

# Country progress report - North Macedonia

Global AIDS Monitoring 2019





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- X. Empowerment and access to justice - Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights
- XI. AIDS out of isolation - Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C

# Overall

## **Fast-track targets**

## **Progress summary**

Macedonia is a country with a low prevalence of HIV, from 404 to 2018, 404 cases of HIV have been registered, but in recent years there has been an increasing trend in the number of newly registered HIV cases, with more than half (52%) of all cases being registered in the last five years. Cumulatively, of the registered cases, 339 (86%) are male and 54 (14%) are female. The high proportional participation of male individuals in the number of newly registered cases has been a trend in the past 15 years, and in the last two years, all newly discovered cases are male. ART is available for all diagnosed People living with HIV regardless of the CD4 cell count.

# HIV testing and treatment cascade

**Ensure that 30 million people living with HIV have access to treatment through meeting the 90-90-90 targets by 2020**

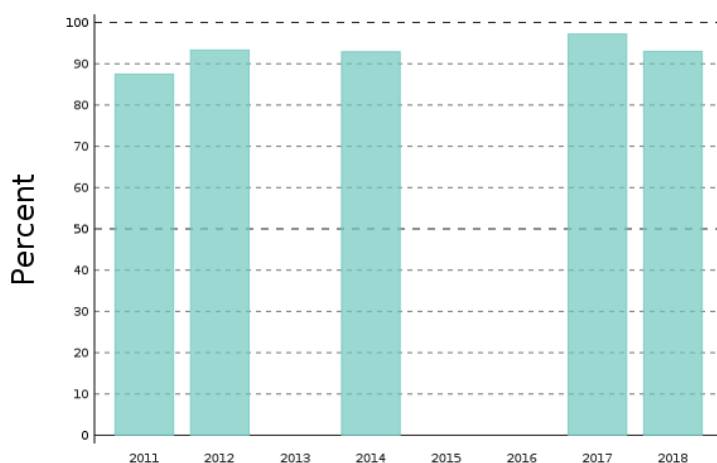
## **Progress summary**

The Ministry of Health initiated a process of drafting a new HIV strategy until 2021 with a strong commitment to maintain and scale up the response to HIV in the country. Drafting of the new Strategy involved wide consultation process including experts from different ministries and institutions, international organizations present in the country and non-governmental organizations.

The aim of the strategy is to achieve 90-90-90 targets with a clear focus to maintain and enhance services provided to key populations by civil organizations.

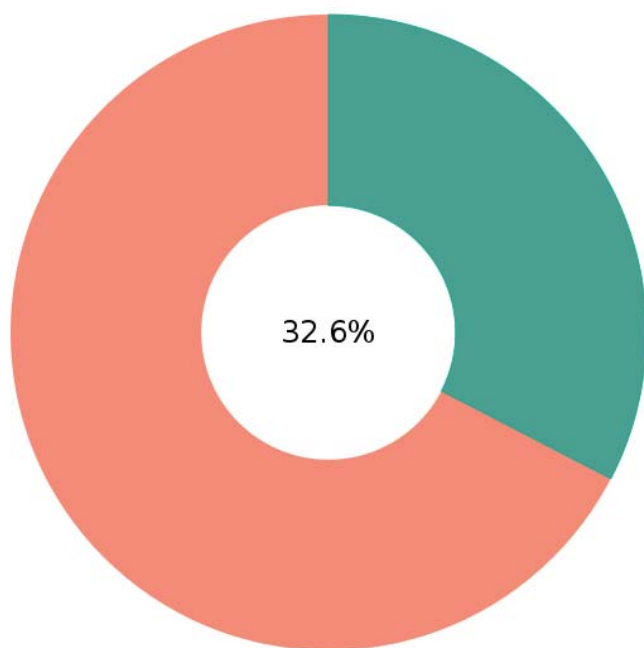
## **1.3 Retention on antiretroviral therapy at 12 months, North Macedonia (2011-2018)**

**Percentage of adults and children living with HIV known to be on antiretroviral therapy 12 months after starting**



## 1.5 Late HIV diagnosis, North Macedonia (2018)

Percentage of people living with HIV with the initial CD4 cell count <200 cells/mm3 during the reporting period



# Prevention of mother-to-child transmission

**Eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2020 while ensuring that 1.6 million children have access to HIV treatment by 2018**

## **Progress summary**

Macedonia since 2016 has a policy for universal access to HIV treatment to all people living with HIV regardless of CD4 cell count at diagnosis.

# HIV prevention; Key populations

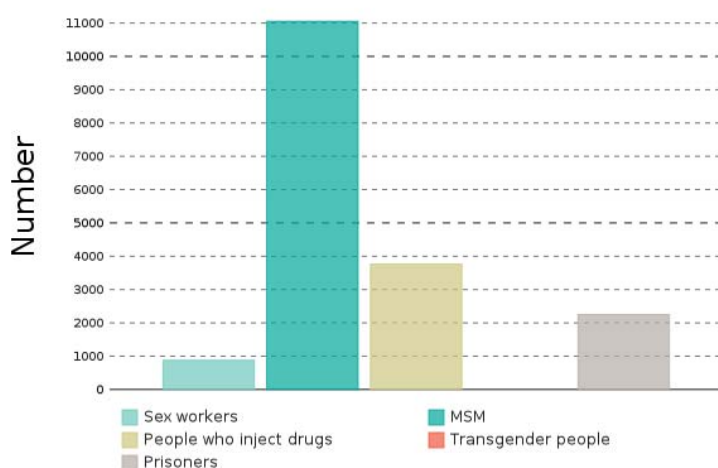
**Ensure access to combination prevention options, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, harm reduction and condoms, to at least 90% of people by 2020, especially young women and adolescent girls in high-prevalence countries and key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs and prisoners**

## **Progress summary**

Although Macedonia is country with a low prevalence of HIV (latest data suggest a concentrated epidemic among MSM - Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) among MSM in the capital city Skopje, December 2017- February 2018. The publication is available at <http://iph.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/RDS-MSM-2018.pdf>). Ministry of Health supports a wide network of NGOs working on HIV prevention with key populations such as MSM, SW and PWID. These NGOs are implementing programs for condom distribution, harm reduction/needle exchange, community-based voluntary counselling and testing (at stationary points and through mobile testing vans), as well as peer and psychosocial support services.

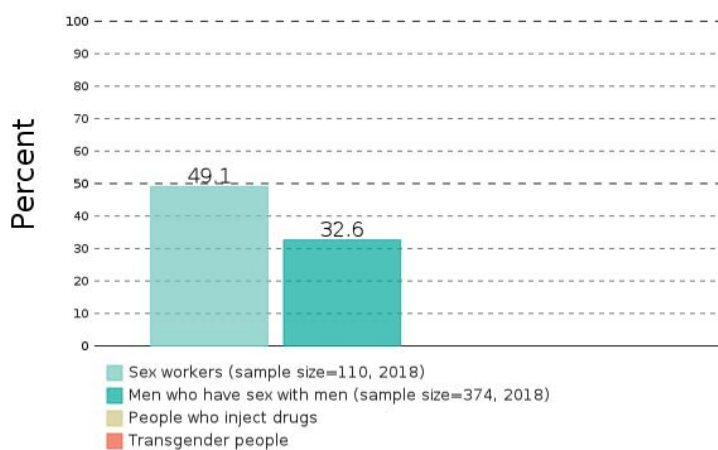


### 3.2 Estimates of the size of key populations, North Macedonia



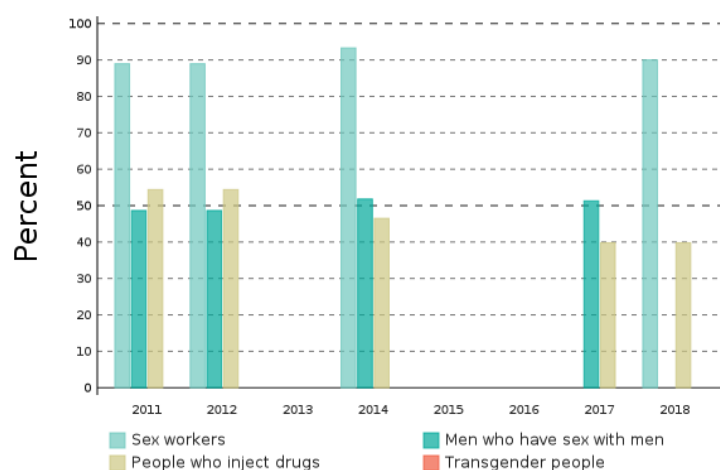
### 3.4 HIV testing among key populations, North Macedonia

Percentage of people of a key population who tested for HIV in the past 12 months, or who know their current HIV status



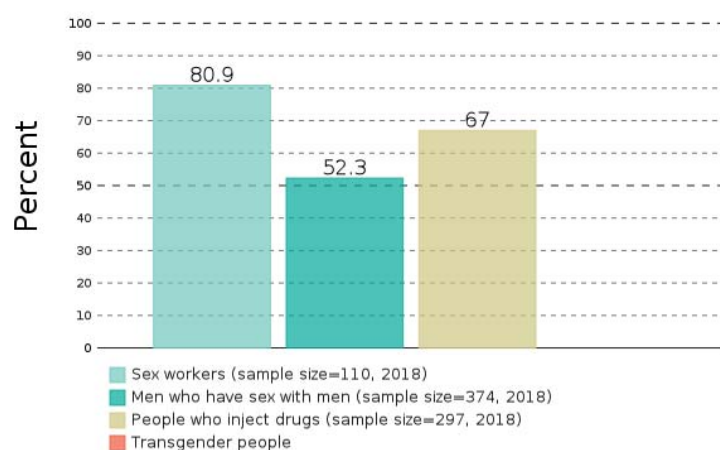
### 3.6 Condom use among key populations, North Macedonia (2011-2018)

Percentage of people in a key population reporting using a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse



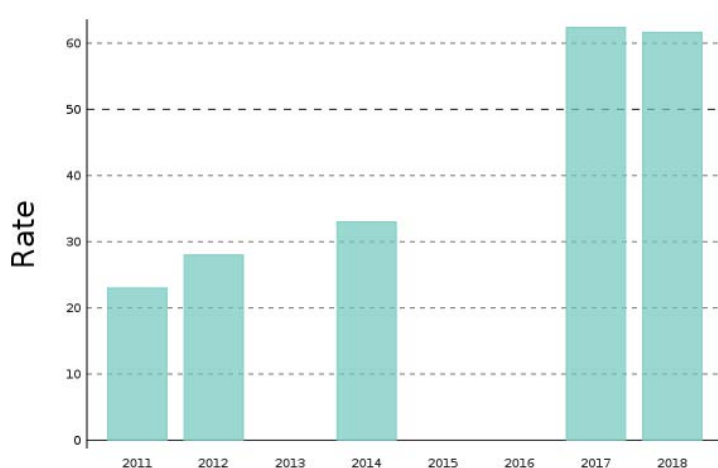
### 3.7 Coverage of HIV prevention programmes among key populations, North Macedonia

Percentage of people in a key population reporting having received a combined set of HIV prevention interventions



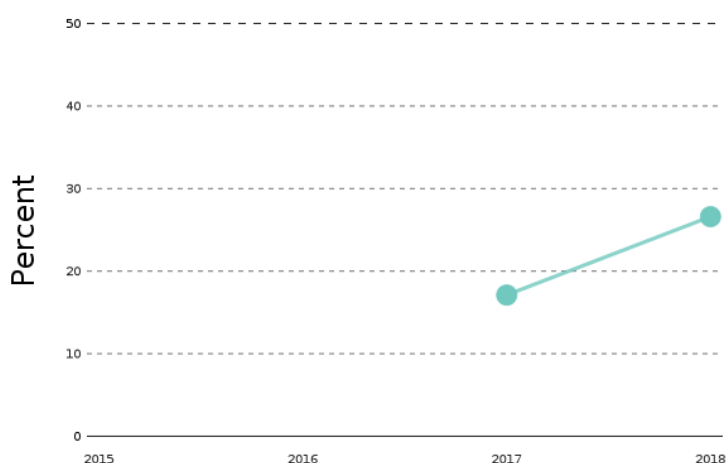
### 3.9 Needles and syringes distributed per person who injects drugs, North Macedonia (2011-2018)

Number of needles and syringes distributed per person who injects drugs per year by needle and syringe programmes



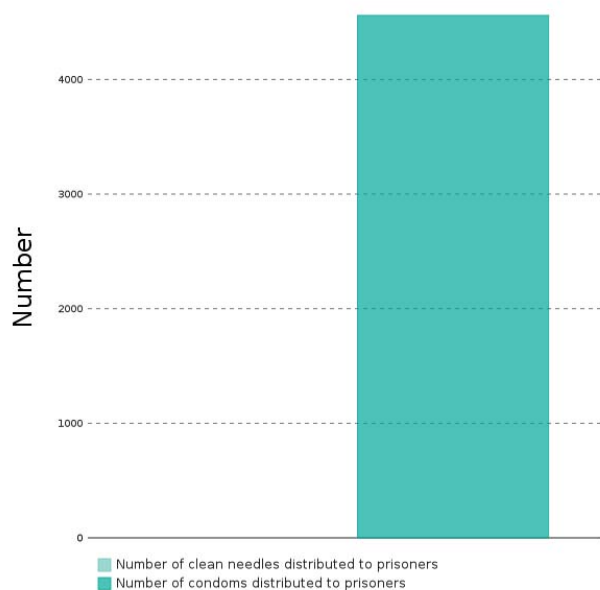
### 3.10 Coverage of opioid substitution therapy, North Macedonia (2015-2018)

Percentage of people who inject drugs receiving opioid substitution therapy (OST)



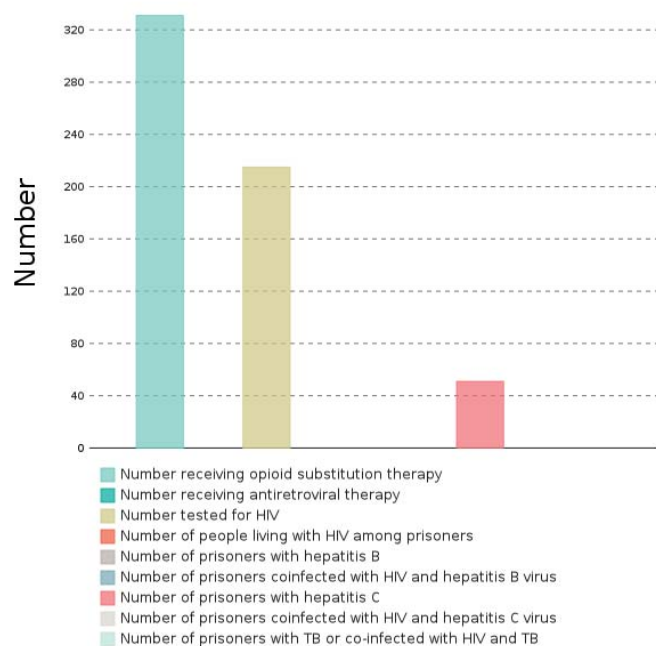
### 3.13 HIV prevention programmes in prisons, North Macedonia (2018)

HIV prevention and treatment programmes offered to prisoners while detained



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# Gender; Stigma and discrimination

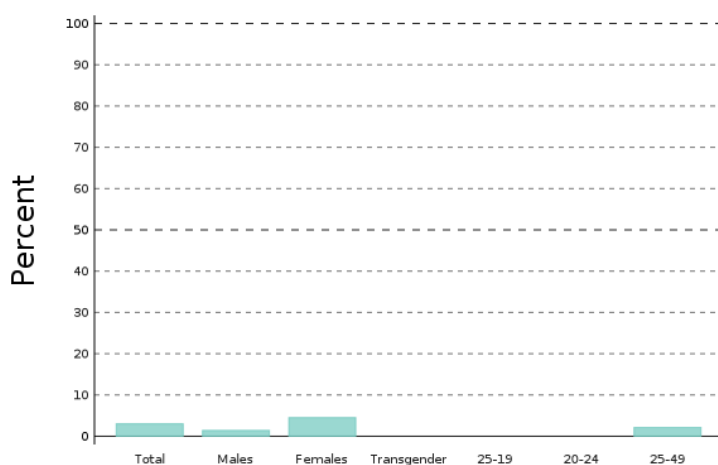
**Eliminate gender inequalities and end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, people living with HIV and key populations by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

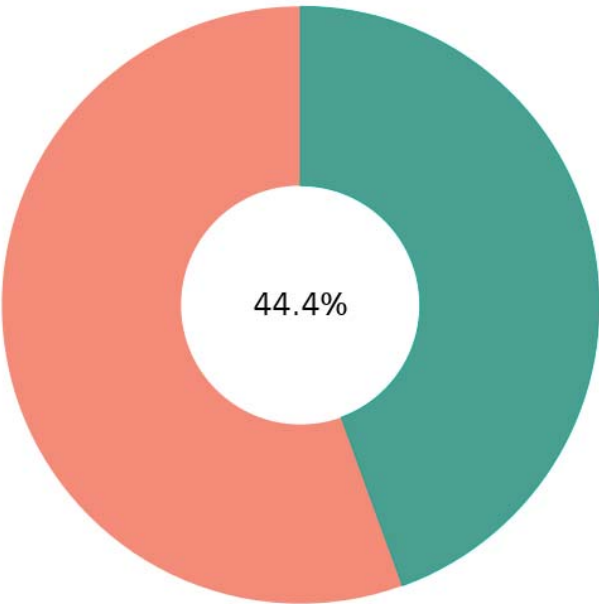
Since 2010, in the country there is a law against discrimination by any form (race, gender etc.), however, the civil societies are lobbying for amendments which will more explicitly protect rights of key populations.

## **4.4 Experience of HIV-related stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings, North Macedonia (2018)**

**Percentage of people living with HIV who report experiences of HIV-related discrimination in health-care settings**



**Percentage of Global AIDS Monitoring indicators with data disaggregated by gender**



# Knowledge of HIV and access to sexual reproductive health services

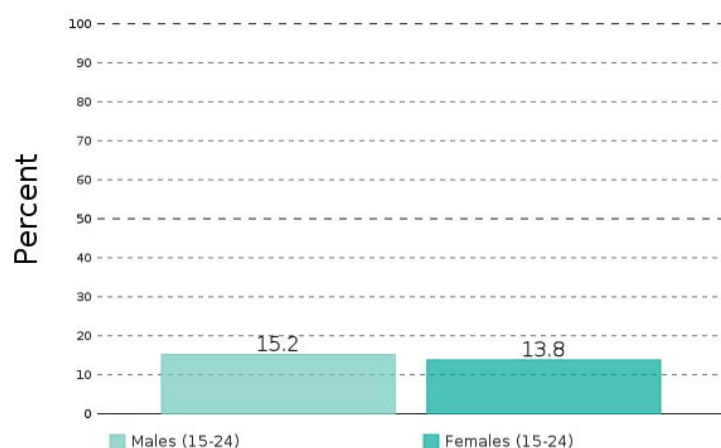
**Ensure that 90% of young people have the skills, knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from HIV and have access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2020, in order to reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women to below 100 000 per year**

## **Progress summary**

The Ministry of Education in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Civil Societies are working on including sexual and reproductive health as one of the subjects in the school curricula. This process is not finished. In the meantime, these topics from sexual and reproductive health are part of the facultative "life skills" subject in the schools. In addition, NGOs are implementing projects for peer education.

## 5.1 Young people: Knowledge about HIV prevention, North Macedonia (2018)

Percentage of women and men 15-24 years old who correctly identify both ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission





# Social protection

**Ensure that 75% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

All patients who are in care have access to services from a social worker within the HIV treatment centre. In addition, under the annual National HIV Program, civil society organizations also provide psychosocial support for people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and sex workers. Access to HIV-sensitive social support is recognized in the draft National HIV Strategy until 2021.

# Community-led service delivery

**Ensure that at least 30% of all service delivery is community-led by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

As in 2018, the 2019 Annual programme for HIV in the country is completely financed by the Government and Ministry of Health, in this program worth 1,5 million Euros, 48% of the funds are distributed to NGOs working on HIV prevention with key populations. This shows the commitment of the Ministry of Health and Government to fully support HIV response after the end of Global Fund support in 2017.

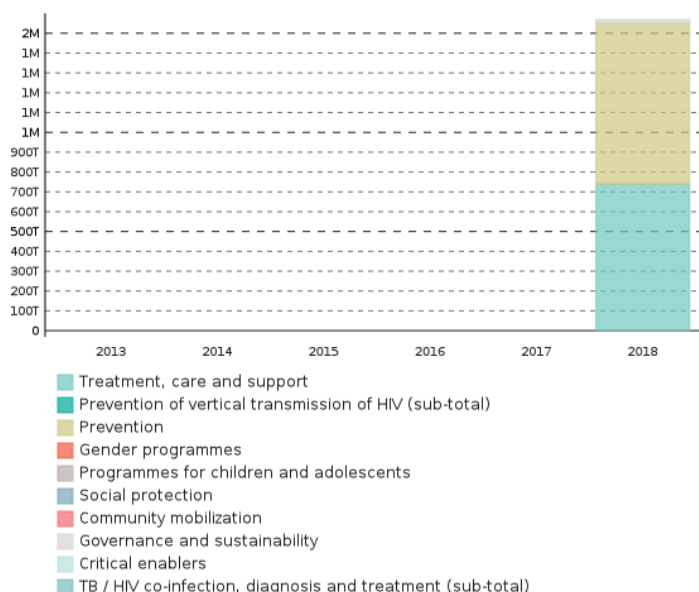
# HIV expenditure

**Ensure that HIV investments increase to US\$ 26 billion by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6% for social enablers**

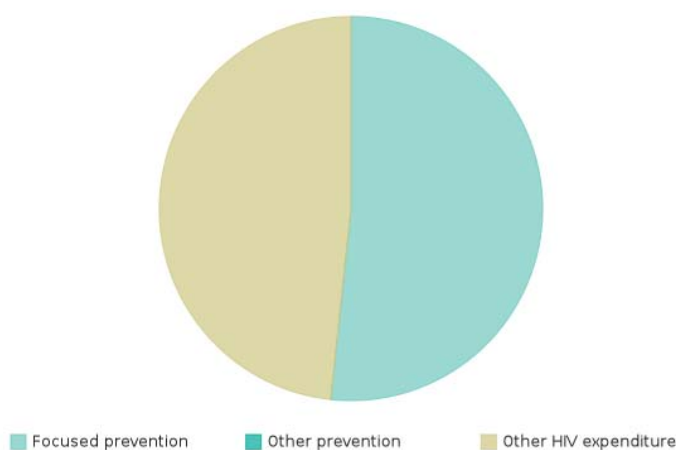
## Progress summary

Compared to 2017 (when 50% of the HIV total expenditures were funded through Global Fund), in 2018 the Government direct funding is increased 10 fold, and the same level of funding remained in 2019.

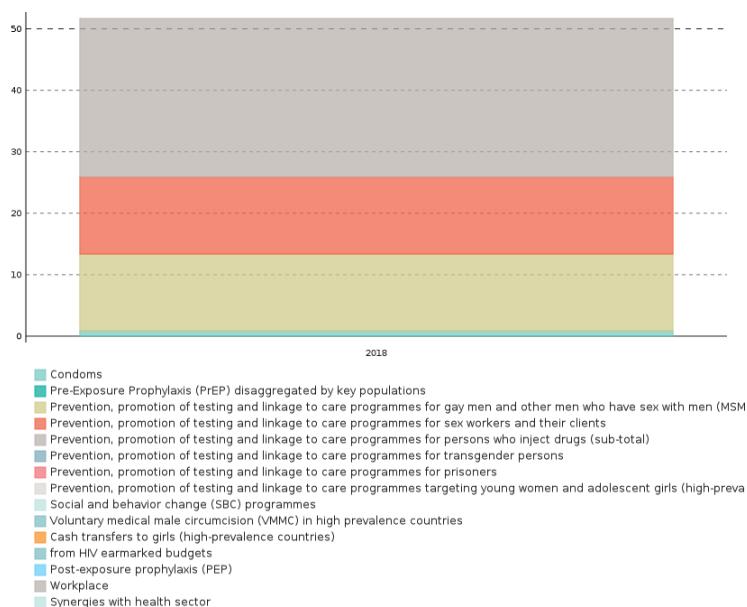
## 8.1 Domestic and international HIV expenditure by programme categories and financing sources, North Macedonia (2013-2018)



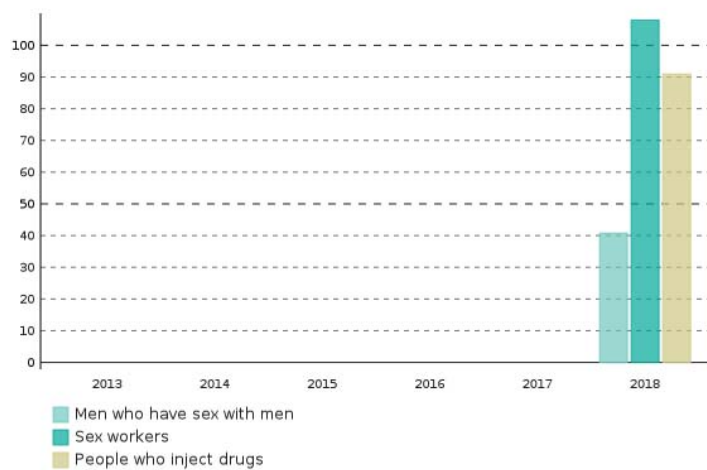
## Share of effective prevention out of total, North Macedonia (2018)



## Structure of investments on effective and other prevention programmes (%), North Macedonia (2018)



## Expenditure per person reached by key population services, North Macedonia (2013-2018)



# Empowerment and access to justice

**Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights**

## **Progress summary**

A community-based organization "Stronger Together" is a direct beneficiary of the funds from the Annual HIV Program. One of the activities is to support PLWHIV practising their rights. In addition, the Clinic for Infectious Disease where all people living with HIV are treated, there is a team of social worker and psychologist as well that assist these people. NGOs working with key populations also offer social and legal services ( funds for legal services provided from sources other than national HIV program) for their clients.

# AIDS out of isolation

**Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C**

## **Progress summary**

All patients living with HIV have the right and receive free of charge universal health coverage (universal health coverage is guaranteed by the state for all citizens), including treatment for TB, HBV or HCV. The country is currently developing strategies for increasing the coverage for HCV treatment.