



CENTRO DE ORIENTACIÓN E INVESTIGACIÓN INTEGRAL (COIN)

Dominican Republic

CONTEXT - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



- HIV Epidemic is concentrated on key populations
- HIV prevalence is 5.3% for MSM and trans, 2.9% for Sex Workers

Prevalencia de VIH en la Población Mayor de 15 años por Grupos de Riesgo, Republica Dominicana, 2014 a 2017				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
HSH-TRANS	5.39	5.36	5.34	2.30
TRSX	2.93	2.81	2.70	2.60
MIGRANTS	3.70	3.59	3.49	3.39
Fuente. Spectrum – versión 5.56, 2016				

- Test and start is being implemented since the beginning of 2017 with key populations (KP) although with some concerns regarding the supply and the protocols for implementation
- COIN is created in 1979 at the start of the epidemic, to provide a response to the unmet needs of KP and has been involved in all the decision making processes since.



ENDING AIDS: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH



Alliances that have fostered achievements in DR:

- NGO-AIDS Coalition: chaired by COIN, articulates the demands of civil society and carries out advocacy work.
- The National Council for HIV/AIDS (CONAVIHSIDA), through this mechanism, participates in the elaboration of the National Strategic Plan (PEN), to ensure it responds to the interests of key populations.
- The Country Coordinating Mechanism (MCP), where the implementation of the Global Fund project is developed.
- The Inter-Institutional Committee for the Protection of Migrant Women (CIPROM), which has contributed to the preparation of Public Policies for the protection and defense of the human rights of women trafficked in both the countries of destination and at the time of their return.

ENDING AIDS: PUBLIC SECTOR COLLABORATION

COIN's expertise with key populations is highly valued, that is why:

- COIN's clinic is a training center for local and international students
- COIN's clinic is part of a pilot Project to strengthen public clinical services for key populations with HIV.
- Thought this Project we mentor 2 public clinics: Centro Sanitario Dr. Galván y Hospital Periférico Juan XXIII.



ENDING AIDS: PUBLIC SECTOR COLLABORATION

- Strengthening in this context means:

Accompaniment in the implementation of the instruments for counseling, characterization of populations and information records

Structural changes and infrastructure improvements

Empowerment of Ministry of Public Health (MSP) staff for the achievement of improved services

Patient-centric approach to services, with a comprehensive evaluation of the abandonment of services

Sustainability of retention strategies in conjunction with the staff

Increase in new cases initiated in ARV



ENDING AIDS: BOTTOM-UP APPROACH



True to our roots, we have always considered that, regardless of the collaboration with other actors, the voices to be heard for the elaboration of actions and policies are those of the populations affected. That is why the COIN:

- Encourages empowerment of community-based groups, through their organizations to defend their interests. As in the case of MODEMU, ASA, COTRAVETD, UGHTV, etc.
- Supports organizations of people with HIV such as REDOVIIH, ASOLSIDA, JEHOVA NISI, among others.
- Has a mobile unit to bring the service to the population and not the other way around.
- Is supporting MOSCTHA in the creation of a Model of Comprehensive Care for the Haitian migrant population living with HIV.
- Will Initiate a pilot project with 150 MSM with Preexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).



ENDING AIDS: HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH



Observatorio Derechos Humanos
Grupos Vulnerabilizados

- COIN has focused its efforts in recent years on empowering and defending the human rights of vulnerable populations.
- To this end, the COIN promoted the creation of the Human Rights Observatory for Vulnerable Groups (ODHGV). It has a help line and not only documents cases but refers them and gives them follow-up.
- One of the strategies that have proven to be effective is the awareness and training program for key players in the Dominican health and justice system. Over 200 Judges, prosecutors, public defenders and police officers, among others, and close to 1,000 health providers have been sensitized so that they can better serve vulnerable populations.
- A study of access to justice has been carried out, a legal literacy manual and protocols on how to manage key populations for judges and prosecutors have been created.

ENDING AIDS: MULTI-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH

In addition to discrimination and human rights violations, there are other factors that affect the epidemic and which are also being worked on, such as the use of drugs:

- Protocols were developed by population, in which health providers and organizations were provided with information on how to address the drug issue, including the clinical part, such as interactions between substances and ARVs
- In addition, COIN is part of the elaboration and implementation of the first Model of Drug Medically Assisted Treatment and Comprehensive HIV Care for Opioid users in the Dominican Republic.

IN CONCLUSION...

- COIN's strategy to achieve the best results in the fight against HIV is based on:
 - The involvement of all relevant actors in policy development
 - Collaboration with the public sector in improving health services
 - The populations as the center of everything "nothing for us without us"
 - The defense of human rights and elimination of stigma and discrimination
 - Consideration of the multiple dimensions of the person in order to offer effective responses

THANKS

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Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral

COIN

Desafiando el estigma y la discriminación para mejorar el acceso y la calidad de los servicios de VIH en el Caribe"

Working in a global fund project "Challenging Stigma and Discrimination to Improve Access and Quality of HIV Services in the Caribbean