

HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

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

QUARTERLY REPORT # 8

Reporting period:

July 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013

Cooperative Agreement No.:

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Submitted by:

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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

USAID/Ukraine is supporting the **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".

The **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.

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.

2. Project objectives, outputs, 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 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

Development of informational materials on HIV for police officers

The PLEDGE project provided assistance to the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Interior to develop an information and educational brochure on HIV for police officers. The brochure contains general information on HIV-infection and AIDS, transmission routes, key affected populations, recommendations on reduction of occupational risks and effective measures of post exposure prophylactics (based on recommendations of WHO, 2007), issues related to stigma and discrimination. It is expected that the brochure will be printed and disseminated by the Personnel Department among police, especially those who work with key affected populations. The publication is the first one in series of informational materials for police serving to raise awareness of law enforcement staff on HIV and AIDS, harm reduction programmes and the role of police in HIV prevention among key affected populations.

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

The analysis of current curricula and training programmes for police regarding HIV and related issues is completed. The analysis was conducted by the national consultant with the support of the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Interior. Based on the analysis of the training programmes and specific HIV and AIDS related modules of all 8 higher education institutions of the Ministry of Interior, the analytical report provides set of recommendations on how the HIV/AIDS issues can be incorporated into existing training programmes and modules of the police training institutions. The recommendations are delivered to the Personnel Department of the Mol to agree action plan for updating curricula and methodological materials on topics of 'First aid measures', 'Life skills', 'Narcology (Drug dependence treatment)', 'Crime prevention', 'International and labour law', and 'Crime investigation'. Consultant delivered detailed algorithm how to incorporate HIV into each training topic with thematic and contextual breakdown, recommended timing for lectures etc.

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

Action plan for cooperation with SPSU in 2013-2014 discussed and approved

On 3 July UNODC had an official meeting with the management of the SPSU on occasion of the visit to Ukraine of **Ms. Monica Beg**, Head of UNODC HIV/AIDS Section and **Ms. Fariba Soltani**, Senior Expert of the HIV/AIDS Section. During the meeting the participants discussed progress and action plan for cooperation in delivering comprehensive HIV services in prison setting. The meeting was an important milestone in joining efforts and agreeing on common principles and goals for 2013-2014 cooperation plans. The meeting resulted in identifying and agreeing on 4 prison facilities for the implementation of the pilot demonstration models of comprehensive HIV programmes. These selected pilot facilities include: Kyiv pre-trial detention centre, Bila Tserkva male prison #35 (Kyiv Region), Kharkiv female prison #54 and Kremenchuk prison for adolescents (Poltava Region).

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

The project completed review of legal and normative framework to facilitate introduction and scaling up comprehensive package of HIV services in the penitentiary system of Ukraine. Draft report on analysis of HIV and AIDS related sectoral policies and procedures of SPSU, legal barriers and opportunities for HIV prevention and treatment programmes is submitted for review to the key stakeholders.

In July and August, 2013, the Consultant developed recommendations about the implementation of the comprehensive package of interventions in prison settings and comprehensive sectoral strategy on HIV prevention, treatment and care in SPSU. The report and recommendations are under consideration of experts from SPSU, NGO and other organizations involved in the HIV service provisions among prisoners.

The main recommendations of the consultant concerned, inter alia, development and adoption of the strategy on prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis and sexually transmitted diseases in prisons and detention centres; creation of a legal basis for HIV and AIDS services provision in prisons; including of HIV prevention trainings in educational programmes for staff; legal regulation of NGOs HIV prevention activities in prison settings; transferring a control over health care system in SPSU exclusively to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, etc.

Assessment of the current HIV related modules, curriculum and training programmes used at the prison training institutions has been launched

In September 2013 the project hired the local consultant for assessment what and how the prison staff learns about HIV and AIDS related knowledge, skills and competencies at the penitentiary sector's educational institutions and at on-the-job training programmes. A report based on the analysis of current HIV related modules, curriculums and training programs of the prison training institutions is under development. The assessment covers 5 training institutions of the Penitentiary Sector: Faculty for Penitentiary Sector Staff at the National Law Enforcement University (Kyiv), Chernigiv Legal College of the State Penitentiary Service, Bila Tserkva College to Train Personnel of the Penitentiary Sector, Dneprodzerzhinsk College to Train Personnel of the Penitentiary Sector, Khmel'nitsky Post-Graduation Training Centre for Tutors of the Penitentiary Sector Training Institutions. The assessment will include, inter alia, the following indicative topics: general information on HIV and AIDS; transmission routes; HIV in prisons; HIV, AIDS, human rights and prison reform; stigma and discrimination; risks and vulnerabilities; effective HIV prevention and care interventions in prisons, etc.

Relevant conclusions about a level of accordance of these modules, curriculums and training programs to international standards in the HIV area and recommendations toward update are expected by November 2013.

Enhancing the partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders

In order to support the implementation of the PLEDGE project through providing synergy effect in work with SPSU, the project continues to hold consultations with main stakeholders involved in the HIV and AIDS in penitentiary sector. The project reached an agreement with All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH, AIDS Foundation East-West, HealthRight International, Council of Europe to collaborate and join efforts in advocacy and technical support activities in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Poltava Regions. For example, All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH provides technical support to prison medical units in providing HIV prevention and treatment, AIDS Foundation East-West made an application to work in Kremenchuk prison for adolescence (Poltava Region) and one of the prisons for adults (to be confirmed), Council of Europe preliminarily plans to continue its work on administrative management and probation issues in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Poltava and other regions, HealthRight International plans to implement pre- and post release models for women. The project agreed also conducting a conference for staff of criminal-executive inspection on HIV prevention among ex-prisoners or those who serve alternative sentences. This event will be hold in cooperation with International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine. The project will collaborate with Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe to hold technical workshop on good practices in addressing drug use and HIV problems in EU prisons, which is preliminarily planned for February, 2014.

Site visit to Kharkiv correctional colony for women

In September 17, 2013 the National Project Officer on HIV/AIDS and Prison visited the pilot site the Kharkiv correctional colony for women # 54. He presented the main goals of the HIV- PLEDGE Project in pilot region for deputy head of the colony and head of the medical unit. After a tour of the medical premises and learning of the unit operation, there was a discussion about possible future project activities, elaboration of expectations and needs concerning cooperative work. The head of medical unit expressed readiness for cooperation within the project pilot initiatives in the Kharkov region.

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 assistance is provided with regard to updating legal and normative framework regulating the use of narcotic drugs under control in health care facilities

In the reporting period, project staff participated in the meeting of TWG on OST under the State Service of Ukraine on HIV/AIDS held in August 30, 2013. Draft amendments for the MoH Order #200 were discussed and the project staff provided inputs to the draft.

The project inputs included the following suggestions: prescription of narcotic drugs by a medical doctor without involvement of any other peers or commissions; cancelation of special registration forms (set up by Items 1.4. and 1.6. of Order), which are not eligible due to the Decree rules; improved requirements for staffing in OST 'cabinets'; only state funded medications for OST will be available for free distribution by MoH that makes possible to start OST services in private clinics independently; providing access to OST to temporarily staying foreigners in Ukraine (privately); permission for GP doctors to provide OST on site; home take doses after 6 months of successful therapy and doctor's decision.

In collaboration with MoI Department of Illicit Drug Use Control, MOH Ukrainian Medical and Monitoring Centre for Alcohol and Drugs, the Alliance Ukraine, IRF medical programs, the project facilitated meeting and e-mail discussion to develop amendments to MOH Order #11. The CMU assigned MOH with the exact tasks to adjust regulations within three months on: Requirements for acceptance of narcotic drugs in health care facilities; registration forms for narcotics drug accounting in departments of clinics; Form of the special prescription for narcotic drug, procedure of registration, keeping records of storage, and processing rules; rules to calculate quantity of volumes of drugs to be stored at emergency; Algorithms/Norms to calculate/ make forecasts the quantity of narcotic drugs to be stored in clinics; Cases when nurse may prescribe narcotic drugs (but this norm is contradicting with law "On narcotic, psychotropic substances and precursors circulation"); Registration form for prescription of narcotic drugs in in- and out- patient treatment; Information note about rules of operating with narcotic drugs (Item 29), Journal of drugs returned from hospice patients' relatives. Also we proposed to develop a draft of model order on narcotic drugs circulation in the clinics.

Sub-grantees to pilot mainstreaming of HIV services into narcology are identified

Call for Proposals "Mainstreaming and integration of HIV prevention and care interventions into drug dependence treatment services in Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv" was developed and disseminated among potential grantees. 3 proposals were received that were reviewed by the technical appraisal committee in September 14, 2013 with participation of representatives from UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS, MoH of Ukraine and the Project. Proposals from Poltava and Kharkiv have been found technically sound and were recommended for funding. Proposal from Kiev was not supported and Grant Appraisal Committee suggested re-announcing the Call for proposal for Kiev city. Approval and signing of grant agreements is pending with the Grant Committee of the UNODC HQ.

3. Unanticipated positive results

On August 28, 2013 Government adopted new National Drug Strategy that was developed by the State Drug Control Service with the project's technical assistance. The Strategy, which identifies the contents and directions of modern national policies on drugs, including drug dependence treatment and HIV/AIDS related issues, became an important achievement of the PLEDGE project. Specifically, the strategy ensures implementation and coordination of drug dependence treatment programme for drug users and their families, including substitution maintenance therapy to reduce harm caused by drug abuse. Project is planning to provide follow up technical support to the State Drug Control Service that is mandated by GOU to develop action plan for the implementation of the Strategy.

As the project's M&E expertise is acknowledged at the national level, its M&E Officer was engaged in the development of the Ukraine Proposal to GFATM Round 10 Phase 2 on HIV within MoH established Ad Hoc Working Group. Within team division of labour the project M&E officer was co-responsible (with government counterpart) for finalization of chapter on partnership in AIDS response and review and finalization of the Proposal Performance Framework in line with National M&E Plan. Within application process the project advocated for reshuffle of M&E activities within Rd 10 Project – in order to build capacity and create government ownership for HIV second generation surveillance, 2 large scale IBBS (including among PWID) were transferred from Alliance Ukraine (NGO) to UCDC (MoH).

The project continues to actively participate in the activities of the National M&E TWG and has contributed to the development of the (draft) National M&E Plan to NAP 2014-2018. The M&E Plan is a part of NAP submission to Government and will be approved following NAP approval, which is expected in fall 2013.

4. Major problems encountered and steps taken to solve them

Project foresees some delays within Output 3.3 due to termination of contact with National consultant to update post-graduate training curricula of narcology faculties who was recruited to deliver the work in June-December 2013 (Professor Markova). The Consultant informed the project about unforeseen personal obstacles, which do not allow her perform the duties assigned by the contract with full responsibility. New Call for Consultancy will be developed and advertised in next reporting period.

In reporting period intensive preparatory work to organize study visit to establish cooperation between Ukrainian narcologists and the USA institutions (NIDA and SAMHSA) was done. Agenda of the visit was developed; discussion topics, sites and treatment facilities to be visited were arranged and confirmed by partners in USA. The visit was scheduled on October 12 – 19, 2013. Unfortunately the study visit was cancelled due to USA Government shutdown with preliminary rescheduling to February 2014.

5. Staffing, management and coordination arrangements

With the purpose of engaging the staff in the strategic discussions and develop shared vision and understanding on the current office and programme management and development issues to improve the office performance and efficiency, the project held staff retreat on 20-23 August 2013 in Odessa.

During the retreat the staff members jointly reviewed the status and progress of the programme/project implementation with particular focus on achievements and challenges, implementation rate, lessons learned for the development of the next year project work/implementation plans. The staff has also discussed and agreed on the key areas of the

project's implementation plan, performance monitoring and evaluation plan, and procurement plan for the next year; strategy for the office public relations/visibility/communication improvement, as well as compliance with the donor branding and marking requirements.

The opportunity to have a retreat in Odessa was appreciated by all participants and everyone agreed that spending time out of the office offered a valuable and effective chance to exchange experiences, raise concerns and questions, identify areas for cooperation, set priorities; and most importantly to receive feedback and suggestions from each other to improve and sharpen the plans and activities for next year.

6. Progress Towards Annual Quantitative Targets (BY 2013)

Indicator #	Performance Indicator	Year 2		Year 2 – comments/justification for under/over achievement
		Target	Actual	
1	Increased political support to comprehensive packages of HIV/AIDS services for prisoners and PWID from Government and Academia	N/A	N/A	
2	Total number of initiatives, laws, policy documents developed to support comprehensive packages of HIV/AIDS services.	to be reported as actual	3	National AIDS Program 2014-2018, Drug Strategy, 200 Prikaz (MoH)
3	PEPFAR Indicator H2.3D - Number of health care workers who successfully completed in-service training Program	190	67	Annual target on the Indicator (190) was not fully achieved (35,2%) since several learning activities, specifically for narcologists and service providers who work in penitentiary are postponed to next project year (FY 2014).
4	PEPFAR Indicator P8.3D - Number of MARP reached with individual and/or small group level HIV preventive interventions that are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum standards required	300	0	Service delivery did not start within OB 3 due to delay with development of service delivery model and selection of implementing partners.
5	Number of advocacy and awareness raising workshop conducted	7	6	Event within activity area 2.4.2. <i>Conduct technical workshops with prison training institution management and academic staff</i> was postponed for FY2014.
6	Number of officials sensitized and trained	300	89	Annual target on the Indicator was not fully achieved since several learning activities, specifically for narcologists and service providers who work in penitentiary are postponed to next project year (FY 2014). It's worth to mention that actual vs targets are lower since several officials (UCDC, AIDS Service, Drug Control Service, SPSU, BNON) were attending almost all Projects events. Planning for next year will be more accurate and take into consideration overlap in this particular target group.

7	Number of clinical protocols/technical guidelines/operational standards developed	3	0	Activities are to be implemented in FY2014.
8	Number of learning events implemented	5	7	Targets are over achieved since Project conducted unplanned trainings within OB1 upon Mol request.
9	Number of trainers (lecturers) trained	116	32	Activities within OB2 and OB3 are to be implemented in FY2014.
10	Number of curricula/training modules developed (<i>with project support</i>)	3 sets of curricula	1	Training manual for law enforcement is developed and presented to stakeholders.
11	Number of penitentiary facilities that offer the comprehensive package of HIV prevention, treatment and care services	0	0	
12	Number of health care facilities that offer the comprehensive package of HIV prevention, treatment and care services for IDUs	3	0	Service delivery did not started within OB 3 due to delay with development of service delivery model and selection of implementing partners.