

## **Kosovo HIV Country Profile**

The HIV Global Fund Program aims to contribute to the overall goal of maintaining the current low HIV-prevalence rate among key populations at higher HIV risk in Kosovo below 5%; and currently weak national response to HIV. While less than 100 cases of HIV infection have been reported in Kosovo, the country is regarded as vulnerable to an HIV epidemic due to its high rates of poverty and unemployment, increasing drug use and high-risk sexual behavior, particularly among young Kosovars and other vulnerable groups. Commercial sex and human trafficking represent additional epidemiological risks, as does a significant population of stigmatized men who have sex with men.

The program was launched in late 2008, and aims at maintaining HIV prevalence among key vulnerable populations below five percent and prevents HIV from spreading in other groups.

The program focuses on HIV prevention among the key populations that are at high risk (KPARs) of becoming infected with the disease. It will scale-up the delivery of a range of comprehensive, high-quality HIV-prevention programs and services that are tailored to the needs of specific KPAR's.

The Goal of the program is to maintain HIV prevalence among key populations at risk at the current low level (below 5%), and prevent HIV from spreading into other groups.

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## **Demography**

Total population<sup>1</sup>: 1 820 631

50.3% Female

49.7% Male

28%, 0-14 years old

65%, 15-64 years old

7% 65+ years old

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<sup>1</sup> The Kosovo Agency of Statistics.

## Epidemiological situation with HIV and AIDS, 2010 - 2014

Kosovo is characterised by low prevalence of HIV infection among both the general public and key populations<sup>2</sup>

| Years | HIV case | AIDS cases | AIDS deaths | Total cases |
|-------|----------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2010  | 0        | 3          | 0           | 3           |
| 2011  | 1        | 6          | 3           | 7           |
| 2012  | 2        | 2          | 2           | 4           |
| 2013  | 2        | 1          | 0           | 3           |
| 2014  | 6        | 0          | 0           | 6           |

During 2010-2014, total 23 HIV and AIDS cases, 5 AIDS related deaths.

| % Female cases |      |       | % Male cases |       |       |     |
|----------------|------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-----|
| 22.7           |      |       | 77.3         |       |       |     |
| Age group      | 0-14 | 15-24 | 25-34        | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+ |
| Cases          | 1    | 5     | 2            | 10    | 5     | 0   |

### Route of transmission, 2010-2014:

65% Heterosexual, 31% MSM, 4% Vertical transmission

### HIV prevalence by risk groups (PWID, MSM, and SWs)

The recent 2014 IBBS studies confirmed low prevalence of HIV in all the key populations<sup>3</sup>.

No PWID were infected with HIV.  
 HIV prevalence among MSM was 2.3%.  
 No SWs were infected with HIV.

Detection of HIV requires improvements. 2013-2014 MICS<sup>4</sup> has found that only 15.5% of women and 31% of men aged 15 to 49 know where they could get tested for HIV. Only 0.7% of women and 1.4% of men have been tested for HIV in the last 12 months and know their results.

<sup>2</sup> Data provided by the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo

<sup>3</sup> Prevalence in key populations may be underestimated. The 2014 IBBS studies were conducted only in Pristina municipality for MSM, in Ferizaj for FSW, and in Pristina and Prizren for PWID. The study participants have been recruited through organisations providing HIV prevention services to key populations, thus segments of key populations which are not exposed to HIV prevention interventions were underrepresented in the studies.

<sup>4</sup> The Kosovo Agency of Statistics. 2014. 2013-2014 Kosovo Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Key Findings. Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo: The Kosovo Agency of Statistics.

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## **HIV/TB 2010-2014**

TB incidence in Kosovo is 47/100,000 but HIV prevalence is very low among TB patients (1 HIV positive case was registered in testing services provided 300 TB patients under the current GFATM TB grant).

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## **Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST)**

113 PWID are enrolled in MMT services offered in five different centres including prison.

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## **Antiretroviral Therapy**

Currently only 14 people do access ART in Infectious Disease Clinic.  
31 people are currently receiving HIV care through the Kosovo's Association of PLHIV (KAPHA).

## KOSOVO TB Profile

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| TB case notifications 2013             | New ** | Relapse |
|--|--------|---------|
| Pulmonary, bacteriologically confirmed | 224    | 19      |
| Pulmonary, clinically diagnosed        | 428    | 28      |
| Extrapulmonary                         | 240    | 0       |
| Total new and relapse                  | 922    |         |
| Previously treated, excluding relapses | 0      |         |
| Total cases notified                   | 922    |         |

Among 922 new and relapse cases: 41 (4.5%) cases aged under 15 years; male: female ratio: 1.0

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| Reported cases of RR-/MDR-TB 2013     | New       | Retreatment | Total** |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Cases tested for RR-/MDR-TB           | 205 (91%) | 19 (9%)     | 224     |
| Laboratory-confirmed RR-/MDR-TB cases |           |             | 2       |
| Patients started on MDR-TB treatment  |           |             | 2       |

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| TB/HIV 2013   |      |     |
|---|------|-----|
| Number  | (%)  |     |
| TB patients with known HIV status                                   | (22) | 200 |
| HIV-positive TB patients  | (0)  | 0   |
| HIV-positive TB patients on co-trimoxazole preventive therapy (CPT) | (0)  | 0   |
| HIV-positive TB patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART)            | (0)  | 0   |
| HIV-positive people screened for TB                                 |      |     |
| HIV-positive people provided with IPT                               |      |     |

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| Treatment success rate  |    |
| (%)   |    |
| New and relapse cases registered in 2012                        | 88 |
| Previously treated cases, excluding relapse, registered in 2012 | 88 |
| HIV-positive TB cases, all types, registered in 2012            |    |
| RR-/MDR-TB cases started on second-line treatment in 2011       |    |
| XDR-TB cases started on second-line treatment in 2011           |    |

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Laboratories 2013

Is second-line drug susceptibility testing available?  
outside country

Yes,

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Financing TB control 2013 National TB programme budget (US\$ millions)  
Financing TB control 2013

National TB programme budget (US\$ millions) 2741225.96

% Funded domestically 52%

% Funded internationally 48%

% Unfunded 0%

*Estimates of TB and MDR-TB burden are NOT yet produced by WHO for Kosovo.*