

HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

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

QUARTERLY REPORT # 7

Reporting period:

April 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013

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 Starting Date and Duration	1 October 2011; 5 years
Location	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, 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 HIV PLEDGE 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 HIV PLEDGE 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, main activities and achievement for the period under review	
<u>Objective 1: Create an environment supportive of evidence-informed and human-rights based</u>	

HIV/AIDS and drug dependence treatment programs among MARPs.

Output 1.1: Relevant GOU stakeholders have knowledge and capacity to support development of comprehensive HIV programs for people who use drugs.

Output 1.2: The law enforcement sectoral policy framework regarding HIV/AIDS is developed in line with the international guidelines.

Outputs 1.3: The cooperative mechanism between law enforcement, public health and civil society partners is developed and piloted in selected regions.

Output 1.4: HIV/AIDS and drugs related modules of the training curricula, manual and materials at the police training institutions are updated with the state-of-the-art evidences.

Main activities and achievements

During the reporting period the HIV-LEDGE Project continued its collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (Mol), State Drug Control Service and other stakeholders including civil society partners to promote increased understanding and support from the law enforcement sector towards HIV prevention and care programmes for the people who inject drugs.

International Harm Reduction Conference (IHRC) in Vilnius, Lithuania, 9-13 June 2013

The project facilitated and sponsored participation of 3 representatives of the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine in the International Harm Reduction Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Representatives of the Personnel Department and Drug Enforcement Department of the Ministry of Interior, and National Academy of Internal Affairs have been provided with an opportunity to learn and understand better the international drug policy, HIV/AIDS challenges related to injecting drug use, the needs for scaling up comprehensive package of HIV/AIDS interventions among people who inject drugs, the role of law enforcement in providing support to harm reduction programmes in the community.

While attending IHRC-2013, the Ukrainian participants attended the *High Level Meeting: Economics and Financing of Effective Harm Reduction Strategies in the context of HIV* that was organized by UNODC, UNAIDS and WB. Ukrainian officials received an experience of development evidence based financial decisions regarding scale up of domestic funding for HIV prevention in region.

The Law Enforcement sector officials attended sessions on drug abuse and treatment, regional trends of OST programmes implementation, drug policy development, human rights protection, role of the police in harm reduction, HIV prevention among key effected populations, desomorphine and other modern drugs, and visited mobile OST and harm reduction sites. The group actively discussed differences in approaches to drug abuse prevention and drug treatment in Ukraine and other courtiers. The punitive character of current Ukrainian drug policy, low level of knowledge on HIV and effective drug treatment programmes among police officers, and controversial legal framework were indicated as main barriers to scale up harm reduction programmes in Ukraine. The conference resulted in facilitating support to update training and professional development programmes for police on HIV prevention and harm reduction programmes by the Mol. The project activities - analysis of the current programmes and curricula for police and development of guidelines and instructions for police staff on reduction of professional risks - are actively supported by the Personnel Department of the Mol.

Study visit to Glasgow, Scotland, 16-22 June 2013)

The HIV-LEDGE Project in close collaboration with the UNODC Law Enforcement section at HQ

and the Scotland Police partners organised a study visit to Glasgow for a group of law enforcement officials of Ukraine. The aim of the visit was to facilitate the development of knowledge and an evidence base for various models of effective intersectoral collaboration between police, health care and social support services in tackling drug related crime, drug abuse and related HIV/AIDS challenges.

The study visit group consisted of eight (8) officials from Ukraine, including representatives of the State Drug Control Service, Police Staff Association, National Police Academy and Ministry of Interior (Drug Enforcement Department, Personnel Department, Public Safety and Order Department, Kharkiv and Poltava regional branches of the MoI).

During the visit participants learnt the experience of the Family Addiction Support Service, Drug Crisis Centre, Scottish Drugs Forum, Scottish Police Training Centre, had discussions with representatives and policy coordinators from the Government of Scotland, Police Department, Saughton Prison, and drug addiction prevention programmes.

The participants have been impressed with the way how drug use and related HIV and other challenges can be effectively dealt through health-oriented approaches and police collaboration and support to promoting access for people who use drugs to health and social support interventions.

Based on the study visit's results, participants developed the recommendations for follow up actions that was submitted to the Deputy Minister of Interior (member of the National HIV/AIDS and TB Council) and to the Head of State Drug Control Service of Ukraine (mission reports are attached). The recommendations include:

- to develop and implement in the project's pilot regions (Kyiv, Kharkiv and Poltava) the drug referral mechanisms aiming at improving access of people who use drugs to HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, including harm reduction programmes, OST, social support and counselling;
- to develop the instructions for police officers on HIV/AIDS prevention programmes among MARPs and reduction of occupational risks;
- to strength the professional training system for police officers though raising awareness on HIV issues among officers of the MoI's psychology service and personnel department;
- to support publication and dissemination of informational materials regarding the HIV prevention programmes among police officers;
- to develop the draft Order aiming to include HIV/AIDS and TB in to the list of the law enforcement officers' occupational diseases.

Technical support to mainstream HIV/AIDS related training modules into the existing police training system

As part of the project objective to support development of sustainable training system for police on HIV/AIDS and drug addiction issues, the project reviewed the current training programmes and curricula for police and has been continuing to develop updated guidelines and training modules for police on HIV/AIDS.

The draft International Guidelines and Training Modules for Police on HIV/AIDS were presented to officials of the police training institutions and key project partners at the workshop held on 5 June 2013 in Kyiv. The guidelines and modules developed by the international consultant address issues of HIV/AIDS, role of the police in public health care system and HIV prevention

among MARPs, harm reduction programmes, drug addictions and treatment, drug policy and occupational risks, and provide with key principles and methodology on how to train police on HIV/AIDS related issues.

In addition, the preliminary results of the analysis of current curricula and training programmes for police in Ukraine were presented during the workshop. The analysis was conducted by the national consultant with the support of the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Interior. Based on the analysis results of the training programmes and specific HIV/AIDS related modules of all 8 higher education institutions of the Ministry of Interior, the analytical report provides with the set of recommendations on how the HIV/AIDS issues can be incorporated into existing training programmes and modules of the police training institutions.

After discussion of the draft International Guidelines and findings of the training programmes analysis, the action plan was developed to strengthen the HIV/AIDS related training system for police. Project's partners involved in the discussion recommended to adopt the international guidelines once they are finalized

59 drug enforcement units' officers of the Ministry of Interior from the project pilot regions have been trained on HIV/AIDS, harm reduction and building effective multisectoral partnership and collaboration at local level

Launching activities in the pilot regions, the HIV-LEDGE Project focused on training police and HIV service providers in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Poltava, and building effective multisectoral partnership and collaboration at local level.

The project conducted a series of workshops on HIV and harm reduction issues for the officers of the regional drug enforcement units of the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine in June 2013 in the pilot regions (Kyiv, Kharkiv and Poltava). Three trainings (one in each location) covered 59 police officers to raise their awareness on HIV/AIDS, drug addictions and treatment, harm reduction, OST and human rights based approaches in dealing with MARPs. The trainings was used as the first practical step to involve police in the discussion and ensure their further assistance to the establishment of the regional multi-agency collaboration mechanisms of law enforcement, health sector, and HIV services providers. To extend the regional coverage with HIV related training, the Project also invited police officers from neighbouring cities such as Chernigiv, Sumi, Kyiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovograd oblasts.

Consultation meeting with civil society partners to identify training needs of the harm reduction service providers in building and maintaining effective collaboration with the police

The consultation meeting (4-5 June, Kyiv) was facilitated by the international consultant. The meeting gathered representatives of civil society HIV service providers from pilot regions to share experience on cooperation with police. The purpose of the consultation was to develop recommendations on establishing and maintaining the effective CSO-police collaboration at the local levels. Participants highlighted the needs to train NGOs in Ukraine on how to build and maintain effective collaboration with the police in dealing with issues of drug policy, legal background of law enforcement activity, interaction with police during implementation of harm reduction programmes, human rights, stigma and discrimination issues, building effective communication with police. Outcomes of the meeting will be further processed and used to develop and present the training programme for NGOs on building effective collaboration with police in HIV prevention area.

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: Decision makers and prison management have adequate knowledge, attitudes and willingness to support comprehensive programs on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in prison settings.

Output 2.2: Policies, guidelines and protocols for management of health, HIV/TB, drug dependence treatment programs in prison settings are revised and updated for the implementation of a comprehensive package of HIV/AIDS services.

Output 2.3: Comprehensive package of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services including drug dependent treatment is piloted in selected prison facilities.

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

Advocacy and promotion of the Comprehensive package of interventions for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in prison settings

One of the key priorities of the HIV-LEDGE Project is to promote and advocate the evidence-informed and human rights based response to HIV/AIDS in prison settings. The project advocacy work is guided by the recently released policy brief developed jointly by UNODC, ILO, UNDP, WHO and UNAIDS on “HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings: a comprehensive package of interventions”.

The HIV-LEDGE Project staff took part in the national conference “Improvement of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Policy in Institutions of State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine” organised by the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV and State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine in Lviv on 9-10 April 2013. The conference gathered key-stakeholders (AU Network of PLWH, State HIV/AIDS Service, Clinton Foundation in Ukraine, Ukrainian CDC, Institute for Public Health Policy Research) and Penitentiary administrative and medical staff. The conference aimed to discuss priorities in HIV prevention and treatment and provided updates especially for the medical specialists from regional prison departments of the up-coming changes and challenges in the prison service sphere. During the event the project staff introduced the HIV-LEDGE Project activities in the prison sector and presented the 15 key interventions included in the comprehensive package of HIV services, recommended by UNODC, ILO, UNDP, WHO and UNAIDS.

International Harm Reduction Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, 9-13 June 2013

To promote the HIV-LEDGE Project implementation in prison settings, UNODC supported four representatives of the SPSU (Zurab Malazoniia, Deputy Head of the Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision Department, Vladyslav Klysha, Deputy Head of Department and Head of the International Cooperation Office, Sergii Kravchenko, Head of the Health Care Sector of the SPSU Department in Kyiv and Kyiv Region, and Volodymyr Pantelieiev, Chief Psychologist of the Criminal-Executive Inspection and the Department for Socio-Psychological Work with Convicts) to take part in the International Harm Reduction Conference from 9 to 12 June, 2013 in Vilnius.

Among other themes the most interesting were of those related to opiate substitution therapy, needle and syringe programmes in prisons in the framework of the harm reduction issues.

The HIV-LEDGE Project delivered the poster presentation on “The needs for harm reduction programmes in Penitentiary System of Ukraine”, which based on the results of the desk review, bio-behavioural research among prisoners, and expert survey conducted in Ukraine in 2012 as part of the HIV-LEDGE Project.

Throughout the conference the project staff has been involved in discussions with SPSU staff on identifying best ways to implement evidence informed approaches in Ukrainian context. The International Affairs Office of SPSU shared the information about the conference among the SPSU’s top managers. The conference’s attendants will be involved in implementation of the Project activities in partnership with SPSU. UNODC plans to use the participants’ experience, for example, in general communication with SPSU’s authorities (V.Klysha), in the project activities with main SPSU’s departments (Z.Malazoniia and V. Pantelieiev), and in Kyiv pre-detention centre (S.Kravchenko), selected as a pilot institution.

Review of legal and normative framework of the Ukraine prison system for the implementation of the comprehensive HIV interventions in prisons

Within the framework of the HIV-LEDGE Project UNODC contracted a local consultant (Ms. Irina Yakovets, PhD in Law) in May, 2013. The consultancy TOR comprised provision of technical support to SPSU in reviewing and updating the sectoral norms and regulations, development and amendment of orders and instructions regarding key HIV interventions (testing and counseling, information & education, condoms provision, prevention of sexual violence, drug dependence treatment, diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis, prevention of transmission through tattooing, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, protecting staff from occupational hazards). The project consultant elaborated and delivered a draft report on the sectoral HIV/AIDS normative policy and regulations framework analysis of SPSU.

On the basis of this report, UNODC's consultant will made recommendations about the implementation of the comprehensive package of interventions in institutions of SPSU and a comprehensive sectoral strategy on HIV prevention, treatment and care in SPSU.

Collaboration with the SPSU in strengthening HIV/AIDS related training system for the prison personnel and staff

In accordance with the output 2.4. of the Project, on May 17, 2013 UNODC held a working meeting with SPSU’s delegation chaired by a Deputy Head of SPSU (Mr. Sergyi Bogunov). UNODC discussed a wide range of issues concerning development or update of training curricula, modules and training manuals for teaching staff of the prison training schools on evidence-informed and human-rights-based comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care in prison settings.

As the result of this meeting, the joint plan of UNODC and Human Resources Department of SPSU was considered and approved by the Head of SPSU in May 21. The project is currently finalizing selection of the local consultant to undertake assessment of the training programmes used at the prison training institutions. This plan, adopted separately from medical department of SPSU, is going to diversify involvement of other key authorities and increase level of cooperation with the SPSU.

Objective 3: Improve capacity of substance use treatment system 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 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: Updated narcology training curricula in line with the best international practices.

Main activities and achievements

Technical support in developing and updating clinical protocols and service standards

The HIV-LEDGE Project staff is closely collaborating with the Head of MoH Centre for Expertise and Chief Narcologist of Ukraine on the revision of narcology treatment protocols as requested by MoH Guidelines for development of medical operational standards.

Advocacy of the Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) Programmes

During the reporting period, the project staff participated in round table on challenges and effectiveness of OST in Ukraine that was conducted by health care committee of the Verkhovna Rada in May 20, 2013. Availability of OST, its future development and actions to be taken to scale-up OST were discussed with our active participation.

Conceptual model of integrated and comprehensive HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment programmes

The project international consultant developed draft final report on assessment of the needs and capacities of the selected drug dependence treatment facilities. The draft conceptual model of integrated and comprehensive drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention services in pilot localities (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv) were presented to stakeholders during the field mission in April 2013. The conceptual model was approved in general, comments and feedbacks were included in the action plan on its implementation. The plan was shared with the project local partners and approved at the end of June 2013.

Pilot projects to integrate HIV prevention interventions into the substance abuse treatment (narcology) services system in the selected pilot regions

Following a series of consultations with key stakeholders and according to the implementation plan, the project developed the draft Call for Proposals for grant support to select qualified NGOs and partnership consortiums from the pilot regions. The Call for Proposal will be advertised in July and grant sub-projects will commence from September 2013. The grants (up to US\$ 20,000) will be provided to the implementing partners in Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv to organize, coordinate and carry out activities to achieve the following main objectives:

- Ensure availability and accessibility of HIV counselling and testing services as part of drug dependence treatment programme for the clients of the narcology services;
- Develop favourable conditions for scaling-up Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) programmes as critical and important component of the drug dependence treatment (narcological) services;

- Ensure linking of OST and other drug dependence treatment services with antiretroviral, Hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis and STI treatment programmes;
- Incorporate HIV prevention messages (those related to high-risk drug use as well as high-risk sexual behaviour) into drug dependence treatment counselling;
- Establish a two-way and functional referral linkage between drug dependence treatment services and risk-reduction programmes including access to sterile needles and syringes, condoms for those drug users who request for such services;
- Ensure using outreach programmes as a means of linking people who inject drugs to risk reduction, drug dependence treatment and other needed health services;
- Provide family counselling to work with patients' sex partners;
- Create favourable, non-violent environment, free from stigma and discrimination for provision of services for people who use drugs;
- Improve and monitor quality of services.

Grant support to research projects in the area of HIV/AIDS, harm reduction, OST and drug dependence treatment

The HIV-LEDGE Project conducted series of consultations with the national partners to discuss and agree on the research priorities in the area of HIV/AIDS, harm reduction, OST and other drug dependence treatment services. Based on the outcomes of these discussions, the project has developed draft Call for Proposals to identify research teams that will provide scientific and research support using the implementation of evidence informed approach to the pilot projects. The draft call for proposals is now under consideration with the UNODC technical experts in Vienna.

Strengthening professional training and development system in drug dependence treatment

The project contracted a national consultant to update post-graduate training curricula of narcology faculties. The main tasks of the consultant include developing and incorporating comprehensive package of HIV interventions into the post-graduate training curricula of narcology. The updated curricula should be approved by the Scientific Council of the Kharkiv Medical Academy of post-graduate studies.

Study visit to the USA for the Ukraine narcology faculties

In the reporting period the project staff has done intensive preparatory work to organize study visit of a group of Ukrainian narcologists to the USA with the purpose to establish collaboration with the key USA based institutions (NIDA and SAMHSA). The concept note of the study visit was approved by the USAID office. Visit's date, discussion topics, sites and treatment facilities to be visited were agreed with NIDA and SAMHSA. It was planned that the group will consist of 9 participants, including chief narcologist of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, deputy director of the Research Institute on Psychiatry, Neurology and Narcology of the National Medical Academy and other decision makers. Upon request of the Ukrainian participants, the visit was postponed until October 2013.

3. Staffing, management and coordination arrangements

During the site visits to Poltava and Kharkiv regions (April and May 2013) the project and local governments agreed to develop and sign MoUs as a normative framework for local project's activities. At the local level the project activities are accepted as Technical Assistance to local AIDS Programs.

4. Major problems encountered and steps taken to solve them

Project Activities with State Penitentiary Service still need to be accelerated since the majority of previous agreements are still pending with SPSU, the project is lacking of normative support to pilot site designation. However some positive signals have received: the list of institutions was finalised with minor changes (instead of Kiev SIZO (Pre detention jail) there will be a male prison in Kyiv region (Bila Tserkva).