COVID-19: HIV Programming and the 90-90-90 Goals

Two Pandemics Confluent in the Dominican Republic

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Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
• First COVID-19 reports in the DR- Feb 29th, 2020
  – 1st mortality on March 15th, 2020
– To the date (Deaths)
  • **Case #1**- 63yo Female, in ART, TB and other comorbidities.
  • **Case #2**- 54yo Female, Dx HIV+ w COVID-19, diabetes.
  • **Case #3**- 61yo Male, in ART, lost of follow-up, unknown comorbidities

– Lost of Follow-up so far estimated to be 2% of those missing appointments or dropped from the system.

– Standard of Care for Severe Cases:
  • Hidroxychloroquine + Azithromycin
  • Worsening of Cx- Tocilizumab
– Emergency Declaration included:
  • National financial assistance
  • FASE
  • Quedate en Casa
    – Prioritizing: <60 years old, Diabetes, Cancer, and HIV/AIDS
National Guidance on HIV and COVID-19 (March 20th, 2020)

- Patients w ART:
  • Prescriptions (e.g. labs, and refill)
  • Up to 3-6 months
- Patients newly diagnosed:
  • 1 month ART (preferred Dolutegravir-based)
– PEPFAR-funded programs fully implementing the National Guidance
  • Initiatives to bring medication at home
  • Distribution of food packages, and other consumables
– COALICION-ONG: has been involved in identifying and allocating resources from the government and distributing in more vulnerable communities (e.g. food, face masks, gloves, alcohol sanitizers, etc)
• Mental health via remote assistance is offered from NGOs and Academia
• Government is using a national assistance hotline and re-directing to other services [*462]
  – Including information about HIV treatment center and referrals.
Opportunities

- HIV Self-testing can be considered
- Benefits of MMD and simplify regimens and the 90’s goals
- Diversify assistance to provision of food and health security
- Increase importance of Immunological status and COVID19 infection and adherence
Challenges

- HIV VL not currently a priority, national reference molecular lab fully dedicated to COVID-19
  - Centralized sampling analysis
- Confidentiality is a concern for those receiving financial assistance
- We don’t know yet the co-infection (HIV/COVID19) rates in the DR
- Community HIV testing among KPs
- New PrEP enrollments
- Mental health crisis and Gender-based violence
- Disclosure to HIV status for Mental Health assistance
  - Mental health emergencies or referral to psychiatric consultancy
GRACIAS!!!

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