

POSITIVE LIVING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



A mask made by women living with HIV in Jamaica @ JCW+

As COVID-19 increasingly affects all our countries and communities, GNP+, ICW and Y+ Global are working together to understand the challenges and advocate for people living with HIV in all our diversity. We also want to share information, resources and inspiring responses from members of our communities.

CHECK THIS OUT!

Latest science and facts about COVID-19

- WHO has a range of [useful pages](#) including a dedicated [Q&A about HIV and antiretrovirals](#)
- [Join WHO's Whatsapp group](#) to get health alerts and facts (in Arabic, English, French and Spanish)

HIV and COVID-19

- UNAIDS have published a [brochure](#) and [infographic](#)
- Young people, check out the [cool resource from Africaid Zvandiri](#)

Human Rights and Advocacy

- As people living with HIV, we know the critical importance of a rights-based, community-led response – check out what [UNAIDS](#), [HIV Justice Network](#) and [GNP+](#) have to say

WHAT ARE WE HEARING FROM NETWORKS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV?

A common concern being reported is that people living with HIV are struggling to get their ARVs during a lockdown or if they are in self-isolation.

Many people living with HIV are also worried about getting tested and treated for co-infections like TB and HepC and how acquiring COVID-19 might affect their physical and mental health. In many parts of the world, a lockdown has meant a complete loss of livelihoods, and women living with HIV, in particular, are sharing their fears about not knowing how to feed their children and themselves.

There are also concerns around growing stigma (which people living with HIV are only too familiar with) and violence – in streets as police enforce lockdowns and in homes as families struggle to cope. And just when it is most needed, it is harder for communities to carry on with their outreach work and peer support especially for sex workers, people who use drugs and the LGBTI community.

TAKE PART IN A SURVEY!



This week GNP+, ICW, and Y+ Global are launching a survey for networks and other organisations of people living with HIV to share how we are adapting to *Life in the time of COVID-19* and how we can act together in solidarity.

Visit our [COVID-19 HIV webpage](#) to find the survey, future editions of the newsletter and other resources.

This is the first edition of a newsletter that we will share every two weeks. We would like to hear from you and feature your work in future editions so please send your ideas and thoughts to covid@gnpplus.net

HOW IS OUR COMMUNITY RESPONDING?

As people living with HIV are coming to terms with a new global pandemic, individuals and networks are bringing their resilience and expertise to advocate for their communities.

- [NEPHAK, Kenya](#) has conducted a survey of people living with HIV, has stepped up its advocacy for differentiated service delivery models of HIV care and is focusing on supporting the community it represents by adapting its programmes. NEPHAK is also keeping their community safe by sharing accurate information on how to prevent COVID-19.
- [DNP+, India](#) volunteers are donning masks and having to take on police officials as they deliver HIV and HepC medications to people living with HIV who are unable to get to ART centres and hospitals.
- [JCW+, Jamaica](#) are mobilising resources to provide information and care packages directly to women living with HIV. They have adapted their quilt making skills to make masks for community members and health care workers. The first batch of masks was delivered to a local treatment site.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WANT TO SALUTE YOU – LIKE HEALTH CARE WORKERS YOU ARE ALSO ON THE FRONTLINE.

