

# HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

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

## QUARTERLY REPORT # 10

Reporting period:

January 1, 2014 – March 31, 2014

Cooperative Agreement No.:

AID-121-IO-11-00001

Submitted by:

UNODC Program Office in Ukraine

April 17, 2013

<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	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

	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	March 2014	Status (Completed, In Progress, Postponed)	Comments
1.1.1. (a) National awareness raising workshop for police on OST programs			X				Completed	
1.1.1. (b) National round table meeting on Drug Strategy action plan development							Postponed until June 2014	The event was postponed due to political crisis in Ukraine.
1.1.2. 2nd Regional Consultation Meeting on the Role of Law Enforcement in AIDS response (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)		X					Completed	
1.1.3. Organize study visit to Portugal for a group of law enforcement officials					X		Completed	
1.1.4. Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behavior (KAPB) survey among the police officials	X	X	X	X			In progress	The survey protocol and instruments are developed; field stage is postponed due to political crisis that limits access to the target group.
1.1.5. Printing, publishing and dissemination of KAPB survey report					X	X	Postponed	The activity is connected with results of the previous one and was postponed too.
1.2.1. Facilitate Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Law Enforcement			X			X	In Progress	1 meeting was held in January 2014. The 2nd meeting is postponed until mid May.
1.2.2. Technical Workshop on Strategic Planning for the TWG members					X		Postponed	The activity postponed due to regress in the National HIV/AIDS programme endorsement.
1.2.3. Support to develop sectoral action plan for the implementation of the 2014-2018 National AIDS Program		X	X	X	X	X	In progress	The ToR is in progress
		X	X	X	X	X	In progress	The round table on HIV at the work place policy for LE

								sector is planned to the end of May
1.2.4. Develop, publish and disseminate specific guidelines, instructions			X	X	X	X	In progress	The info materials on HIV/AIDS for police officers are developed and ready for printing and dissemination; the draft instruction for police on working with MARPs is in progress.
1.3.1. Advocacy workshops in pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)				X			Postponed	The presentations in the pilot regions are postponed until June 2014 when needs assessment is completed.
		X	X	X			In progress	The need assessment study in regions is planned for April-June 2014 (recruitment of a national consultant is in process).
1.3.2. Training workshops on OST and NSP for police staff in the pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)						X	Postponed	The activity is postponed because of the political crisis that limited access to the target audience (police officers) in regions.
1.3.4. Provide small-scale grants to NGOs for piloting effective collaboration & referral schemes involving law enforcement					X	X	Postponed	Delayed because of political crisis in the country.
1.4.2. Stakeholders meeting to develop action plan for police training curricula update			X			X	Postponed	Delayed because of the political crisis; New Head of the National Police Academy is appointed.
1.4.3. Support to adapt and integrate training guide and modules into police training curricula				X	X	X	In progress	
				X	X	X		
1.4.4. Support integration of HIV education in professional development in-service training programs for police						X	Postponed	Activities are delayed because of the political crisis and replacement of key partners in LE sector ( including police training academy); training of peer-to- peer instructors is planned for mid May 2014.
						X	Postponed	
						X	Postponed	

**Activity 1.1.3. Study visit to Portugal for a group of law enforcement officials.**

As part of the efforts to provide technical support and guidance, HIV-pledge project organized a study visit to Portugal on 3-7 February 2014 for 7 officials, representing various ministries and government agencies responsible for the drug strategy implementation in order to explore the

Portuguese experience with drug policy reforms. The purpose of the visit was to provide an opportunity for our Ukrainian partners to meet with the relevant Portuguese officials and experts dealing with drug policy issues. The visit aimed at exploring the outcomes of the drug policy reform undertaken in Portugal in 2001 and particularly the results of the policy to de-criminalize drug use and provide treatment as an alternative to imprisonment. The study visit to Portugal helped the Ukrainian officials to get familiarized with the process, context, ideas, and values that enabled Portugal to make the transition to a public health response to drug use and possession. Portugal provides a valuable case study of how decriminalization coupled with evidence-based strategies can reduce drug consumption, dependence, recidivism, and HIV infection. The program of the visit included meetings with the representatives of the General-Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviors and Dependencies (SICAD), Commissions for the Dissuasion of Drug Use, National AIDS Program, and Criminal Police of the Ministry of Justice, General Prosecutor Office, High Judiciary Council, and Directorate General for Prison Services and Reintegration. The participants also visited Drop-in Centre for IDUs managed by NGO "GAT" and Taipas drug dependence treatment centre. The program also included meeting with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) representatives. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2014/ukrainian-visit>

#### **Activity 1.1.4. Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behavior (KAPB) survey among law enforcement officials**

The research protocol and research instruments for Knowledge-Attitude-Practice-Behavior Survey regarding HIV/AIDS among police staff are developed and agreed with key partners (officials of the Ministry of Interior and the Ukrainian Centre for Diseases Control). The research aims to study the attitude of the target group towards HIV/AIDS, MARPs, PWLH, stigma and discrimination level and analyze the level of awareness of risk of contracting HIV while performing professional duties. The sample of the survey is 460 police officers. The developed research tools include questionnaire for police staff and guidelines for structural interviews for police management, including heads of the units and departments of the Ministry of Interior. The field stage of the research will be conducted after the official approval of the Ministry of Interior in April-June 2014.

#### **Activity 1.2.1. Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Law Enforcement**

The regular meeting of the Technical Working Group on HIV and Law Enforcement was held in January 30, 2014, aiming at coordination of activities of all interested parties regarding strengthening the role of law enforcement sector in response to HIV. Representatives of the Ministry of Interior (Unit to Combat Illicit Drugs, Health Care Department, Personnel Department, Public Security Unit), National Police Academy, Police Staff Association, Office of International Labor Organization in Ukraine and AIDS Foundation East-West attended the meeting. The project's working plan for 2014 was presented to the stakeholders, covering activities that have been developed to strengthen the role of police in national HIV/AIDS responses and to increase the access of PWUD to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services. The principal activities were agreed and key partners for each activity were defined. The Personnel Department of the Ministry Interior provided evidence of changing of the sectoral law enforcement policy regarding HIV/AIDS: as a result of the project implementation the Order of the MoI № 652 from 28.07.2013 was issued to support regular training for police on HIV/AIDS. According to the document 300 training sessions were conducted for police officers to raise their awareness on HIV/AIDS within the on-the-job training system of the Ministry.

#### **Activity 1.2.3. Support to develop sectoral action plan for the implementation of the 2014-2018 National AIDS Program**

Technical support has been provided to the State Drug Control Service of Ukraine (SDCS) in

developing an annual action plan for the implementation of the National Strategy on Drugs. Few examples and templates of drug action plan, including EU Action Plan on Drugs for 2013-2016, have been translated into Ukrainian and made available for the working group. UNODC PLEDGE Team provided comments to the draft annual action plan.

**Activity 1.3.3. Training for NGOs on building and maintaining effective partnership with law enforcement agencies**

The Guidelines and Outline of a two-day training workshop for civil society organizations involved in HIV and harm reduction services: *Improving Working Relationships and Collaboration with Police Services* is being developed by the international consultant (Dr. Diane Riley). Guidelines will provide a framework for planning and implementing the training for NGOs working in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment area and aims to reach following objectives:

- Increase knowledge of the benefits of collaboration between police and individuals/ organizations that implement HIV prevention programs, including harm-reduction strategies.
- Increase knowledge of ways in which collaboration between police and individuals/ organizations that implement HIV prevention programs can be increased and maintained.
- To understand the importance of advocacy when working with the police
- To understand the role of the police in creating an enabling environment
- To understand some specific working approaches with police staff: officers and managers
- To be aware of practical 'tools' used by police that can allow the harm reduction services to be implemented
- To be aware of some approaches on how to gain support of the police towards the aims and objectives of a harm reduction organization.

The guidelines will be translated into Ukrainian and used for planning the training for local NGOs in Ukraine to enhance cooperation of police and HIV-services providers in the project pilot regions.

**Activity 1.4.3. Support the police training institutions to update training modules and materials**

The international consultant (Nick Thomson, member of the Law Enforcement and HIV Network) is recruited to review and proofread the draft International Training Guide on HIV/AIDS for Police. Finalization of the Guide is expected to be completed by the end of April.

**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

	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	March 2014	Status (Completed, In Progress, Postponed)	Comments
2.1.1. (a) Facilitate participation of the prison sector in the National AIDS Conference	X						Completed	
2.1.1. (b) Seminar on the role of Probation and Parole Inspection of SPSU in promoting access to services for IDUs		X					Completed	
2.1.1. (c) Workshop on good practices in addressing drug abuse and HIV challenges in prison settings				X			Postponed	Complicated political situation
2.1.3. Study tours to Moldova and Switzerland for a group of SPSU representatives			X				Postponed	Complete change in leadership of SPSU
2.2.1. Facilitate TWG on HIV/AIDS and Prisons	X			X			In Progress	Clearance is pending with new head of medical department of the SPSU
2.2.2. Improve legal and normative framework for scaling-up HIV interventions in prisons			X	X	X	X	In Progress	The report is reviewed. The consultant is recruited.
2.2.3. Assessment and updating service guidelines & protocols in prisons		X	X	X	X	X	In Progress	The consultant is working on updating guidelines and protocols.
2.3.1. Undertake assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected pre-trial detention centers and prisons		X	X	X	X		In Progress	The consultant finished the assessment and is finalizing the report.

2.3.3. Develop comprehensive HIV/TB & drug treatment program for piloting in the selected facilities					X		In Progress	A draft program is under consideration of SPSU.
2.4.1. Assessment of the training programs used at the prison training institutions	X	X	X	X	X	X	In Progress	Updated programs are under consideration of SPSU.
2.4.5. Twinning with internationally recognized centers of excellence					X		In Progress	The visit program to Switzerland agreed but the confirmation of the participants is postponed because of change in leadership of SPSU

### Activity 2.2.2. Finalization of the report on legal and normative framework of HIV interventions in prison settings

The report on the review of the laws and policies related to health, HIV, drug dependence services for prisoners conducted by the project's national consultant (Irina Iakovets) was finalized and translated into English. The report has been preliminarily reviewed by the TWG members, penitentiary authorities, State Service of Ukraine on HIV/AIDS and Other Socially Dangerous Diseases, Ukrainian Centre for Disease Control, and other government and non-governmental partners. The translated report was also sent to UNODC's HQ experts for review and feedback. The report and other relevant information on medical services in prison settings are also shared among other national and international consultants of the project (within Activities 2.2.3, 2.3.1 and 2.3.3.). Copy of the Report in English is attached to this QPR as [Annex 2.1](#).

### Activity 2.2.3. Assessment of currently used guidelines and protocols for service provision in prisons

The national consultant (Nikolai Gagarkin) provided an assessment of the HIV related service standards and protocols currently used in the prison system. In his analysis the expert focused on compliance of these standards and protocols with the recommendations of the UNODC and WHO (comprehensive package). His draft report was made in close collaboration with medical department of the penitentiary service as well as with other experts in the penitentiary sphere. The report includes recommendations related to the gaps in the current HIV and AIDS service provision. These recommendations will be presented to the specialists of the penitentiary service and other partner organizations in order to receive their feedback and suggestions on different ways of developing and updating orders and instructions regarding HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care, and support in the penitentiary system. Copy of the Report is attached to this QPR as [Annex 2.2](#).

### Activities 2.3.1 and 2.3.3. Assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected prison settings

The international consultant (Catherine Ritter) developed four preliminary drafts of action plans on implementation of effective, gender specific, human rights based and sustainable models of service provision with regard to HIV, TB and drug dependence treatment. These action plans related to the 4 pilot prison settings (Kyiv pre-trial detention centre, Bila Tserkva male prison, Kharkiv female prison and Kremenchuk prison for adolescents) are being discussed with the heads

of medical units of the prisons (head of medical unit of SPSU's Department in Kyiv and Kyiv Region S. Kravchenko, head of medical unit of Kharkiv female prison O. Tsura, head of medical unit of Kremenchuk prison for adolescents V. Kolesnikov), and are under consideration of the UNODC's project staff (M. Sultanov and V. Lazebnyi).

The consultant planned to present the plans and relevant recommendations to the staff of the prisons during her visit in February, 2014. Unfortunately the visit to the 4 selected pilot prison facilities had to be postponed because of the high security regime in the penitentiary facilities caused by the political situation in the country. After the appointment of the new head of penitentiary authority and particularly after the new head of the medical department has been appointed, the plans of the visit will be again agreed at the first meeting with the new penitentiary management in April 2014. Tentatively the new visit is scheduled for May-June 2014.

#### **Activity 2.4.1. Assessment of the current HIV related modules, curriculum and training programs used at the prison training institutions**

The report assessing the current HIV related modules, curriculum and training programs used in prison training schools was agreed with the management of SPSU, 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, Khmelnytskyi Post-Graduate Training Centre for Tutors. Based on this report the national consultant (Alla Grygorenko) started developing training materials for the 5 above mentioned educational penitentiary institutions. The developed preliminary drafts of these programs, based on the internationally adopted comprehensive package of interventions, will be reviewed and agreed during the workshop with the authorities of SPSU and with these training schools in April, 2014 at Chernigiv Legal College.

#### **Activity 2.4.2. Workshop with prison training institution management and academic staff**

Authorities of the SPSU's Department of Personnel have agreed the list of prison training institutions' management and academic staff who will participate in the technical workshop. The agenda of the event was also agreed. Among the topics, the main focus will be on the assessment of the new HIV-related educational module and program drafts developed for the 5 educational institutions while also identifying the means to implement them in the respective curriculums. Due to the ongoing emergency regime of the State Penitentiary Service in January-March 2014 the workshop had to be postponed. Currently this event has been planned with the administrative and education staff for 17 April, 2014, however the workshop must also be approved by the new Head of the Penitentiary Service.

#### **Activity 2.4.5. Promote and establish twinning partnership and facilitate academic exchanges and study visits between Ukrainian prison faculties and Centers of Excellence**

The project has succeeded in establishing a preliminary agreement with the Swiss Prison's Staff Training Centre to initiate the twinning program with the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine. In order to support the cooperation between the Ukrainian penitentiary educational institutions and the Swiss Prison Staff Training Centre not only in the framework of the project but also in a broader context, the project took part in the development of a draft agreement of cooperation between the Institute of Penal Enforcement Service of Ukraine and this Centre of Excellence. In April, 2014 the draft agreement will be translated and send to the Centre for approval. The program of the first visit to Switzerland and a list of participants are still under development because of the changes in the SPSU management and especially in the Department of Personnel which supervises this activity.

**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

	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	March 2014	Status (Completed, In Progress, Postponed)	Comments
3.1.1. Round table meeting to promote reforms in narcology services			X				Postponed	Consultations with partners were held, however date and scope of consultations need to be adjusted with new appointed Chief psychiatrist and narcologist and postponed till end of April, 2014.
3.1.2. Develop and update narcology treatment protocols/standards to implement comprehensive package of interventions			X	X	X	X	Postponed	ToR developed and submitted to the Chief Narcologist. Due to post of Chief Narcologist was canceled by MoH and new post of Chief Psychiatrist and Narcologist had been created the consideration of ToR postponed till end of April, 2014
3.1.3. Facilitate the Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Narcology		X	X	X	X	X	Postponed	Lack of clarity with regard to Chief Narcologist positions makes no sense to hold TWG
3.1.4. Develop technical guidelines and operational standards for integrated drug use and HIV prevention services					X	X	Postponed	

3.1.5. Launch grant programme to support research projects in HIV/AIDS, MAT and harm reduction related areas				X	X	X	Postponed	After consultations with National AIDS center, Chief Psychiatrist and Narcologist of MoH of Ukraine, UNAIDS it was decided postpone the research till MoH structure will be settled down
3.2.2. Study visit to Italy to gain experience in comprehensive and integrated service models					X		Postponed	Concept note of the visit is developed and coordinated with HQ but postponed due to political situation
3.2.3. Conduct trainings for the staff of the narcology services					X	X	In progress	Contracts with trainers are signed and training will be provided till September 2014
3.2.4. Support selected institutions for piloting various models of integrated services	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress	Contracts, working plans with BF "Blago", Kharkiv, Ukraine and with BF "Light of Hope", Poltava, Ukraine are developed and submitted to USAID for approval. ToR for services procurement to implement pilot project in Kiev is developed and submitted to HQ for consideration.
3.2.5. Local coordination meetings in pilot regions						X	postponed	
3.3.1. Assessment of the narcology training curricula, programs, manuals and materials				X	X	X	In progress	

### Activity 3.1.1. National stakeholders meeting to promote reforms in narcology services

The draft of the concept note for national stakeholders meeting to promote reforms in narcology services was developed and shared with the Chief Psychiatrist and Narcologist of Ukraine. Project staff held a meeting with Dr. Pinchuk, newly appointed Chief Psychiatrists and narcologist, Head of Ukrainian Research Institute of Social and Forensic Psychiatry and Narcology by MOH of Ukraine to

present the HIV PLEDGE project and discuss the possibility to organize a stakeholders' meeting. She supported the idea but asked to postpone the event to the end of April, 2014 due to the needs for clarification of management and accountability roles in leading the narcology sector within the health care system. Expected date for the event is end of May, 2014.

#### **Activity 3.1.2. Develop and update narcology treatment protocols/standards to implement comprehensive package of interventions**

The ToR for consultant to update accreditation criteria of narcology clinics was developed and all needed technical preparatory work was done to share the recruitment advertisement. But considering that to update these protocols the consultant should cooperate with Department of Medical Care of the MoH and Chief psychiatrist and narcologist and given that there is a lack of clarity with the issues of changes in structures and management system of MoH of Ukraine, the recruitment of the consultant was postponed as well. Expected date to start is at end of June, 2014.

#### **Activity 3.1.4. Develop specific technical guidelines and operational standards for integrated drug use and HIV prevention services**

The principles, general approaches and methods of implementation of integrated and comprehensive approach to drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention and care were planned to be discussed during a round table meeting with narcologists. Taking into account that the meeting was postponed upon request of the Chief psychiatrist and narcologists, this activity was also postponed. Expected date to start is June 2014.

#### **Activity 3.1.5. Launch grant program to support research projects in HIV/AIDS, MAT and harm reduction related areas**

After consultations with the Head of National AIDS Center, Chief Psychiatrist and Narcologist of MoH of Ukraine and UNAIDS it was decided to postpone the research till MoH structures will be stabilized.

#### **Activity 3.2.2. Study visit to Italy to gain experience in comprehensive and integrated service models**

Concept note of the visit is developed and coordinated with HQ but postponed due to the current political situation in the country.

#### **Activity 3.2.3. Conduct trainings for the staff of the narcology services**

Series of consultations have been held with the Heads of Narcology Centers of Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv (selected pilot facilities) as well as with the potential trainers and resource experts to plan and deliver capacity building and training workshops for the personnel of these pilot institutions.

The trainers have been selected and contracting is in progress. Topics of motivation and behavioral therapy will be covered by Dr. Karachevskiy, well known psychiatrist with more than 20 years' of working experience. Between 1996 and 2013 he held an appointment of Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Department of Bogomolets National Medical University. At the moment he holds a position of Associate Professor of Kiev Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Education. In 2009-2011 he attended training programme on Cognitive and Behavioral Psychotherapy in the Institute for Psychotherapy and Clinical Psychology, Moscow, Russia and in 2011-2014 attended a training by the Ukrainian Institute Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Lviv, Ukraine. In cooperation with other scientists from Ukraine and USA he has participated in the development and provision of 29 trainings on socio-psychological support of MAT patients, co-morbid disorders treatment between 2006 and

2013. In 2006 in collaboration with UIPHPR he also participated in the development of the training courses on "Psychosocial support for OST clients".

Dr. Yusopov, Head of Monitoring Center on Alcohol and Drugs of Republic of Kazakstan, will in turn provide trainings on screening, assessment and treatment planning in narcology treatment. He has worked at National Research and Practical Center of Medical and Social Problems of Drug Addiction, Kazakstan and has a huge experience in research in the field of prevention and treatment of drug use and addiction.

It is planned that each training will be attended by around 20 clinic staff from pilot cities and scheduled to be held in Kiev, Poltava and Kharkiv to September 2014.

#### **Activity 3.2.4. Support selected institutions for piloting various models of integrated services**

The activity is in progress and the draft of contracts and project implementation working plans with BF "Blago", Kharkiv and BF "Light of Hope" are developed and submitted to USAID for approval. The narcological clinics in Poltava and Kharkiv will be supported via local NGOs engaged in piloting of comprehensive care model implementation. Contracts are in the process of signing. Request for proposal to pilot comprehensive model in Kiev has been developed and submitted for consideration to HQ. We plan to share the request among stakeholders and complete selection of the grantee in May, 2014.

#### **Activity 3.3.1. Assessment of the narcology training curricula, program, manuals and materials**

On 22 January UNODC HIV/AIDS Adviser and National Project Officer on HIV and drug dependence treatment travelled to Kharkiv to meet with the Head of Narcology Department of the Kharkiv Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Studies (Dr. Sosin). The visit was part of the efforts to improve the postgraduate training curricula for narcologists. Department of Narcology of the Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies is assigned by the MoH of Ukraine as the lead department in development of curricula for professional development of narcologists. During the meeting we discussed the training curricula structure, legal regulations and procedures for improving the curricula as well as the time schedule for updates and the relevant topics. It was agreed that the Department will establish the working group to review and update the curricula. UNODC TreatNet training modules will be the core for the curricula improvement. All modules of the TreatNet will be distributed among staff for review, adaptation and mainstreaming into the existing curricula. First meeting of the group was scheduled in early February, 2014. Additional meeting was held with the staff of the Kharkiv Research Institute on Psychiatry, Neurology and Narcology (Dr. Minko and Dr. Linskiy). There we discussed the idea of holding a round table consultation on the narcology service system. Both counterparts expressed their full support to the idea and committed to be actively involved in the consultation.

Prof Ivan Sosin, Head of Narcology Department of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education was contracted as consultant to update the narcology primary specialization post-graduate curricula. It is expected that updated curricula will be available by September 2014 to start new education year with updated curricula.

After consultations, Dr. Goncarova, Associate Professor of Narcology Department of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education was selected for the position of consultant to adapt and institutionalize TreatNet training modules into the national postgraduate curricula. The contract will be signed in early April, 2014.

### 3. Unanticipated positive results

- During the reporting period HIV PLEDGE Team in Ukraine has been closely engaged in discussions and planning of the National Consultations for improved accessibility and scaling-up of HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who inject drugs which was held in Kyiv on February 18. The meeting was aimed at establishing a national consensus on prioritizing the scaling up of treatment, testing and prevention services for PWIDs and strengthening the commitment of the state; developing a road map for expanding access to HIV testing, prevention, treatment and other comprehensive services for PWIDs in a way that maximizes investment and reduces unit costs; and elaborating the action plan on integration of community based interventions into the national policy to increase access to treatment for PWIDs. UNODC was an active member of and contributor to the task force, established by UNAIDS and the MoH to plan and hold this event, as well as to the Experts Team, formed by UNAIDS to develop the road map for improved accessibility and scaling-up of HIV prevention, treatment and care services for PWID.
- At the request of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, comments and recommendations to the draft project description on piloting harm reduction services in the prison settlement (colony settlement) in town of Kotsubinske (Kyiv oblast) were provided.
- HIV PLEDGE provided contributions to and commented on the draft Manual of Strategic Information Unit, which was developed and shared by the National M&E Unit.
- PLEDGE M&E Officer within the National M&E Unit contributed to the process of development of National Report on Global AIDS Response for 2012-2013 at the stages of process planning, review and finalization.
- On 16 January the project team attended stakeholders meeting facilitated by UNAIDS/Ukraine and Ministry of Health to discuss and agree on developing transition plan towards ensuring sustainability of HIV response after termination of the GFATM grants. The stakeholders agreed to set up working group to draft transition plan. PLEDGE Team advocated and ensured inclusion of prison system into this process.
- The Project team continued its advocacy work with the State Drug Control Service to de-penalize drug users for possession of small amount of drugs for personal use. On 10 January the project facilitated an expert group meeting and assisted the SDCS to formulate relevant arguments to amend the existing legal provisions that regulates threshold of drug amounts for defining criminal charges against possession of drugs for personal use.
- As a member of the Oversight Commission of the National HIV/AIDS/TB Coordinating Council UNODC HIV/AIDS Adviser participated in the commission meeting held on 30 January and contributed to the drafting of the commission's annual report for 2013 and work plan for 2014.
- The PLEDGE team initiated development of fact sheet on HIV in prisons (based on IBBS 2009, 2011, 2013). The draft analytical material is finalized and approved by National M&E Unit, and submitted to Penitentiary Service for feedback.
- The PLEDGE Team contributed to the joint advocacy efforts to resolve the crisis situation with OST in Crimea. The efforts were targeted at the leadership of the State Drug Control Service of Ukraine to allow delivery of methadone and buprenorphine to Crimea.
- The project team provided inputs to the National Response Policy Index development as part of the Global AIDS Progress Report preparations.

- The PLEDGE project advocated and facilitated the inclusion of the newly appointed Chief Psychiatrist/Narcologist of Ukraine (Irina Pinchuk) into the list of the country's delegates to the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that was held on 17-21 March in Vienna. During the visit to Vienna Dr. Pinchuk had an opportunity to enhance her understanding on UNODC mandates and policies in demand reduction and HIV/AIDS issues, meet and discuss with relevant experts on priority areas of cooperation, get acquainted with the Vienna municipal policy and programmes targeted at drug users.
- Regional HIV/AIDS Advisor (Mirzahid) participated in the UNODC-Civil Society Informal Consultation in Drug Use and HIV (15 March) organized by UNODC HIV/AIDS Section in Vienna. Participants of the meeting included representatives of the global and regional level NGOs working in the area of drug policy, harm reduction and HIV and key UNODC staff. Participants reviewed the progress made in 2013 in the working relationship between the civil society organizations and UNODC HIV Team, exchanged information and discussed examples of good cooperation at the international, regional and country levels, agreed on the work plan for 2014. It has been suggested that similar UNODC-CSO collaboration mechanisms are promoted and initiated at country level.
- On March 11, Regional HIV/AIDS Advisor (Mirzahid) and National M&E Officer (Nataliia) took part in national stakeholders consultation meeting to discuss and take decisions on urgent issues related to the national response and current political situation. Participants jointly came up with following decisions:
  - Support GFATM Projects' PRs in reconsidering their funds in order to provide procurement of OST for Year 2015 and ART for YY 2014-2015 since MoH currently operates with funds equivalent to 2013 budget and barely provide support and roll out of existing treatment programs;
  - All parties with all means need to secure continuation of OST and ART in Crimea;
  - All parties to continue and refresh advocacy for OST and ART since new Government is recently formed;
  - Ukrainian Government and Civil Society are withdrawing from Organizational Committee of EECAAC-2014 and participation in the Conference.
- The project team provided inputs to the National Progress Report of Ukraine on the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on international cooperation towards an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem.

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

Due to the political crisis over the reporting period HIV PLEDGE was mainly concentrated on the technical and advocacy issues of the project implementation which did not need significant participation of MoI and Penitentiary staff. With the appointment of the new Government our key counterpart institutions are undergoing transition phase that is characterized by changes of key management staff and on-going reconsiderations of the policies and operational priorities.

Due to the political crisis and ongoing management changes in the counterpart government agencies the project has had to postpone and withhold some of its activities. In order to re-establish working relationships with Penitentiary Services and MoI we requested meetings with the key decision makers at each respective government body. At the time of writing, we have already had meeting (11/04/2014) with the newly appointed Head of the Unit to counter illicit drugs at MoI Mr. Oleg Shutyak; reaction from Penitentiary is still pending.

## 5. Staffing, management and coordination arrangements

- Project Team Assistant ended her contract in the middle of February 2014, nevertheless we did not experience any disruptions since Programme and Administrative Assistant secured full range of operations. Recruitment of the Team Assistant position was held in March and it is expected that the new person will start on April 22, 2014.
- On 10 January UNODC HIV/AIDS Adviser and M&E Officer had a meeting with the management of the State Service on HIV/AIDS and other socially dangerous diseases. During the meeting the counterparts have been briefed on the PLEDGE project progress in 2013 and work plan for 2014.
- On 14-15 January UNODC HIV/AIDS Adviser and M&E Officer participated in the retreat of the UN Joint Team on AIDS devoted to the preparation of the country reports to the Joint Programme Monitoring System. During the retreat on-line JPMS was reviewed, inputs for the UBRAF collective results as well as individual agency results for 2012-2013 were formulated and uploaded.
- On 31 January the project team met with the new USAID-funded project on Health System Strengthening for a Sustainable HIV/AIDS Response in Ukraine (HSS-SHARe) that is implemented by Deloitte. HSS-SHARe project team has been briefed on the PLEDGE activities in Ukraine.
- On March 5, Regional HIV/AIDS Advisor (Mirzahid) and National Officer on HIV and Prison (Valerii) held consultation meeting with the management and experts of the All-Ukrainian Network of PLWHA to review, discuss and coordinate activities related to HIV in prisons.
- On March 31, National M&E Officer (Nataliia) and National Officer on HIV/AIDS and Drug Dependence (Sergii) participated in the Workshop of OST Coordinators organized by Alliance-Ukraine and UCDC. First of all, working modality of coordinators' interaction with Alliance was discussed: reporting, normative regulations for OST provision, medication distribution and re-distribution in regions. Participants received updated information about patterns of drug use in various regions, main findings of operational research among OST program patients were presented to the audience.

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

PLEDGE is to report on Indicator ***HTC\_TST TA Number of individuals who received HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) services for HIV and received their test results***. However we are not be able to report on the progress towards the achievement of this target since planned support to service delivery within Activity 3.2.4 is pending.