

# HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

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

## QUARTERLY REPORT # 5

Reporting period:

October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

Cooperative Agreement No.:

AID-121-IO-11-00001

Submitted by:

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<b>1. Context</b>	
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 Starting Date and Duration	01 October 2011; 5 years
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
<b>Project Summary</b>	
<p>USAID/Ukraine is supporting the <b>HIV PLEDGE</b> 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 <b>HIV PLEDGE</b> project works 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

Efforts to form supportive environment to HIV/AIDS and drug dependence treatment programmes among MARPs can be carried out and supported by bringing international experience into Ukrainian context. In this respect, the Project conducted Regional Consultation on Enhancing the Role of Law Enforcement in Planning and Implementation of the National Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemics in Central Asia and Eastern Europe (October 17-18, 2012). The event was co-facilitated by Law Enforcement and HIV Network (LEAHN) with shared funding<sup>1</sup>.

The objective of the consultation was to bring together law enforcement and health care officials as well as civil society representatives from selected countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia for a dialogue on the role of law enforcement in the responses to HIV epidemics in general, and particularly in HIV prevention among people who use drugs (PWUD), discussing also the challenges and opportunities for enhancing the role of law enforcement in HIV interventions. Forty eight (48) specialists attended the Regional Consultation, including twenty nine (29) participants from Ukraine representing the Ministry of Interior and the Police Trade Union, the State Service for Socially Dangerous Diseases Control, and international organizations and local NGOs.

The following recommendations were suggested by participants towards strengthening the role of law enforcement sector in the countries of the region:

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<sup>1</sup> The event was co-funded between HIV-PLEDGE Project, UNODC/Central Asia, LEAHN and CADAP.

1. High-level commitment, followed by sectoral strategies and relevant instructions are needed to link law enforcement effectively to national HIV responses and programs and to strengthen national ownership and sustainability of programs and strategies: The HIV-PLEDGE project should continue its normative work and advisory and technical support in influencing and developing conducive legislative, regulatory and political framework;
2. International and regional cooperation should be further strengthened, utilizing successful examples and topical data for advocacy and sharing best practices, innovations and different methodologies amongst countries (e.g. successful example of Kyrgyzstan);
3. International statement on the role of law enforcement in HIV prevention (was finalized in Melbourne in November 2012) should serve as a basis development of national policy and training standards that can be then introduced in the region;
4. Topic of law enforcement and HIV prevention will be promoted during the regional inter-ministerial meeting;
5. More trainings, awareness raising activities and peer education methods should be developed and introduced amongst law enforcement, including study visits to harm reduction services;
6. HIV/AIDS and co-infections (TB, viral hepatitis) should be considered as an occupational disease within law enforcement and universal precautions need to be introduced at the workplace;
7. Civil society and key-affected populations should be encouraged to be more involved in designing, monitoring and evaluating the trainings and their impact;
8. Trainings could be also organized for civil society on law enforcement working culture to build better mutual understanding of each other's work;
9. Technical working groups, ideally chaired by Mol, should be set up in countries where they don't exist already, with clear objectives and division of labor and responsibilities;
10. Training could be organized for working group members to support their work.

In December 19th 2012, the HIV-PLEDGE Project initiated regular partner meetings, discussing the role of Law Enforcement in national HIV responses. The first meeting gathered participants from the Public Security, Human Resources Management, Drug Control and Medical departments of the Ministry of Interior, as well as representatives from Drug Control Service, State Service for Socially Dangerous Diseases, National Police Academy, Police Trade Union and local and international organizations.

All participants agreed to hold meetings regularly, join efforts in assisting the Ministry of Interior in developing a sectoral HIV strategy and to provide support for the up-coming Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Behaviour (KAPB) survey amongst police officers supported through USAID funded HIV PLEDGE project.

The first TWG has resulted in active involvement of key Mol specialists in planning and further realization of the project activities related to law enforcement sector, namely KAPB-survey and assessment of training programs for police. The Human Resources Management Department of the Mol committed to be the main partner of the project to implement these activities and included them into its official work plan for 2013 that was approved by the Mol board.

**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**

The HIV-LEDGE Project provided technical support to the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine (SPSU) in forming evidence based background for the development of sectoral strategic vision with regard to the National AIDS Program (NAP) for 2014-2018. Within the framework of the project, "Assessment of the National AIDS Program: prison component" was completed with a summary report, which analyzes accomplishments and bottlenecks of HIV response in prison settings and provides prioritized recommendations to the development of NAP for 2014-2018 (see Annex 1). The main recommendation was summarized as: **Introduce full access to all essential preventive, treatment and care and support services in the penitentiary system fulfilling the following priority steps;**

- ✓ Adjust all HIV (and other BBV) preventive strategies applied in the community to prison settings: improve scope and quality, use interactive and peer to peer approaches, involving community services, and provide information about HCV and HBV transmissions;
- ✓ Make condoms, lubricants and disinfectants available in a low threshold manner, which allows an easy, decent and discrete access for all prisoners;
- ✓ Organize screening of hepatitis with pre- and post test counselling and provide vaccination;
- ✓ Increase the number and quality of VCTs, increase access to ART (including clinical monitoring, staff quality and needs forecasting);
- ✓ Improve continuation of ARV at the interface of imprisonment and on release;
- ✓ Raise awareness for evidence-based treatment of IDUs, especially OST among management, prison doctors, nurses by close cooperation with community services providing OST;

- ✓ Discuss evidence-based harm reduction measures. Start with existing draft order for needle exchange programs and extension of condom provision in prisons. Introduce PNSP at least in two selected prisons (women, men);
- ✓ Develop for the penitentiary system a detailed strategy on the management of HIV/AIDS and co-infections (TB, hepatitis, and STIs) associated with the common elaboration of standards, guidelines and protocols. Implement this approach.

Report was submitted to the State Penitentiary Service and the National Assessment Team and used for compiling Synthesis report on NAP Assessment and for initiating draft Concept Note for the new NAP.

While working on the Concept Note of the NAP 2014-2018 (December 2012) the penitentiary authorities already demonstrated intentions to secure universal coverage of inmates with HIV diagnostics and treatment, full scale prevention, including piloting some harm reduction services. Those intentions can be evaluated as a significant change in the attitude of Penitentiary Management toward Harm Reduction in prisons from totally reluctant toward tolerant.

In order to strengthen the capacity of the penitentiary sector in health care issues the HIV-PLEDGE project facilitated and supported participation of the deputy head of medical department of the State Penitentiary Service at the annual meeting of the Health in Prison Network meeting (10-12 October 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark) organized by the World Health Organization. The meeting was aimed at providing policy guidance on prison health issues through the exchange of experiences and expert discussions concentrating on the issues related HCV, TB, Alcohol, non-communicable diseases in prisons; staff health and wellbeing and training requirements.

The HIV-PLEDGE Project paid significant attention to the partners' coordination in addressing HIV/AIDS in prison setting. Complimentary to routine communication with the SPSU, the project team initiated regular technical working group meetings, which gather representatives from the SPSU and the State AIDS Service, as well as civil society and international organizations to discuss current developments and to provide technical support to SPSU in developing a sectoral HIV/AIDS strategy.

The first meeting was held on 30th of November 2012. The objective of the meeting was to review current changes in the legislation on HIV/AIDS and prisons, including the new Order on Opioid Substitution Treatment and the recent Presidential Order on the Penitentiary Sector Reform and the new HIV/AIDS strategy for 2014-2018.

The meeting was concluded with decisions to strengthen cooperation with Ministry of Justice to be better involved in the development of Action Plan for Penitentiary Sector reform; to have regular thematic meetings in the future; and to have the meetings as representative as possible, bringing together a range of participants from state and civil society sector.

At the beginning of the reporting period the project printed and disseminated 500 copies of the report "*Analysis of HIV/AIDS Response in Penitentiary System of Ukraine*" developed on the results of the comprehensive assessment conducted last year. Distribution list included key national stakeholders, including heads and medical services of the prison facilities and the State Penitentiary Service.

**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**

Development of the conceptual framework and model of integrated and comprehensive package of HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment services system started with comprehensive background assessment. The assessment exercise was designed as two-staged process: assessment of the policy, legal and normative frameworks and of the overall capacity of narcological services system to integrate HIV prevention and care programmes, followed by an assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected drug dependence treatment facilities located in pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv).

In the reporting period, the HIV-LEDGE project has prepared and finalized the necessary administrative arrangements for the needs and capacity assessment of the selected drug dependence treatment facilities. Prof. Katkov (Kazakhstan) was selected to develop conceptual model of drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention and care services for people who use drugs (PWUD) at local level and evaluate the accessibility of HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment services in the pilot regions.

Previously prepared (by the project's national consultant) overview of the current drug dependence treatment system of Ukraine will be used as a background paper for the needs assessment and conceptual model development exercises for pilot localities.

Integration of the HIV related interventions into drug dependence treatment services system require standardization of such services. The standards are necessary to establish quality measures, professional responsibilities, practice guidelines, decision models, and cost-effectiveness analysis. In this respect the HIV-LEDGE Project supports the Technical Working Group for the coordination and development of technical guidelines of HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment. It comprises of the representatives of the State Service on HIV/AIDS and other socially dangerous diseases, State Drug Control Service, Department of the Ministry of Health on quality of treatment services, Ukrainian AIDS Centre, Ukrainian Medical and Monitoring Centre on Alcohol and Drugs, Ukrainian Institute of Public Health Policy, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine and WHO.

The list of technical guidelines and operational standards that needs 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: standard of narcological care; on approving of standards of medical care and quality health care; about the timing of medical control of patients with alcoholism and drug dependence; on approval of instruction on identification and placement of registered persons who illegally abuse narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

Project also supported the meeting of another working group (established in summer 2012) to work on updating narcology training curricula, modules and manuals. The meeting took place in October 31, 2012 to discuss the work plan. The background information about guidelines development for medical doctors on HIV-related topics that are in line with UNODC/WHO/UNAIDS recommendations on comprehensive HIV package for PWUD was presented by Dr. Viewskiy, Head of the Ukrainian Medical and Monitoring Center on Alcohol and Drugs. The group discussed the format of work and experts' roles and responsibilities.

Project's capacity building activities for narcological services comprised of two-week Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshop on Contemporary Drug Dependence Treatment for 30 representatives of the narcology departments of the medical schools and service managers (14-24 November 2012, Kyiv, Ukraine). The training programme included sessions on screening and brief intervention using the ASSIST; addiction severity index (ASI); treatment planning M.A.T.R.S.; drug addiction and basic counselling skills; motivating clients for treatment and addressing resistance; cognitive behavioural and relapse prevention strategies; basics of addiction; opiate agonist, partial agonist, and antagonist therapies; special populations- individuals with co-occurring disorders, women, and young people.

As a follow-up of the ToT workshop, each educated trainer will conduct further workshops for at least 30 other professionals engaged in the area of drug dependence treatment services. These training sessions will be held under distance supervision of Master Trainers (Professors O. Yusupov and Y. Rossinskiy (Kazakhstan), and Dr. S. Dvoryak (Ukraine).

## **11. Staffing, management and coordination arrangements**

To ensure better visibility of the HIV-LEDGE project and good practices distribution, UNODC launched a newsletter to be shared regularly with stakeholders, partners and colleagues (end November 2012). The newsletter is widely distributed nationally and internationally and provides partners with regular updates on the project implementation.

The HIV-LEDGE Project's staff actively supported the country in elaboration of strategy on efficient HIV response to eliminate HIV and AIDS by 2015. The national meeting took place in December, 2012. The project supported the advocacy efforts to increase the government commitment toward pledging funds for HIV prevention among most at risk groups, especially PWUD and prisoners, starting from 2014 in case of GFATM's funds withdrawal.

## **12. Major problems encountered and steps taken to solve them**

The HIV-LEDGE Project has experienced some challenges in relationship and cooperation with the State Penitentiary Service (SPSU). Although all formal attributes of cooperation were established during the first year, more active engagement of SPSU in practical programmatic activities is lacking. Nevertheless, the project continues to involve SPSU partners into the project activities and discussion on strategical plans for the development of the NAP for 2014-2018. Upon continuous discussion with SPSU, the project is combining the project's objectives with SPSU priorities within the on-going Penitentiary Sector Reform. In that regard the project will support the SPSU request for study visit to Russia to learn the experience of the ongoing prison medical services reforming process. The project believes that this visit will facilitate the prison reform process in Ukraine and provide the prison medical services with more autonomy from the prison administration to promote more accessible and quality health care services for inmates.

In order to enhance and strengthen the collaboration with the prison authorities, it was decided and approved by the Donors, that UNODC office will hire the additional national professional staff to cover the prison component of the project. It is planned that an additional national project officer for coordinating the prison related activities will be recruited in the next reporting period.

