

SITUATIONAL REPORT

Community Action for HIV Control

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

● PROGRESS IN NUMBERS

Every day, USAID “Community Action for HIV Control” project tracks and analyzes how **NGOs work toward victory over the HIV epidemic, such as:** how many people were tested, how many HIV-positive cases were diagnosed, how many newly diagnosed HIV-positive individuals were enrolled in ART, and how many people at high risk for HIV were enrolled in PrEP or received other services.

17 NGOs contributed to the effort to make this victory possible:

5152
people were tested

160
people confirmed their diagnosis

146
people were enrolled in ART

5806

people received support to cope with difficulties associated with the war**

* operational data as of December 1, 2023

** consultations and psychosocial support, food packages, hygienic kits, prevention materials, etc.

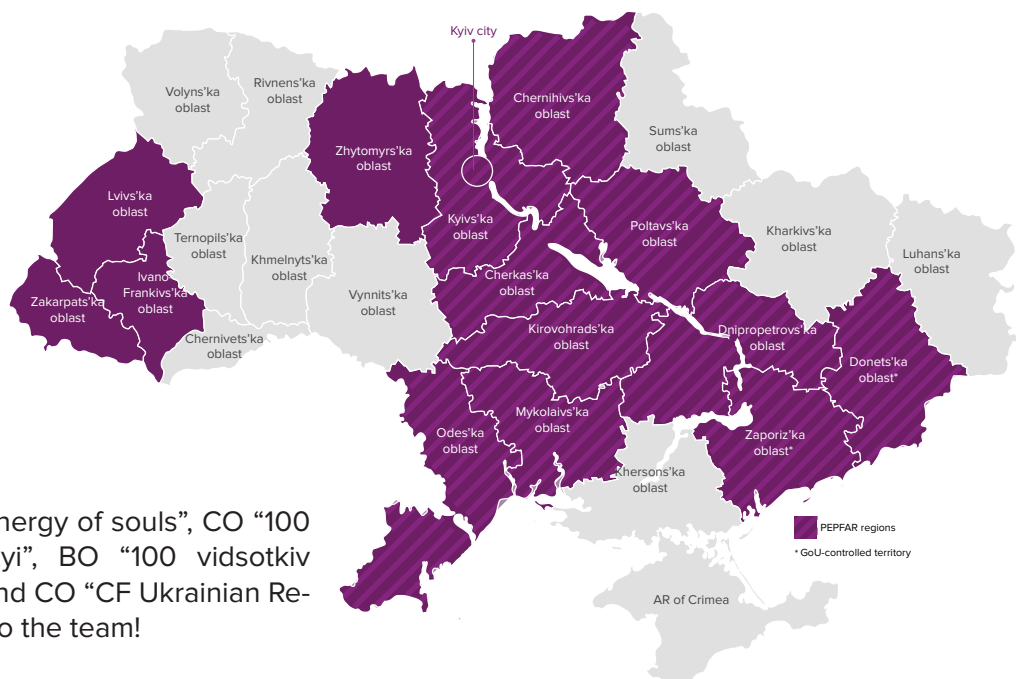
● NEW PROJECT YEAR LAUNCH

17 partner NGOs

15 regions and Kyiv

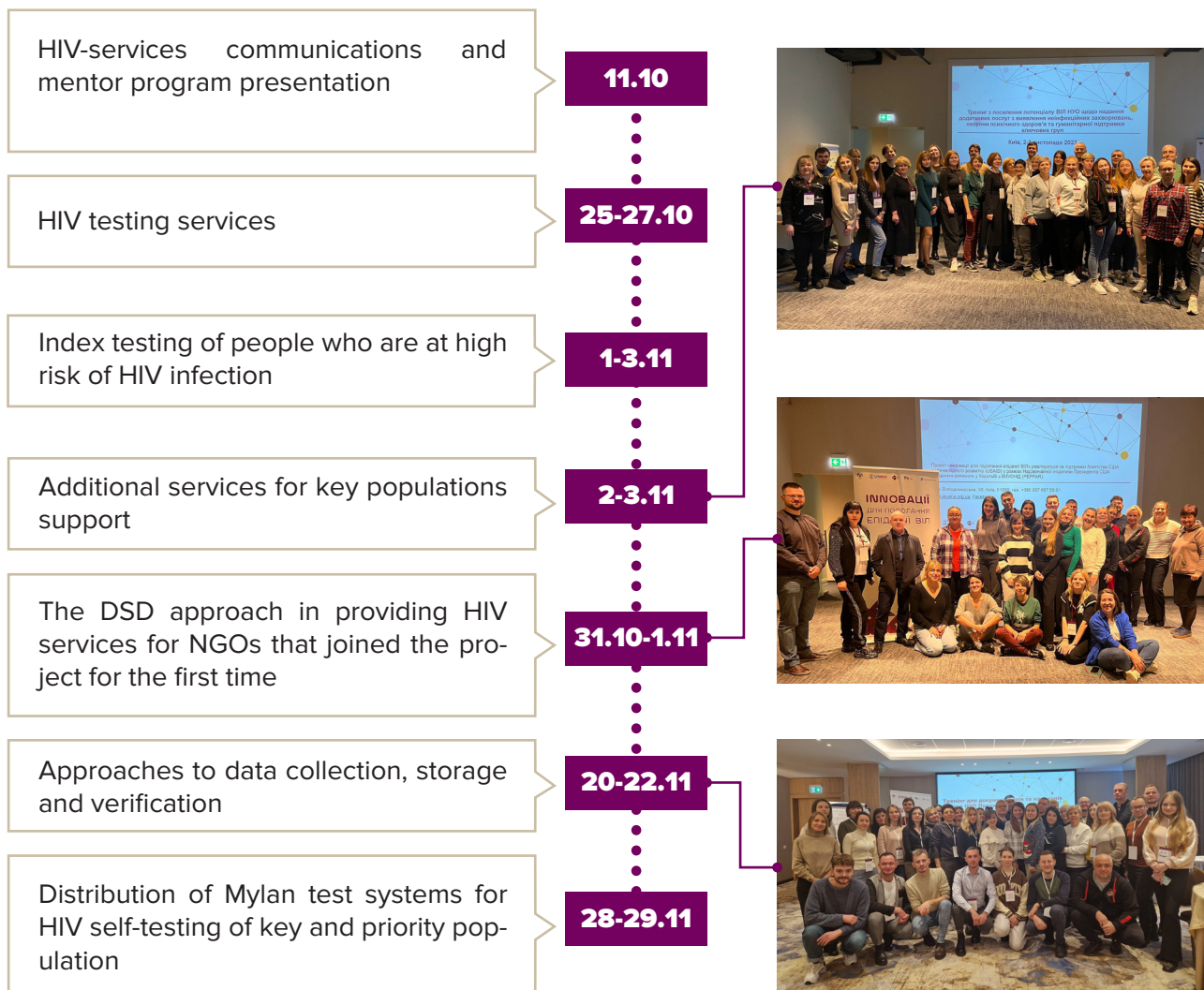
The NGOs that joined the Community Action for the first time have already conducted the first ITOCA and started improving their organizational capacity!

NGO “Alternative”, PO “Synergy of souls”, CO “100 percent life. Kropyvnytskyi”, BO “100 vidstokiv zhyttya Ivano-Frankivsk” and CO “CF Ukrainian Resource Center”, welcome to the team!



KNOWLEDGE SUPPORT

We conducted introductory trainings for our partner NGOs to motivate them for a successful start of the year.



”

I am grateful for the training. I am grateful for the training. I see how and where I can expand the scope of my work. And it's very modern.

Alla Bilykh, PO "Istok", Uzhorod

”

This meeting was extremely productive. It was very helpful for me to hear about the experience of other NGOs that already have developed DSD models for clients.

Iryna Sydiuk, CO "CF Ukrainian Resource Center", Kramatorsk

”

It was great to have the opportunity to meet colleagues from different organizations and share experiences. You immediately feel support and willingness to help. We learned about new methods of data protection, including two-factor authentication. This becomes especially important in today's environment.

Inna Vasulieva, CO "100 % LIFE" Dnipro region», Kryvyi Rih

”

This knowledge is very important for our organization. During the training, we learned a lot, were able to share our experience and HIV cases we faced ourselves. The sections were full of information, and now we will be able to provide even more effective assistance.

Iryna Tuaeiva, CO "Free Zone", Odesa

● SOCIAL WORKERS SUPPORT

For almost a year now, we have been holding community of practice meetings for service providers - meetings where professionals share their experiences, discuss the challenges they face, and work together to develop common solutions. Such sessions also help prevent emotional burnout. We collected feedback from social workers about this format of work.

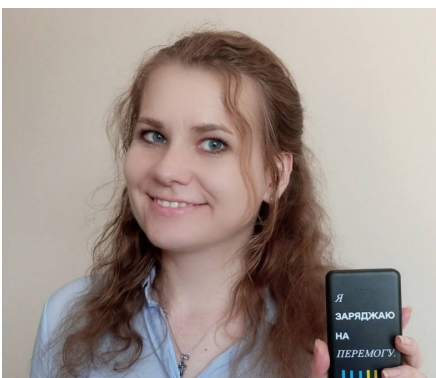


It is important not only to identify a person with an HIV-positive status, but also to know how to support them. At first, I was surprised that I could do this, even though I am neither a doctor nor a psychologist. It was also nice to see my colleagues!

Alla Bilykh, PO “Istok”

You can't get such a good, invaluable experience anywhere else, except from such wonderful coaches and colleagues with whom I work.

Andrii Kharatin, PO “Alliance.Global”



This is a great form of training that allows you to get specific practical skills and new algorithms for using theoretical knowledge in two hours to build new, more effective models of behavior in our work.

Victoria Vlasiuk, PO «Istok»

This is a great opportunity to learn from the experience and skills of more experienced social workers. I also took a lot of useful information from the trainers who conducted the interviews.

Andriy Petrov, CO “100 percent life Cherkasy”



● SECRET CLIENT

After the full-scale Russian invasion, we started monitoring HIV services quality and accessibility together with representatives of key and priority populations. Recently, we have added a **new tool for deeper analysis: the secret client**.

Since August till October, our monitors conducted 29 secret client visits in 12 regions to assess HIV testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services by representatives of key populations.

This allowed us **to identify barriers to services in specific health care facilities**, such as the lack of pre-registration for consultation, lack of pre-test and post-test counseling, inability to get tested without a referral from a family doctor, which creates additional barriers for community members, as well as offers to pay for a free test and problems with confidentiality.

The results of the secret client monitoring were presented at a meeting on HIV testing organized by the Public Health Center on November 23-24, 2023. Together with the Public Health Center and partners in the regions, we are working to improve the quality of services. **You can follow the monitoring progress here:** bit.ly/monitoringHIVservices



● IMPORTANT DATES

This year, November 20-27 marks the tenth European Testing Week, and December 1 is World AIDS Day. This year's slogan is: 'Let communities lead' and we are grateful that together with community representatives we are bringing the end of the HIV epidemic closer: monitoring the quality and accessibility of HIV services, the «peer-to-peer» approach, coordination councils, etc. Together with our partner NGOs, we have launched an information campaign and invite you to join us.



ВСЕ ПРОСТО, ЛИШЕ ПРИЙМИ ПРАВИЛЬНЕ РІШЕННЯ

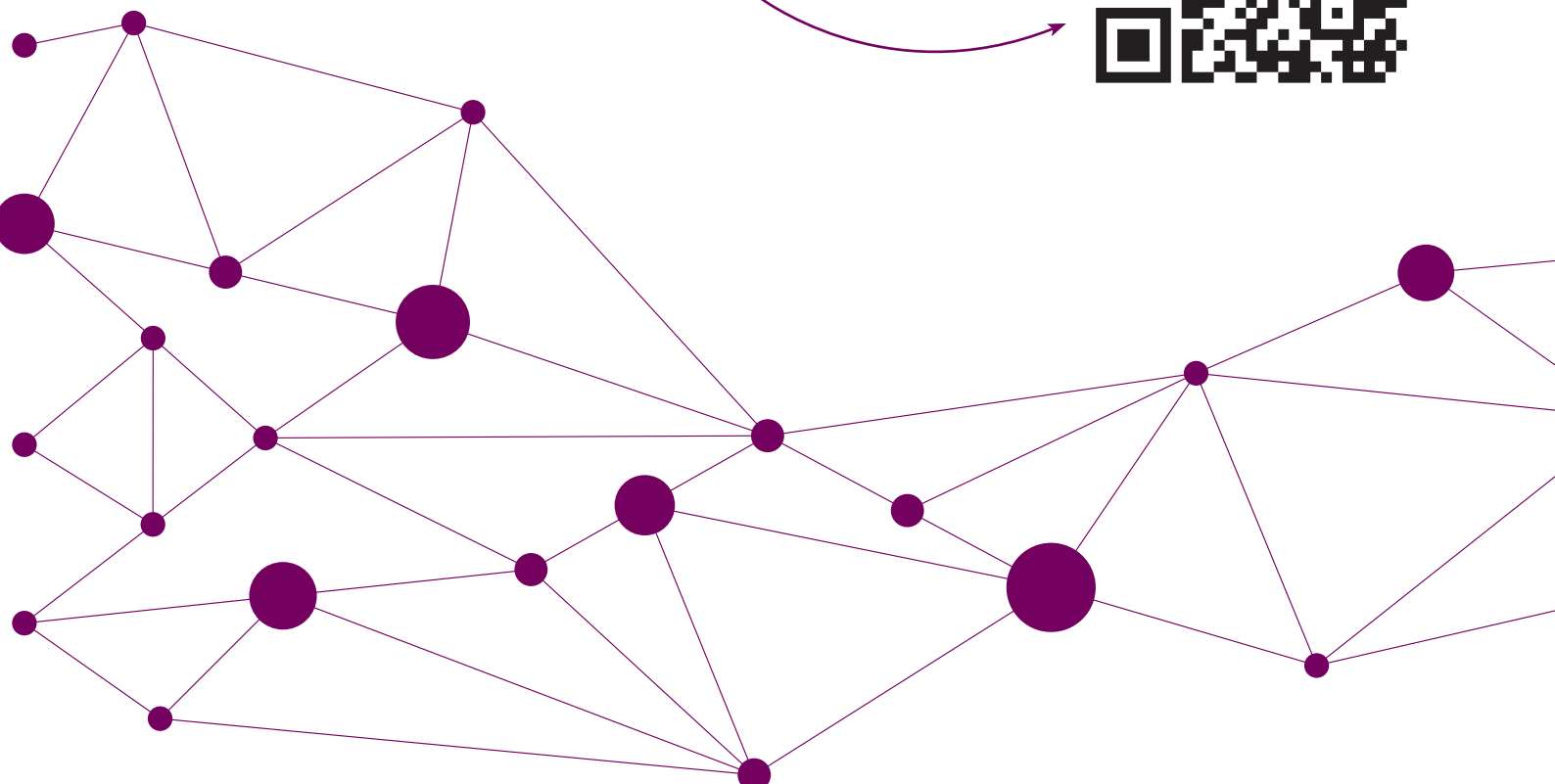




● COMMUNITIES SUPPORT

On November 1-3, the XVI LGBTIQ Conference of Ukraine was held, in particular with the support of our project. Within the framework of the conference, the project presented **the results of the «Secret Client» visits to the centers where pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services are provided.**

You can watch the stream from the conference here:



● RESULT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT MYLAN IMPLEMENTATION

In October, we completed the implementation of a demonstration project to distribute Mylan test systems in cooperation with the European Institute for Public Health Policy LLC, the Reference Laboratory for the Diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, Viral and Particularly Dangerous Pathogens of the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, and partner NGOs in five regions of Ukraine: Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovs'k, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Cherkasy and Kyiv regions.

240 representatives of key populations were initially tested and evaluated the Mylan test system as one that should work well at the NGO level and in a peer-to-peer approach. Four people even received a reactive test result. During the secondary and deeper targeted distribution of test systems through the «client-recruiter and social worker-mentor» scheme, 33 representatives of the key populations. distributed 1965 tests and thus identified 6 positive cases.



Conducting the Mylan test at the CO «100% Life Zaporizhzhia»

● MENTORING SUPPORT

Now mentors help communications specialists of our partner NGOs to implement campaigns and activities. We already have the first feedback after the start!

Here you can read the story of Zhanetta, a social worker of the CO “Charitable society “All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV/AIDS” of Lviv city”, whom Maria Buleiko interviewed for Ukrainska Pravda – Zhyttia.



Oleksandr Ravchev in PO “Istok”



Mariia Buleiko in CF “Let your heart beat”



● OUR INSTRUMENTS



Platform #TESTnearby
testporuch.phc.org.ua



Chat-bot #TESTnearby
t.me/HIVfree_bot



Chat-bot #ARTnearby
findart.phc.org.ua



Platform #ARTnearby
t.me/HIV_AIDS_bot



To access all the instruments of the project,
follow the link:
linktr.ee/hiv.innovations

This news digest is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The contents are the responsibility of Pact and its partners and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.