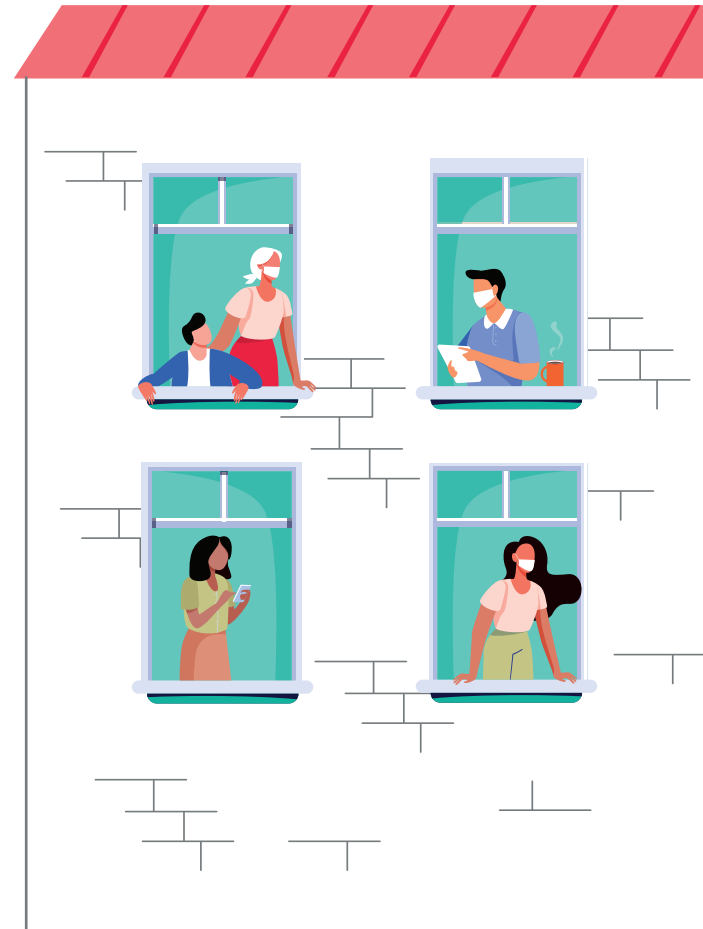


Results of PLHIV needs assessment for access to services during COVID-19

The study amongst PLHIV and their close environment was conducted during April 2020



Most of participants associated themselves with the PLHIV community, but there are also those who relates themselves to LGBT and SW

2,7% the rest respondents did not indicate their gender or there were married couples

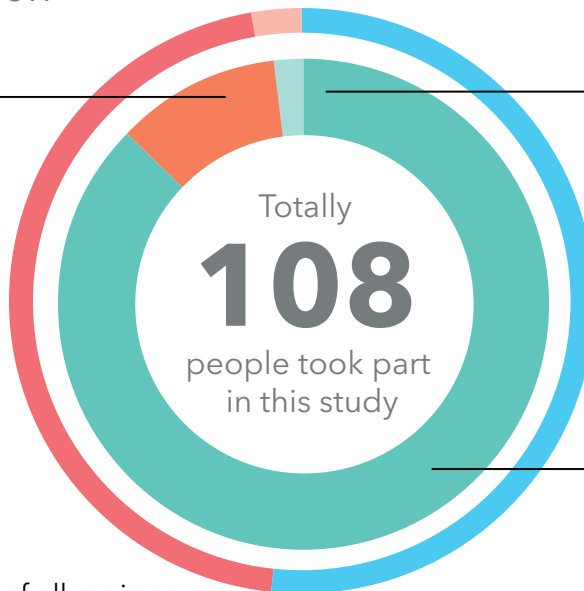
12 family members

NGO staff members 2

45.4%



51.9%



PLHIV 96

The study involved residents of all regions of the country except Issyk-Kul oblast, but they were mainly represented by residents of

Bishkek 52.8%




Chui oblast 33.3%

aged 14 to 72 and older

24-54 years 85.2%

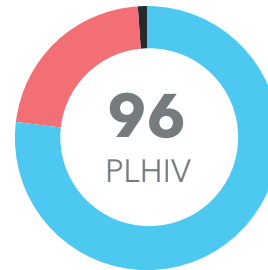
35-44 years 38.9%

All participants knew their status except 2 NGO staff members

- 61%**  were the only family member who are on ART
- 21%**  however there are families where two family members get ART
- 4.6%**  as well as 3 and more people

According to AIDS Center, ART provision for 3 months during COVID-19 was conducted by AIDS Centers and FMCs (Family Medicine Centers) staff by home delivery to prevent interruption in treatment. These data are supported by survey results.

APT - Antiretroviral therapy
ARVT - Antiretroviral medicine



77% (74 people)

had stock of ART medicine for 3 months

22% (21 people)

had stock of ART medicine for 1 month

1 people

Only one person has no data on ART stock

However, only 44,4%

respondents said that they did not experience any problem with getting medicine during coronavirus pandemic



32.5%

About one third were experiencing anxiety because they cannot leave their district/village and it has become more difficult to get to AIDS Centers/FMCs



29.6%

are afraid of coronavirus and do not want to leave their houses



30.6%

do not have livelihoods, which can limit visits to health care organizations, and create the risk of ART interruptions

Most concerns of respondents due to COVID-19 are about the condition of their own health and their family members. In this regard they pay attention to precautionary measures to prevent infection

73%



they frequently washing hands

70.4%



are following to lockdown regimen at home

62%

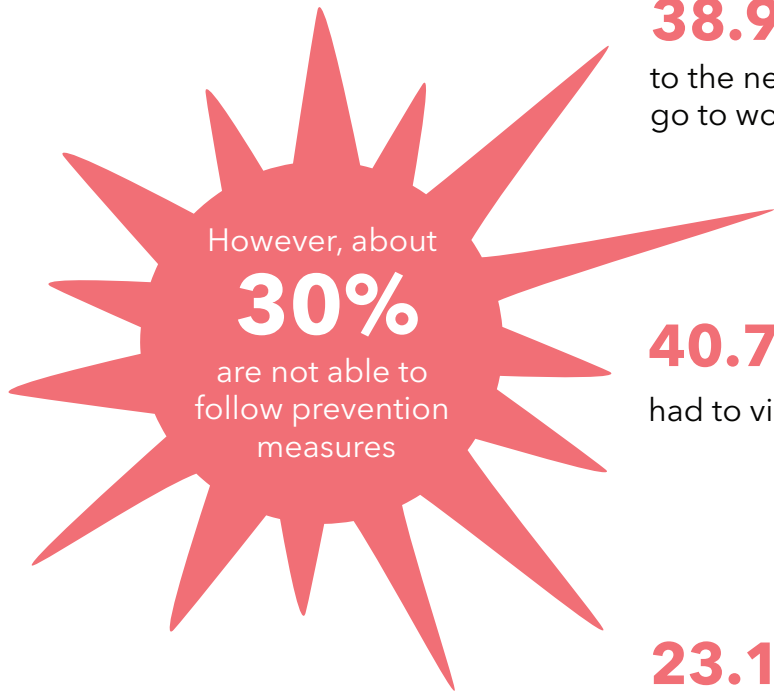


are wearing masks

44.4%



regularly sanitizing their houses



38.9%
to the need to
go to work

40.7%
had to visit doctors




23.1%
do not have permanent
housing and are forced
to move

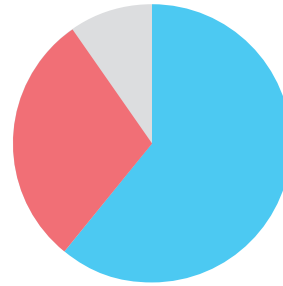
Lockdown conditions are limiting the possibility of receiving medical services, the most need in services of dentist, gynecologist, part of people could not go through planned check-up for viral load or due to ART side effects.

The basic need for saving treatment adherence is home delivery of ART



59.3%

- 53.7%**  More than half are also need masks and disinfectants
- 46.3%**  Along with this, there is a high need in counseling on anxiety and depression
- 36.1%**  As well as psychological support and self-help groups

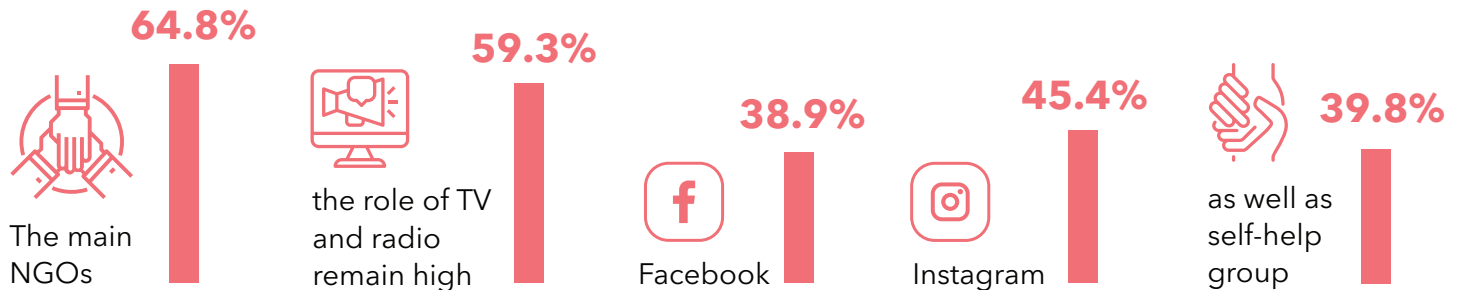


61.1% said that they have a person whom they can trust

29.6% do not have support in their close environment

Support from NGOs is also indicated - 8 NGOs were identified that they trust and from which they receive real support

channels for receiving information



the importance of social media is increasing

Preliminary findings and recommendations:

Coronavirus epidemic has a significant effect on PLHIV community. This is mainly shown by:

- filling of anxiety, uneasiness for health, insecurity in ensuring access to medicine and medical care;
- particular impact has a loss of income, which intensify the social problems, especially for large, poor families and those who do not have own housing;
- all this can significantly have influence of ART adherence.

Conditions of involuntary isolation and accompanying social problems require strengthening of works to support PLHIV and their close environment, which include:

- ART home delivery;
- psychological support, including self-help groups;
- food support for the most needy people;
- providing protective equipment;
- special support is needed for socially inept people on meta temporary stay and food;
- online monitoring of adherence to ART support.

It is also important to continue information work and providing of psychological support:

- through available communication channels – social media;
- expanding of online groups by interests;
- self-help groups; counselling by phone;
- provision support on creating of friendly close environment amongst family members and support groups.

