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РАЗОМ ДО ЗДОРОВ'Я ● **TOGETHER FOR HEALTH**

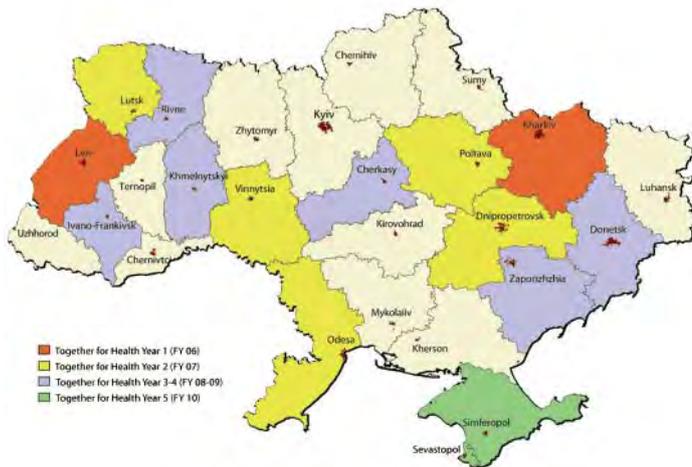
ПРОЕКТ ПОКРАЩЕННЯ ПЛАНУВАННЯ СІМ'І ТА РЕПРОДУКТИВНОГО ЗДОРОВ'Я В УКРАЇНІ
IMPROVING FAMILY PLANNING & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN UKRAINE



End of Project Conference

A nation's families are its future and its strength. **Together for Health** (TfH) aims to improve the health of men, women and families by helping the people of Ukraine adopt modern reproductive health practices that will improve their lives and contribute to healthy mothers and babies, reduce levels of abortion and slow the rapid spread of HIV infection. It has helped Ukrainians to receive improved quality family planning and reproductive health services (FP/RH) and reliable, timely, updated, and evidence-based information about the benefits of FP and contraception to avoid unwanted pregnancies and reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Ukraine Oblast coverage Together for Health Project February 2011



Together for Health is a six-year project (2005-2011) made possible through the support provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

To achieve its goal of reducing abortion, unintended pregnancy and STIs in a transition economy, the project has taken an innovative “systems approach”, built on four main strategies:

1. Strengthening family planning and reproductive health service provision by *integrating them into the emerging primary health care (PHC) system and into postpartum and postabortion care*. A range of health professionals, ranging from obstetrician/gynecologists to family doctors, nurses and midwives at the PHC, were trained to offer counseling that is in line with evidence-based medicine (EBM), internationally-accepted practices.

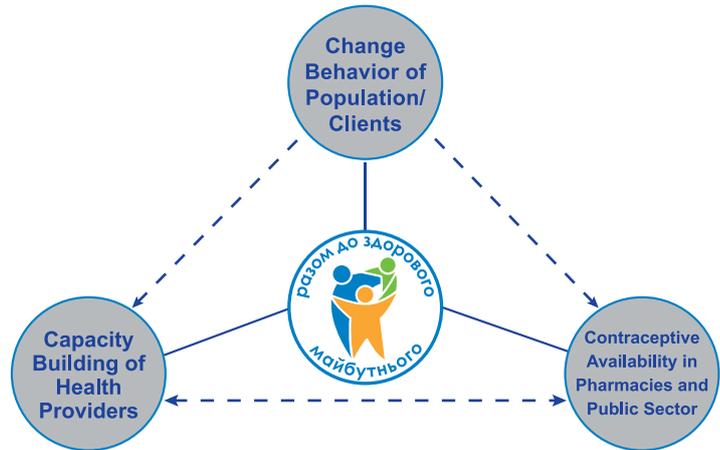
2. *Increasing the general public’s knowledge about FP/RH, changing behavior by seeking to ensure that the population is well-informed and encouraging them to use the newly-available services.* Primary target audiences include men and women in their twenties—populations who are most likely to have abortions and contract sexually transmitted infections—and youth populations, with the goal of promoting lifelong reproductive health.

3. *Improving the availability, affordability and accessibility of a range of contraceptive methods through partnerships between the public and private sectors.* This included working with private sector partners to expand the range of methods available in pharmacies, at affordable prices, and with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to implement a management information system for receiving fully subsidized contraceptives by population most in-need through efficient governmental procurements and international donations.

4. *Supporting development of policies and systems for improved quality of FP/RH services by facilitating the adoption and implementation of the State Program Reproductive Health of the Nation up to 2015 (SPRHN) and through strengthening MOH and oblast health departments’ public health management capabilities.*

In order to ensure that, at the community level, trained family planning service providers, trained pharmacists who stock a range of affordable contraceptive methods, and an informed population are all in place and aware of each other, the project has developed a conceptual approach represented in the graphic:

TfH Implementation Strategies – Comprehensive approach for the “FP-friendly” services



- Trained health workers in primary care settings, women’s consultation centers, FP cabinets and hospitals are awarded an “FP friendly” logo to show that they provide high-quality services. Some of these providers carry fully-subsidized contraceptives that are distributed for free to the four eligible categories of the population specified in the SPRHN;
- Behavior change communication (BCC) educational sessions and events, that aim to increase awareness of FP/RH and change attitudes and behaviors towards counseling and modern contraceptive methods, are promoting the availability of “FP friendly” services, so people know where to go for contraceptive information, services, and products; and
- Trained pharmacists who stock a range of affordable contraceptive brands also receive the logo, indicating that contraceptive supplies and informational materials are available.

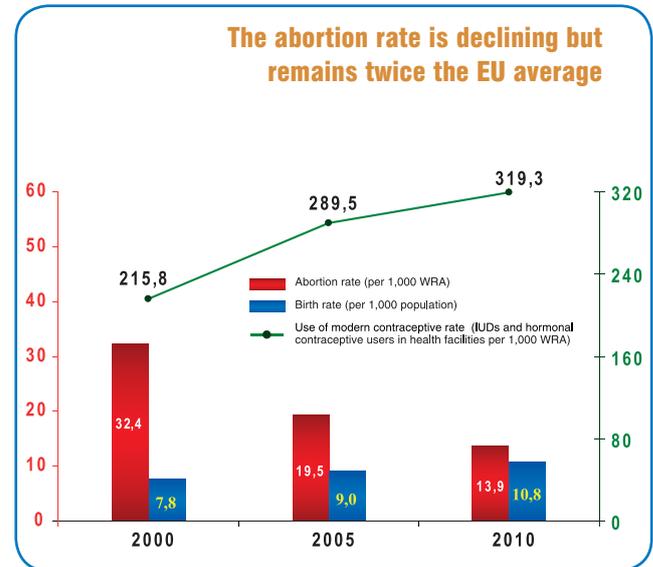
TfH Project Achievements (2005-2011)

Highlights of progress toward reaching the project's goal

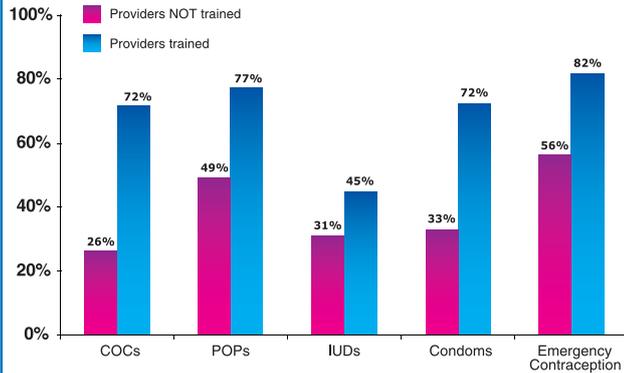
MOH statistics show a 28.7% drop in the abortion rate for Ukraine, from 19.5 per 1,000 women of reproductive age in 2005 to 13.9 in 2010 (graph at right). The same source indicates an increase of 10.2 percent in contraceptive use nationwide—as measured by the number of registered users of IUDs and hormonal methods per 1,000 women of reproductive age (WRA)—from 289.5 in 2005 to 319.3 in 2010. At the same time, MOH data shows an increase in fertility (measured by the birth rate), which demonstrates that in low fertility settings (such as Ukraine), contraception steadily replaced abortions, without negatively affecting fertility.

Strengthening Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services

1. The project trained more than 13,800 health professionals, including 9,700 doctors and midlevel health providers, 3,800 pharmacists and 211 pharmaceutical teachers, and 37 EBM roundtable speakers;
2. More integrated and higher quality FP/RH services are available to both rural and urban population groups: there is a change in FP services offered to clients – from an exclusive medical approach aimed at high risk women to client friendly counseling focused on providing families with choice of methods, including free contraceptive supplies for specific target groups;



Trained Providers are More Likely to Counsel on a Range of FP Methods

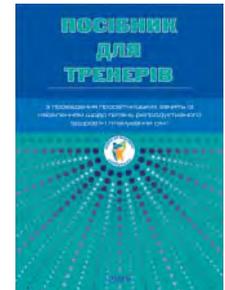


Clients of trained health providers reported a 30% average increase in provision of FP counseling

2. BCC inter-personal education activities were conducted by 152 TfH-trained educators in project regions, using a manual approved by the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Health;
3. TfH supported the Family Planning Week events organized under the umbrella of the SPRHN, as well as targeted BCC outreach events during international days, such as Valentine's Day, Youth Day, Contraception Day, HIV/AIDS Day, etc. More than 10 million people women and men were reached;
3. The number of health facilities offering FP/RH services in the project's 15 partner regions increased seven-fold since the project's inception in 2005, reaching a total of 3,500 over the life of the project;
4. Project developed in-service training curricula and clinical guidelines integrated into post-graduate and continuous medical education at national and regional levels.

Increasing the Population's Knowledge and Changing Behavior

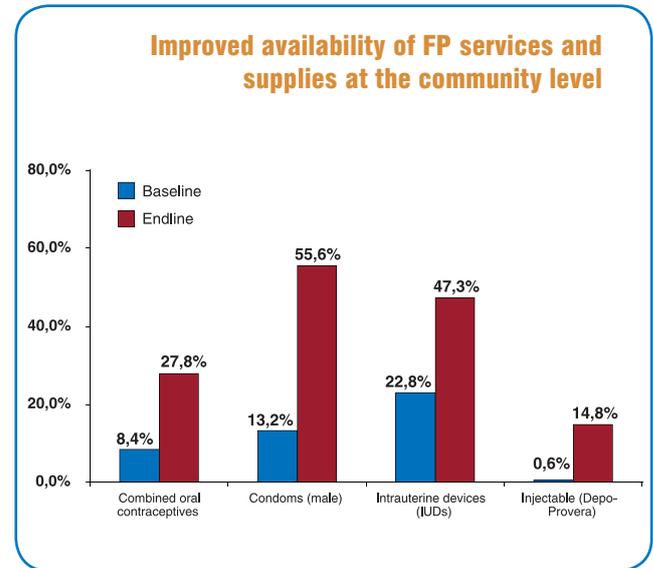
1. Effective behavior change communication (BCC) strategies and tools to reach youth and other target groups through innovative activities and channels: inter-personal educational sessions, mass-media, social networking (<http://vkontakte.ru/club26692046>; <http://healthy-youth.blogspot.com>)



4. National and local partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other public institutions were developed to improve outreach capacity and inform the general public about FP/RH.

Improving the Availability, Affordability, and Accessibility of a Range of Contraceptive Methods

1. Since 2006, TfH has worked in the framework of a formal public-private partnership (PPP) between MOH, USAID, six contraceptive manufacturers and distributors, and a pharmaceutical research company, Support for Market Development. The goal of the PPP is to work through public health facilities and pharmacies to improve the availability of quality, modern family planning services and supplies at affordable prices and to disseminate accurate reproductive health information;
2. The partners increased access to a range of free contraceptive supplies at the community level through functional implementation of a contraceptive management information system into primary health care and other community level facilities, both in rural and urban areas;
3. The project's endline survey (field work conducted at the end of 2009 in five most representative oblasts) shows noteworthy improvements in FP/RH services access and use by facility clients. The proportion of women who reported that they received either a contraceptive method or a prescription during their visit at a health facility in TfH priority oblasts rose from 46.5% in 2007 to 68.3% in 2009.



21 Regional FP/RH Programs Adopted



Supporting Policies and Systems for Improved Services

1. TfH assisted the MOH and oblast health departments during the process of development, approval, and implementation of SPRHN. As a result, between 2008 and 2010, the central budget and TfH partner regions reported expenditures of over \$2 million for improving FP services and for contraceptive procurement;
2. Development of new evidence-based policies and regulations supporting de-medicalization, and integration of FP/RH services at various level of care, as well as development of oblast FP/RH centers as a model of client-oriented quality of care, integrated management of services and a source for methodological and professional supervision and support;
3. TfH facilitated the development and institutionalization of a training program in management of FP/RH services that prepares managers and decision makers to identify, understand and address FP/RH challenges raised at the facility/community level.

Partnerships



The **Together for Health** project is implemented by a partnership led by JSI Research & Training Institute Inc, a U.S. NGO that manages public health programs in the US and around the world. International partners are The Academy for Educational Development, which supports the project's work in public education as well as collaboration with the private sector, and the Harvard School of Public Health, which brings expertise to policy, financing and management issues.

Within Ukraine, partners include the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports and other ministries, oblast health departments and other oblast-level departments, academic institutions, professional associations and NGOs, workplace sites, and other donors and projects. Public-private partnerships, particularly with pharmaceutical companies and non-governmental organizations, are a special priority, to make FP/RH more accessible and to educate the public about contraception. The private sector is playing an ever-increasing role in Ukraine and its involvement in the project's work contributes substantially to project sustainability.



Conference Agenda

8:30 – 10:00 **Arrival of participants. Registration. Coffee/tea**

10:00 – 10:30 **Introduction. Opening speeches:**

- Dr. Raisa Moiseenko, First Deputy Minister, Ukraine Ministry of Health
- Mr. Eric Schultz, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy in Ukraine
- Mr. Joel Lamstein, President, JSI/Boston

10:30 – 10:50 **Key FP/RH accomplishments in Ukraine for 2005-2010 within the framework of cooperation between USAID and MOH under the State program «Reproductive Health of the Nation» up to 2015**

- Dr. Svitlana Ostashko, Director of the Department of Mother and Infant Health, Ukraine Ministry of Health

10:50 – 11:30 **Together for Health project: US contributions to the Ukraine's FP/RH program and its public health impact**

- JSI/TfH staff and partners
- Questions and Answers

11:30 – 12:00 **Coffee/tea break**

- 12:00 – 13:45** **Technical presentations and discussions (two parallel groups)**
- Parallel Session I:** There is a positive dynamic of change in FP/RH service delivery – in-service and post-graduate medical education contributes to better integrated services at various level of care and quality improves
- Parallel Session II:** Effective communication strategies, tools, and communication channels improves awareness and change behavior, making FP to be increasingly viewed as a family, social and health topic
- Moderators: Together for Health project staff
- 13:45 – 15:00** **Lunch**
- Presentation of TfH supported Monitoring and Evaluation Tool for the SPRHN funding and expenditures and of the automated web-based database for management of free of charge contraceptives
- 15:00 – 16:45** **Plenary Session:** FP/RH services are preventive services managed comprehensively and decentralized, with increased support from health care system managers and policy decision makers
- Moderators: Together for Health project staff
- 16:45 – 17:15** **Summary, closing of the conference and awarding of certificates**
- Dr. Valentyna Kolomeychuk, Deputy Director of the Department of Mother and Infant Health, Ukraine Ministry of Health
 - Ms. Tatiana Rastrigina, Senior Project Management Specialist, USAID Ukraine
 - Dr. Laurentiu Stan, Project Director, JSI/Together for Health project
- 17:15 – 18:30** **Dinner**

Разом до Здоров'я фінансується Агентством США з Міжнародного Розвитку та впроваджується Корпорацією Інститут Досліджень та Тренінгів JSI у співробітництві з Академією Сприяння Освіті та Школою Громадського Здоров'я Гарвардського Університету

Together for Health is funded by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented by the JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. in collaboration with the Academy for Educational Development and Harvard School of Public Health



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