



HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

Penitentiary, Law Enforcement & Drug sectors Government Efficiency in HIV response

QUARTERLY REPORT # 3

Reporting period:
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Cooperative Agreement No.:
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1. Context	
Programme/Sub-programme	XCEA01 - Effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Vulnerable Groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe
Project Title	Penitentiary, Law Enforcement and Drugs Sectors Government Efficiency in HIV response
Project Duration	01 October 2011 – 30 September 2016
Project Starting Date	01 October 2011
Location	Ukraine
UNODC Responsible Office	Regional Programme Office for Moldova and Ukraine
UNODC Regional / Country or Thematic Programme Outcome to which this programme/project directly contributes	3.3. HIV prevention and care (as related to injecting drug users, prison settings and trafficking in human beings)
Executing Agency	UNODC Programme Office in Ukraine
Government Counterparts	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior as well as State Service on HIV/AIDS and Other Socially Dangerous Diseases, State Penitentiary Service and State Drugs Control Service.
Donor(s)	USAID/Ukraine
Project Summary	
<p>USAID/Ukraine is supporting the <i>HIV PLEDGE</i> project to reduce HIV transmission among most-at-risk populations (MARPs) through increased access to state-of-the-art HIV, AIDS and drug abuse services, including service delivery within pre-, in-, and post- detention settings. This will be achieved through advocacy and policy activities, strengthening the capacity of narcological services to integrate HIV/AIDS and substance abuse services, and expanding HIV, AIDS and drug dependence treatment services in detention and post-release settings. USAID's funding for these activities builds on and expands UNODC's existing work in Ukraine under its regional programme XCEA01 – “Effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”.</p> <p>The <i>HIV PLEDGE</i> project will work with national stakeholders and other donors to ensure cohesiveness with US-Ukraine Partnership Framework goals. These partners include the Ministries of Health, Justice, and Interior as well as State Services of Ukraine on Drug Control and on countering HIV and AIDS. This project complements and adds value to existing and forthcoming HIV/AIDS initiatives, including those supported by the Global Fund and the United States Government (USG). The programme builds upon achievements and lessons learned from current HIV/AIDS interventions.</p> <p>The goal of the project is to build support among Ukrainian law enforcement officials and other key Government stakeholders for HIV/AIDS and drug dependence treatment services targeted MARPs, including service delivery within pre-, in-, and post- detention settings.</p>	
2. Project objectives, outputs and main activities and achievement for the period under review	
<p>Objective 1: Create an environment supportive of evidence-informed and human-rights based HIV/AIDS and drug dependence treatment programmes among MARPs.</p>	

Output 1.1: Increased awareness and knowledge of key GOU stakeholders including law enforcement and drug control agencies on the importance of the accessibility of comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes for people who use drugs and the role of these sectors in supporting effective national response to HIV epidemics.

Output 1.2: Technical working group comprising key experts from law enforcement, drug control, public health and civil society representatives is set up and trained on HIV strategic programming, result-based & human rights focused planning to develop sectoral HIV policy frameworks, strategic and operational plans in line with the international guidelines and best practices in addressing HIV epidemics among MARPs.

Output 1.3: Law enforcement and drug control personnel as well as public health and civil society partners involved in the implementation of the HIV prevention and care services for people who use drugs in the target regions/localities are trained to build and maintain effective multisectoral partnership and collaboration for promoting supportive environment.

Output 1.4: HIV/AIDS and drugs related modules of the training curricula, manual and materials at the police training institutions are updated with evidence-informed international guidelines on effective HIV responses targeted at MARPs.

Main activities and achievements

Activity 1.1.1: National round table meeting on the role of law enforcement sector in the implementation of the national response to HIV/AIDS

Round table discussion “The Role of Law Enforcement Sector in Providing Effective National Response to HIV Epidemics in Ukraine” was organized on May 16 with the aim to strengthen the role of law enforcement sector in implementation of the national HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care strategy. The event brought together representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the State AIDS Centre and the State AIDS Service, international and local NGOs implementing projects and programmes in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment area in Ukraine (25 participants in total). Based on the group discussion the recommendations for law enforcement sectoral policy addressing HIV/AIDS were provided in the following areas: HIV/AIDS policy at work place, building cooperation between law enforcement and public health sectors for effective implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes.

The representative of Law Enforcement and HIV Network, Mr. Nickolas Thomson, took part in the round table discussion and delivered the presentation on the impact of law enforcement policy and practices on HIV/AIDS prevention activities. Mr Thomson also facilitated group discussion on The role of Law Enforcement sector in the development of collaboration with other sectors for the implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment& care programmes.

Project established cooperation with Law Enforcement and HIV Network (LEHN) to facilitate implementation of best international experience of cooperation between law enforcement and public health sectors in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. Joint events are planned in cooperation with LEHN to involve the Ministry of Interior into dialog on the role of Law Enforcement Sector in HIV/AIDS Prevention among MARPs, to eliminate the occupational risks and strengthen cooperation with public health sector.

In this connection, the project supports the participation of Law Enforcement officials in the regional consultation which gathers participants from CA and EE countries in Bishkek on mid of September 2012, and in the First International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health in Melbourne, Australia, 11-14 November, 2012 (<http://www.policing-and-public-health.com/>)

Objective 2: Strengthen capacities of the State Penitentiary Service, public health and social services and civil society organizations to provide evidence-informed and human-rights based comprehensive HIV prevention,

treatment and care services including drug dependence treatment in prison settings

Output 2.1: Increased awareness and knowledge of decision makers and prison management officials on the importance of the accessibility of comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes in prison settings.

Output 2.2: Policies, guidelines and protocols for management of health, HIV/TB, drug dependence treatment programmes in pre-trial detention, prisons and post-release stages are developed for the implementation of a comprehensive package of HIV/TB interventions in pre-detention centres, prisons and post-release stages in line with international human rights standards and effective prison health management principles.

Output 2.3: Evidence-informed and human-rights based comprehensive package of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services including drug dependent treatment is initiated and provided in selected pre-trial detention and prison settings as a model for integrated and continuum of care.

Output 2.4: Updated training curricula, modules and training manuals on evidence-informed and human-rights-based comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care in prison settings are available and used by the training staff of the prison training schools.

Main activities and achievements

Activity 2.1.1: National advocacy and awareness raising seminar on HIV in prison issues

The working meeting “The Role of the Medical Service in Development of Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Penitentiary Sectoral Policy” was held on April 27-28 in Kherson City (Ukraine). The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the role of medical service in development of comprehensive HIV/AIDS policy in penitentiary institutions of Ukraine. The meeting brought together the heads of oblast level units of medical service of the State Penitentiary services of Ukraine (25 participants), representatives the medical department of the Service (4 participants), representatives of international and local organizations (ILO, UNODC, NGO “Ukrainian Institute on Public Health Policy”), and the deputy head of State AIDS Centre.

During the meeting the participants discussed the current HIV/AIDS situation on and challenges, the following information were provided:

- general overview of achievements and problems in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment policy implementation in Ukraine (by the State AIDS Centre)
- current situation on the HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support programmes implementation in prison and pre-trial detention settings in Ukraine (by the State Penitentiary Service)
- results of the conducted research on HIV prevalence among inmates, related policy and access to HIV services (by UNODC);
- comprehensive HIV/AIDS package of services in penitentiary institutions (by UNODC);
- International standards and recommendation regarding HIV policy at work place (by a trainer of ILO);

UNODC presentations were followed by numerous questions, reflections from participants, the most topical was introduction of NSP and SMT for inmates, how to detect all cases of HIV and eligibility criterias for ART, and how to organize cooperation between local AIDS Centers etc.

As the results of the meeting, the participants developed the recommendations for comprehensive HIV/AIDS sectoral policy to improve HIV/AIDS prevention related services and highlighted the importance of development of the HIV policy at work place.

Next step in this area was the conference “Programmes for HIV prevention and AIDS treatment, care

and support in penitentiary institutions of Ukraine: lessons learned development prospects” that took place in Kyiv on May 24-25. The purpose of this event was the facilitation of the development of comprehensive HIV/AIDS sectoral policy in penitentiary institutions of Ukraine. The conference was organized by UNODC in cooperation with the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine and under support of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine. About 90 participants attended the conference including regional NGO, which implemented HIV prevention projects in penitentiary institutions within GF Round 6th, social workers, psychologists and medical staff of the penitentiary institutions. During the conference key aspects of effective implementation of HIV prevention programmes, and international standards, best practices, and main challenges of implementation of HIV prevention programmes among inmates, care and support services for PLWH in penitentiary institution were presented and discussed. UNODC invited experts who shared practical experience of implementing prevention programmes in prisons settings in Netherlands (France Dou, Prisons Director) and Moldova (Ilona Burduga, Retired Head of Medical Service of Penitentiary System).

Based on analysis of current situation and group discussions during the both events, the recommendations for comprehensive HIV/AIDS sectoral policy to improve HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care and support services and to develop HIV policy at work place were developed and documented.

Activities 1.1.2: Provide sponsorships for participation in international conferences on drug dependence treatment and HIV/AIDS and 2.1.2. Provide sponsorships for participation in international conferences on prison reform and health and HIV in prisons issues.

In the framework of awareness raising activities HIV-PLEDGE will provide sponsorship to group of officials from the state Drug control Service, Ministry of Interior, State Penitentiary System and State Service on HIV AIDS and other Social decease to participate in AIDS 2012 Conference. In order to make conference participation most productive, we developed a schedule of relevant sessions and satellite meetings which are to be attended by Project’s supported delegation (see Annex 1):

We are also planning to organise the series of bilateral meetings with the relevant US institutions (such as INL, DEA, NIDA, PEPFAR and OGAC) and UN agencies (UNAIDS, World Bank) to have an opportunity to discuss possible collaboration in the areas of strengthening drug control, prevention and treatment of drug dependence and addressing HIV among drug users.

Activity 2.1.4: Support focused research initiatives to support advocacy strategy

The results of comprehensive study on HIV Policy, Programme with bio-behavioural component were presented at above mentioned foras on Penitentiary and High-Level Conference on Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to prevention and treatment of drug dependence and related HIV/AIDS with a focus on the need to develop New HIV Prevention and Treatment Policy which will reflect current epidemiological and behavioural trends in close setting.

Activity 2.2.1: Set up and ensure regular meetings of the Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Prisons

HIV-PLEDGE Project continues active support for the re-establishment of the TWG on HIV/AIDS and Prisons. As of reporting time the Draft Order of State Penitentiary Service (SPS) on TWG reestablishment and TWG Statute are developed with the project support and submitted to SPS for consideration.

Objective 3: Improve capacity of substance use treatment system (narcological services) to provide evidence-informed and human-right based integrated HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment services.

Output 3.1: Policy, legal and normative frameworks, technical guidelines and operational standards are in place to mainstream/integrate HIV related interventions into the drug dependence treatment service system (narcology system).

Output 3.2: Conceptual framework and model of integrated and comprehensive package of HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment services system is piloted and documented for further replication at national level.

Output 3.3: Narcology training curricula, modules, manuals and materials are updated, developed and delivered by the trained trainers in line with the international best practices and guidelines on contemporary drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes including MAT as well as effective HIV prevention and care interventions among people who use drugs.

Main activities and achievements

Activity 3.1.1. Conduct awareness raising and advocacy events with policy makers.

One of the important and urgent task of the project is to increase awareness of policy makers, bring contemporary approaches on HIV prevention, treatment and care and to discuss the State Drug Strategy developed by the Government of Ukraine. In order to achieve this, the UNODC programme office jointly with the State Service of Ukraine on Drug Control, World Federation on Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Council of Europe's Pompidou Group, National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine conducted the International High-Level Conference on Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Prevention & Treatment of Drug Dependence and related HIV/AIDS "Ukrainian Society and Drugs: Building a New Strategic Approach". The conference took place in Kiyiv on May 21-23, 2012.

The high level officials and representatives of international and national agencies have attended the conference: Mr. Yuri Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director; Mr. Gilberto Gerra, Chief of the UNODC Health and Human Development Section; Mr. Christian Kroll, UNODC Global Coordinator for HIV/AIDS; Mr. Eric Schulz, Deputy Chief of USAID mission in UKraine; Mr. Olivier Adam, UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine; Mr. Patrick Penninckx, Executive Director of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe; Mr. Volodymyr Timoshenko, Head of the State Service of Ukraine on Drug Control; Mrs. Raisa Moiseenko, First deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine; Mr. Vasyl Tatsiy, President of the National Academy of Legal Studies of Ukraine.

Totally, almost 400 people from 30 countries participated in this conference.

The target audiences were practitioners, policy makers and scientists from law enforcement, drug control, health and social service sectors. The internationally best known experts on drug dependence treatment and care, national experts from Ukraine, CIS and other participating countries presented contemporary approaches and findings in different areas of addiction medicine, access to HIV treatment and care in penitentiary settings, on treatment service management and organization.

The Conference comprised eight parallel thematic sessions: to review and discuss of the draft of National Drug Strategy of Ukraine; OST achievements and challenges in Ukraine; availability of controlled substances for palliative care and pain treatment; improving legal framework for effective drug supply reduction; challenges and opportunities in addressing HIV/AIDS among IDUs; cooperation with NGO, health services, law enforcement; drugs, HIV/AIDS and prisons; training and capacity building for medical staff and social workers.

Activity 3.1.2. Undertake assessment of the policy, legal and normative frameworks, capacity of narcological services system to integrate HIV prevention and care programmes. Combined with 3.2.1. Undertake assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected drug dependence treatment facilities

The first stage of assessment of the policy, legal and normative frameworks, capacity of narcological service system to integrate HIV prevention and care programmes was started and conducted by the national expert. He is collecting the latest epidemiological data on drug consumption in Ukraine for the last decade and will describe potential projection for the coming 5-10 years; medical service

organization for people who use drugs including clinical protocols/standards, psycho-social support interventions, rehabilitation programs and their coherence with other HIV-related medical services; regulatory framework of the IDUs access to narcological services and identifying existing barriers; existing models of collaboration between public health institutions, narcological, TB, ART service and psycho-social support, rehabilitation programmes.

For the second part of assessment the international expert will evaluate the IDU access to HIV prevention and treatment services in narcological facilities in Ukraine and, based on collected data, will develop concrete recommendations how it would be improved. The findings of the assessment will be used for update existing policy and normative framework, services standards and protocols.

Activity 3.1.3. Set up technical working group for the coordination and development of technical guidelines and operational standards for mainstreaming and integration of HIV related interventions into drug dependence treatment services system.

For the reporting period, TWG did not conduct meetings and working process was organized via e-mails. The tasks were shared between TWG members according to their competences.

The list of technical guidelines and operational standards, which have to be reviewed and revised in order to mainstream HIV related services into the narcology system, have been identified. The first line tasks are related to MOH's Orders: The Standard of Narcological Help; On Approving of standards of medical care and quality health care; About the timing of Dispensary observation of patients with alcoholism, drug and substance abuse; On Approval of Instruction on identification and placement of registered persons who illegally consume narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

The drafts of amendments that will be incorporated into the MoH orders are currently under development and consideration by participants of the TWG.

UNODC officers provided technical assistance to the State Service on Drug Control to develop the draft of the Decree on simplification of drug circulation rules in medical facilities and prepare it for endorsement by the Ukrainian government. This Decree will assist to mainstream and integrate the HIV interventions including MAT into the narcological services. The mentioned draft was developed in close cooperation with Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Health, international and national NGOs (OSI, League on palliative care of Ukraine). Currently, the draft is under consideration and approval of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

Activity 3.1.4. Develop specific technical guidelines and operational standards for integrated drug use and HIV prevention services based on scientific evidence and international guidelines.

The National consultant to support the technical working group (TWG) for the coordination and development of the technical guidelines and operational standards is recruited for six month period. The consultant's task is to coordinate activities of TWG, manage the development of working plans and meeting's agenda, invitation of experts and participants, preparation and dissemination of meeting's minutes and reports, facilitate the meetings, to liaise and maintain contacts with the participants of TWG, review standards, protocols and other related documents in accordance with TWG recommendations, to maintain contacts and coordinate with governmental organizations, ministries, agencies and other administrative, scientific, civil and nongovernmental organizations to promote and facilitate revision and endorsement of technical guidelines, service standards and protocols.

Activity 3.3.2. Set up and support experts' working group for the development and updating narcology training curricula, modules and manuals

In order to set up the date of the meeting and composition of the group, the HIV-LEDGE project has conducted a series of discussion with the national partners, such as the Ukrainian Medical and Monitoring center on Alcohol and Drug, Kharkiv Medical Academy of postgraduate education, Chief Narcologist of Ministry of Health of Ukraine, State Research Institute of Social and Forensic Psychiatry and Addiction and others. All members had been invited and confirmed participation at the

expert group meeting on revision and updating the educational curricula in pre- and post graduated education on July 17, 2012.

3. Staffing, management and coordination arrangements

The Project's implementation team at the UNODC Programme Office in Ukraine is fully staffed and operates in accordance with the Work Plan and Budget.

Project hired additional short-time consultants to provide technical support to the State Penitentiary Services and drug treatment services in development sectional HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment strategy and implementation of comprehensive HIV/AIDS package for IDUs. Thus, the national consultant on HIV/AIDS in prison sector, the national consultant for the Technical Working Group support and the national consultant for policy review (drug dependence treatment sector) were involved in the project implementation during the reporting period.

The project coordinates activities with key NGOs working in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment field: informal coordination group meeting was conducted and involved the representatives of the Network of PLWH, International HIV/AIDS Alliance and Development of Ukraine Foundation. During the meeting the further joint activities were planned and the decision was made to meet regularly for better coordination.

The planned studies within the frames of HIV-LEDGE project were highly demanded by the national stakeholders, hence the State Service on HIV and other socially dangerous diseases requested and authorized the UNODC office in Ukraine to coordinate Thematic Area on 'HIV Prevention and Treatment in Penitentiary System' within the National AIDS Program assessment. ToR for consultant who will be working on the respective Thematic Area was developed after consultations with key national partners – SPS, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, PLWH Network, UNAIDS, WHO, UNODC HQ. The consultant selection process will take place on July 19, 2012 in accordance with the UN procurement procedures.

4. Major problems encountered and steps taken to solve them

During the reported period, the Project has encountered some challenges related to establishment of the formal partnership with the State Penitentiary Service (SPS). Regardless sufficient cooperation with the State Drug Control Service and Department to Counter Drug Trafficking of MoI, the project faced some challenges in establishing the formal partnership with Ministry of Interior itself due to the lack of understanding of the Ministry's responsibility in HIV and related to it issues response. The project is doing its best to closely collaborate with other Ministry's structures to assist them to understand and highlight the importance of the issue of sectoral policy development into the Ministry's agenda.

To involve MoI's to discussion on importance of Law Enforcement sector participation in national activities to counteract HIV/AIDS, project will support survey on knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practice of police officers related to HIV and MARPs. The Trade Union of the Law Enforcement Employees express its interest to be a partner for this research with the aim to promote Social and Medical Protection for the Staff within HIV/AIDS policy at work place