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# HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

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

## QUARTERLY REPORT # 9

Reporting period:

October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Cooperative Agreement No.:

AID-121-IO-11-00001

Submitted by:

UNODC Program Office in Ukraine

January, 22 2013

## 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 **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".

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.

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:** Cooperative mechanisms between law enforcement, drug control, public health and civil society partners are developed and piloted in selected regions to increase effectiveness of HIV response at the local level.

**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**

Key activities	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Status	Remarks
1.1.1. (a) National awareness raising workshop for police on OST programmes			X	Completed	
1.1.2. 2nd Regional Consultation Meeting on the Role of Law Enforcement in HIV response		X		Completed	
1.1.4. Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB) survey among law enforcement officials	X	X	X	In progress	The survey instruments and protocol are developed and pending the Mol approval.
1.2.1. Facilitate Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Law Enforcement				Postponed	Due to political situation the meeting was postponed until the next quarter.
1.2.3. Support to develop sectoral action plan for the implementation of the 2014-2018 National AIDS Programme				Postponed	The NAP 2014-2018 is not endorsed yet. Activity will start once the NAP is approved.
1.2.4. Develop, publish and disseminate specific guidelines, instructions			X	In progress	Info materials for police on HIV are drafted and submitted for Mol approval.
1.3.1. Advocacy workshops in pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)			X	In progress	Identification and recruitment of consultant is in progress
1.4.2. Stakeholders meeting to develop action plan for police training curricula update				Postponed	Due to political situation the activity is postponed to the next quarter

• **Police understanding and support to scaling-up of the OST programmes enhanced**

In collaboration with the Ukrainian Centre for Diseases Control (UCDC) and the Ministry of Interior the PLEDGE Project held a national awareness raising workshop for police on OST programmes (December 5-6, 2013). The event brought together heads of the oblast level Mol's units for countering illicit drugs, coordinators and implementers of the OST programmes and representatives of civil society organizations, UN Agencies to discuss different ways of improving access of PWUD to OST programmes in the regions of Ukraine.

Facilitated dialogue between the public health actors and law enforcement representatives resulted in the development of recommendations on how to overcome barriers for OST scaling-up in the country. The recommendations can be summarised as follows:

- Training curricula for police in Ukraine needs to be developed further to include regular planning and implementation of awareness raising activities at national and local levels. The national level activities should include in-service trainings for police officers who are in contact with MARPs at a regular basis (district police, criminal police, patrol units). At local level the cooperation of police and oblast CCMs should be strengthened, including planning of the joint activities in HIV prevention area, awareness raising activities and dissemination of the informational materials both among police officers and key affected population about programmes and services on HIV prevention and treatment.
- The sectoral policy of the Ministry of Interior on AIDS should be enhanced with special instructions for police officers regarding HIV and AIDS and working with key affected populations.
- The normative framework regulating OST programmes in Ukraine should be improved to overcome barriers to the OST scale-up, including regulations regarding take-home, prescription of methadone and implementation of liquid methadone.
- The developed and agreed recommendations will be used for planning follow up actions to be jointly implemented by the Project, Ministry of the Interior and the Ukrainian Centre for Diseases Control.

Brief summary of the meeting is attached to this report as Annex 1.

- **Police role in the national response to HIV and harm reduction programmes is advocated**

Law enforcement officials from Ukraine attended the Second Regional Consultation on the Role of Police in Raising Effectiveness of the National Response to AIDS, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan organized by PLEDGE in November 28-29, 2013. Representatives of the National Police Academy, Health Care Unit and Unit to Combat Illicit Drug Trafficking of the Mol enhanced their understanding on the role of the police in harm reduction programmes and together with the representatives of the civil society agreed on priority actions. The recommendations concern the strengthening of the intersectoral cooperation at the national and sub-national (oblast) levels and implementation of the coordination mechanisms for joint activities, and awareness raising programmes for police officers involved in combating illicit drugs, investigation and patrolling. The main recommendations, provided by the representatives from Ukraine are as follows:

- To strengthen cooperation between police, HIV service providers and health care facilities within the Coordination Council on HIV/AIDS at oblast Level, namely:
  - ✓ to recommend police oblast units to develop memorandum of understanding with health care facilities and Coordination Councils on HIV/AIDS at oblast level to ensure coordination and joint implementation of the new National HIV/AIDS Programme;
  - ✓ to coordinate the development and ensure the availability of informational materials regarding HIV prevention services for injecting drug users and other vulnerable groups in local police stations.
- To strengthen cooperation between police and civil society organizations and involve NGOs into the following activities:
  - ✓ regular training sessions for police aiming at raising their awareness on HIV/AIDS, drug

treatment and harm reduction programmes;

- ✓ coordination of schedules and itinerary of NSP and mobile ambulatories with police units to facilitate accessibility of services for vulnerable groups;
  - ✓ keep Coordination Council on HIV/AIDS at oblast level informed on the services provided for MARPS and coverage.
- To develop training programmes for police within professional development system of the MoI and on-the-job training via:
- ✓ development of instructions and information materials for police staff regarding HIV/AIDS, occupational risks, drug dependence treatment and harm reduction programmes;
  - ✓ training of the tutors of the MoI's educational institutions on HIV/AIDS, vulnerable groups and role of the police in HIV prevention among MARPs.

Provided recommendations will be delivered to the Ministry of Interior to be taking into account when developing the sectoral action plan regarding HIV/AIDS in line with the National HIV/AIDS programme for 2014-2018.

Mission report of the Ukrainian participants as well as their proposals are attached to this QPR as Annex 2 and 3.

**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

Key activities	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Status	Remarks
2.1.1. (a) National AIDS Conference	X			Completed	
2.1.1. (b) Workshop on the role of Probation and Parole Inspection in promoting access to services		X		Completed	
2.1.3. Study tours to Moldova and				Postponed	The visit is postponed due to

Switzerland for a group of SPSU representatives					busy schedule of the host party
2.2.1. Facilitate TWG on HIV/AIDS and Prisons	X			Completed	
2.2.2. Improve legal and normative framework for scaling-up HIV interventions in prisons			X	In progress	ToR and a candidate for consultant are under consideration
2.2.3. Assessment and updating currently used guidelines & protocols for services in prisons		X	X	In progress	Consultant is recruited and working.
2.3.1. Undertake assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected pre-trial detention centres and prisons		X	X	In progress	Consultant is recruited and working.
2.4.1. Assessment of the training programmes used at the prison training institutions	X	X	X	In progress	Consultant is recruited and working.

- **Prison sector was supported to participate in the National AIDS Conference**

The project supported 16 medical staff of the Penitentiary Service headquarters and pilot prison facilities to participate at the National AIDS Conference (26 October 24-26, 2013, Kyiv). The conference was organized by the State Service on countering HIV/AIDS, TB and other socially dangerous diseases in partnership with several national and international stakeholders including civil society representatives as well as involving international experts in the agenda. The conference contributed to the development of the national policy towards (1) priority-setting, (2) introduction and scale-up of best practices, mostly in HIV testing and treatment, (3) ensuring of sustainability, and scale up of the medical programs during the transition period from the donors to predominantly state funding. This event ensured a high level of programmatic and research activities, and facilitated the dialogue and development of strategies to overcome the HIV epidemic. Penitentiary medical staff provided substantial input at the key sessions related to HTC, ART, TB as co-infection treatment, and two MD's had presentations at HTC and TB sessions.

- **National seminar on harm reduction services for people on parole**

From 20 to 22 November, 2013 the Project took an active part in the workshop "Prevention of HIV and other socially dangerous diseases among persons who are registered at the criminal executive inspection: the experience of cooperation and further development in relation to establishment of a probation service" conducted in Poltava jointly with International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine and Department of Criminal-Executive Inspection and Correctional, Educational and Psychological Work with Prisoners of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine. The goal of the workshop was to promote the development of integrated approaches to HIV prevention among vulnerable groups registered at units of criminal executive inspection, especially concerning the probation service development. During the event information about the PLEDGE Project plans and activities was provided by the Project staff. The project involved also an international expert, Catherin Ritter, to take part in the workshop to present the international experience of pre- and post release HIV prevention, treatment and care. The expert shared experience of the HIV services implementation in Swiss prisons with particular focus on services targeting PWUD. Brief workshop report and resolution are attached to this report as Annex 4 and 5.

- **Technical working group on HIV/AIDS and Prisons**

On November 13, 2013 the Project conducted a coordination working meeting on HIV in Prisons. The event involved the Penitentiary Service's management, representatives of the State Service on HIV/AIDS and other socially dangerous diseases, Ukrainian Centre for Disease Control, State Service of Ukraine on Drug Control, USAID, and international and civil society organizations (33 representatives from 21 organizations). At the meeting the participants presented their project activities in the prison sector, discussed key issues, challenges and proposals related to cooperation with the penitentiary service on HIV prevention in prison settings. The project made a presentation of its activities and achieved results in the area of HIV in prisons. The participants approved the technical working group (TWG) composition and agreed to meet at least once a quarter.

- **Presentation the research on legal and normative framework of HIV interventions in prison settings**

The project's local consultant Irina Iakovets presented to TWG on November 13, 2013 a report based on the analysis of HIV/AIDS related sectoral and inter- sectoral policies and regulations of SPSU in health care, sectoral and inter-sectoral regulations, identifying and examining different barriers and opportunities for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes. The report also included recommendations on how to align penitentiary sector practices and the sectoral strategy on HIV prevention, treatment and care in prison settings with international standards and recommendations. The report is currently circulated among experts for comments.

The copy of the report is attached to this QPR as Annex 6.

- **Assessment of currently used guidelines and protocols for service provision in prisons**

In November 2013 the Project recruited a national consultant to review and analyze the current HIV related guidelines and protocols and their compliance with 'HIV Comprehensive Package for prisoners'. First draft of the report is expected by June, 2014.

- **Assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected prison settings**

In October 30, 2013 the Project signed an agreement with an international consultant who will conduct the assessment of the needs and capacities of the 4 selected pilot prison facilities (Kyiv pre-trial detention centre, Bila Tserkva male prison, Kharkiv female prison and Kremenchuk prison for adolescents). On November 18-22, 2013 the consultant conducted her first trip to Ukraine and visited all 4 prison institutions. She will be analysing the situation in the above mentioned prisons regarding the implementation of effective gender specific, human rights based and sustainable service provision models with regard to HIV, TB and drug dependence treatment. Specific recommendations for prison staffs will be presented by the consultant during her next visit in February, 2014.

- **Assessment of the current HIV related modules, curriculum and training programmes used at the prison training institutions**

In December 2013 the Project's consultant conducted an assessment of the HIV and AIDS related knowledge, skills and competencies within the penitentiary sector's educational institutions and within the on-the-job training programmes. The assessment covers the following 5 training institutions of the Penitentiary Sector: Institute of Criminal Execution Service of Ukraine (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, Khmelnytsky Post-Graduation Training Centre for Tutors of the Penitentiary Sector Training Institutions. The draft report is attached to this QPR as Annex 7.

**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**

Key activities	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Status	Remarks
3.1.1. Round table meeting to promote reforms in narcology services				Postponed	Consultations with partners were held; date and scope of the meeting need to be adjusted since the position of chief narcologist was abolished in December.
3.1.2. Develop and update narcology protocols/standards				In progress	ToR developed and submitted to the Chief Narcologist
3.1.3. Facilitate the Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Narcology				Postponed	Due to lack of clarity with regard to Chief Narcologist position the meeting is postponed
3.2.4. Support selected institutions for piloting various models of integrated services				Postponed	HQs guidance is expected with regard to modality of engaging NGOs

● **National stakeholders meeting to promote reforms in narcology services**

The draft concept note for National stakeholders meeting was developed and shared with the Chief Narcologist of Ukraine and Chief Narcologists at oblast level for their consideration. In December the MoH has cancelled the position of the Chief narcologist by transferring the functions to the newly introduced position – Chief psychiatrist and narcologist. Organization of the round table is postponed to the next quarter due to the needs for clarification of new management and accountability roles in leading the narcology sector within the health care system.

● **Improve narcology accreditation criteria and requirements**

Due to lack of clarity on the issue of the Chief narcologist the recruitment of the consultant to update accreditation criteria of narcology clinics was also postponed.

● **Facilitate the Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Narcology**

During the reported period there were no meetings of TWG.

● **Support selected institutions for piloting various models of integrated services**

The activity is on-hold due to lack of clearance from the HQs for the grant modality use in engaging NGOs to pilot integration of HIV related services in the state-run drug dependence treatment centres in Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv. Financial Resources Management Section of the UNODC/Vienna suggests using procurement modality for sub-contracting these NGOs for this activity. However existing legal framework of Ukraine prohibits NGOs that have non-profit status to provide commercial services on a fee (paid) basis. They can only receive grants or voluntary financial contributions for specific project and/or activity. Further guidance is expected from the HQs with regard to grants/sub-contracts to NGOs.

### 3. Unanticipated positive results

- The article “The Need for Social Insurance in the Context of Social Dangerous Diseases for Law Enforcement Staff Working with Organized Crime” was prepared in cooperation with Research Institute of the National Security Council to be published in a professional journal entitled “Fight to Organize Crime and Corruption”. The article deals with issues related to HIV/AIDS and vulnerability of police officers working with key effected population and aims to raise discussion around the role of law enforcement sector in HIV prevention among scientific and professional community. The role of the Project in enhancing the role of police in HIV/AIDS response is mentioned in the article. Copy of the article is attached as Annex 8.
- The PLEDGE is recognized as a strong player at national level and its staff was included into the National AIDS Conference Organization Committee (formed by order #47 01/07/2013 of AIDS Service). While working at the Organization Committee National M&E Officer provided support to SPSU in identifying potential areas of their input and interest; persistently advocated on the inclusion sessions related to access to testing and treatment to PWUD.
- In October 2, 2013 the National Project Officer on HIV/AIDS and Prison visited a site of criminal-executive inspection in Irpen’. He shared information on the main goals of the HIV- PLEDGE Project in the pilot regions with the heads of the inspection, learned peculiarities of HIV prevention work with those who serve sentences out of prisons. There was also a discussion about elaboration of expectations and needs for cooperation with the project.
- In the framework of the World AIDS Day activities, in November 29, 2013 the project set up a stand in the central building of the penitentiary service administration. HIV awareness material, including information on TB and STDs, published by All-Ukrainian network of PLWH, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine and International Labour Organization were distributed at the stand for penitentiary staff and their family members.

For the first time, the Head of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, Oleksandr Lisitskov, made a statement regarding the World AIDS Day, joining efforts with the Ukrainian Government and international and local civil society organizations in the fight against AIDS (<http://www.kvs.gov.ua/peniten/control/main/uk/publish/article/698803>). Info note on WAD is attached as Annex 9.

Moreover, in December 3, 2013 the Project conducted an informational session for the penitentiary personnel from all departments (more than 100 participants). This event was dedicated to issues of HIV prevention at the workplace, tolerant attitudes towards people living with HIV, and raising general awareness on HIV infections.

- In December 2013 Project staff started their work at the Organizational Multisectoral Team formed by MoH and UNAIDS to conduct *Consultation Process in Ukraine to Plan Improved Scale up of services to people who inject drugs for HIV prevention, testing, treatment*. Due to

our advocacy consultation programmatically will be mainly focused on the most effective and actual for Ukraine HIV interventions: NSP, OST, HTC, ART, HIV/TB confection and drawing most sustainable scenario for civil society participation in transition processes.

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

- Massive protests movement started in Kyiv in late November created certain difficulties in the timely implementation of the project's planned activities. Many government agencies, especially law enforcement bodies including prison authorities have sharply restricted their interaction with the project. In this regard the project had to postpone the meeting of the Technical Working Group on HIV and Law Enforcement that was planned for December 2013 until the next quarter.
- The decision of the Ministry of Health to abolish the position of the Chief Narcologist and transfer its functions to the Chief Psychiatrist has also caused delays in the implementation of the number of project activities. The Chief Narcologist's functions are considered to be very important in promoting reforms and developments in the substance abuse treatment services system. In this regard the project postponed the round table meeting on reforms in narcology until the next quarter. The project plans to hold consultations with the MoH and Chief Psychiatrist to clarify the roles and responsibilities and discuss the projects strategies.
- The project encountered some difficulties in awarding grant to NGOs for the local level pilot activities. Several consultations have been held with UNODC HQ to find an appropriate solution with regard to engaging NGOs in the project target localities to pilot integration of HIV related services in the state-run drug dependence treatment centres in Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv. It was suggested originally using grant modality to award small-scale, non-repayable and non-recurrent award to 3 NGOs on a competitive basis for the purpose of undertaking activities that contribute to the achievement of the project objectives. This included conducting set of activities in the pilot localities to support mainstreaming and integration of HIV related services into narcology (substance abuse treatment) services system.

Following our consultations with the HQs and as per HQs recommendations to use procurement modality to engage these NGOs, the project has revised and changed the Call for Grant Proposals into Request for Proposals using the UNDP service procurement mechanism. However while discussing this procurement modality with our NGO partners we encountered another issue. Our NGO partners have non-profit status and in accordance with the local legislation cannot provide commercial services on a fee (paid) basis. It means that those qualified NGOs that we wanted to engage in our pilot project cannot act as a service provider for UNODC/UNDP in response to our procurement announcement. They can only receive grants or voluntary financial contributions for specific project and/or activity. We are currently expecting new recommendations from our HQs with regard to engaging NGOs in our project activities.

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

- Project conducted a consultation with State AIDS Service regarding the next steps in joint activities for 2014 calendar year. It was decided that in early January 2014 coordination meeting of PLEDGE and AIDS Service will be held, and roles and responsibilities of parties will be defined in order to make best use of the Project's technical assistance to the National AIDS Programme. Project is also planning to engage AIDS Service's support in the communication with Penitentiary Service and MoH.

- During the reporting period the project team was engaged in planning and holding mid-term external evaluation of the UNODC regional umbrella project XCEA01.

**6. Progress Towards Annual Quantitative Targets (BY 2014)**

**N/A**