

This annual summary report abstracts narrative and statistical review of the Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT), and Psychological Support services of [Alwan Centre](#) that is associated with [Bedayaa Organization](#) in Egypt. Alwan Centre provides health services (HIV testing/counselling, STIs' counselling and referral system, as well as psychological support services) for the LGBTIQ+ persons in Egypt. Data, figures and numbers of this report cover the period from January to December 2020. Due to the global health situation and its implications at the local level, the centre could not perform with its full capacity; constraints of lockdown, social distancing, curfew hours and quarantine resulted in serving a smaller number of beneficiaries.

## Significant Numbers

Total Submitted Applications in 2020: 178

Voluntary Counselling and Testing: 72

Psychological Support: 106

45 Showed up

9 No Show

13 Refugees

88 Served Cases

20 Waiting List

5 Unreachable

12 Male Sex Workers

6 Group Therapy Sessions

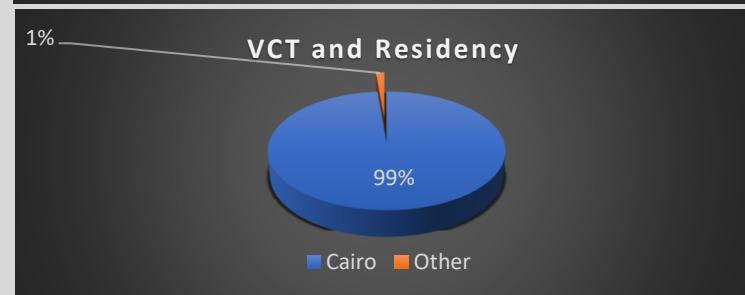
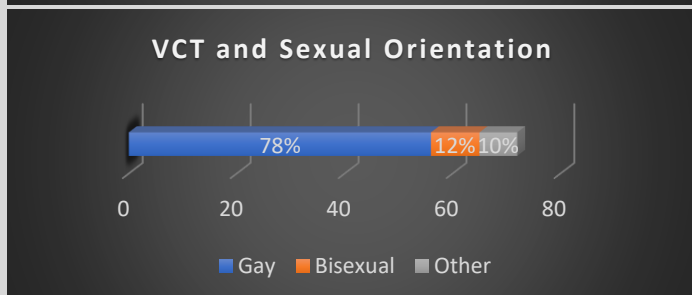
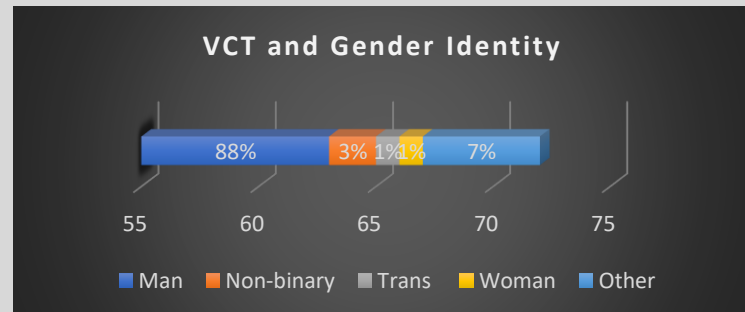
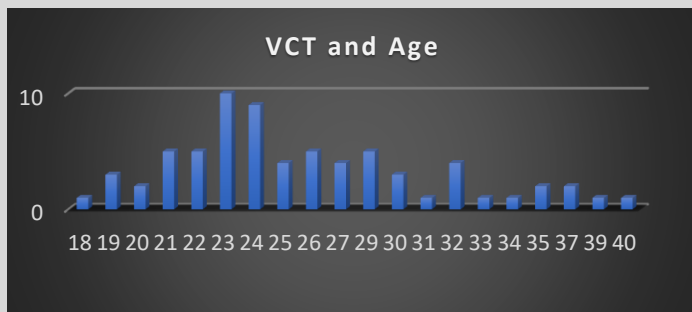
492 Individual Sessions

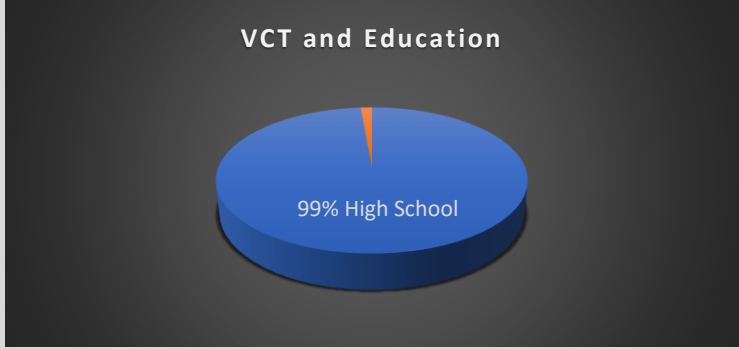
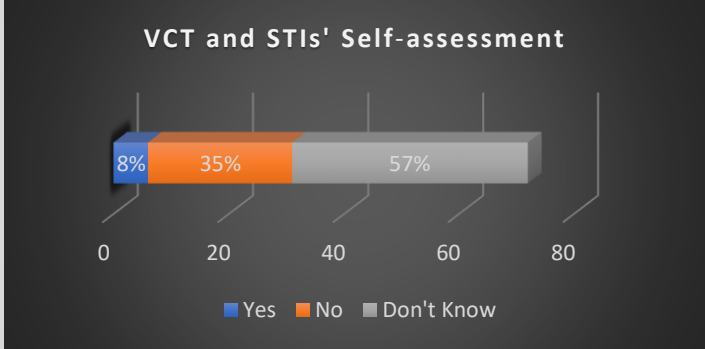
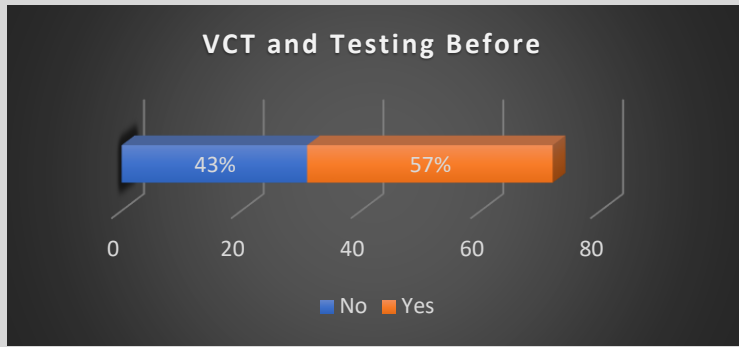
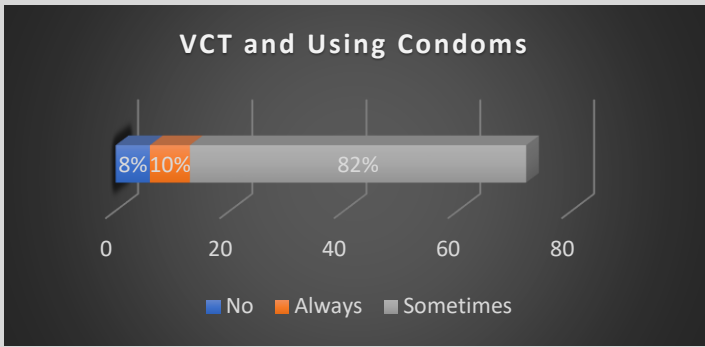
7 Positive Cases

65 Negative Cases

21 Unreachable

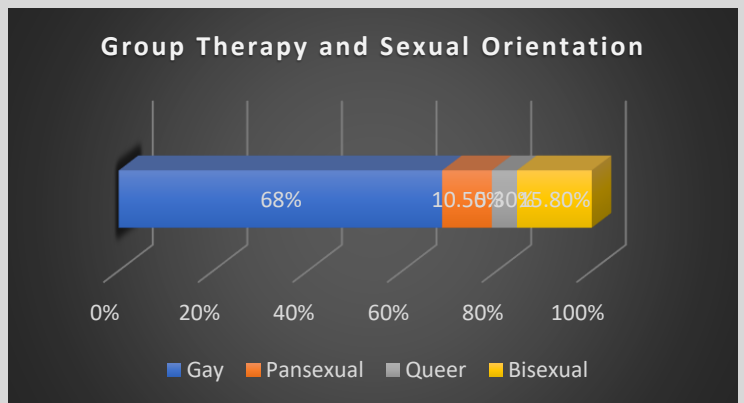
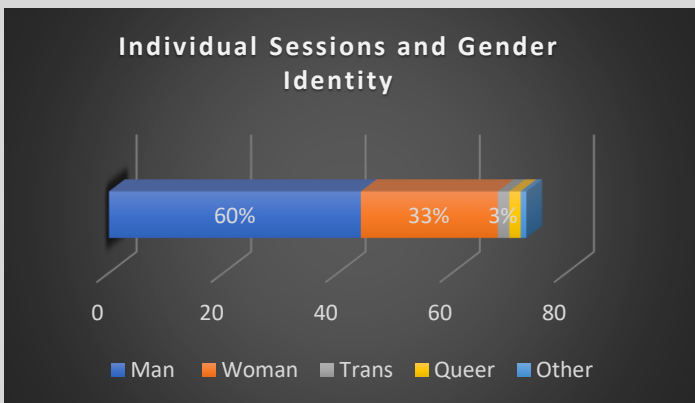
### I. Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT)








- It is worth noting that the majority of the beneficiaries reported during the post-testing counselling sessions their un-comfortability of using condoms as the main cause of practicing unsafe sex. Other reasons that intersect with partners' unwillingness and condoms' availability ranked less. This gives a correlation insight on the spike of the recent commonly asked questions about the PrEP and its availability.
- The vast majority of the beneficiaries marked their willingness to repeat the VCT action as a response to the referral question. Whereas some of them asked for more information about HIV/STIs prevention and STIs' friendly physicians and medical centres.
- During this reporting period, a number of our beneficiaries who are PLHIV (People living with HIV) reported a shortage of Truvada. A close contact of the Ministry of Health and Population, the National AIDS Program notified us that Truvada was not available in some of the clinics due to the emerging crisis of the COVID-19 resulted in a delay in shipment that was supposed to reach Egypt in February 2020. That situation lasted for at least three months during which PLHIV could not access their antiretrovirals (ARVs) and apparently the Ministry of Health and Population, the National AIDS Program continued replacing Truvada by other local alternatives – as reported by our PLHIV beneficiaries.


## II. Psychological Support Services




- Throughout 2020, there was a rapid increase in the numbers of psychological support services' seekers due to the hate speech surrounding social media and other public spheres - especially after the tragic loss of the Egyptian activist [Sarah Hegazi](#), as well as the implications of applying lockdown and curfew hours in light of the first and the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- According to our psychologists' reports, the severely traumatized beneficiaries – those who experience suicidal, and the ones with unavoidable suffering (HIV positive) – usually need more time to show significant improvement. Some of the beneficiaries showed traits from different personality disorders (mostly Borderline, Narcissistic, and Co-dependent personality disorders). The following data classifies the most reported psychological diagnosis of the beneficiaries:

- MDD (Major Depressive Disorder)  40%
- PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)  20%
- Low self-esteem  17%

*Main reason was being bullied in childhood by family members, friends, or acquaintances.*

- Depression and fear of commitment  60%
- Suffering from difficulties being in stable healthy sustainable relationships and most of them suffered from several abusive relationships.*

- Feelings of loneliness  5.14%

- Previously tried to attempt suicide.  14%
- And still struggling with suicidal thoughts.*

- HIV Positive  8.5%

- Feel significantly better.  20%

*Their mood and energy levels are significantly elevated and became more functioning in their work and day to day activities.*