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Navigating the Hurdles: challenges to Human Capital Development for Women Living with HIV

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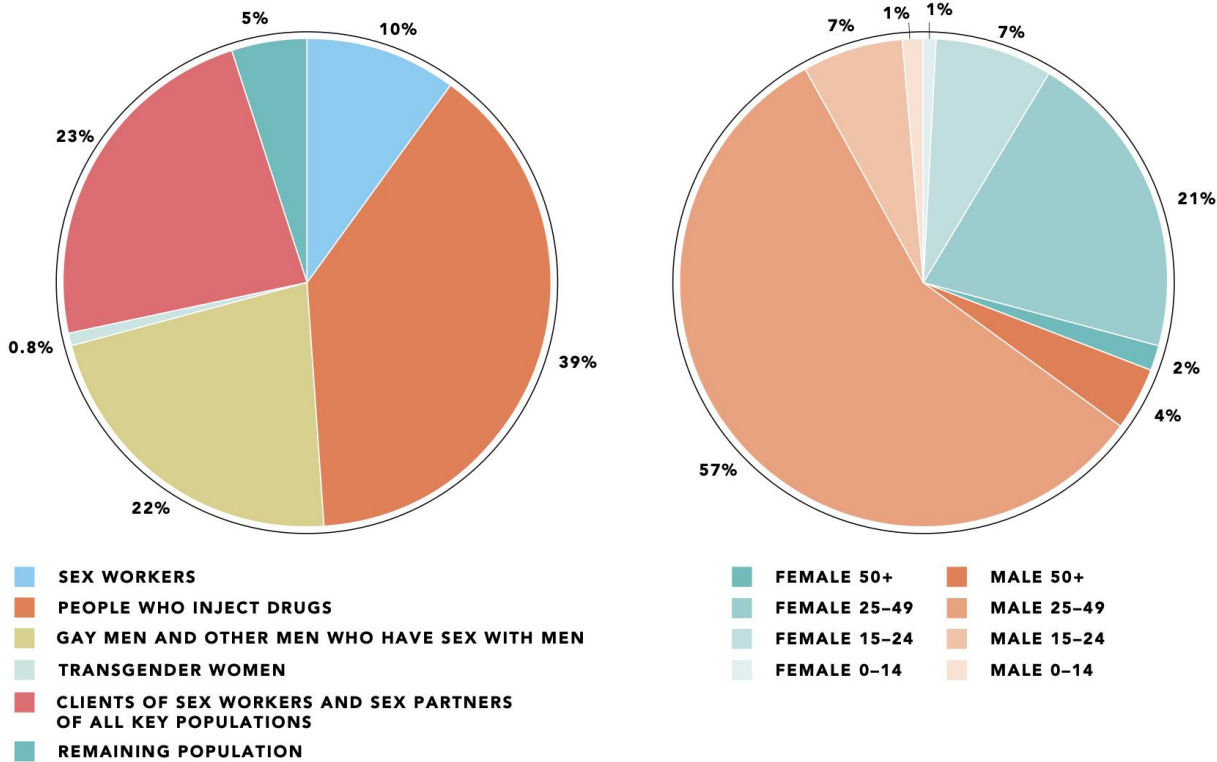
I shared my story to advocate for creating conditions that empower women living with HIV, help them overcome the challenges posed by the virus and enable them to fully realize their potential.





HIV PREVALENCE AMONG WOMEN IN EECA REGION

FIGURE 12.2 Distribution of acquisition of new HIV infections by population and sex (aged 15–49 years), eastern Europe and central Asia, 2021



Source: UNAIDS special analysis, 2022 (see Annex on Methods).

INCREASED NEW CASES AMONG WOMEN IN TAJIKISTAN (UNAIDS STUDY, 2023)





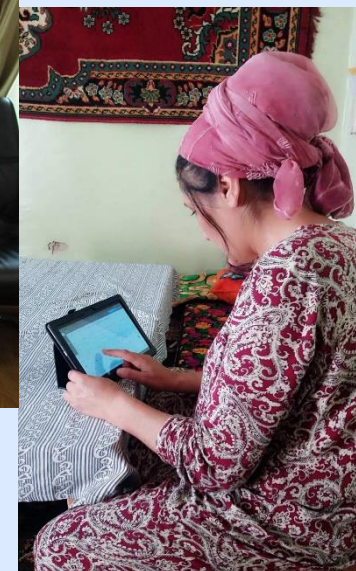
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MULTIPLE INTERSECTIONAL VULNERABILITIES OF WOMEN TO HIV IN THE EECA REGION

- Biological and physiological factors
- Gender inequality is a key factor in women's vulnerability to HIV in the EECA region
- Patriarchal norms, toxic masculinity, religious and cultural characteristics
- Gender discrimination in the context of economic opportunity and poverty
- Criminalization of HIV
- Violence
- *COVID-19 pandemic*



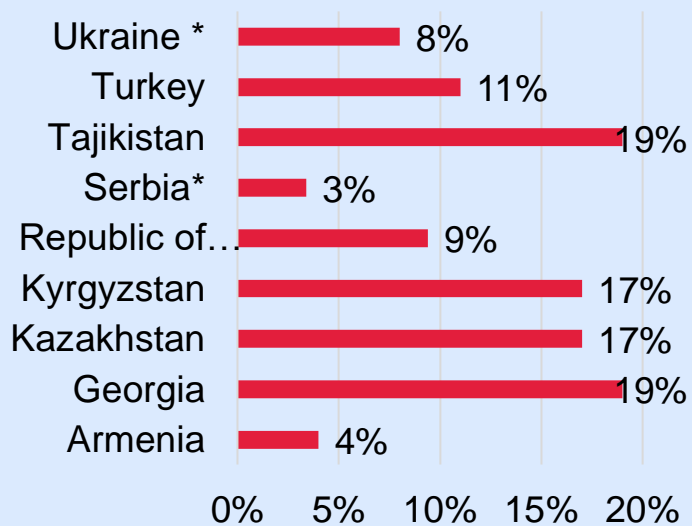
Источник: UNAIDS Global AIDS Report In Danger, 2022

Photo UN Women Tajikistan, AsiaPlus



VIOLENCE AND STEREOTYPES

Intimate partner violence against girls and women aged 15–49 (2019)



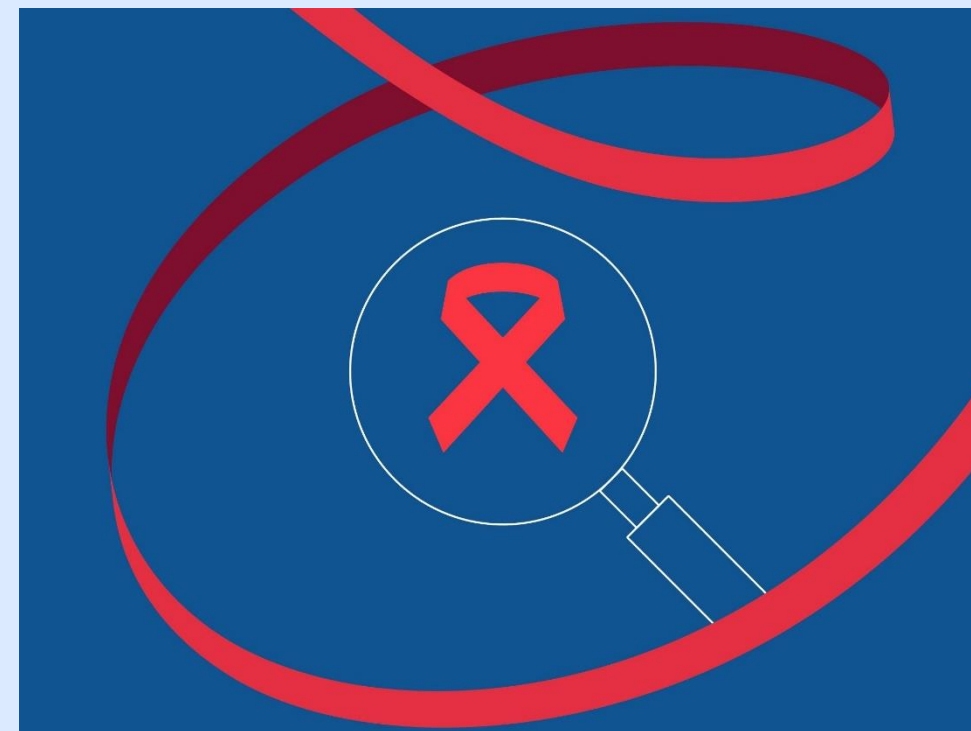
In **75%** of EECA countries there is legislation on domestic violence (versus **60.5%** in the world), in **63%** of EECA countries there are criminal penalties, but...

60.5% of HIV-infected women who experienced gender-based violence did not seek help (Kyrgyzstan, Stigma Index Study, 2022).



2021 Stigma Study, TAJIKISTAN

- **39,6%** of WLWH chose not to apply for a job because of their HIV status
- **27%** of WLWH avoided going to clinics when they needed to vs **18,2%** of men
- **Almost all** PLHIV tend to hide their status from other people.
- **65%** of study participants felt worthless because of their status, and **71%** felt ashamed about it.
- **87%** found it difficult to share their status with others.





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Reproductive health opportunities after HIV diagnosis

- **33.6%** of respondents had not received consultations on reproductive opportunities
- **72.9%** were advised by medical professionals not to have children
- **17.5%** of women were advised to have an abortion.
- Only **43.8%** of women living with HIV received information about healthy pregnancy, motherhood, and preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



2021 Stigma Study, TAJIKISTAN



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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Education
2. Creating safe spaces, online learning and social support networks
3. Financing gender- and age-responsive social protection
4. Healthcare Access
5. Economic Empowerment
6. Policy and Advocacy
7. Research and Development
8. Community Monitoring and Engagement of WLWH





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Thank you!
Tashakkur!

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