

# Update Monitoring Committee

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30 November 2023 - BREACH Symposium





Previously

Budget allocation propositions

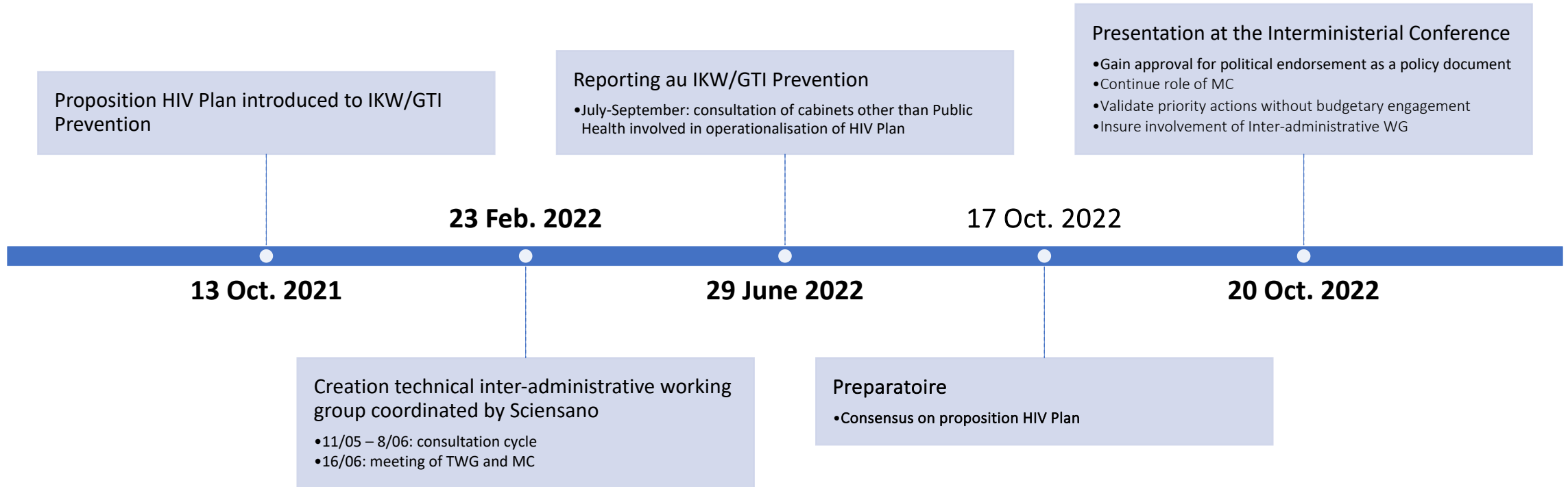
Current state of affairs

Next steps

Previously



# Steps towards political support





## Prevention

Increase access and uptake of PrEP by key populations by reducing barriers at structural, provider and user level



## Testing

Further develop the legal framework for lay provider combined HIV and STI testing



## Care

Ensure that all people living with HIV in Belgium benefit of prompt access to the most adequate ART and care



## Quality of life

Strengthen advocacy for non-discriminatory legislation and policies with regard to people living with HIV



Conférence Interministérielle  
Santé publique



E-Interministeriële Conferentie  
Volksgezondheid

APPROUVE  
GOEDGEKEURD

*GTI prévention*

**Proposition du Comité de  
Monitoring pour un plan  
national HIV reconduit  
pour la période 2020-  
2026 accordant une  
attention particulière aux  
IST**

*IKW preventie*

**Voorstel van het HIV  
Monitoring Comité voor  
een voortgezet nationaal  
HIV Plan 2020-2026 met  
bijzondere aandacht voor  
soa's**

Union  
octobre 2022

Vergadering  
20 oktober 2022

**Persbericht minister van Sociale Zaken en Volksgezondheid**

**Frank Vandenbroucke**

**1 miljoen extra voor hiv-plan om de UNAIDS-doelstellingen van 2030 te halen**

**HIV-rapport Sciensano 2021**

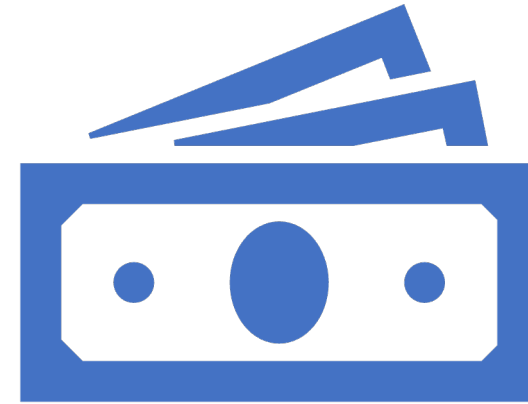
**Communiqué de presse de Frank Vandenbroucke,**

**ministre des Affaires sociales et de la Santé publique**

**1 million supplémentaire pour le plan VIH afin d'atteindre les objectifs de  
l'ONUSIDA pour 2030**

**Rapport 2021 de Sciensano sur le VIH**

# Budget allocation propositions





# Retained budget proposals



## Prevention

PrEP for sex workers with difficult access to health care

*HIV Plan action 3.4: Increase access and uptake of PrEP by key populations by reducing barriers at structural, provider and user level*



## Care

Psycho-social care for uninsured HIV patients

*HIV Plan action 1.3: Ensure that all people living with HIV in Belgium benefit of prompt access to the most adequate ART and care*



## Care

Vaccination (HPV, Pneumococcus) HIV patients

*HIV Plan action 4.2: Ensure the availability and accessibility, including reimbursement, of vaccines for people living with HIV as recommended by the European guidelines (EACS)*



# PrEP for SW with difficult access to health care

- Mainly male and transgender sex workers
  - Very high HIV prevalence
  - Difficult to reach population
  - 50% eligible for PrEP whilst no access = target population
- Procedure “Urgent Medical Care” practically not feasible due to imposed conditions (3 months living in Belgium+ fixed residence + not travelling + social investigation)
- CBOs have experience with PrEP care for SW through pilot projects
  - Alias – HRC St Pierre
  - Violet – HRC Antwerp & Ghent

# Psycho-social care for uninsured HIV patients

- Great needs in terms of psycho-social care
- At higher risk of lost to follow up in the continuum of HIV care, and thus higher risk for HIV transmission
- Multidisciplinary care as offered in the HRC is highly recommended but currently not financed
- Proportion of uninsured HIV patients varies by HRC: from 2 to 10% - with an overall mean of 5%

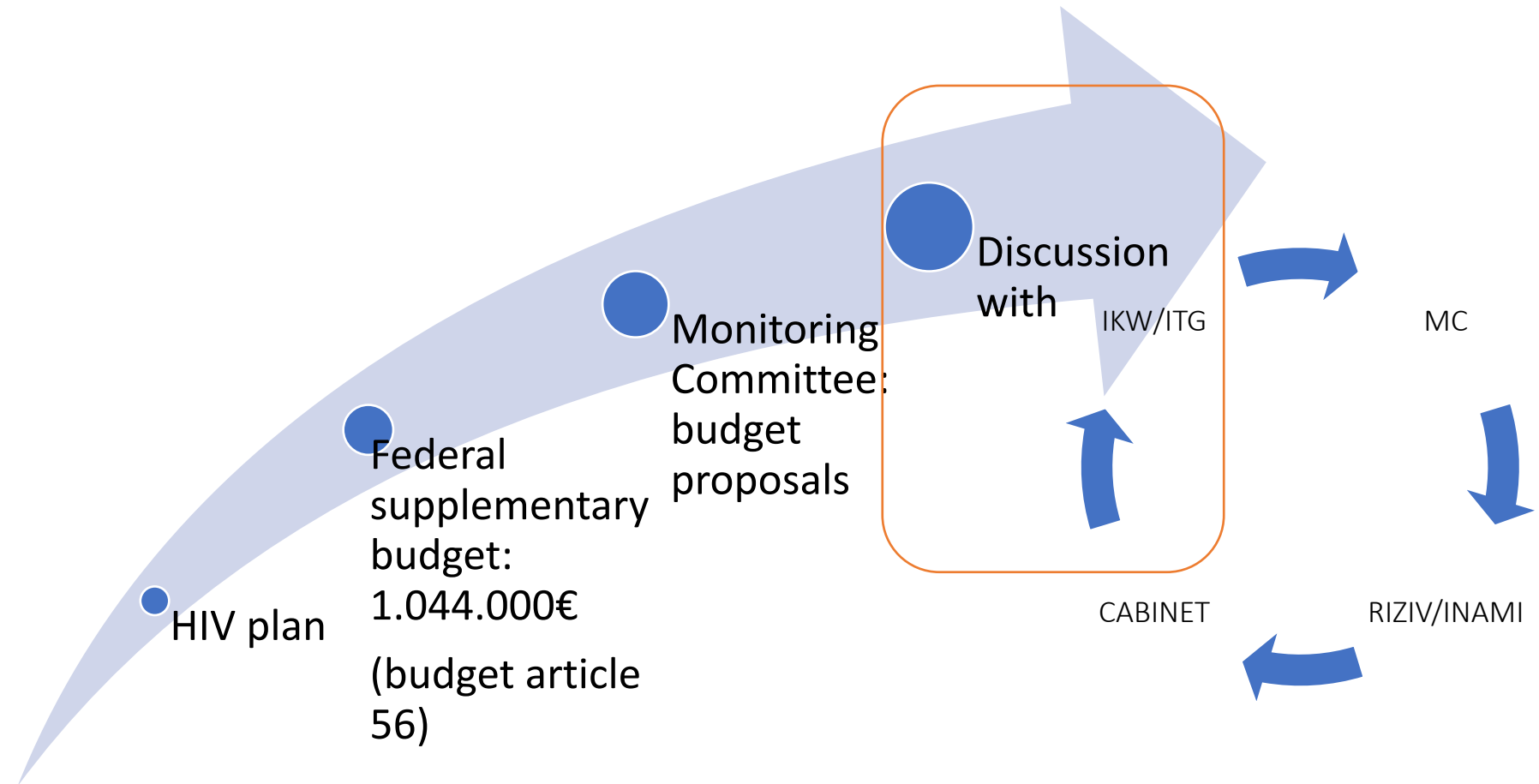
# Vaccination HIV patients

- Guarantee optimal quality of care for PLWH within a holistic approach, including prevention and management of complications and comorbidities
- Vaccination criteria **HPV, HBV, HAV and pneumococcus**: Advice High Health Council n° 9158 “*Vaccination of immunocompromised or chronically ill children and/or adults*”
- Vaccination criteria **pneumococcus**: Advice High Health Council n° 9674 “*Vaccination against pneumococcal disease (adults)*”

Current state of affairs



# Discussion cycle



# PrEP for uninsured sex workers

Proposal to have PrEP care delivered by CBOs

Question introduced to FAGG/AFMPS March 2023: *“Under what legal conditions can PrEP medication be stored in and delivered by a community organisation?”*

- The cabinet requested “cases” to demonstrate that there is a problem with PrEP and Urgent Medical Care
- **Urgency to act! No PrEP stock anymore!**

Latest news: FAGG has introduced its Royal Decree on PrEP for sexworkers by NGOs to Council of State for advice.

# Psycho-social care for uninsured PLWH

- Budget proposal has been **approved**
  - Conventions with HRC (are being) signed
- Problem with ART and Urgent Medical care in some OCMW/CPAS (eg. Antwerp)
  - Signaled to Cabinet
  - CBO in negotiation with respective city policy makers drawing on lessons learned from colleague CBOs



# HPV vaccination

- Feedback CRM: *"the chance that people from the target population are already infected with the HPV strains in the vaccines is very high. The effectiveness of these vaccines is greatest in people who are still HPV negative. The pharmacoeconomic value in already infected persons is very limited"*
- Expert advise from Dr Deborah Konopnicki
- Next steps: lack of scientific evidence is not the real problem; rather the CRM prefers to be properly consulted in decisions by the Minister. Cabinet will resume dialogue with CRM.

# Vaccination pneumococcus

## TERUGBETALING APEXXNAR INJ. SUSP. I.M. [VOORGEV. SPUIT] 1 X 0,5 ML (BRON: RIZIV)

- tussen de 65 en 80 jaar oud zijn met een verhoogd risico op een pneumokokkeninfectie en met een of meerdere comorbiditeiten:
  - Chronisch hartlijden met NYHA klasse II - IV
  - Chronisch longlijden, gediagnosticeerd met astma, COPD, longfibrose, restrictieve longziekte, de gevolgen van longembolie, mucoviscidose of interstitiële longziekte
  - Actieve rokers
  - Chronisch leverlijden (Child-Pugh score B en C)
  - Chronisch nierlijden met KDOQI score 3-5
  - Chronisch neurologische of neuromusculaire aandoeningen met verhoogd aspiratierisico
  - Diabetes mellitus

Quid: HIV-patients >65?

Update with Cabinet planned

# Other/supplementary processes

1. Enlarging legal frame for demedicalised testing
  - In collaboration with HCV coalition
  - **Royal Decree approved!**
2. Access to PrEP
  - Uninsured persons OCMW/CPAS and Fedasil: adaptation vademecum = access to PrEP
  - Collaboration Belgian PrEP Network
3. Quality of Life
  - Support in development of policy brief "*HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination: The Challenge*" Spanish EU Presidency
  - KCE 'right to be forgotten' shortlisted next in line! **(2-3y)**
4. Supporting 3 screening centers
  - Adaptation of convention fitting actual function and reach
5. Reimbursement vaccination Herpes Zoster for HRC patients: **fell from the sky**

# Other/supplementary processes



Werkgroep  
Ontwikkeling  
Richtlijnen  
Eerste Lijn







Groupe de travail  
Développement de  
Guides de pratique  
de Première Ligne

Working group  
Development of  
Primary Care  
Guidelines

Login



## MANAGEMENT OF PERSONS WITH HIV IN PRIMARY CARE (SUMMARY)

 Publication date	02/05/2023	<b>Most recent literature search</b>	01/06/2022
 Published by	WOREL		
 Authors	S. Mokrane, N. Dekker, P. Van Royen, C. Martin, D. Van Beekhoven, S. Swannet, E. Florence, R. Koeck, T. Cornelissen, L. De Coninck, M. Goossens, S. Cordyn, J. Laermans, V. Borra		
 Info	<p>The aim is to improve the quality of communicating HIV test results in primary care and the involvement of GPs in the follow-up of patients living with HIV.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What to do after a positive HIV test?</li><li>2. What is the medical follow-up in primary care for patients living with HIV?</li></ol>		
 Population	Adults (16+) after a confirmed positive HIV test		
 Health care professions	Other relevant healthcare providers, GP, Midwife		

Next steps





- These are **vulnerable** times...
  - Only 1 out of 4 priorities were accomplished
  - Procedural obstacles beyond our control
  - **Most vulnerable members of our society pay the bill!**
- These are times of **concern**...
  - Budget will be reabsorbed if not spent in 2023
- Open dialogue with Cabinet maintained
- Preparation of budget propositions for 2024: priorities of 2023 will be maintained (minimal adjustments provided)



# Monitoring Committee

PILLAR	COORDINATORS & SUB
PREVENTION	Thierry Martin Sandra Van den Eynde Stephen Barris Christiana Nöstlinger
TESTING	Chris Verhofstede Jessika Deblonde Simon Englebert Anne-Sophie Sauvage
CARE	Agnès Libois Rémy Demeester Marie-Angelique De Scheerder Dominique Van Beckhoven
QUALITY OF LIFE	Grâce Ntunzwenimana Fabian Colle Anne De Vleeschouwer Charlotte Vandenbulcke
POSITIVE COUNCIL	Axel Vanderperre



- Thank you on behalf of the Monitoring Committee!



- [HIV Plan Belgium 2020-2026 \(hiv-plan.be\)](https://hiv-plan.be)
- Questions & comments can be sent to:
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  - [Jessika.Deblonde@sciensano.be](mailto:Jessika.Deblonde@sciensano.be)