C-19 VACCINE INFO & ACCESS (VIA)

COUNTRY PROFILE

Vietnam

Dong Do Dang – Vietnam Network of People living with HIV (VNP+)

August 17th 2021

Vietnam

- Total COVID-19 cases: Since the outbreak of the epidemic from the beginning of 2020, Vietnam has recorded 274,991 infections, 102,504 people recovered, 166,718 patients are being treated and 5,773 deaths

- Current COVID-19 cases: On August 15th, Vietnam recorded 9,574 cases in 41 provinces, bringing the total number of infections in the country from April 27 to now to 270,986. (The situation of the covid epidemic is on a downward trend in some provinces)

- 3 Key Impacts of COVID-19 on PLHIV and Key Populations:

  - People living with HIV and KP have difficulty in accessing and maintaining ARV and PrEP treatment (especially in areas/provinces under lockdown/social distancing);

  - No income and difficulty in accessing food sources due to travel/work restrictions in areas/provinces under lockdown and social distancing.

  - All in-person services/activities (eg case finding, counseling, HIV/HCV testing, referral and ARV/PrEP support, etc.) are provided by CBOs of people living with HIV. and KP both had to stop due to the government's blockade order in epidemic areas.

Vietnam

- COVID-19 Vaccines approved and available: AstraZeneca, Gam-COVID-Vac (SPUTNIK V), Vero Cell (Sinopharm), Comirnaty (Pfizer/BioNTech), Spikevax (Moderna), Janssen (approved but not available yet)

- Price (to government): No information (All citizens are being vaccinated for free of charge)

- Price (public system): Not applicable (Only the government manages and controls the Vaccine program)

- Price (private system): Not applicable (Only the government manages and controls the Vaccine program)

- Locally researched and/or produced vaccines:

  - Nanocovax (using Recombinant Spike Protein Vaccine mRNA technology– developed by Nanogen Pharmaceutical Biotechnology JSC., and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam) is in phase 3 clinical trials.

  -) is currently Vietnam's second COVID-19 vaccine using Virus Vector technology and is in phase 2 clinical trials.

Vietnam

- Vietnam population: 96.5M people
- 12,1% of population partly vaccinated (first dose)

- 1,4 % of population fully vaccinated (2 doses)

- Vietnam has set a target by the end of 2021 to vaccinate at least 50% of people 12 years of age and older and have 70% coverage by April 2022 to achieve herd immunity

- Who is being left behind?: People with underlying diseases but are allergic to components of vaccines, cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiation therapy, patients with thrombocytopenia, immunocompromised people, children under 12 years of age.

- There is no barrier for PLHIV and key populations in accessing C-19 vaccines except the number of Vaccines which Vietnam receives is limited in batches, so everyone will have to wait.

Vietnam

- Specific issue you wish to highlight relating to C-19 vaccine information and access :

- Many PLHIVs are still hesitant to vaccinate due to concerns about complications after vaccination.

- We have consulted and encouraged PLHIV in the network to quickly register to get the Vaccine as soon as possible.

- The results of this actions were 113 leaders of PLHIV groups who are members of the VNP+ clearly understand about benefits of vaccination rather than the risks.

- What still needs to be done: We are still working through these 113 leaders of PLHIV groups to spread the benefits of vaccination to tens of thousands of other PLHIV members of their groups across the country to encourage them to quickly access the Vaccine.

Vietnam

Thoughts and recommendations on COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Information for PLHIV and Key Populations: *It is extremely important for the community to participate in the process of advocating the Ministry of Health on providing full information on the benefits of vaccination for PLHIV/KP and to include these group in the priority group to be prioritized for vaccination. Because if this cannot be done, the longer the time that PLHIV/KP hesitates to access the Vaccine, the more risks they will face.*

Thank you!