

HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

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

QUARTERLY REPORT # 4

Reporting period:
June 1, 2012 – September 30, 2012

Cooperative Agreement No.:
AID-121-IO-11-00001

Submitted by:

UNODC Programme Office in Ukraine

25 October, 2012

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.
Overall Budget	US\$ 5,000,000
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

Objective 1: Create an environment supportive of evidence-informed and human-rights based HIV/AIDS and drug dependence treatment programmes among MARPs.

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 1.1.2: Provide sponsorships for participation in international conferences on drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention

Participation of two representatives of Law Enforcement sector in the Worlds AIDS Conference 2012 (July 22-27, 2012, Washington DC) was supported by the project. Ms. Elena Koval (Department of Illegal Drug Control of the Ministry of Interior) and Mr. Volodymyr Tymoshenko (Head of the State Drug Control Service) attended the conference and bilateral meetings with relevant US institutions. The aim of the visit was to raise awareness of the key national partners on the modern approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment for MARPs and the role of the law enforcement sector in implementation of effective HIV response at national level.

Besides the conference plenary and sections, Ms. Elena Koval and Mr. Volodymyr Tymoshenko as representatives of Ukraine Government attended meetings with relevant officials from NIDA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, ONDCP, and HQ of UNAIDS, UNODC, World Bank, OGAC and USAID (please see the agenda of the visit attached, Annex 1)

Upon the return from the Conference relevant mission report was delivered to the Minister of Interior. Following the report the Ministry of Internal Affairs delivered the letter to HIV-LEDGE project assuring support of the Ministry to the project implementation. The letter states: “ As the result of the participation in the conference the following propositions are assented: (a) to support participation of the Ministry of Interior in the implementation of the project; (b) to support the Draft National Strategy for Drug Control, stating the need to change the approach to the drug abuse control from punitive to preventive one; (c) to strengthen the partnership of the Law Enforcement sector with Public Health system and civil society organizations aiming to build intersectoral partnerships at local level for planning and implementation programmes on harm reduction” (please find the copy of the letter in the Annex 2)

Activity 1.1.4. Support focused research initiatives to feed into advocacy strategy

The concept of the *Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB)* survey among Ministry of Interior and Law Enforcement staff was developed by the project (Annex 3). The survey aims at collecting baseline indicators related to the knowledge, attitude and practice of the police with regard to HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination, human rights, negative medical and social problems related to drug use and understanding of evidence-based HIV interventions. At the end of the project a follow-up KAPB survey will be conducted using the same methodology to assess the outcomes of the project interventions.

To conduct the research the project will select experienced sociological company applying UN tender procedures.

The survey will be conducted in the beginning of 2013 in cooperation with the Police Trade Union. Currently the project communicates intensively with the MoI's units (Unit of the Health Care, Department for the Drug Control, Department of Human Recourses and Department of the Public Security) to enlist the support of the Ministry regarding the research implementation.

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 2.1.2. Provide sponsorships for participation in international conferences on prison reform and health and HIV in prisons issues.

Participation of two representatives the Health Care Department of the State Penitentiary Services – Mr. Zurab Malazoniya and Mr. Mykhailo Zlobynets - in the Worlds AIDS Conference 2012 (July 22-27, 2012, Washington DC) was supported through the project. Together with other representatives of the Ukraine delegation they attended the conference and bilateral meetings with relevant US institutions. The focus of the participation of the State Penitentiary Service's officials was on raising awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes in prison settings, including harm reduction programmes and OST. Additionally, during the conference, UNODC Policy Brief *HIV*

Prevention, Treatment and Care in Prison and other close settings: a Comprehensive Package of Interventions was presented and discussed. The package includes 15 key interventions and is designed to support countries in mounting an effective response to HIV/AIDS in penitentiary institutions (please find the electronic version of the Policy Brief in Annex 4).

Besides the conference plenary and sections and together with other participant of the visit, the State Penitentiary Service's officials attended meetings with relevant officials from NIDA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, ONDCP, and HQ of UNAIDS, UNODC, World Bank, OGAC and USAID.

Following the conference series of working meetings with the Health Care Department were conducted to discuss the further plans and areas of cooperation. As a result, the Memorandum of Cooperation was officially signed between UNODC and the State Penitentiary Service to facilitate the project implementation (please see the copy of the document attached, Annex 5). The MoC stipulates the key areas of the cooperation and contains *Joint Action Plan on Promoting Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Interventions in Prison Settings for 2012-2016*, covering all project activities related to Penitentiary Sector.

Activity 2.1.5. Develop, publish and disseminate advocacy materials

The cumulative report of *Analysis of HIV/AIDS Response in Penitentiary System of Ukraine* to be disseminated among Stakeholders and the officers of the penitentiary sector was published. The publication contains analysis of the current sectoral policy, existing gaps and needs of the penitentiary sector to be met during elaborating national strategy regarding HIV/AIDS in penitentiary institutions (please find the electronic version of the publication attached, Annex 6)

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

The Draft Order for establishing the Technical Working Group and the Draft Statute of the TWG have been developed by the national consultant in cooperation with the State Penitentiary Service (please see both documents in the Annex 7). The documents stipulate the goals, tasks and the structure of the TWG and aim at involving the SPS's officials from health care, personnel & educational, administrative, and security units in the development of the sectoral policy regarding HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. It is envisaged that national HIV stakeholders will be widely represented at TWG. The Draft Order and Draft Statute were delivered to the State Penitentiary Service for consideration. The project staff is in close contact with the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine to follow up the signing of the Order and revitalizing the TWG on HIV/AIDS and Prisons.

Activity 2.2.5 Provide technical, organizational and financial support to the TWG to develop, publish and disseminate sectoral HIV policy frameworks, strategic and operational plans, specific guidelines, protocols, instructions, and recommendations for prison staff in line with the international guidelines and best practices in addressing Health and HIV issues in prison settings.

The national consultant was hired to provide technical support to the TWG. Along with development of the draft documents for the TWG to be established the consultant conducted preliminary analysis of the current sectoral policy regarding HIV/AIDS in comparison with the recommended UNODC package of 15 key HIV prevention, treatment and care interventions (consultant's report is attached as Annex 8). The report contains review of the current normative documents, regulating delivery of HIV related services in prison settings, and analysis of gaps regarding organization and provision of HIV counselling and testing, treatment, care and support services, condoms programmes, prevention of

sexual violence, drug dependence treatment, NSP, viral hepatitis diagnostics & treatment, and other HIV related services for inmates and prison personnel. The analysis will be presented to the TWG and used to facilitate prioritisation of the State Penitentiary Service's activity related to planning and implementation of the sectoral HIV/AIDS policy.

Activity 2.3.1. Undertake assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected pre-trial detention centres and prisons

As the project informed in previous report the State Service on HIV and other socially dangerous diseases requested and authorized the UNODC office in Ukraine to coordinate the Thematic Area on 'HIV Prevention and Treatment in Penitentiary System' within the National AIDS Program assessment. HIV-PLEDGE Project hired the international consultant, Professor of Frankfurt University, Heino Stover who has already undertaken field assessment mission and is working on the assessment report to be submitted to the national stakeholders. Data for evaluation was obtained through desk review of legislation, available reports, statistics; site visits to prisons (for men and women); and interviews with representatives of State Penitentiary Service and national stakeholders (for detail information regarding program of meetings and experts profile please refer to Annex 9).

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.

The HIV-PLEDGE Project was requested to provide assistance to the Ukrainian medical and monitoring centre on alcohol and drugs of MoH of Ukraine in developing, printing and delivering short information notes for people who use drugs in the framework of International Overdose Prevention Day (August 31, 2012). The information notes were delivered to all Ukrainian oblast narcology dispensaries and shared with their subordinates clinics, NGOs and partners, which were then disseminated among patients and clients.

40 thousands of information notes were printed on A5 format with such text: "Overdose Self-help: Try not to fall asleep, Call for help, go where people are; Inject Naloxone; If nobody is near, start talking to yourself; Breathe slowly and deeply; Take 'Validol'; Drink plenty of liquids; Call an ambulance; Control your condition at least for 2 hours; Do not use any drugs for three days after the overdose. It is difficult to diagnose overdose yourself. Someone should take care of you!"

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)

HIV-PLEDGE Project recruited national consultant to undertake assessment of drug dependence treatment system in Ukraine. The report of the Consultant highlights the following issues:

- drug dependence treatment is high threshold service with permanent shortage of funds and well-trained staff;
- contemporary evidence based treatment methods are not used in daily practice;
- most of the treatment methods have not been revised at least for the last 15 years;
- complicated process of OST initiation considerably limits IDUs' access to proper medical treatment of HIV, TB and hepatitis B, C;
- Ukraine does not have approved guidelines for the rehabilitation of IDUs and its effectiveness criteria are not developed yet;
- majority of 9 HIV related services are still not available at the Narcology clinics.

The National consultant in cooperation with International consultant are to conduct assessment of IDU's access to HIV prevention and treatment services in narcological clinics in November 2012 and, based on collected data concrete recommendations will be developed regarding improvement of service provision.

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.

National consultant who was recruited in the previous reporting period to support and facilitate the 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 has failed to fulfil her assignment in satisfactory way. The HIV-PLEDGE Project will replace the contract of the national consultant to support TWG with series of service contracts with local consultants in order to update guidelines and operational standards.

Activity 3.2.1. Undertake assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected drug dependence treatment facilities.

HIV-PLEDGE Project staff undertook field mission to Poltava and Kharkiv regions in order to establish contact and discuss with the local authorities and service providers the implementation of the pilot demonstration projects at oblast/city levels. Partners were informed about the project's objectives, strategy, planned outcomes and activities. Particularly the counterparts have been briefed on the concept of piloting an integrated model of evidence-based health and social services for the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependent clients and HIV prevention and care among drug users. During the field mission the project staff met with representatives of the oblast administration, health care authorities, drug dependency treatment services, AIDS services, and NGOs. Key conclusions and summary of the mission:

- political and administrative support is in place to implement pilot project in the selected oblasts;
- the oblasts have full set of institutions, which are necessary for successful project implementation;
- the level of development of narcological and psychosocial services, cooperation with NGOs and other hospitals in Poltava and Kharkiv oblast are quite different that will allow developing steps to implement different models;

- existing research and scientific researches in Kharkiv can be involved and utilized for the pilot project;
- both regions have sufficient resources for the successful implementation of the pilot project.

Mission report with more detailed information is attached in the Annex.

Activity 3.2.3. Develop comprehensive and integrated service provision system at local level with effective referral and case management mechanisms to ensure continuum of care for people who use drugs.

This activity is one of the main objectives of international consultant's scope of work who will be working in close cooperation with national consultant and local coordinators.

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

Meeting of the expert group on revision and updating the educational curricula in pre- and post graduated education took place in Kiev in July 17, 2012. Prominent national scientists and experts participated in the meeting (Chief Psychiatrist of MOH; representatives of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education; Head and Deputy Head of Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Social and Forensic Psychiatry and Narcology of MOH; Head of Ukrainian Medical and Monitoring Centre on Alcohol and Drugs; Professor of the Psychology Department of Institute for staff training of state employment service of Ukraine; Head of Ukrainian Training Centre of Family Medicine (GP) of Bogomolets National Medical University of Ukraine; Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Narcology Department of Bogomolets National Medical University of Ukraine).

Participants of the meeting came up with the following:

- Conduct review of existing narcology training curricula on integrated approach to prevention and treatment among IDUs and comprehensive package of HIV-related medical services;
- HIV-LEDGE project will recruit national consultants to draft the curricula updates with HIV-related services.
- Invite representatives of Medical Universities, Academies of postgraduate education which are not involved yet to join to work on the modules of HIV infection, antiretroviral therapy, prevention and treatment of TB, vaccination, diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis, prevention and treatment of STI
- HIV-LEDGE project will provide international expertise for the above mentioned drafts.

Next meeting of the group is scheduled for October 2012.

Activity 3.3.4. Organise Master Classes and ToT workshops on contemporary drug dependence treatment and effective HIV prevention and care services for the narcology faculties at the Medical Universities/Institutes.

In the framework of the broad initiative to promote and support evidence-based and ethical treatment policies worldwide, UNODC has developed training package on contemporary and evidence based drug dependence treatment (TREATNET Training Package). Based on TREATNET Training package and under UNODC headquarter support the HIV-LEDGE Project will organize ToT workshop in Kyiv in November 14-24, 2012. 30 Narcology faculty staff from Ukrainian Medical Universities are invited for the training.

The TREATNET Training Package was developed by international clinical experts, researchers, and

trainers from International Capacity Building Consortium, led by the University of California Los Angeles / Integrated Substance Abuse Program (UCLA/ISAP).

Overall the TREATNET capacity building package consists of four volumes: VOLUME A: Screening, Assessment and Treatment Planning; VOLUME B: Elements of Psychosocial Treatment; VOLUME C: Addiction Medications and Special Populations and VOLUME D: Administrative Toolkit.

3. Staffing, management and coordination arrangements

The Project Steering Committee is established in accordance to the HIV PLEDGE project' implementation plan to provide overall coordination and support for the project' implementation. It comprises of representatives of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Service on HIV/AIDS and Other Socially Dangerous Diseases, State Drugs Control Service, State Penitentiary Service, Ukrainian medical and monitoring centre on drugs and alcohol, AIDS centre, Ukrainian international NGOs, UNAIDS and USAID. The initial meeting of the Project Steering Committee took place in Kiev in July 2012. Participants were informed about the project activities and plans, the selection criteria for pilot region was discussed and drafted as a set of data for each oblast to be assessed. It was agreed that Steering Committee Statute would be developed and approved at the next meeting.

The second meeting of the Steering Committee took place in Kiev at September 4, 2012 and was attended by the Representatives of all member institution. Finally, the Statute of the Steering Committee was approved and it was decided to confirm the authority of the members to speak for Ministries and governmental agencies. Pursuant to Steering Committee decision the HIV-LEDGE Project developed draft selection criteria for pilot regions and conducted preliminary assessment of pilot regions within field mission to Poltava and Kharkiv oblasts.

LEDGE Project plans to actively engage UN Volunteer, who began her work in September 2012. Her efforts will be mainly focused on the development and implementation of the Communication Strategy, ensuring better visibility and transparency for the project.

Project Administrative Assistant resigned at the end of September, and UNODC is starting the selection process according to UN rules. At the moment Project has not encountered any difficulties without Project Administrative Assistant, since major responsibilities and knowledge were timely transferred to Team Assistant under Project Manager's supervision. It is planned that the selected person will start in December.

4. Major problems encountered and steps taken to solve them

During the reporting period part of the planned activities related to the improvement of evidence-informed and human rights based policy and legal framework, and strengthening capacity of the State Penitentiary Service were postponed to the next period.

The level of understanding by the Law Enforcement Sector of its' role in HIV response is insufficient and limited by performance of drug control and policing functions. Implementation of relevant activities, which depend on the permission of the Ministry, requires conducting awareness raising activities for high level officials and strengthening of intersectoral cooperation. Currently the project actively builds partnerships with the different MoI's units aiming to identify key specialists and, involving them to the project implementation and to assure the support of the Ministry for KAPB survey and for the establishment of the Technical Working Group. Besides the Ministry of Interior, the project involves other stakeholders, including the State AIDS Service, Police Trade Union, National Police Academy and international organisation to strengthen the partnership with Law Enforcement Sector.

The activities, which were planned to be implemented in cooperation with the State Penitentiary Service, were postponed due to delays with the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation, which stipulates commitments of the SPS. Following awareness raising activities and series of working meetings with the SPS management, the Memorandum was officially signed at the end of September. Currently, project actively works with key partners to agree on the further steps and to intensify the implementation of relevant activities, including TWG establishment and development of the sectoral HIV/AIDS policy.

Project also experienced some delays with recruiting an International Consultant to assess the needs and capacity of the selected drug treatment facilities (within Activity 3.2.1) due to the lack of sufficient applications at the first round of selection process. After series of consultations with headquarter and some of the most acknowledged experts, an updated and more specific ToR for International consultant was developed and disseminated. It is envisaged that the selection and recruitment of the Consultant will be finalised in November 2012.

5. Financial information

Total expenditure incurred during the 4th quarter of the project implementation amounted US\$ 109,868.75. As expenses for September are still under reconciliation, hence actual spending may vary slightly from reported in narrative report. Exact financial information will be submitted in the Federal outlays report in due course. Present figure includes:

Items	Amount in US\$
Project personnel	37,408.09
International and national consultants	6,215.24
Sub-contracts	0
Trainings	0
Meetings	29,837.56
Travels	6,293.26
Expendable equipment	162.49
Non-expendable equipment	
Operating and maintenance of equipment	2,874.57
Premises	10,094.95
General operating expenses	3,605.49
SUBTOTAL	96,491.65
Project support cost (13%)	12,543.91
TOTAL	109,035.56