

## HIV PLEDGE PROJECT

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

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT # 14

Reporting period:

January 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015

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, Ukrainian Centre on Control of 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 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

Key activities/ milestones	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	Status
1.1.1. Hold national awareness raising workshop for police on harm reduction and OST programmes			X										Postponed until September
1.1.2. (a) Facilitate participation of Ukrainian law enforcement partners in international conferences on public health, drugs and HIV/AIDS issues: <i>3rd Regional Meeting on the Role of Law Enforcement in HIV response, Moldova</i>									X				Cancelled
1.1.2. (b) Facilitate participation of Ukrainian law enforcement partners in international conferences on public health, drugs and HIV/AIDS issues: <i>Conference on law enforcement and public health, Amsterdam</i>	X												Completed
1.1.2. (c) Facilitate participation of Ukrainian law enforcement partners in international conferences on public health, drugs and HIV/AIDS issues: <i>Side event on LE and HIV during CND session in Vienna</i>						X							In progress
1.1.3. Organize study visit to the best practice countries/facilities and centres of excellence													Not planned for this year
1.1.4. Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB) survey among law enforcement officials	X	X	X										In progress
1.1.5. Printing, publishing and dissemination of KAPB survey report					X	X							In progress
1.2.1. Facilitate Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Law Enforcement	X	X			X			x			x		Postponed until April-May
1.2.2. Support integration of HIV/AIDS related issues into action plan for the implementation of the National Drug Strategy			X	X	X								Postponed
1.2.3. Support to develop sectoral action plan for the implementation of the 2014-2018 National AIDS Programme	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						Completed
1.2.4. Develop, publish and disseminate specific guidelines, instructions	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			In progress
1.3.1. Hold advocacy workshops in pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)													Completed last year
1.3.2. Conduct training workshops on OST and NSP for police staff in the pilot regions (Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv)					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
1.3.3. Conduct training for NGOs on building and maintaining effective partnership with law enforcement agencies in the implementation of the community-based HIV prevention programmes among PWID	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				In progress
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	X	In progress

1.4.1. Undertake assessment of current curriculum and training programmes used at police training institution															Completed last year
1.4.2. Facilitate technical workshops with police training institutions				X					X					X	Postponed
1.4.3. Support the police training institutions to update training modules and materials	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		In progress
1.4.4. (a) Support to integrate HIV education in professional development in-service training programmes for police - <i>ToT for police training institutions on HIV/AIDS</i>								X							Cancelled
1.4.4. (b) Support to integrate HIV education in professional development in-service training programmes for police - <i>ToTs for police P2P instructors</i>					X	X	X								Postponed

**Activity 1.1.1: Hold national awareness raising workshop for police on harm reduction and OST**

Under this activity the project plans to conduct a national awareness raising workshop to promote inter-sectoral collaboration between law enforcement and health care sectors to improve accessibility of OST programmes. It is expected to gather about 50 participants representing OST programmes and police units on countering illicit drugs trafficking from all the regions of Ukraine. The workshop will provide an opportunity for the oblast level partners to jointly review current progress with the OST programme implementation in the country, discuss challenges and barriers regarding OST scaling up and agree on steps to strengthen partnership between law enforcement and health sector in order to ensure accessibility of OST services for PWIDs. Due to ongoing reforms of the law enforcement sector and following the consultations with the UCDC and the MoI, the event is rescheduled for September 2015.

**Activity 1.1.2: Facilitate participation of Ukrainian law enforcement partners in international conferences on public health, drugs and HIV/AIDS issues**

- (a) PLEDGE was planning to provide sponsorship to representatives of the Ukrainian law enforcement bodies to participate in the Regional Consultation Meeting on the Role of Law Enforcement in HIV Response that was supposed to be held in June in Chisinau, Moldova. Due to lack of funding the event is now cancelled. Thus PLEDGE has cancelled this activity.
- (b) PLEDGE supported participation of 2 partners from law enforcement sector, 1 from public health and 1 from civil society organization in the International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health held in October in Amsterdam (please see the QPR#13 for more details).
- (c) PLEDGE plans to co-organise a side event during the session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CPJC) to be held in Vienna on 18-22 May 2015. The representative of the National Police Academy will attend the event and share experience of Ukraine in changing attitude of police regarding HIV/AIDS and overcoming stigma towards key populations and PLHIV among police staff. Participation of the representative from Ukraine is agreed with the organizing party.

**Activity 1.1.4: Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB) survey among law enforcement officials**

Focused research among police officers and students of police training institutions on their knowledge, attitude, practice and behaviour regarding HIV/AIDS is in progress: 150 students of the National Academy of Internal Affairs, 150 practical police officers and 150 cadets of police school are interviewed already. Additionally, key informant interviews will be also held with relevant experts of Ministry of Interior, who are involved in forming of the Law Enforcement Sector policy regarding HIV/AIDS. It is expected that the final report will be finalized in April-mid May 2015.

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

The publication of the KAPB survey is scheduled for June 2015 when the final analytical report is finalized.

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

The last meeting of the TWG was conducted in December 2014. Due to political changes and reform of the law enforcement sector the next meeting of the group is scheduled for April-May 2015.

### **Activity 1.2.2: Support integration of HIV/AIDS related issues into action plan for the implementation of the National Drug Strategy**

In 2013-2014 the project provided advisory support to the State Drug Control Service of Ukraine in the development of the new National Anti-drug Strategy that was endorsed by the Government. The Strategy envisages development and scaling up of contemporary evidence informed and human rights based interventions for drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention for PWUDs in the community and prison settings such as OST and NSP. The new strategy presents an opportunity to effectively align national drug control priorities with those of public health policy and international standards and norms, adopting a more balanced approach between drug supply and demand reductions. The State Service for Drugs Control (SSDC) was appointed as a leading state agency for further coordination of the Strategy implementation and development. However, at the end of 2014 the SSDC was restructured by the Government of Ukraine and merged with the State medical drug inspection under the Ministry of Health.

PLEDGE will focus its support towards advocacy and technical assistance to decriminalise PWIDs. In cooperation with the International Renaissance Foundation and International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, PLEDGE will support the revision of the Ministry of Health Order # 188 that sets threshold of drug possession for criminal sanctions.

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

The Draft Law Enforcement Sectoral Action Plan regarding HIV/AIDS (hereinafter – Plan) is finalized by the project's national consultant with input from key stakeholders and submitted to the Health Care Unit of the Ministry of Interior (Annex\_1.2.3\_QPR14). The document is developed to involve law enforcement sector in the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS (NAP) programme for 2014-2018. The Draft Plan refers to the structure of the NAP 2014-2018 and stipulates concrete activities that Ministry of Interior should implement to support the national response to HIV/AIDS. The document reflects actions of the Ministry of Interior in the following areas:

- ✓ support to effective partnership within respective inter-agency working groups in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention;
- ✓ developing draft normative legal acts regulating cross-sectoral coordination of HIV/AIDS prevention;
- ✓ developing draft legal acts regulating the implementation of the NAP 2014-2018 at Ministry of Interior, taking into account the expected results, data, aims and measures of the Programme;
- ✓ review of a normative framework, medical and technological documentation on HIV/AIDS prevention for MoI;
- ✓ provision of trainings, capacity building and retraining on HIV/AIDS prevention (taking into account a gender approach) of lecturers for educational institutions subordinated to the

- Ministry of Interior, of police staff at their on-job training;
- ✓ HIV prevention at a workplace, including for medical workers who provide medical support of the personnel of structures and units of internal affairs, servicemen of the National Guard of Ukraine.

The Draft Action Plan will be officially submitted to the Ministry of Interior to become a part of the Mol's policy to support implementation of the National HIV/AIDS programme for 2014-2018. The Draft firstly should be agreed within the Mol and then submitted to the MoH.

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

Additionally to the developed *Methodological materials for police on how to reduce occupational risks related to HIV/AIDS* and *Guidelines for police officers on how to interact with MARPs*, the Project supports approval of the official instructions for police on interaction with key affected populations that will stipulate appropriate actions of police officers towards key affected populations. The instruction is produced in close cooperation with the National Academy of Internal Affairs that took responsibility for its further promotion. In reporting period the structure and content of the instruction is developed to be agreed with the Ministry of Interior.

As part of the efforts to strengthen cooperation between police and OST programmes, PLEDGE supported drafting a Handbook for medical personnel of the OST programmes on legal and regulatory issues related to the management of controlled substances for medical purposes. The Handbook reflects the issues of organizational aspects of management of methadone and buprenorphine for OST, legal aspects of the OST drugs turnover, particularities of work with OST patients, including those who are HIV infected, have TB and viral hepatitis co-infection, safety of patients' individual medical records, rules for prescription of OST medicines in Ukraine. It is expected to prepare the Handbook for publication in April 2015.

#### **Activity 1.3.2: Conduct training workshops on OST and NSP for police staff in the pilot regions**

The Project initiates 5 training sessions on HIV/AIDS issues for community police in the regions of Ukraine. Two national consultants (Consultant to develop training programme and conduct training session on HIV/AIDS and policing of key affected populations and Consultant to develop informational and educational materials on HIV/AIDS and policing of key affected populations) are hired. In the reporting period the programme for two-day training session for police officers on HIV/AIDS and the draft of informational materials are developed. The lists of the participants and dates of the training sessions are agreed with the Ministry of Interior. The training sessions are planned in Vinnytsya, (April 23-24), Ternopil (May 12-13), Lviv (May 14-15), Odessa (May 18-19) and Mykolaiv (May 20-21). About 140 community police officers, heads and deputy heads of local units will be covered by those training.

#### **Activity 1.3.3: Conduct training for NGOs on building and maintaining effective partnership with law enforcement agencies in the implementation of the community-based HIV prevention & care programmes among PWUD.**

The Guidelines and Outline of training workshop for civil society organizations involved in HIV and harm reduction services: *Improving Working Relationships and Collaboration with Police Services* was developed by the Project in FY 2014. Following the feedback of trainers from Ukrainian CSOs working in HIV/AIDS area, the project plans to involve 2 national consultants to develop training modules that will be used complimentary to the Guidelines for development of CSOs' skills on building and maintaining effective partnerships with law enforcement in the context of harm reduction.

The layout of the publication *Review the best international experience and models of cooperation between police and HIV services providers* (in Russian) is finalised and submitted to USAID for final approval (Annex\_1.3.3\_QPR14). The publication will be used for raising awareness of CSOs on best practices of partnership with police implemented worldwide.

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

The selection procedure of local CSOs to implement innovative models of cooperation with police in HIV prevention area is in progress. The Call for Proposals within Grant Programme "Enhancing the role of police in response to HIV/AIDS among PWUD in Ukraine" was announced in December 2014 with deadline for applications on January 31, 2015. The Call for Proposal was published on UNDP web-site <[http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view\\_notice.cfm?notice\\_id=20027](http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=20027)>. The announcement regarding the Grants programme was also published at the popular Ukrainian web-resources for CSOs (gurt.org.ua <<http://gurt.org.ua/news/grants/24696/>> and civicua.org <<http://www.civicua.org/grants/view.html?q=2376531>>), and disseminated among partner NGOs working in HIV and LE area in Ukraine.

Four (4) applications were received (from NGO "Vertical" and NGO "Convictus"(Kyiv), NGO "Light of Hope"(Poltava), NGO "Blago" (Kharkiv); three (3) of them passed opening procedure (NGO "Vertical" (Kyiv), NGO "Light of Hope"(Poltava), NGO "Blago" (Kharkiv). The opening procedure was conducted on February 2, 2015. The meeting of Evaluation Team (ET) was held on February 17, 2015. Recommendations and scores of the ET are provided in the Evaluation&Score Sheet; both general recommendations and individual comments are provided by the members of the Evaluation Team in the document.

The ET evaluated three applications as successful, provided justification of scores and recommendations to be taken into account during grants management. Those recommendations mainly concern methodology (to ensure that relevant international guidelines are used during the training sessions, provided by NGOs) of implementation, indicators (to ensure that indicators will well serve to measure pilot's implementation and M&E goals of the whole PLEDGE project), and value of money (before the grants launching each NGO should provide ToRs for consultants and personnel who we'll be enrolled in the projects).

The package of the documents for final approval was submitted to the External Parties Engagement Unit at UNODC Vienna Office. It is expected that the contracts with selected NGOs will be signed in May 2015 after getting clearance with USAID.

#### **Activity 1.4.2: Facilitate technical workshops with police training institutions**

The first meeting of the Technical Working Group on HIV and Training Programmes for Police was held in September 2015. The meeting resulted in action plan to support Academy of Internal Affairs in development training materials and training programmes on HIV/AIDS that also became the part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNODC and the Academy. The next meeting of the TWG is planned for April-May to involve tutors and academic staff to elaborating the content of the training manual for police on HIV and key affected populations and relevant training videos.

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

According to the Memorandum of Cooperation between UNODC and the Academy of Internal Affairs UNODC within PLEDGE Project is to provide technical assistance in the development of training programmes and curricula in line with best practices and international recommendations in

the area of HIV/AIDS and law enforcement. Currently the Project is initiating recruitment of national consultants to develop educational materials on HIV/AIDS and drugs for the Academy in line with International Training Guide on HIV/AIDS for Police developed earlier.

**Activity 1.4.4: Support to integrate HIV education in professional development in-service training programmes for police**

- (a) Training of Trainers (ToT) for tutors and academic staff of police training institutions on HIV/AIDS and ToTs for police peer-to peer instructors initially were planned under this activity. The ToT for tutors and academic staff was rescheduled to the next fiscal year because of reorganizations within the Academy of Internal Affairs and other police training instructions and pending other relevant activities.
- (b) The ToTs for police peer-to peer instructors were cancelled upon recommendation of the Mol. The letter with request to organize trainings was sent to the Ministry at the beginning of 2015. Supporting in general the project, the Ministry recommended postponing these trainings for police psychologists because of ongoing reform of law enforcement sector.

**Objective 2: Strengthen capacities of the State Penitentiary Service, public health and social services and civil society organizations to provide evidence-informed and human-rights based comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services including drug dependence treatment in prison settings.**

**Output 2.1:** Decision makers and prison management have adequate knowledge, attitudes and willingness to support comprehensive programs on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in prison settings.

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

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

**Output 2.4:** Updated training curricula, modules and training manuals on evidence-informed and human-rights-based comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care in prison settings are available and used by the training staff of the prison training schools.

**Main activities and achievements**

Key activities/ milestones	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	Status
2.1.1. (a) Hold advocacy and awareness raising workshops with policy and decision makers: <i>Participation of 2 Ukrainian officials in the Global consultation on HIV and prisons in Vienna, Austria on 16-17 October</i>	X												Completed
2.1.1. (b) Hold advocacy and awareness raising workshops with policy and decision makers: <i>1 advocacy workshop at national level and 3 workshops at regional levels</i>					X		X		X		X		In progress
2.1.2. Provide sponsorships for participation in international conferences on HIV in prisons issues	X												Completed
2.1.3. Organise study tours to Moldova for a group of SPSU representatives								X					In progress
2.1.4. Focused research to feed advocacy (IBBS among inmates)					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
2.1.5. Develop, publish and disseminate advocacy materials	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress

2.2.1. Facilitate TWG on HIV/AIDS and Prisons for coordination and enhancement of HIV policy in prisons		X			X			X			X		In progress
2.2.2. Provide technical assistance to improve legal & normative framework to scale-up HIV services in prison settings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
2.2.3. Provide technical assistance to update currently used guidelines & protocols for service provision in prison settings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
2.2.4. Provide technical assistance to improve M&E system for HIV programmes in prisons				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
2.2.5. Develop, publish and disseminate specific normative document including sectoral HIV programme for prisons		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					In progress
2.3.2. Conduct trainings for representatives of prisons, NGOs and community social services		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
2.3.3. Develop comprehensive HIV/TB & drug treatment programme for piloting in the selected facilities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
2.3.4. Support the implementation of the comprehensive programmes in the selected facilities				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
2.3.5. Support a network of service providers with referral and case management mechanisms to ensure continuity of care pre- and post release stages				X								X	In progress
2.4.1. Undertake assessment of the training programmes used at the prison staff training institutions													Completed last year
2.4.2. Conduct technical workshops with prison training institution management and academic staff					X							X	In progress
2.4.3. Support to the prison training institutions to update training programs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		In progress
2.4.4. Train the trainers from the prison training institutions									X				
2.4.5. Twinning partnership with internationally recognised centres of excellence									X				

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

- (a) Completed in the previous reporting period.
- (b) On March 12, 2015 the PLEDGE Project initiated the working meeting with representatives of the Department of Health-Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision of the SPSU and stakeholders involved in the HIV-related projects in the penitentiary sphere on preparation of the conference on HIV, TB and drug dependence in prison settings. During the meeting it was agreed that this 2-3 days event will be conducted in Kyiv in June/July 2015 in cooperation with SPSU, UCDC, WHO Office of in Ukraine, Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, NGO “Penitentiary Initiative” and other CSOs. Following the meeting SPSU submitted for UNODC consideration a list of the priority topics to be presented at the conference. These themes will be discussed at the nearest working meeting of the Conference steering committee in April, 2015.

**Activity 2.1.2: Provide sponsorship for participation in international conferences on HIV in prisons issues**

The activity was completed in October 2014. For more information please see the previous QPR# 13.

**Activity 2.1.3. Facilitate study visit to Moldova for a group of SPSU representatives**

PLEDGE has been requested by the SPSU to consider organising study visit to one of the Baltic states (Estonia) and Azerbaijan for a small group of experts from the Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision of the SPSU. The concept note and study visit programme is currently being developed for clearance with USAID.

#### **Activity 2.1.4: Focused research to feed advocacy (IBBS among inmates)**

PLEDGE Project is to support IBBS in prisons as an important part of epidemiological control and a tool to identify bottlenecks in the response to the epidemics in prison setting, evaluating the efficiency of the response and developing proposals on timely adjustment of the response measures. Data on HIV prevalence and coverage with prevention among inmates are also to be used for Global AIDS Response Progress (GARP) and National M&E Plan Reporting and are expected by the end of 2015 calendar year.

In order to conduct survey and generate data in timely fashion PLEDGE initiated first meeting of key partners in Prison and M&E field to discuss selection of epi markers to be added, vision of roles and responsibilities in initiating IBBS (December 23, 2014).

SPSU expressed its support and consent to the study (letter dated 19/02/2015), however meeting with Mr. Etnis was couple of times rescheduled by SPSU, and eventually it was held on April 2, 2015. At the meeting partners decided upon (1) key epi markers for the study – it should be HIV, syphilis and Chlamydia, HCV is under question mark; (2) modality of interaction between key partners – SPSU, UCDC, Gromashevsky Institute of epidemiology and PLEDGE. By mid April PLEDGE will submit draft ToR for the study and its implementation plan with partners' roles and responsibilities.

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

"Prisons and Health" 2014 addition (Annex\_2.1.5\_QPR14) translated by PLEDGE into Russian has been approved by the WHO Europe language team and shared among the PLEDGE partners in Ukraine and abroad. The e-version of the publication is sent to UNODC's Vienna HQ for the official introduction via UNODC's website. The PLEDGE Project plans to print the Russian language version of "Prisons and Health" and disseminate it among penitentiary medical staff and other related specialists during the HIV penitentiary conference in June or July 2015.

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

On February 10 and 26, 2015 the PLEDGE conducted regular meetings of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Health in Prisons. The meetings were attended by representatives of partner organizations that cooperate with SPSU on HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support. Participants of the meetings reviewed general issues of cooperation between stakeholders, the draft Concept of the SPSU's Sectoral Programme to Counter HIV/AIDS for 2015-2018, etc. Among other things, it was decided to hold an international conference on HIV, tuberculosis and other socially dangerous diseases in the penitentiary system. Large part of the discussion was dedicated to the problems with HIV service provision SPSU faces in the ATO zone. It has been decided that the TWG will meet monthly or as the need may arise with the aim to improve cooperation between the partner organizations in medical services delivery for inmates. The ToR of the TWG secretary cleared and recruitment will be finalised in April, 2015.

#### **Activity 2.2.2: Provide technical assistance to improve legal and normative framework to scale up HIV services in prison settings**

The national consultant Ms. Irina Iakovets gave her recommendations concerning educational programmes of five penitentiary educational institutions and currently used guidelines and protocols of medical service provision in prisons, instructions and manuals to regulate work of medical staff in prisons (Annex\_2.2.2\_1\_QPR14 and Annex\_2.2.2\_2\_QPR14). These recommendations were disseminated among the SPSU's staff and experts, and partners working in the penitentiary sphere. Now Ms. Iakovets has completed her contract.

**Activity 2.2.3: Provide technical assistance to update currently used guidelines and protocols for service provision in prison settings**

PLEDGE agreed the scope of work for 3 national consultants to provide in-depth analysis of service delivery in prison system on TB (Ms. Larysa Artiushkina), drug dependence (Mr. Iaroslav Kaniuka), and HIV (Mr. Oleksandr Gunchenko). These three consultants started working on the assessment from February/March 2015. They submitted for consideration of the UNODC's office in Ukraine a concept note, descriptions of methodology, instruments, and plan of their assessments of HIV/TB/drug dependence services in the penitentiary as system and in the four pilot prison facilities. The draft reports of the consultants will be prepared in June/July 2015. These reports will help to determine obstacles in HIV/AIDS service provisions and plan steps for PLEDGE to overcome them on the central, regional and local (pilot) levels through technical assistance, intersectoral cooperation with SPSU and other partners, as well as advocacy activities.

**Activity 2.2.4: Provide technical assistance to improve M&E system for HIV programmes in prisons**

It was agreed with Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision of the SPSU that modality of TA in M&E strengthening will change from direct training to medical staff to the ToT in order to form core team of experts who will provide ongoing training and support to medical staff responsible for HIV monitoring in prisons on the regular basis. Concept of ToT programme and trainees candidates will be discussed with SPSU in late April 2015.

**Activity 2.2.5: Develop, publish and disseminate specific normative document including guidelines and protocols for service provision in prisons**

PLEDGE national consultant Mr. Ievgen Khaniukov prepared the draft concept note of the sectoral AIDS Programme for 2015-2018 for the SPSU (Annex\_2.2.5\_1\_QPR14). The recommendations of the partner organizations and penitentiary experts were also considered. A working draft of the HIV/AIDS Programme based on these recommendations, suggestions and comments of experts and authorities of SPSU will be prepared and delivered to the working group on the development of the sectoral AIDS Programme for 2015-2018 under SPSU in April, 2015 (Annex\_2.2.5\_2\_QPR14).

ToR for local consultant to develop regional HIV programmes for departments of SPSU (which will be based on the Sectoral AIDS programme) and a candidature of the consultant has been agreed with authorities of the SPSU's Department of Health Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision. These two consultants will work in close collaboration with the authorities of SPSU and other PLEDGE Project's experts. Drafts of Programmes will be shared among all partner organizations and discuss during TWG and other joint events.

**Activity 2.3.2: Conduct training for representatives of NGOs and community social services and prison services**

During the reporting period the PLEDGE project has revised its training strategy and identified the following training events that will be held during May-September 2015:

- HIV treatment, care and support in prison settings
- OST in prison settings
- HTC in prison settings
- Harm reduction in prison settings

All trainings initially planned for staff of the pilot prison settings were grouped in accordance with the recommendations of the PLEDGE international consultant (Ms. Catherine Ritter), previous agreements with the head of the SPSU's Department of Health-Care and Medical-Sanitary Provision, as well as available trainings and training programmes appropriate for penitentiary system.

**Activity 2.3.3: Develop comprehensive HIV/TB & drug treatment programme for piloting in the selected facilities**

The project's international consultant (Ms. Catherine Ritter) finalised and submitted the final draft of the report (Annex\_2.3.3\_1\_QPR14) and its executive summary (Annex\_2.3.3\_2\_QPR14) on the results of the assessment of selected pilot prisons in Ukraine. The report is presented during the stakeholders meeting on 31 March and 1 April in Kyiv. The Mr. Ritter's report was disseminated among all participant of the event and all other partner organizations involved in the HIV project activities in the penitentiary sector.

**Activity 2.3.4: Implementation of the comprehensive programmes in the selected facilities**

The modality comprehensive HIV programmes implementation was discussed together with the action plans for four pilot prison institutions at the working meeting which took place in Kyiv from 31 March to 1 April 2015. These action plans as the basics for piloting were presented by the PLEDGE Project's international consultant Ms. Ritter, discussed and reviewed by the representatives of the pilot institutions staffs and their partner organizations. In April 2015 these action plans are to be finalized with prison pilot facilities and later approved in order to design the way how to support the pilot programmes implementation.

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

The PLEDGE Project plans to conduct a series of workshops for penitentiary staff and representatives of partner organizations to present good practice models of referral and case management mechanisms to ensure continuity of care for prisoners during pre- and post release stages. PLEDGE is currently looking at the model of NGO "Svitlo Nadii" (the Light of Hope) to be presented at the first workshop in Poltava. It is planned to fit models of HIV and risk behaviour reduction activities on pre- and post release stage with new roles and responsibilities of SPSU which are stipulated with new Law on Probation. The first workshop will be conducted in Poltava in May-June, 2015 in partnership with SPSU's departments of Socio-Psychological Work with Prisoners and Criminal-Executive Inspection (probation), International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine and others.

**Activity 2.4.2: Conduct technical workshops with prison training institution management and academic staff**

On 20 February 2015 PLEDGE organized a workshop with representatives of the 5 penitentiary training institutions at the Chernigiv Law Collage. The purpose of the event was to review the progress of implementation of HIV-related training modules in curricula of 5 penitentiary educational institutions and to consider further ways of improvement of such modules and relevant on-the-job trainings. The event was attended by 15 staff members of penitentiary educational institutions and 4 representatives of the SPSU's central administration. The next meeting in the same format PLEDGE plans to conduct in August/September, 2015 to summarize the project activities in the current reporting period.

#### **Activity 2.4.3: Provide technical & organizational support to the prison training institutions to update training programs**

In the framework of providing technical and organizational support to integrate HIV-related modules into the curricula of 5 penitentiary training institutions and on-the-job training for penitentiary staff, the PLEDGE Project has been requested by the SPSU to assist with organization of HIV resource centre in the Chernigiv Law Collage. This resource centre will support the HIV-related modules implementation in the curricula of 5 penitentiary training institutions and on-the-job training for penitentiary staff, sharing the HIV related information in the penitentiary system, as well as developing information and methodological guidelines on HIV, TB, drug dependence in prison settings, protection staff from occupational hazards.

This activity also envisages development and publication of textbooks and other training materials for penitentiary staff, as well as creation of the education film about HIV/AIDS prevention among penitentiary staff, reducing stigma and discrimination towards HIV-positive prisoners. Currently filmmaker is hired and finalizing film concept and script.

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

According to the concept of ToT tutors are to gain more profound knowledge of HIV/AIDS, TB, hepatitis in penitentiary system, improve skills of presentation of mentioned topics, and form basic for occupational hazards prevention. The training of trainers is planned for July-August, 2015 at the Chernigiv Law College after development of a training programme and approval it by PLEDGE and SPSU.

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

The SPSU's officials and representatives of the Chernihiv Law College and Institute of Criminal-Executive Service in Kyiv, participated in the study visit to Switzerland in September 2015, showed interest in developing academic cooperation with Swiss counterparts (the Freiburg Training Centre for Penitentiary Staff) in the framework of the twinning programme. Now the staff of the Chernihiv Law College and the representatives of the SPSU's headquarters make efforts to strengthen contacts with their Swiss counterparts through making propositions about the mutual themes of cooperation (experience in education programmes, using guidelines and organisation methods of practical trainings for cadets in Bila Tserkva colony, for instance). On the basis of positive results of practical contacts between Ukrainian and Swiss penitentiary training schools PLEDGE will plan a reciprocal visit of the Swiss delegation to Ukraine to support such cooperation.

#### **Objective 3: Improve capacity of substance use treatment system to provide evidence-informed and human-right based integrated HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment services.**

**Output 3.1:** Policy, legal and normative frameworks, technical guidelines and operational standards are in place to integrate HIV related interventions into the drug dependence treatment service system (narcology system).

**Output 3.2:** Conceptual framework and model of integrated and comprehensive package of HIV prevention and drug dependence treatment services system is piloted and documented for further replication at national level.

**Output 3.3:** Updated narcology training curricula in line with the best international practices.

## Main activities and achievements

Key activities/ milestones	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	Status
3.1.1. Conduct stakeholders meeting to promote reforms in narcology services		X		X									In progress
3.1.2. (a) Provide technical support in drug dependence treatment system capacity, strategic, legal and regulatory framework analysis and improvement for the integration of HIV-related services – TA to develop concept and strategy for narcology reform	X	X	X	X	X	X							In progress
3.1.2. (b) Provide technical support in drug dependence treatment system capacity, strategic, legal and regulatory framework analysis and improvement for the integration of HIV-related services – Assessment of compliance of narcology system with human rights principles	X	X	X	X	X	X							In progress
3.1.3. Facilitate the Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS and Narcology		X			X			X			X		In progress
3.1.4. Develop specific technical guidelines and operational standards for integrated drug use & HIV prevention services		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			In progress
3.1.5. Launch grant programme to support research projects in HIV/AIDS, MAT and harm reduction related areas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Cancelled
3.2.1. Undertake assessment of the needs and capacity of the selected narcology facilities													Completed last year
3.2.2. Conduct advocacy and coordination meetings in pilot regions		X		X		X		X		X		X	In progress
3.2.3. Develop comprehensive and integrated service provision models				X									Completed
3.2.4. Organise and deliver series of thematic trainings for the staff of the narcology services		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				In progress
3.2.5. Support selected institutions for piloting various models of integrated services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
3.2.6. Ensure appropriate monitoring, evaluation and documentation of the lessons learned, results and experience with pilot projects	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	In progress
3.3.2. Support experts' working group for the development and updating narcology training curricula, modules and manuals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Delayed and postponed
3.3.3. Support to the implementation of the updated curricula and modules	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				In progress
3.3.4. Conduct ToT workshops to promote application of new curricula							X	X					In progress
3.3.5. (a) Promote twinning partnership with internationally recognised centres of excellence and facilitate academic exchanges: <i>Study tour to the USA for 6 scientists and researchers from Ukraine</i>											X		Cancelled
3.3.5 (b) Promote twinning partnership with internationally recognised centres of excellence and facilitate academic exchanges: <i>National scientific forum on drug dependence treatment and HIV/AIDS</i>								X					In progress

### **Activity 3.1.1: Conduct stakeholders meeting to promote reforms in narcology services**

The project held consultations with MoH of Ukraine, UCDC regarding reform of narcology services. General recommendation from national partners is to postpone the meeting till Strategy of health care Reform in Ukraine will be finally approved. Presentation of preliminary results of assessment of compliance of national guidelines on opiate dependence treatment with international recommendations is scheduled for April 8, 2015.

During reported period Intersectoral Working Group (IWG) on improvement of drug dependence treatment system in Ukraine (MoH order #592 of 22.08.2014) gathered in January 2015 under Chief Narcologist of MoH auspice and decided to focus on drug use rehabilitation guidelines improvement

or development and after that to consider if national guidelines on OST provision need to be developed. This activity is on hold since development of the guidelines on rehabilitation in DDT is not part of PLEDGE objectives.

**Activity 3.1.2: Provide technical support in drug dependence treatment system capacity, strategic, legal and regulatory framework analysis and improvement for the integration of HIV-related services**

- (a) National consultant who was recruited in previous reporting period to draft a concept note and strategy of drug dependence treatment system reform failed to deliver output that meet the project expectations and requirements. The contract with the consultant is cancelled. Since the PLEDGE project is more focused on development of sustainability and quality of OST, VCT, and ART, this activity is cancelled.
- (b) PLEDGE has initiated conducting an assessment of compliance of the drug dependence treatment services in Ukraine with international/European/national human rights principles and requirements. The terms of reference for the assessment exercise are currently being finalised.

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

The TWG on HIV/AIDS and Narcology has not met during the reported period. However PLEDGE was actively engaged with the UCDC National TWG on OST to improve the MoH Order #200 and remove unjustified restrictions that cause barriers in access to OST (prescription for take home).

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

National consultant to assess compliance of national regulations and clinical guidelines on opiate dependence treatment (including OST) with international guidelines submitted preliminary results of the assessment. The draft report will be presented to key national partners for discussion and feedback during a round table meeting to be held on 8 April in Kyiv. The final report will be finalized with consideration of recommendations provided.

Hopefully, the presentation of the assessment and recommendations will encourage MoH to issue the order to set up a working group to develop national guideline on opiate dependence treatment.

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

Following consultations with national partners, UNODC HQ, the activity is cancelled owing to lack of applications on innovative research in the HIV and drug use field.

**Activity 3.2.2: Conduct advocacy and coordination meetings in pilot regions**

PLEDGE held coordination meeting of head of pilot clinic and projects implementing NGOs to share the experience of work and local clinical protocols and guideline drafts (February 13, 2015, Kiev). During the discussion participants suggested, based on the strategy on drug policy, the results of assessment the quality of drug dependence treatment at each pilot facility, experience of local protocols development, to charge All-Ukrainian Narcological Association to draft a concept of drug dependence treatment system reform with the aim to incorporate HIV services into DDT and submit to MoH for consideration. Advocacy meeting to present the drafts of local protocols and guidelines is planned for the end of April in Kharkiv.

### **Activity 3.2.3: Develop comprehensive and integrated service provision models**

January 25-30, 2015, Berlin, Germany - A study visit was organized for 6 practitioners from three pilot drug dependence treatment clinics of Ukraine. The visit was set up to explore Germany's experience in comprehensive and integrated drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention services. Germany was chosen because of its state-of-the-art organization, management and delivery of comprehensive and integrated services in the field of treatment, care and rehabilitation of drug users. The study visit allowed Ukrainian doctors to familiarize themselves with German programmes for the treatment and care of people with drug addiction, which are integrated with social support services, rehabilitation and recovery of drug addicts. The German experience is very valuable for Ukraine where currently there is a lack of understanding of the importance of written SOPs and increased cooperation between social workers, psychologists, general practitioners, and addiction psychiatrists.

### **Activity 3.2.4: Organise and deliver series of thematic trainings for the staff of the narcology services**

In cooperation with UNODC/HQ and Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), European community based NGO, leader in HR policy development and advocacy, PLEDGE is working on training for staff of pilot drug dependence treatment clinics on harm reduction strategies. ToR for EHRA engagement is developed and submitted to UNODC/HQ for revision and clearance.

### **Activity 3.2.5: Support selected institutions for piloting various models of integrated services**

Project has been in regular skype and telephone contacts with the implementing partners to provide technical assistance in the implementation of sub-projects on "Mainstreaming and integration of HIV prevention and care interventions into drug dependence treatment services" in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Poltava.

On March 26-27, monitoring visit was conducted to "Light of Hope", Poltava. Local protocols on ART, OST, and TB provision and local guidelines on STIs, NSP, VCT services in narcological clinic are developed and approved by relevant authorities. Pilot clinic staff has been trained on the application of new regulations. Next instalment will be transferred after submission of quarterly report. SIMS assessment has been done. Problem issues - HIV testing algorithm is not written, patient's human rights are not written and personal had not been trained regarding this, lack of written procedures on safety measures in VCT provision. DDT clinic staff was trained on STI screening local guidelines.

NGO "Many Years", managing pilot project in Kiev, has been undergone SIMS assessment by USAID. The areas should be improved are HTC and KP referrals mechanisms, Supporting role of community based cadres (no written procedures for referring clients to facilities and community groups for HIV-related clinical and social services in place for community based cadres to utilize), service referral and service linkage (No standard tools to track referrals made to high impact services), Community based care and support services (support of pre ART and ART retention service is not available).

Two meetings of WG to discuss and approve report on VCT provision on DDT clinic possibility, and VCT protocol was recommended for submission to local health care department for approval. The plan on the beginning of TB treatment in DDT clinic was drafted.

TB doctor made first consultation in Kharkiv oblast DDT clinic, about 14 clients were consulted during the first visit; local HIV and TB provision protocols were submitted to local administration and health care department for approval.

Pilot organizations also received written updated instructions on reporting on key MER indicators.

### **Activity 3.2.6: Ensure appropriate monitoring, evaluation and documentation of the lessons learned, results and experience with pilot projects**

The ToR for international consultant to conduct case study is under development. The exercise will start from June 2015.

### **Activity 3.3.2: Support experts' working group for the development and updating narcology training curricula, modules and manuals**

This activity was aimed to extend the KMAPE experience with narcological curricula update to other narcology departments all over Ukraine national postgraduate education institutions. Since MoH drafted concept of medical education system reform and this draft is under consideration by the Government and Parliament and still not approved, and considering that the MoH intends to change the whole postgraduate education system, the further modality of provision of postgraduate medical education, curricula development, improvement or update is unclear. Thus PLEDGE partners suggested to present the KMAPE curricula to tutors from other national Universities because KMAPE Narcology Department is appointed as lead chair among all educational faculties on drug dependence treatment; the developed curricula is declared as recommended educational programme for narcological departments of medical universities in Ukraine and the updated curricula shouldn't be submitted for approval to MoH of Ukraine.

### **Activity 3.3.3: Support to the implementation of the updated curricula and modules**

In the framework of this activity technical support to set up of resource and training centre at the drug dependence treatment department of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Post Graduate Education (KMAPE) is provided. On March 29, 2015 PLEDGE staff has met with Rector of KMAPE to practically develop step-by-step plan of resource centre organisation. Computer, Administrative and Financial Departments of KMAPE are included into working group which is developing reconstruction list and equipment for the resource centre. The working group is led by the President of KMAPE.

### **Activity 3.3.4: Conduct ToT workshops to promote application of new curricula**

Based on the recommendations of the project partners (KMAPE) this activity will be combined with the organization of the national scientific forum on drug dependence treatment and HIV/AIDS in September/October 2015 (please see the activity # 3.3.5 (b)).

### **Activity 3.3.5: Promote twinning partnership with internationally recognised centres of excellence and facilitate academic exchanges**

- (a) Study visit to USA PLEDGE had developed Study visit concept note and have twice requested state research bodies for candidates for the visit, with description of candidates' main research interests to see the compliance with the visit purposes and objectives. Unfortunately, proposed group composition had poor justification of research interests and perspectives of inter-agency cooperation maintenance. Thus, considering lack of project implementation time to establish and foster cooperation it was decided to cancel this activity.
- (b) National scientific forum on drug dependence treatment and HIV/AIDS Activity postponed until September-October 2015 in accordance to recommendations of KMAPE rector.

### **3. Unanticipated positive results**

- Project's staff contributed to the national CCM based discussion upon most optimal usage of GFATM Rd10 savings for resettlement for OST clients and support to prevention programmes on occupied territories of Donetsk and Lugansk regions with advocacy for including narcology into providing long term social and medical support with regard to HIV and OST for IDPs.
- PLEDGE experts started working jointly with UNAIDS, UCDC under MoH auspice on the development scenarios for GFATM phasing out with regard to HIV services for PWID.

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

During the reporting period PLEDGE faced some challenges with the implementation of some planned activities with the law enforcement sector due to ongoing reform process of the police. The concept of the police reform was presented by the Ministry of Interior and new Draft Law on Police is prepared. According to the Draft Law the structure of the police should be changed dramatically, and the new Patrol Service should be organized in Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk and Odesa. Because of the reform, the Ministry of Interior is more concentrated on preparing of relevant normative documents, the Academy of Internal Affairs is heavily engaged in selection and training of police officers for the Patrol Service and the Police Professional Staff Association is under reorganization. Thus, some activities planned for 2015 are cancelled or rescheduled for next fiscal year, where possible. Because of lack of organizational capacity of law enforcement sector, the following activities are cancelled: 1.2.3. Support to develop sectoral action plan for the implementation of the 2014-2018 National AIDS Programme (Stakeholders meeting to develop HIV-at work place-policy (in cooperation with ILO and Police Professional Association and accordance with NAP for 2014-2018), 1.2.4. Develop, publish and disseminate specific guidelines, instructions (Special edition of informational bulletin of Police Professional Association on HIV/AIDS (2000 copies), 1.4.4. Support to integrate HIV education in professional development in-service training programmes for police (ToTs for police P2P instructors (5 two-day trainings for 20 participants from regions of Ukraine).

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

Hired in February 2015 Advocacy and Communication Officer resigned in March 2015, and PLEDGE is renewing the selection process. A new recruiting process was started in the middle of March. It's expected to get new Advocacy and Communications Officer on board by the end of May 2015.