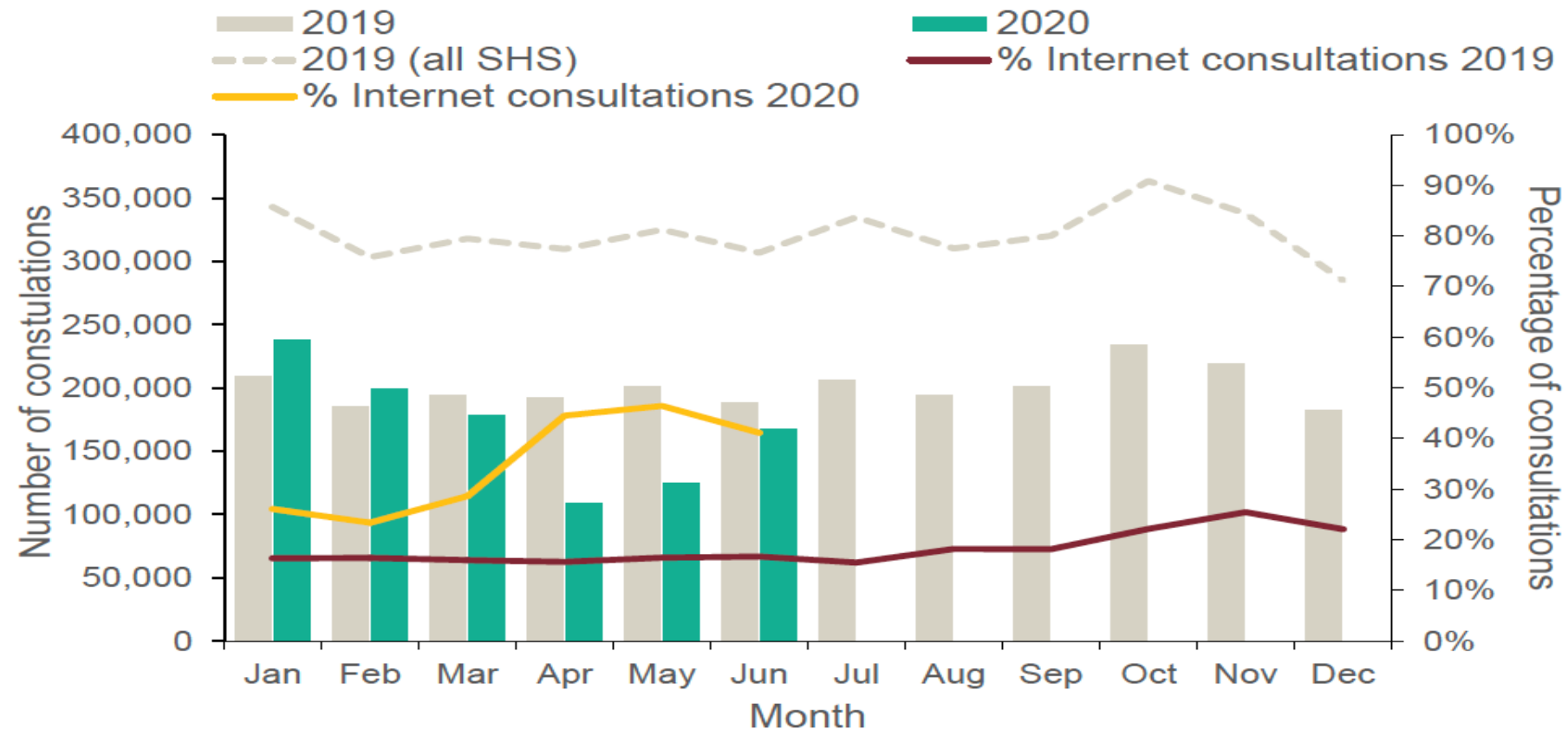
- Pharmacy services
- Testing services/routine monitoring
- Psycho-social support

Not all doom and gloom: adversity creates innovations


- Tele-medicine
- Innovations in drug and service delivery
- Home testing
- Strong healthcare provider/community partnerships

Increase in Internet Consultations Sexual Health Services

Figure 1: Number of consultations undertaken by sexual health services in England and proportion of internet consultations, January 2019 to June 2020



COVID-19 and beyond: virtual consultations in primary care — reflecting on the evidence base for implementation and ensuring reach: commentary article

Freda Mold ¹, Debbie Cooke,¹ Athena Ip,¹ Parijat Roy,² Susan Denton,³ Jo Armes¹

Benefits:

- Increased access
- Reducing time off work (patients and accompanying relatives/friends)
- Better timelines
- Empowerment (increased engagement)

Disadvantages:

- Vulnerable/hard-to-reach groups/socially disadvantaged
- Widening health-inequalities
- Confidentiality and data-security
- Wider psycho-social issues may not be addressed

British HIV Association (BHIVA) guidance for virtual consultations for people with HIV 2021: May 2021

- Patient Choice
- Equity of Access
- Clinical resources and infrastructure
- Privacy, confidentiality and safeguarding
- HIV-specific considerations
- Healthcare relationship
- Clinical Staff Training

UKHSA – HIV testing during the first wave of the COVID pandemic

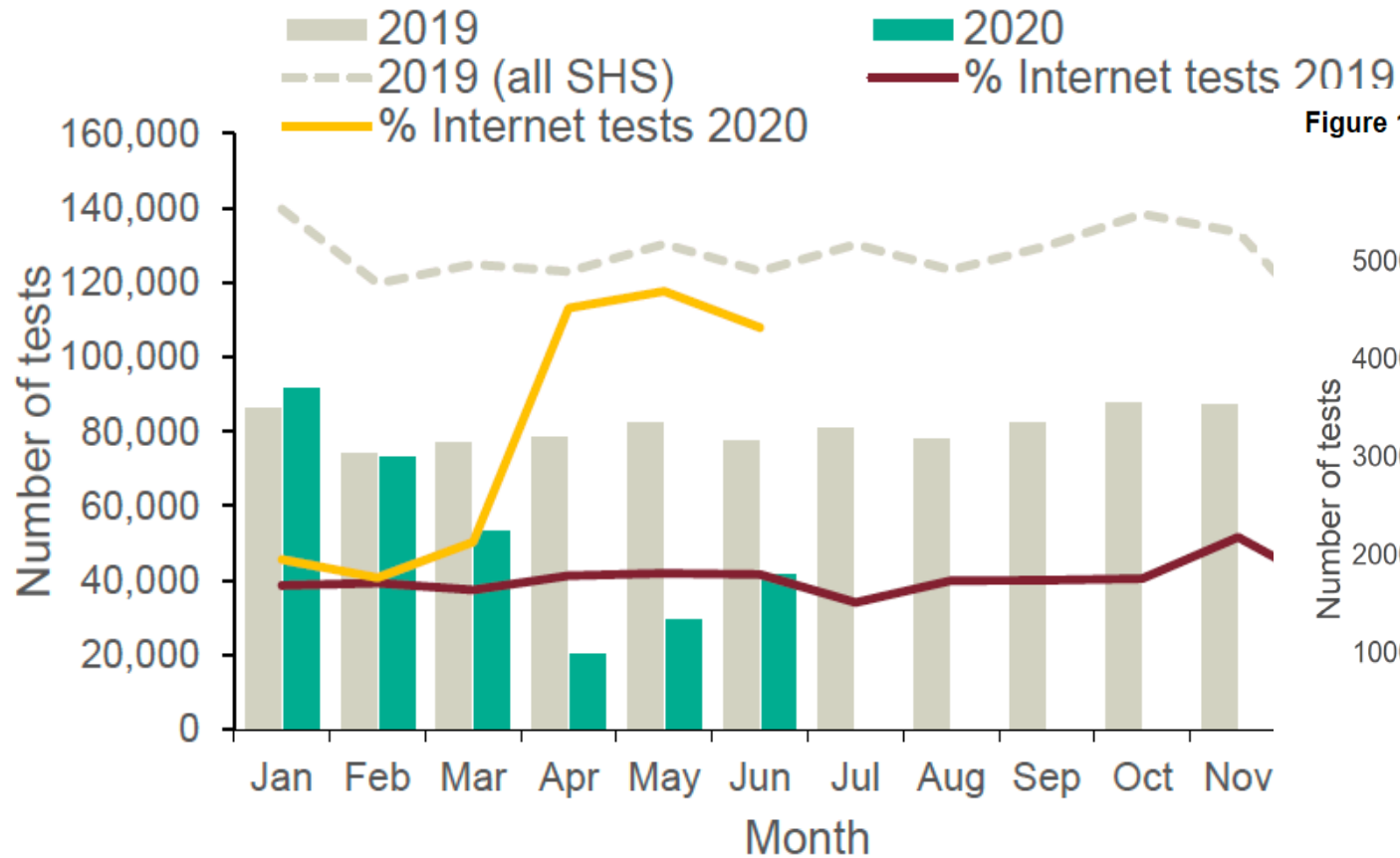
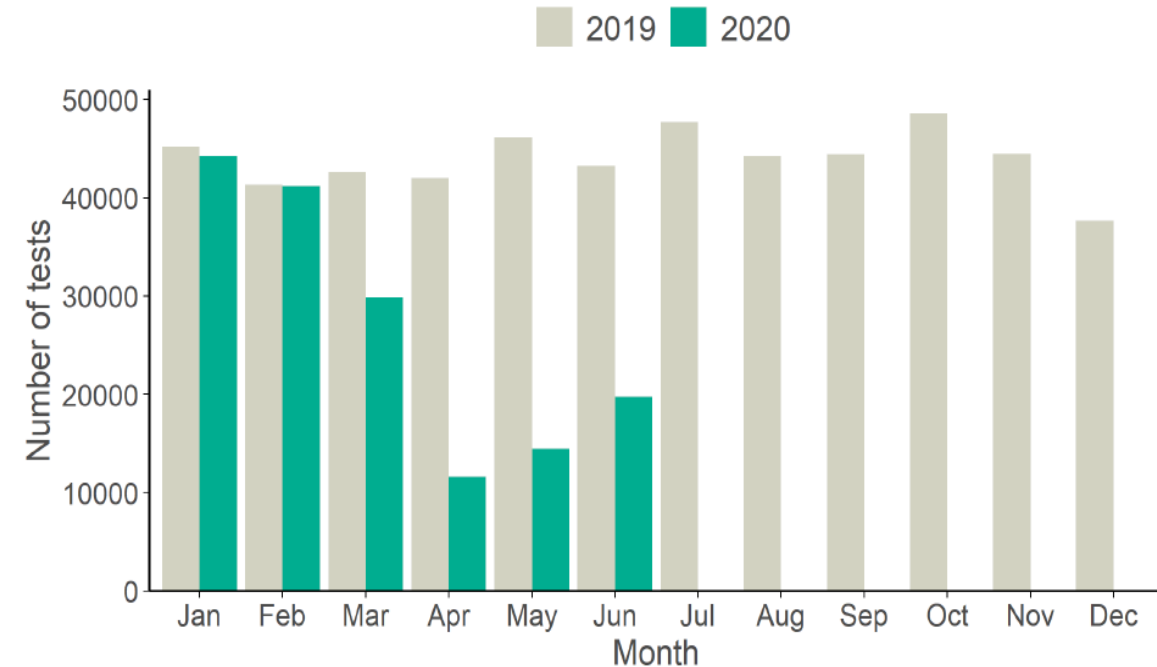
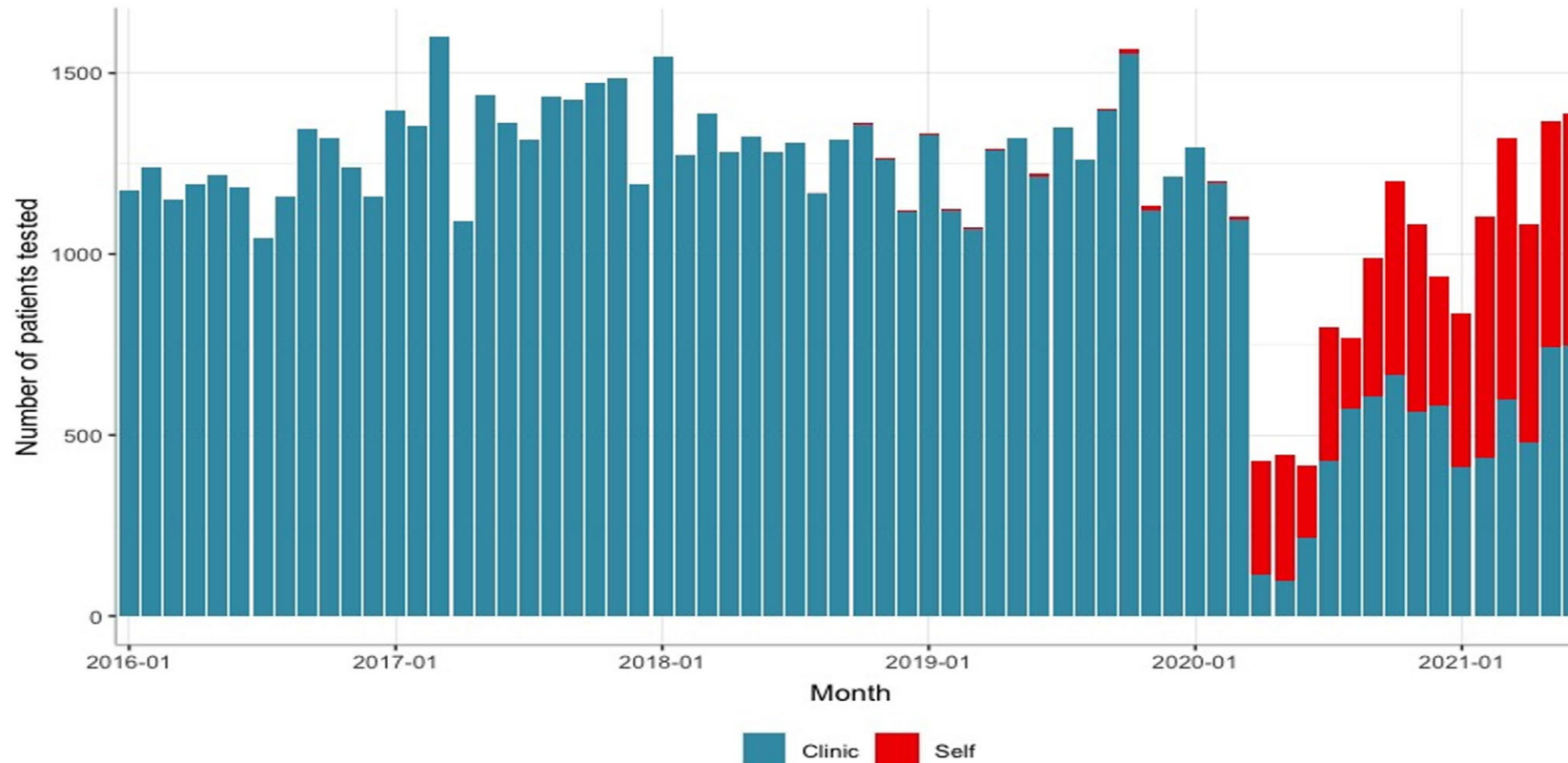


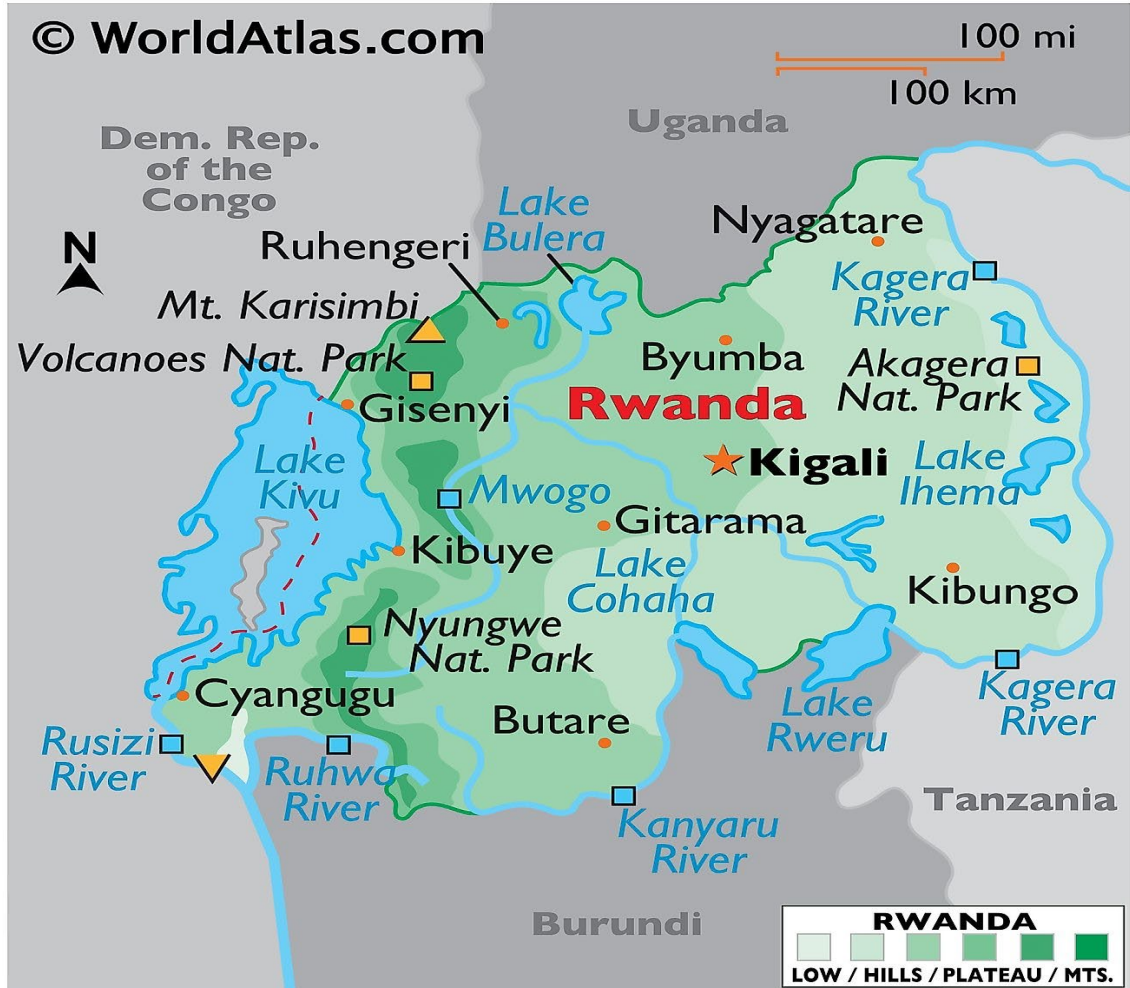
Figure 13: Number of hepatitis C virus (HCV) tests, January 2019 to June 2020



The impact of COVID-19 on HIV testing in the UK's first Fast-Track HIV city



Community/Academic Partnership to deliver ART and HIV self-testing kits – Kigali, Rwanda

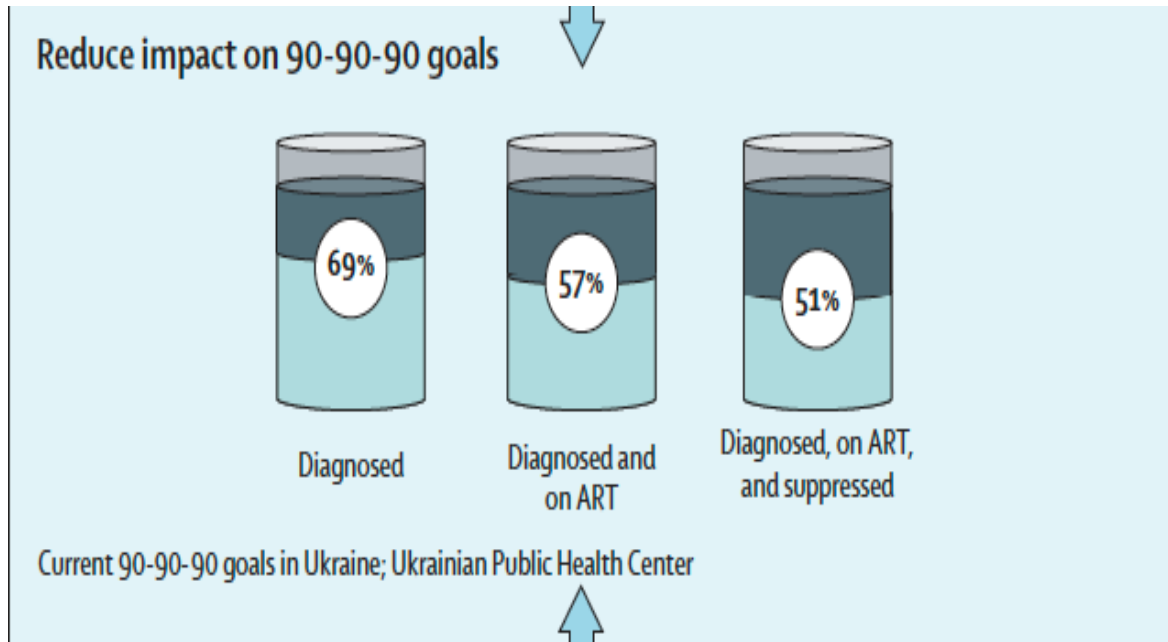


- Strict Lockdown COVID-19
- Partnership
 - Network of HIV+ individuals
 - MoH, Rwanda
 - Rwanda Biomedical Centre
- Delivery of ART, HIV self-testing kits
 - Uninterrupted ART
 - Continued Community HIV testing

COVID-19: New paradigms for HIV care

- Technology-based innovations for consultations
- Self/home-testing for HIV and other STIs
- Reduced frequency of monitoring for those on stable ART
- Home-delivery of ART and multi-month dispensation
- Strengthened partnerships
- But
 - ‘leaving no-one behind’
 - Beyond physical health – Psycho-social services
 - Addressing stigma

Russian invasion of Ukraine – February 2022



260 000 PLWH in Ukraine

2020 – 15 658 new cases of HIV

Estimated 0.6% prevalence

Programmatic switch to TLD-based ART from 2018



Russian invasion of Ukraine – March 2022

- Immediate effect
 - Disruption of medical/testing services
 - Disruption of medical supplies
 - Harm reduction services
 - War injuries
 - Psychological health
 - Displaced people



Unified European support framework to sustain the HIV cascade of care for people living with HIV including in displaced populations of war-struck Ukraine

Marta Vasylyev, Agata Skrzat-Klapaczyńska, Jose I Bernardino, Oana Săndulescu, Christine Gilles, Agnès Libois, Adrian Curran, Christoph D Spinner, Dominic Rowley, Markus Bickel, Maximilian C Aichelburg, Silvia Nozza, Annemarie Wensing, Tristan J Barber, Laura Waters, Carlijn Jordans, Wichor Bramer, Botond Lakatos, Lidia Tovba, Tetyana Koval, Tetyana Kyrychenko, Kostyantyn Dumchev, Vira Buihichyk, Pavlo Smyrnov, Svitlana Antonyak, Sergii Antoniuk, Tetyana I Vasylyeva, Alyona Mazhnaya, Justyna Kowalska, Sanjay Bhagani, Casper Rokx, on behalf of the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) Young Investigators (YING)

- Immediate Phase
 - ART supplies, and continuation of ART implementation, managing preventing OIs
 - MTCT prevention services
 - PrEP and STI Screening
 - Psychological support
 - Services for KPs – including OAT, needle/syringe exchanges
 - Empowerment to reduce stigma
- Urgent Phase
 - ALL of the ABOVE PLUS
 - Coinfection/comorbidity care
 - Re-establish laboratory capacity (viral load, resistance testing, etc)
 - Re-establish specialist services for Maternity Care/Pediatrics
 - Services for victims of Sexual Violence
 - etc
- Consolidation Phase
- Post-war rebuilding

YING (EACS) and Erasmus MC Foundation



Effective partnerships to ensure ongoing care



MINISTRY
OF HEALTH
OF UKRAINE



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

World Health
Organization
Europe

UNHCR – refugees from Ukraine

Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

- > 8 million
- Last updated Feb 2023
- Source - UNHCR, Government

Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe

- 4.8 million
- Last updated Feb 2023
- Source - UNHCR, Government

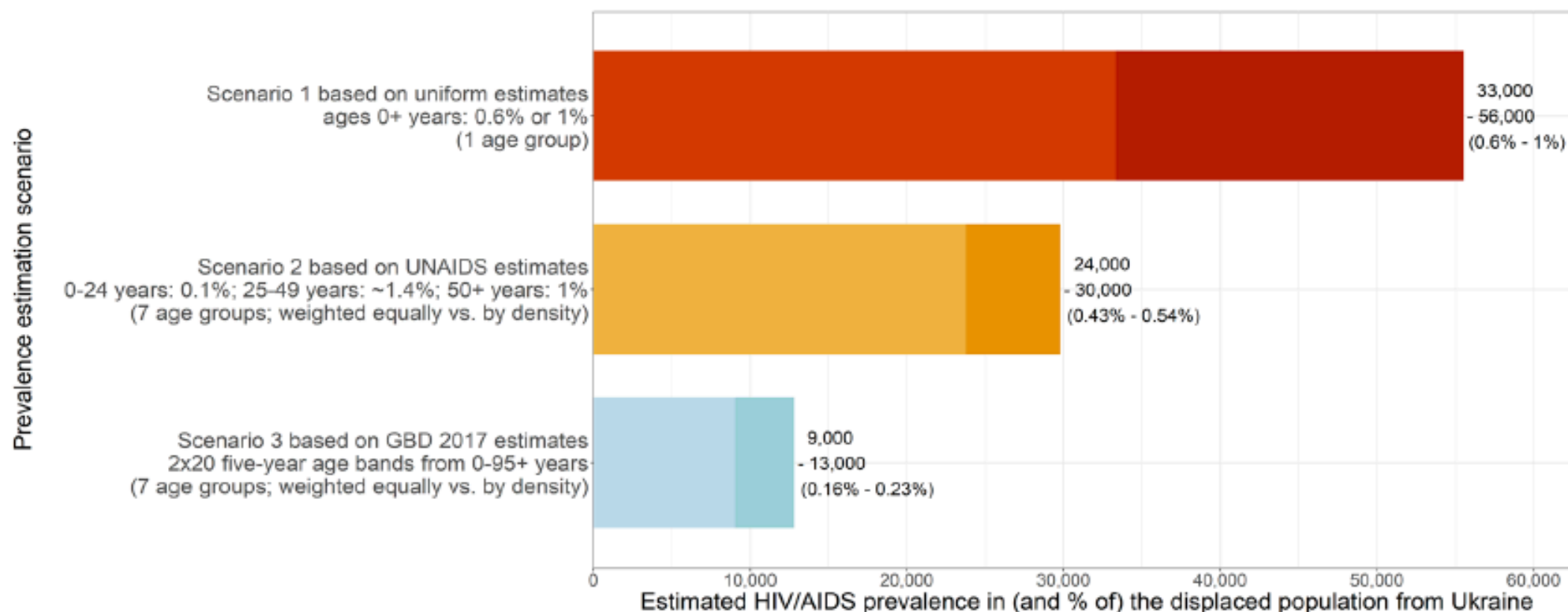
Refugees from Ukraine across Europe (as of 18 April 2023)



<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100224>

Estimated People Living with HIV amongst those displaced from Ukraine

Figure 1. Estimated prevalence of HIV in the displaced population from Ukraine in the EU/EEA by 9 May 2022



The total population was based on an assumed number of 5.6 million displaced people in Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Moldova (UNHCR, 09 May 2022).
The age groups were informed by the age- and sex-specific demography of previous displacements (UNHCR, 18 June 2021).
The non-zero proportion of displaced men aged 18-59 years was crudely informed by the 0.8% of households with three or more children (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2021).

Refugees from Ukraine – immediate actions and issues:

- Temporary Protection Order (and free access to healthcare) – EU Directive 2022/382 (March 2022)
- Lack of paperwork/documentation
- Language barrier(s)
- Highly-traumatized/psychological distress
- Place of initial registration may be temporary

- Co-infections and co-morbidities
- Sexual health/fertility services
- Obstetric care and Pediatric services

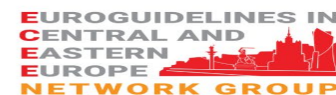
Standardized protocol for
clinical management and
medical data-sharing for
people living with HIV among
refugees from Ukraine



EACS
European
AIDS
Clinical
Society

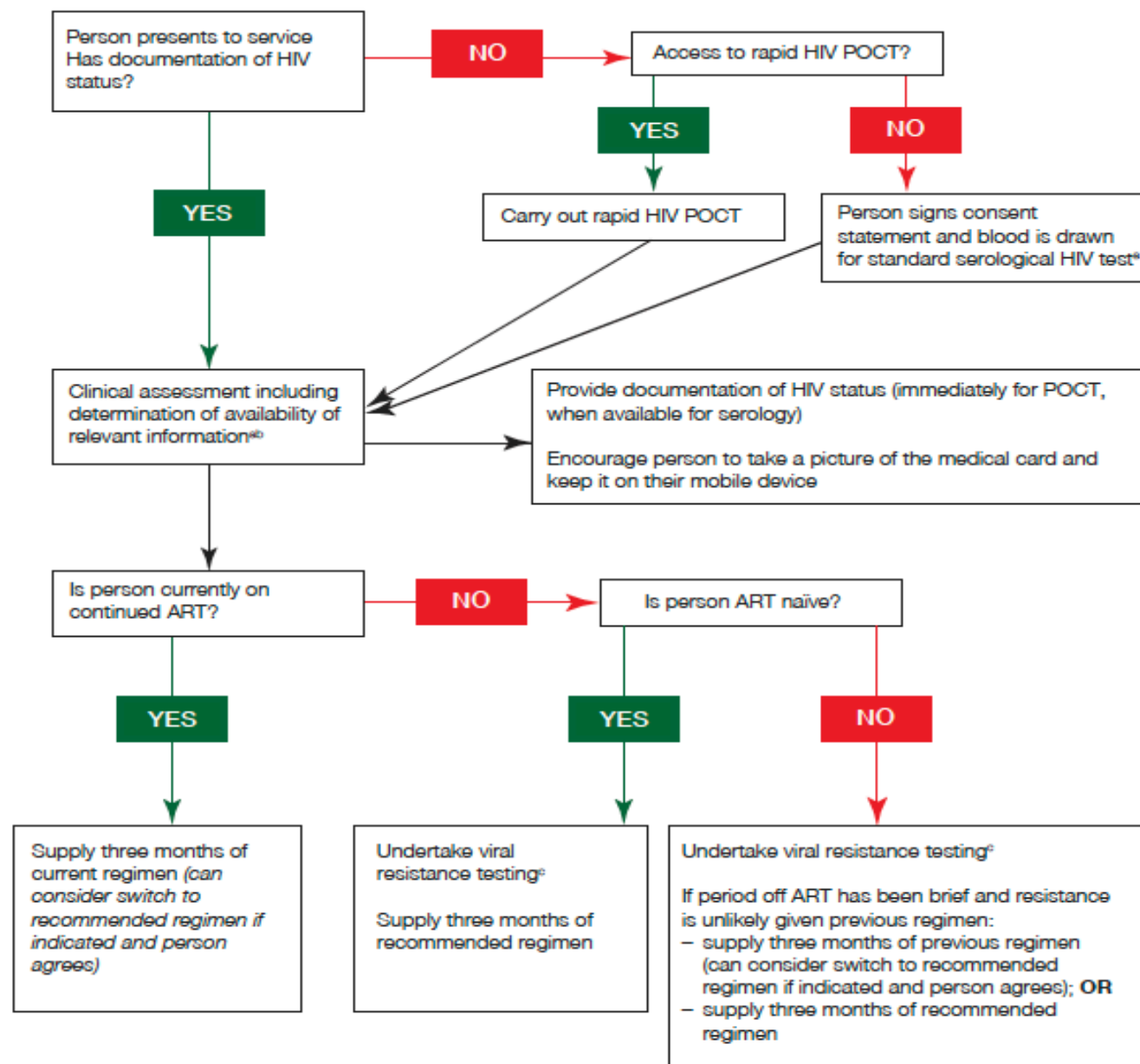


European
AIDS Treatment
Group



MINISTRY
OF HEALTH
OF UKRAINE

Care pathway (including investigations) for first appointment



Communication (with consent) – Public Health Centre, MoH, Ukraine

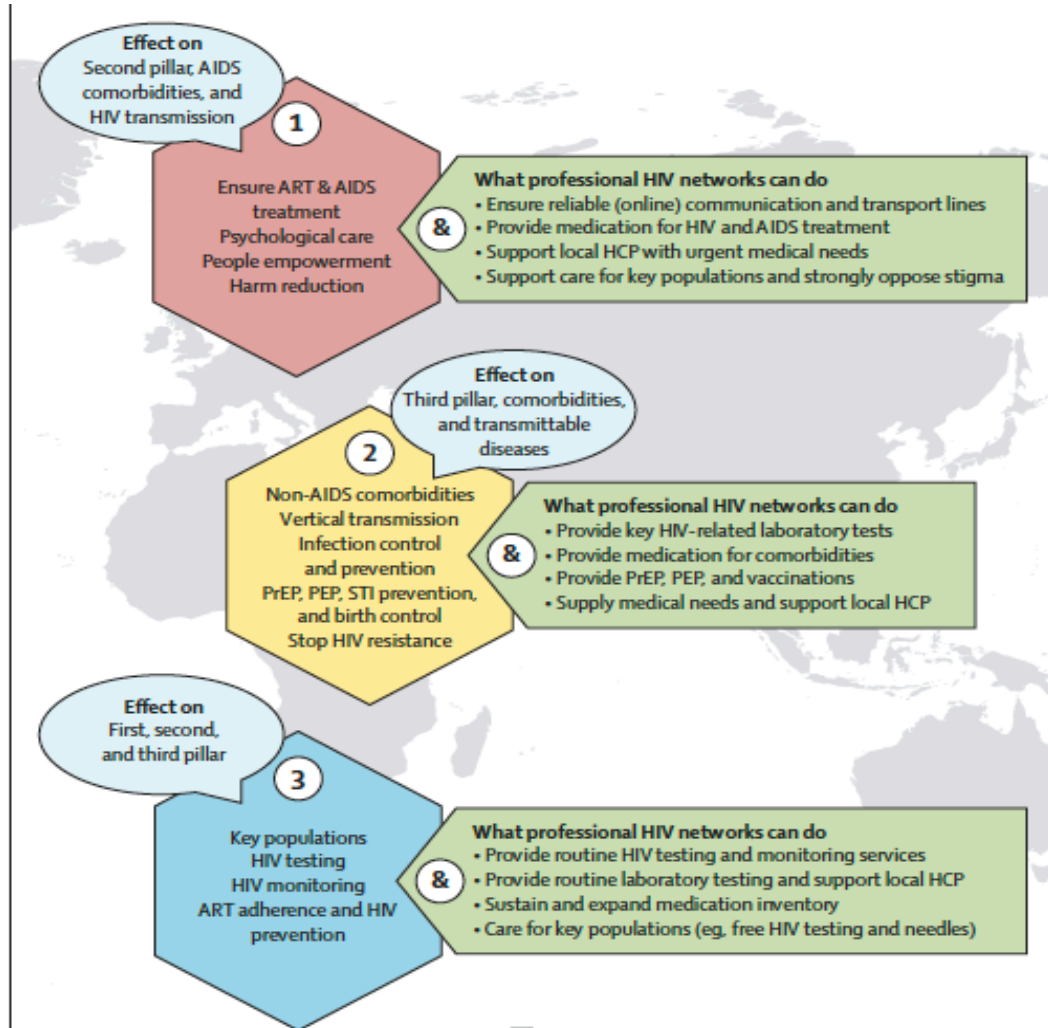
Annex 4

Template for medical information provided by the Public Health Centre of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine



STATE INSTITUTION PUBLIC HEALTH CENTRE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF UKRAINE

So how can Professional Networks help?

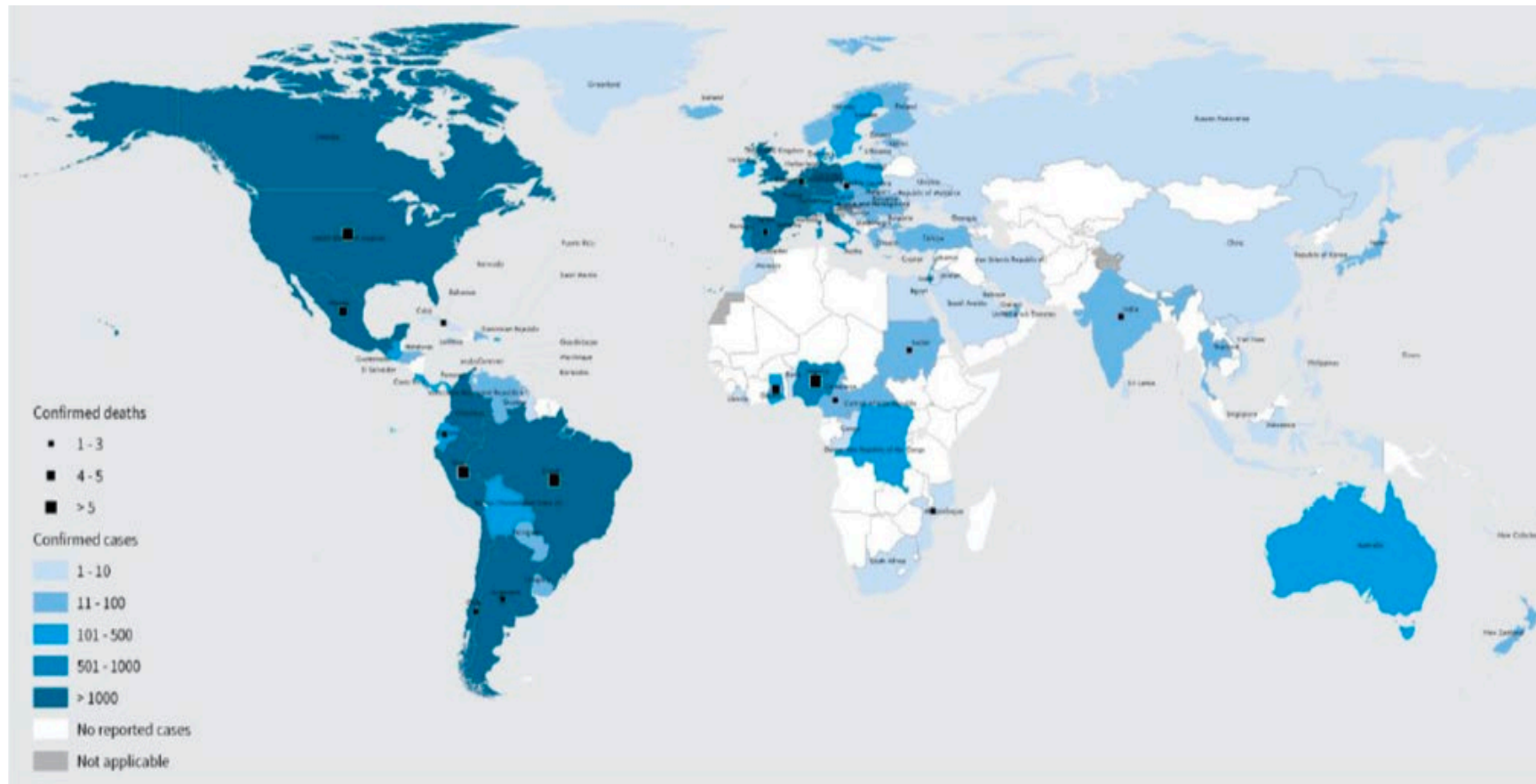


- Direct support of clinical care
- Education and Training needs
- Guidelines
- Organise networks of clinics supporting care/sharing best practice
- Employment/placements

So what has the war in Ukraine taught us? (so far.....)

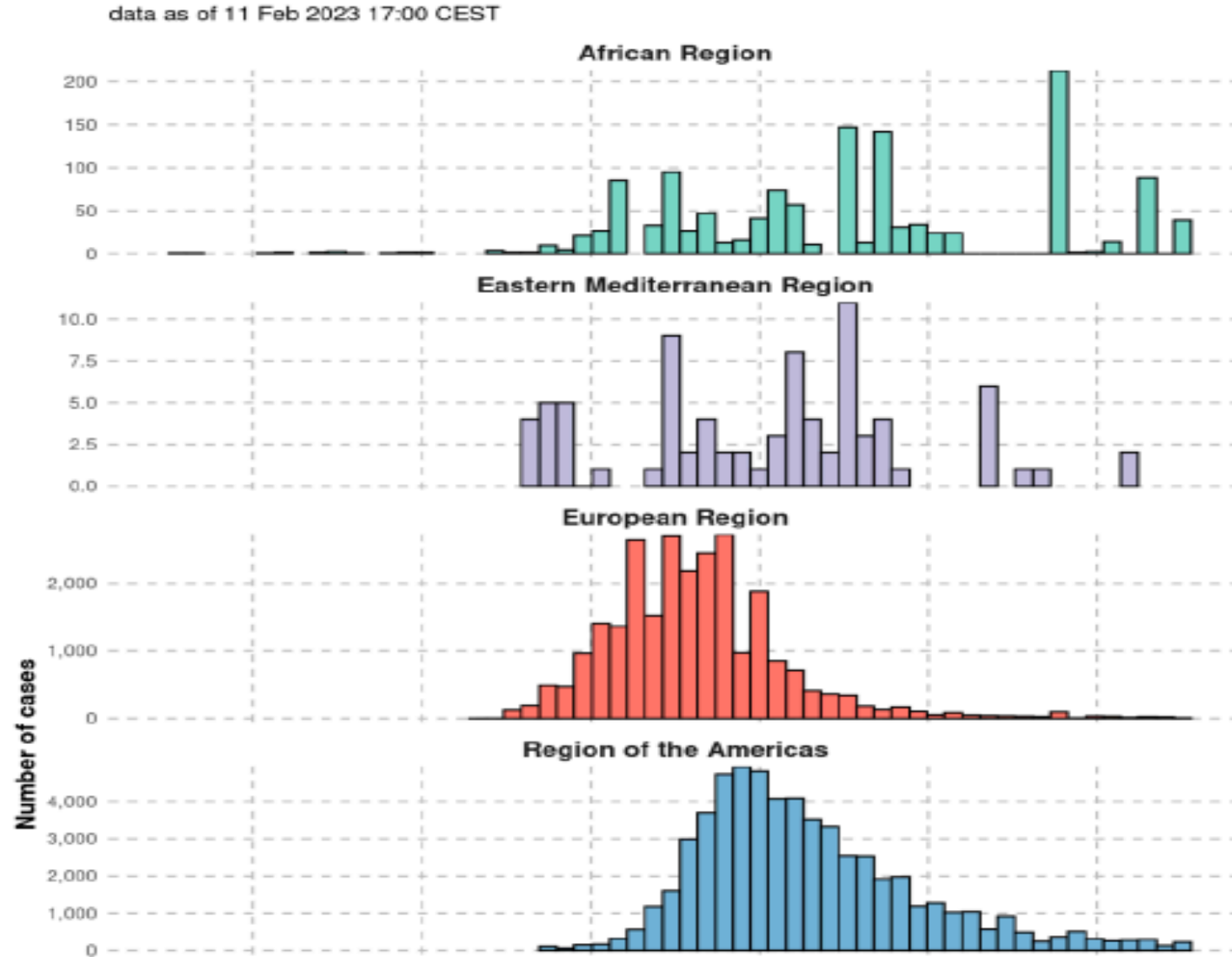
- Mobilising networks and effective partnerships are the key to achieving equity of care across the region
 - Involves community-organisations, NGOs, academic partners, Professional Organisations, pharmaceutical industry partners
- Sharing best practice and resources is possible
 - Strengthening and supporting care in Ukraine
 - Care for displaced Ukrainian refugees
 - Care for migrants into Europe

Global: Mpox - WHO situation update Feb 2023



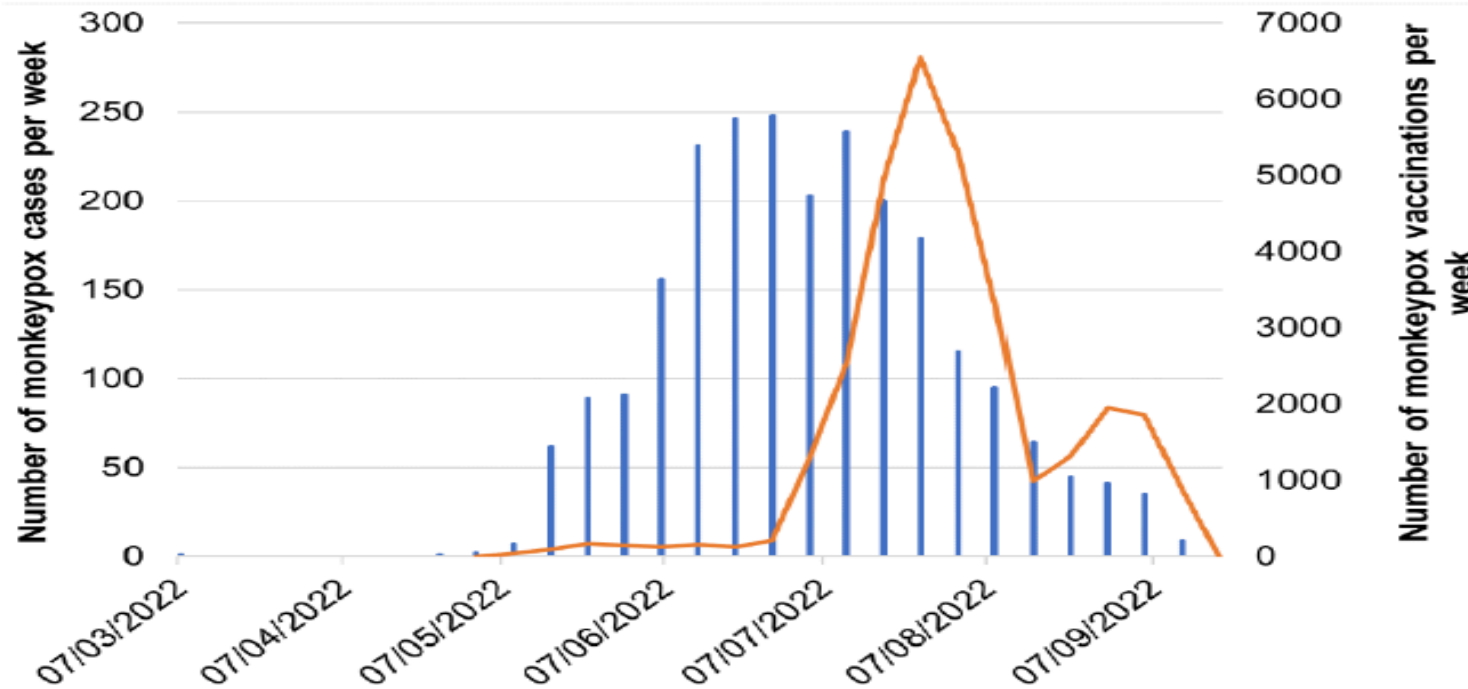
- ~90 000 cases
- ~100 deaths
- 99% men
- Vast majority who identify as GBSMSM
- 25-40% PLWH
- 1 HCA infection

European response was swift



Downtrend in numbers preceded peak vaccine uptake in London

Figure 8b. London



Success of the UK response:

- Collaboration between UKHSA/BHIVA/BASHH/community organisations
- Community mobilization
 - Effective use of social media
- Clinical and laboratory networks
- Scale-up of testing, isolation, treatment (?), vaccination



Of course; there were many more lessons...



MARCH 2023

Responding to Mpox:

Communities,
Communication,
and Infrastructures

If we are going to achieve the ambitious 2025 targets (and SDG-3 Goals) and global equity in HIV Care and Prevention:



- Learn lessons from epidemics and pandemics (and the war!)
- Flexible and nimble about the way we provide HIV testing, care and prevention services
- Promote partnerships and networks



Questions/Comments?



@sanjaybhagani