Meeting the challenge of treatment, health care, social protection and rehabilitation

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The challenge, in general and in time of COVID19
Only 1 in 8 in treatment
Worse for women, for people in prison settings and for people in humanitarian settings.
Impact on people with substance use disorders: significant risk for COVID19 morbidity and mortality
A survey of professionals in almost 80 countries by the International Society of Addiction Medicine (Radfar et al, 2020) indicates:

- Reduction of services for immigrants/refugees
- Reduction of outreach services
- Reduction of overdose prevention
- Shortages of methadone/buprenorphine
- Existence of continuity plan
- Core medical/psychiatric treatment continued
Meeting the challenge together
UNODC-WHO Joint Programme on
drug dependence
treatment and care

The vision
Effective and humane treatment for all people with drug use disorders. Nothing less than what would be expected for any other disease.
Increase the coverage of services, dramatically
Increase the quality, including continuity plans and integration
• Continuity plans
  • Maintain evidence-based services
  • Prepare medical supplies
  • Integrate the different services
  • Vulnerable groups such as immigrants and refugees

(adapted from Radfar et al, 2020)
Respond to the needs of populations in vulnerable situations.
Increase the use of alternatives to conviction and punishment
Health in prison settings: HIV and other infectious diseases, but also mental health
Strong prevention systems based on scientific evidence
In conclusion

Large-scale mobilization of all partners at all levels to provide treatment, health and social care and rehabilitation services for people who use drugs and people with drug use disorders to promote and protect their health, wellbeing and recovery.

It is their right and it is our call.
Thank you!

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