

## HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

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

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT # 12

Reporting period:

July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014

Cooperative Agreement No.:

AID-121-IO-11-00001

Submitted by:

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<b>1. Context</b>	
Programme/Sub-programme	XCEA01 - Effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Vulnerable Groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe
Project Title	Penitentiary, Law Enforcement and Drugs Sectors Government Efficiency in HIV response
Project Starting Date and Duration	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. This will be achieved through the following three project objectives: (i) create an environment supportive of evidence-informed and human-rights based HIV and drug dependence treatment programmes for MARPs; (ii) 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; and (iii) improve capacity of drug dependence treatment system (narcological services) to provide evidence-informed and human-right based integrated HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment services.

## 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

Activities	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Status
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												X	Completed
1.1.2. 2nd Regional Consultation Meeting on the Role of Law Enforcement in AIDS response (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)		X											Completed
1.1.3. Study visit to Portugal for drug policy experts					X								Completed
1.1.4. Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB) survey among the police staff	X	X	X	X									Re-scheduled for the next fiscal year
1.1.5. Printing, publishing and dissemination of KAPB survey report					X	X							Re-scheduled for the next FY
1.2.1. Facilitate Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Law Enforcement				X						X			Completed
1.2.2. Technical Workshop on Strategic Planning for the TWG members					X								Re-scheduled for the next FY

1.2.3. Support to develop sectoral action plan for the implementation of the 2014-2018 National AIDS Program				X	X	X	X						Re-scheduled for the next FY
1.2.4. Develop, publish & disseminate specific guidelines, instructions			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Completed
1.3.1. Advocacy workshops in pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Completed
1.3.2. Training workshops on OST and NSP for police staff in the pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)						X	X	X					Re-scheduled for the next FY
1.3.3. Training for NGOs on building and maintaining effective partnership with law enforcement agencies							X			X			Completed
1.3.4. Provide small-scale grants to NGOs for piloting effective collaboration & referral schemes involving law enforcement					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Re-scheduled for the next FY
1.4.2. Stakeholders meeting to develop action plan for police training curricula update												X	Completed
1.4.3. Support to adapt and integrate training guide and modules into police training curricula				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In Process
1.4.4. Support integration of HIV education in professional development in-service training programs for police						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In Process

#### **Activity 1.1.1. (b) National round table meeting on Drug Strategy action plan development**

Initially national round table was planned for February 2014, however key activity beneficiary, the State Drug Control Service resumed Plan for 2014 development with PLEDGE advisory input, and did not plan any public discussion for the reporting period. The project has contributed substantively to the planning and organization of the National Conference devoted to drug policy issues, which was held on 11-12 September 2014 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The conference brought together 260 various stakeholders, including international and national experts, policy makers, researchers and practitioners to review the current state of the implementation of drug policies, lessons learned and identify existing problems and their solutions based on the achievements of modern science and best practices. The conference was organized under the auspices of the State Drug Control Service with financial input from the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and UNODC Treatnet project. Photos and presentations from the Conference are available to view at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5npjqugziv9wl7v/AAD4I6VRfE9McPEdPiVj6lGa?dl=0>,  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cenzlvteklhitab/AACcye038vfnpHtFQHHHyKh0a?dl=0>).

#### **Activity 1.1.4. Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB) survey among police personnel**

The research protocol and instruments for Knowledge-Attitude-Practice-Behaviour Survey regarding HIV/AIDS among police personnel are developed and agreed with key partners (officials of the Ministry of Interior and the Ukrainian Centre for Diseases Control) in previous reporting periods. However the project was advised by the MoI to suspend the survey launch until political situation in the country gets stabilized. Taking into consideration current political developments the project has decided to reconsider methodology of data collection, specifically interviews with police personnel at workplaces will be replaced with the interviews with students of courses of professional development at leading educational institutions of the MoI (Kyiv and Kharkiv Academies of MoI, Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk Universities of Internal Affairs). Those students represent almost all staff categories, which initially were planned to target in the survey. Currently the project is waiting for official reaction to this proposal from the Ministry of Interior and continues holding consultation with interesting parties regarding correction of the methodology of the study.

#### **Activity 1.1.5. Printing, publishing and dissemination of KAPB survey report**

Activity is postponed until the KAPB survey is completed. (Please, see Activity 1.1.4.)

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

The TWG meeting was held on 8 July and was reported in the previous QPR 11.

#### **Activity 1.2.2. Technical Workshop on Strategic Planning for the TWG members**

The activity postponed due to regress in the National HIV/AIDS programme endorsement. The activity is rescheduled for the next fiscal year.

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

Since it was planned that the Project will provide technical assistance to the MoI in the development of the sectoral action plan based on the NAP 2014-2018 the project has postponed this activity to the next fiscal year when NAP will be endorsed by the Parliament.

#### **Activity 1.2.4. Develop, publish and disseminate specific guidelines, instructions**

The project's national consultant (Ms. Elena Koval, former MoI's official) was recruited to develop draft *Guidelines for police on HIV and policing of key affected populations*. The guidelines for police was finalized and supplemented with an analysis of the sectoral legal documents and regulations of the Ministry of Interior, intersectoral and national legal framework, regulating OST, needle & syringe exchange programmes (NSP), HIV treatment and prevention programmes for PWUD (Annex 1.2.4. (b)). The Guidelines for police officers on how to interact with MARPs was shared among HIV and Law Enforcement TWG members for review and comments. It was suggested to publish informational and educational materials for police on HIV and policing of key affected populations and advocate for official approval of the developed materials by the Ministry of Interior.

The project also supported development of the *Methodological materials for police on how to reduce occupational risks related to HIV/AIDS* (Annex 1.2.4.(a)). The materials are developed by the team of experts of the National Police Academy (lead by the project's consultant Mr. Olexander Striltsiv) and recommended by the Scientific Council of the Academy to be disseminated among cadets and police officers during on-the-job training. Materials are aimed at raising awareness of police officers on HIV/AIDS, TB and viral hepatitis, related professional risks and measures of the risks reduction, post-exposure prophylactics, and working with key affected populations. Materials were presented and discussed at HIV and LE TWG, draft layout was commissioned by the project and is ready for printing. The brochure was published in 2000 copies to be disseminated among police, working in public security and drug control areas.

#### **Activity 1.3.1. Advocacy workshops in pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)**

The assessment of the needs of the project pilot regions to implement models of cooperation between police and HIV services providers is finalized (Annex 1.3.1). The findings of the research cover issues related to the best practices applied in Ukraine in the area of building cooperation between police and HIV/AIDS prevention services for PWIDs, and assessment of capacity of the three project pilot regions (Kyiv, Kharkiv and Poltava) to build and maintain cooperation with law enforcement sector at local level.

The assessment includes analysis of HIV related data in the each region, brief description of selected CSOs working in HIV/AIDS area, availability of the HIV related services for PWUD in the region according to the comprehensive package, recommended by WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS, description of the services, provided by selected organizations, mechanisms of the services provision and counterparts at local level, cooperation of CSOs with law enforcement and health care at local level, role of counterparts, including police, in the services provision and improving access of PWUD to HIV prevention programmes, challenges, including analysis of ineffective interaction between local counterparts.

Advocacy workshops to discuss effective models of cooperation between police, health care sector and civil society organizations to improve access of PWUD to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services were conducted in Kyiv (October 24), Poltava (October 25) and Kharkiv (October 26).

About 45 representatives of law enforcement and health care sectors, CSOs and social services working in HIV/AIDS area attended the events. The findings of researches implemented by the project regarding the role of law enforcement in response to HIV/AIDS and capacity of the pilot regions to build and maintenance cooperation with police were presented during the round table. The round tables resulted in discussion further steps that should be implemented in each region to enhance the role of the police in response to HIV/AIDS at local level. It was suggested to focus efforts on building cooperation with public security unit of police, building their awareness on HIV and harm reduction, and training them on communication with key affected populations and application of referral mechanisms.

#### **Activity 1.3.2. Training workshops on OST and NSP for police staff in the pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)**

The activity is postponed because of the political crisis that limited access to the target audience (police officers) in regions. The activity is rescheduled for the next fiscal year.

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

The Guidelines and Outline of training workshop for civil society organizations involved in HIV and harm reduction services: *"Building and maintaining effective partnerships with law enforcement in the context of harm reduction service provision"* are developed by the project's international consultant (Dr. Diane Riley). The guidelines are translated into Ukrainian and were piloted in the training session for representatives of

Ukrainian CSOs, working in HIV/AIDS prevention area, in July 8-9 2014. The two day workshop aimed to review the training manual for CSOs on improving working relationships and collaboration with police and other law enforcement services. Twelve (12) trainers from CSOs took part in the event, discussed the draft manual and developed recommendations regarding the paper. It was agreed to create the informal group of the CSOs' trainers to support awareness rising of local organizations, working in HIV area, in establishing and maintaining effective partnership with law enforcement. The group will work to finalize the training manual, develop training modules and conduct 6 pilot trainings for CSOs in regions of Ukraine in November 2014 – March 2015.

**Activity 1.3.4. Provide small-scale grants to NGOs for piloting effective collaboration & referral schemes involving law enforcement**

Implementation is postponed due to the political crisis in the country. The activity is rescheduled for the next fiscal year.

**Activity 1.4.2. Stakeholders meeting to develop action plan for police training curricula update**

The Technical Working Group on HIV and Training Programmes for Police is established in cooperation with the National Police Academy. The academic staff representing internet technology, criminal law, and investigation and psychology units of the Academy were included to the TWG. The first meeting of the TWG on Training Programmes for Police was held on 19 September. The analysis of the training programmes for police implemented by the project was presented and discussed by the participants. The meeting resulted in draft plan for development training programmes for police to respond better to the needs of practitioners in knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS, harm reduction & related occupational risks.

The Academy has committed to coordinate the efforts of international organizations and projects, including HIV-pledge, (i) to mainstream HIV/AIDS and drug dependence treatment related topics into the training materials and curricula for students and cadets of the National Academy of Internal Affairs; (ii) to implement international standards and recommendations on training programmes for police on HIV/AIDS into the training curricula for police in Ukraine; (iii) to develop training video for police to be used during training sessions related to HIV/AIDS and drug abuse; (iv) to support research initiatives in the area of engaging law enforcement in harm reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes; (v) to develop educational and informational materials for police on HIV/AIDS, drug dependence treatment, and harm reduction, and advocating their approval by the Ministry of Interior as instructions for police officers.

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

The advanced draft of the International Training Guide on HIV/AIDS for Police is finalized and presented to the international community during the 29<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference 2014 (Annex 1.4.3). In Ukraine the guide was presented to the TWG on HIV and Training Programmes for Police to be used during development of updates to the training curricula. The document is also translated into Russian.

**Activity 1.4.4. Support integration of HIV education in professional development training programmes for police**

Key activities are rescheduled for the next fiscal year because of the political crisis and replacement of key partners in LE sector (including police academies).

**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

Activities	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Status
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 SPSU Probation Inspection 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									Re-scheduled for the next FY
2.1.3. Study tours to Moldova and Switzerland for a group of SPSU representatives												X	Completed (Switzerland) Postponed (Moldova)
2.1.5. Develop, publish and disseminate advocacy materials						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Completed
2.2.1. Facilitate TWG on HIV/AIDS and Prisons	X			X			X						Re-scheduled for the next FY
2.2.2. Improve legal & normative framework for scaling-up HIV services in prisons			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In Progress
2.2.3. Assessment and updating service guidelines & protocols in prisons		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In Progress

2.2.4. Workshop for key prison experts on HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation concepts and frameworks							X							Re-scheduled for the enxt FY
2.3.1. Undertake assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected pre-trial detention centres and prisons		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In Progress
2.3.2. Conduct training for representatives of NGOs and community social services and prison services									X					Re-scheduled for the enxt FY
2.3.3. Develop comprehensive HIV/TB & drug treatment program for piloting in the selected facilities					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In Progress
2.3.4. Implementation of the comprehensive programmes in the selected facilities									X	X	X	X		Re-scheduled for the enxt FY
2.3.5. Support functional referral and case management mechanisms to ensure continuity of care during pre- and post release stages						X								Re-scheduled for the enxt FY
2.4.3. Provide support to the prison training institutions to update training programs								X	X	X	X	X		In Progress
2.4.4. Train the trainers from the prison training institutions								X						Re-scheduled for the enxt FY
2.4.5. Twinning with internationally recognized centres of excellence													X	Completed

#### **Activity 2.1.1: Advocacy seminars for prison authorities and stakeholders**

In the framework of this activity the PLEDGE Project has completed sub-activities (a) and (b) through participation of the prison sector in the National AIDS Conference in Kyiv on 24-26 October, 2013 and the national seminar on the role of Probation and Parole Inspection of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine in Poltava on 20-22 November, 2013.

The sub-activity (c) was postponed because of changes in management of the Penitentiary Service and its medical department at the beginning of the calendar year and busy schedule of events in September, 2014. The activity was rescheduled to December, 2014 and will be dedicated to the World AIDS Day.

### **Activity 2.1.3. Facilitate study visit to Moldova and EU country for a group of SPSU representatives**

To promote HIV-related knowledge exchange among penitentiary decision makers the PLEDGE conducted a study tour to Switzerland for the deputy head of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine (SPSU) Mr. Ihor Artemenko and representative of Ministry of Justice, deputy head of department for cooperation with government agencies (supervisor body over the penitentiary service) Ms. Svitlana Martynenko.

This study tour was combined with the twinning programme (activity 2.4.5). The main focus of these two decision makers was drawn to making agreement of cooperation between the SPSU and their Swiss counterparts in penitentiary and justice spheres. During the study visit in Switzerland the group had meetings with the director of the Swiss Prison Staff Training Centre Thomas Noll and his staff as well as authorities of Witzwil, Champ-Dollon, and Hindelbank prisons. They took also part in discussion on bilateral cooperation between Chernihiv Law College and Swiss Prison Staff Training Centre. The draft of the cooperation agreement attached to this QPR as [Annex 2.1.3 \(1\)](#). During the site visits to the prisons the Ukrainian experts received general information about the activities of the administration and security staff, as well as the work of medical units and their cooperation with other prison units. The special attention was paid to the HIV/AIDS, harm reduction (in particular, needle exchange, ARV), drug dependence issues in these prisons.

The deputy head of the penitentiary service and representative of the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice had the first round of talk on stepping up cooperation on medical issues at the Swiss Federal Office of Justice. During a meeting with deputy head of Execution of Sentences and Measures Unit, Head of Main Division of Criminal Law Mr. Walter Troxler they agreed to draft and sign an agreement between Ukraine and Swiss penitentiary services through Swiss Ministry of International Affairs.

Due to the changes in political leadership of Ukraine at the beginning of this year the PLEDGE Project had to postpone the study visit to Moldova until the next year. Copy of the letter from SPSU about the report of the study tour is attached to this QPR as [Annex 2.1.3 \(2\)](#)

### **Activity 2.1.5. Develop, publish and disseminate advocacy materials**

The PLEDGE project translated the 2014 year addition of “Prisons and Health” (WHO, UNODC) into Russian and started developing the layout for this publication. In December 2014 this edition will be ready for publication after approval by the WHO language team.

As it was reported PLEDGE was requested by All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH to fund printing and dissemination of the report on IBBS in prisons 2013, which was conducted within GFATM Rd10 Project. SPSU also expressed the interest in publishing and using of epi data for better understanding of HIV related behaviour, HIV prevalence and assess the need for treatment. First copies of the publication were presented at the meeting of the heads of SPSU’s Oblast medical departments (July 17, 2014).

Project published Analytical Brief ‘HIV Prevalence and Risk Behaviour among Prisoners’ based on data from IBBS -2009, 2011, 2013 with English and Ukrainian versions. E-version of publication was shared with National M&E Team, UNODC HQ and PLEDGE international consultants.

National Conference on HIV and Prisons (planned for December 2014) will be used for wide dissemination of the publications and data among health care professionals from penitentiary, community and SCOs.

### **Activity 2.2.1. Facilitate TWG on HIV/AIDS and Prisons**

The list of participants in TWG under SPSU was agreed with the authorities of the Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision and going to be approved by the management of the Service. Key stakeholders working in HIV are to be represented at TWG. The meeting is postponed due to the second in this year changes of heads of SPSU and its medical department.

### **Activity 2.2.2. Improve legal & normative framework of HIV interventions in prison settings**

On the basis of recommendations on updating the sectoral normative framework for HIV and AIDS in prison settings, the national consultant on legal and normative framework for HIV and AIDS in prison settings Ms. Irina Iakovets has prepared the draft of the Ministry of Justice order on updating of penitentiary normative framework for HIV and AIDS, TB, STD and access to testing, treatment and care in prisons. Now this order is under consideration of the authorities of the SPSU's Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision. Because of changes of head of this department the reviewing of this document is pending. This draft order will be discussed and reviewed at the incoming meeting of the TWG. Copy of the Order in Ukrainian is attached to this QPR as [Annex 2.2.2.](#)

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

The national consultant Mr. Nikolai Gagarkin prepared drafts operational guidelines, regulations on medical units in prison settings and other documents. The consultant made a draft report on increasing quality of access to services with focus on HIV, AIDS, TB in prison settings. Now all these documents are under in-depth consideration by penitentiary experts and authorities of the Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision. This draft report and other documents developed by the consultant will be presented at the TWG.

These and other draft documents will be used firstly in four pilot prison settings to improve accessibility and quality of HIV and AIDS services, and cooperative work of medical units in prison settings with other health care organizations and NGOs in community.

### **Activity 2.2.4. Training workshop for key prison experts on HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation concepts and frameworks**

Training workshop is postponed to next reporting period because of intense schedule of events at SPSU and changes in leadership of the Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision.

### **Activities 2.3.1 Assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected prison settings and 2.3.3. Develop comprehensive HIV/TB & drug treatment program for piloting in the selected facilities**

For developing of the action plans for 4 pilot prison settings (Kyiv pre-detention centre, Bila Tserkva male prison, Kremenchuk prison for adolescents, Kharkiv female prison) the international consultant Ms. Catherine Ritter conducted a site visit in Ukraine from 1 to 4 July, 2014. During working meetings with heads of prisons and their personnel (medicals, psychologists, social workers, security and administration) the consultant discussed these action plans in order to adopt them to peculiarities of these prison institutions. These action plans were talked over with the authorities and experts of the Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision of SPSU. All information received during this visits and at the time of previous reporting periods was put in the final recommendations for pilot institutions.

In order to review main ideas of the PLEDGE Project activities in pilot prison facilities the international consultant Catherine Ritter presented her assessment at an information workshop with heads of medical units of region prison departments in Kyiv in July 2014.

The action plans for four prison institutions will be considered by other local experts of UNODC and approved by the Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision of SPSU in order to start implementation of them. The change of the head of the SPSU's Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision is going to postpone approval of the action plans in pilot prison settings.

Copy of the draft report on Action plans in four pilot penitentiary institutions is attached to this QPR as [Annex 2.3.3.](#)

#### **Activity 2.3.2. Conduct training for representatives of prisons and community health and social services**

This activity is expected to be based on the results of activity 2.3.3. That is why this training is postponed to the period when Service delivery models will be finalized.

#### **Activity 2.3.4. Implementation of the comprehensive programmes in the selected facilities**

Activities within this line will be reprogrammed for next FY, when Service delivery models will be finalized and ready to be piloted.

#### **Activity 2.3.5. Support functional referral and case management mechanisms to ensure continuity of care during pre- and post release stages**

Activities within this line will be reprogrammed for next FY, when Service delivery models will be finalized and ready to be piloted.

#### **Activity 2.4.3. Provide support to the prison training institutions to update training programs**

In July 2014 the updated training programmes for 5 penitentiary educational institutions and the facultative training programme on HIV for students of the Chernihiv Legal College were approved by the deputy head of SPSU as parts of institutions' curricula. According to the SPSU's command, all these updated training programmes must be implemented in curricula starting from 2014-2015 academic year. Copy of the order of deputy head of SPSU is attached to this QPR as Annex [2.4.3](#).

#### **Activity 2.4.4. Train the trainers from the prison training institutions**

The training of trainers was postponed to the next reporting period because of busy working schedule at the beginning of new education year in Chernihiv Law College and other 4 institutions.

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

In order to foster wide sharing of HIV-related programme initiatives, dissemination of knowledge about HIV, AIDS, drug dependence, occupational hazards protection, and other issues among penitentiary staff, the PLEDGE project organised study tour for the penitentiary authorities in the framework of twinning partnership between Chernihiv Law College and Swiss Prison Staff Training Centre (Freiburg). The study tour was conducted from 30 August to 5 September, 2014. The project supported participation of a group of 9 Ukrainian partners who represent education and medical sectors of SPSU. During the visit the Ukrainian partners had meetings with the management and experts of the Swiss Prison Staff Training Centre and Sante Prison Suisse (office for health training under the Swiss Prison Staff Training Centre), and 3 prisons Witzwil, Champ-Dollon, and Hindelbank. The heads of the Chernihiv Law College and Swiss Prison Staff Training Centre have agreed the draft of the cooperation agreement (attached) and promised to sign it during the visit of the director of the Centre Mr. Thomas Noll to Ukraine next year. Copies of the information materials on the study visit are attached as [Annex 2.4.5](#).

#### **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 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Status
3.1.1. National stakeholders meeting to promote reforms in narcology services						X							Re-scheduled for the next FY
3.1.2. Develop and update narcology treatment protocols/standards to implement comprehensive package of interventions						X	X	X	X	X	X		Re-schedule for the next FY
3.1.3. Facilitate the Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Narcology					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
3.1.4. Develop technical guidelines and operational standards for integrated drug use and HIV prevention services								X	X	X	X	X	Re-schedule for the next FY
3.1.5. Launch grant programme to support research projects in HIV/AIDS, MAT and harm reduction							X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
3.2.2. Study visit to Italy to gain experience in comprehensive and integrated service models												X	Completed
3.2.3. Conduct trainings for the staff of the narcology services										X	X	X	Completed
3.2.4. Support selected institutions for piloting various models of integrated services				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
3.2.5. Local coordination meetings in pilot regions									X		X		In progress
3.3.1. Assessment of the narcology training curricula, programs, manuals and materials							X	X	X	X	X	X	Completed
3.3.2. Stakeholders meeting to present updated curricula										X	X	X	Completed
3.3.5. Study tour for the representatives of the Ukrainian narcology faculties to the USA										X			Re-schedule for the next FY

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

In September 2014 MoH set up a working group on improvement of drug dependence treatment system in Ukraine. The group is tasked to develop new vision and modality of drug dependence treatment services system, to provide recommendations on integration of the drug dependence treatment with other medical services, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes. The project staff met with Mrs. Lisnevskaya, Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine to present the project and discuss how PLEDGE might contribute to the development of the strategy of new approach to drug dependence treatment. As a meeting result the PLEDGE project staff was included into the MoH working group. Through this MoH WG the PLEDGE plans to involve the MoH in preparation of the round table meeting to discuss ways for improvement of narcological services, roles and responsibilities of all elements of the drug dependence treatment system, modality of service provision, assurance of the quality of services and legal base of service provision.

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

The idea was presented to the Deputy Minister and fully supported. It was proposed to develop narcology treatment protocols in the framework of MoH's WG on reforming narcology treatment system in Ukraine. On 18 September 2014 new Chief Specialist of MoH on Narcology, Dr. Vievskiy, was assigned by the Minister of Health. His position regarding national treatment protocols update should be clarified and his support needs to be secured.

### **Activity 3.1.3. Facilitate the Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Narcology**

During the reporting period the TWG on HIV/AIDS and narcology met in July 2, 2014 to discuss advocacy steps for the MoH to set up working group to update legislation regarding the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical purpose in line with the Decree of GoU #333 issued in May 2013.

Information about trainings on motivational interviewing and counselling, behavioural therapy, on pilot projects in Poltava and Kharkiv by UNODC; latest updates of postgraduate curricula for drug treatment doctors; information about UNODC intentions on development of the Standardized clinical protocol for treatment of opiate dependence were presented and discussed. RESPOND project have presented information about the pilot projects on the PTA family doctors. HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine presented recommendations for MAT improvement in Ukraine by Dr. E. Subata; Pilot projects with liquid methadone, it's status of implementation and need for support from partners. Also challenges of transferring of funding of MAT from donor grants to State budget, legislation barriers were presented by Alliance.

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

Development and update of treatment protocols were planned in the framework of MoH's WG on reforming narcology treatment system in Ukraine. PLEDGE coordinated this issue with Ms. Lisnevskaya, Deputy Minister of Health, since the WG was lead by the Minister of Health. However the minister was dismissed in October and further work of the WG is currently put on hold. Project staff met with newly appointed Chief specialist of the MoH on narcology (Dr. Anatoliy Vievskiy) who was appointed on 18 September. Dr. Vievskiy proposed to discuss the need of protocols update in October 2014 after Parliament election and forming of a new government.

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

Call for proposals on grant research programmes addressing critical gaps in research on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and related health issues among people who use drugs and inmates of prison facilities is developed and announced via local UNDP web and shared among interested partners and stakeholders. The deadline for submission of proposals is extended until 29 October 2014.

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

The visit took place in September 14-19, 2014. The group consisted of representatives of narcology centres from pilot regions (Dr. Milatskiy, Head of Monitoring department of Poltava oblast drug dependence treatment centre, Dr. Gaponov, Head of Kharkiv Oblast drug dependence treatment centre and Dr. Yariy, Head of Kiev City drug dependence treatment centre "Sotcioterapia". Participation of the Deputy Minister of Health (Natalya Lisnevska) was cancelled last minutes due to unforeseen reasons.

Participant had opportunity to see everyday practice of addiction treatment centres in Rome and Verona, to enhance their awareness and understanding of the state-of-the-art models of integrated drug dependence treatment (especially OST) and HIV prevention services based on 'one-stop-shop' principle.

The group received a firsthand information and experience on practical aspects of organization and management of the integrated treatment and continuum of care for people who use drugs; learned about normative regulations regarding integrated service provision, local treatment protocols and standards, patients' routes and monitoring systems.

Participants have improved understanding of importance of establishing and maintaining links between different sectors of the drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention systems to ensure continuum of care for drug users. Special interest was given to multifunctional platform for each case of treatment of drug dependent people. This platform had been developing last 10 years and implemented in 20 addiction treatment centres over the Italy. It allows doctors, nurses, and social workers to have immediate access to records of the case regardless of which centre patient visits.

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

Based on TREATNET Training Package Dr. Oleg Yussopov, Head of Kazakhstan Monitoring Centre on Alcohol and Drugs, conducted training on screening, assessment and treatment planning in drug addiction treatment in Kiev, July 17-20, 2014 for 18 clinic staff from pilot cities. Topics of screening and brief intervention on the basis of the ASSIST tool; using of Addiction Severity Index; treatment planning with M.A.T.R.S.; program evaluation and treatment were presented during the training. This training was designed for physicians, therapists, psychologists, social workers and consultants engaged in treatment programmes. The training includes seminars, discussions, demos, role playing, practicing the acquired skills. Pre- and post-training assessment shows significant increase of participants' knowledge and their interest to follow up the trainings.

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

At July 3, 2014 BF "Blago" /Kharkiv/ and BF "Light of Hope" /Poltava/ presented the pilot project for local partners and authorities. NGOs formed project implementation expert groups and conducted assessment of drug addiction treatment quality using UNODC TreatNet quality assessment tool. Local protocols on drug addiction treatment, TB, HIV-AIDS, and STI treatment were drafted and submitted for consideration to UNODC.

To pilot comprehensive service provision model in Kiev PLEDGE project had announced Request for proposal via UNODC HQ web and local UNDP web, and on July 4 local appraisal committee have choose NGO "Many Years" as the winner. The protocol of opening and minutes of local appraisal committee were submitted to HQ for consideration and approval. Late September HQ confirmed that "Many Years" is the winner and signed the contract.

### **Activity 3.2.5. Local coordination meetings in pilot regions**

Two meetings in Kiev and Kharkiv were held to coordinate piloting and increase local officials' awareness about integrated model of service provision for drug addicted patients. Expert project implementation groups in pilot regions were established.

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

Professor Ivan Sosin, Head of Narcology Department of the Kharkiv Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Education and Dr. Elena Goncharova, associate professor of Narcology Department Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education finalized update of postgraduate curricula using of UNODC TreatNet training modules as good practice template. An updated curriculum is available for teaching at Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education Narcology Department since September 2014.

### **Activity 3.3.2: Stakeholders meeting to present updated curricula and experience of implementation**

One-day local meeting was held in Kharkiv in July with participation of 25 people including representatives of narcology and AIDS services, Kharkiv and Poltava medical Universities, Institute of Psychology, Neurology and Narcology by National Academy of Medical Science of Ukraine. The meeting participants were familiarised with updated curricula, the set of lecture and seminar guidelines. Participants recommended that the curricula would be submitted to MoH for approval as model curricula for other departments of narcology of Medical Universities.

### **Activity 3.3.5. Study tour for the representatives of the Ukrainian narcology faculties to the USA**

All preparatory work to organize study tour was done but the visit was postponed until next spring due to uncertain situation at MoH and key drug dependence treatment cadres.

## **3. Unanticipated positive results**

On 17 July, 2014 the PLEDGE contributed to the working meeting of the heads of all region medical units of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine. The project ensured participation of international experts such as Ehab Salah, MD, MPH, UNODC/HQs Advisor on Prisons and HIV and Catherine Ritter, Prison Health Expert from Switzerland to present international standards and recommendations with regard to health care in prisons and the best practice experience of Swiss medical service provision in penitentiary services.

About 30 officers responsible for health care in prisons setting learned about the UNODC and WHO approaches to provide good governance for prison health in the 21-st. century presented by Mr. Salah. He also focused on mission of prison medical staff, persistent shortcomings, state's special duty of care etc. Ms.Ritter described the models of the interconnections between penitentiary system and health and other questions concerning health care services in Swiss prisons. She paid attention to her experience in assessment of the Ukrainian penitentiary system. Wide range of questions and comments to presenters showed the interest of the medical administrative staff of the penitentiary service in new ideas expressed by the international experts.

During the meeting the UNODC Office disseminated latest printed materials related to health issues in prisons, which could be helpful for prison medical specialists in Ukraine – IBBS-2013 report and UNODC/WHO Brief on the comprehensive package of HIV Services for prisoners. <http://www.kvs.gov.ua/peniten/control/main/uk/publish/article/733096>.

PLEDGE team joined national process of development of Strategy to ensure access to prevention for MARPs. Under auspice of State AIDS Centre and experts support from respective TWG draft outlines for Strategy are developed, 1<sup>st</sup> draft of Strategy is expected to be discussed in October 30, 2014.

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

Over reporting period PLEDGE was focused on reassuring working relationship with newly appointed (on August 17) Head of State Penitentiary Service Mr. Palagnyuk and his Deputy Mr. Oshovsky. Currently Mr. Oshovsky is supervising Health Care department, and his current interest and attitude towards HIV issues seems quite promising.

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

PLEDGE team had staff retreat on July 25-27 with an aim (1) to have preliminary discussion regarding project activities for upcoming project year; (2) to review and reconsider communication and backstopping within the team; (3) develop vision of project's external communications. In the group discussion it was identified that PLEDGE need to hire additional staff member responsible for public relations, who will professionally deliver projects updates and communications to the national and international counterparts.

While developing Annual Implementation Plan for FY 2014 PLEDGE held thematic meetings with key Government counterparts – State Drug Control Service, Mol, Academy of Interior, State Penitentiary Service, Ukrainian Center for Disease Control which were aimed at the development of the collective vision toward key programmatic activities which should be implemented by PLEDGE in the next year.

Draft Annual Implementation Plan was presented at the partners meeting on 20 August. Representatives of key government and CSO counterparts were familiarized with key achievements and shortcomings from previous year and detailed activities plans within each respective Objective of the Project. Additional suggestions and comments of the project's key partners have been taken into consideration while finalizing the project's implementation plan for the next financial year.