



QUARTERLY DIGEST

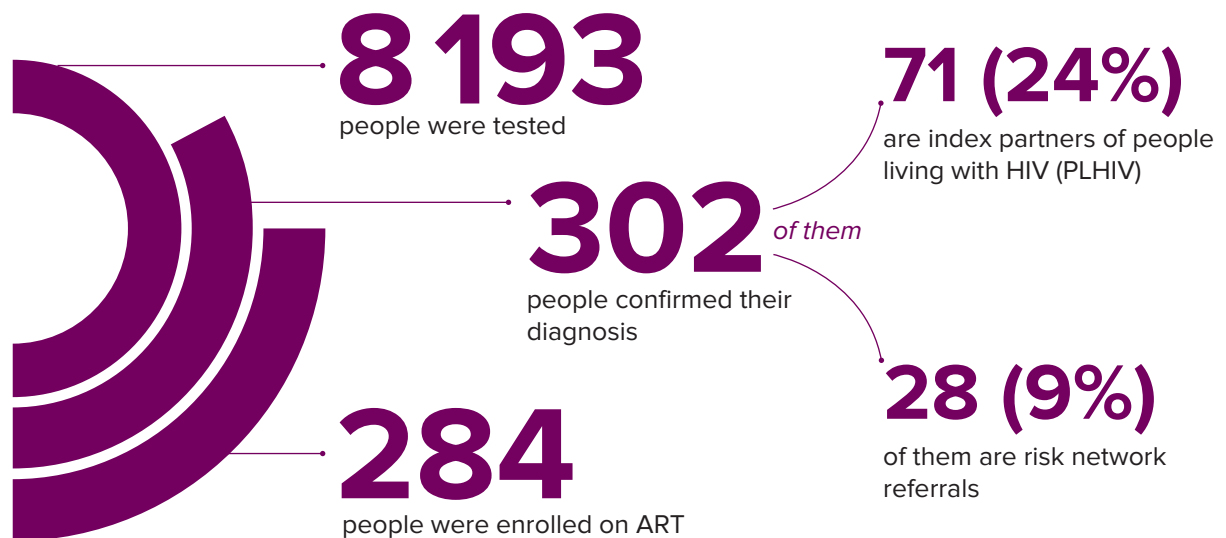
Community action for HIV control

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023

● PROGRESS IN NUMBERS

USAID’s “Community Action for HIV Control” project tracks and analyzes **how NGOs are making progress towards ending 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 anti-retroviral treatment (ART), and how many people at high risk for HIV were enrolled in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or received other services.

17 NGOs contributed to the effort to make these accomplishments possible:



9 513
people received support to cope with difficulties associated with the war **

* operational data as of October, 1 – December, 31, 2023

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

● LAUNCHING A PLATFORM FOR DOCUMENTATERS

We have launched a new linktree for documentaters of partner NGOs. This contains important materials such as dashboards, regulatory documents, instructions for using DataCheck, presentations and webinar recordings that can be saved for future reference <https://linktr.ee/cahc.mio>



● RECEIVING RECOGNITION FROM COLLEAGUES

The POART (PEPFAR Oversight Accountability Response Team) made up of the PEPFAR head office and partners, analyzes, investigates the effectiveness and efficiency of program components, tracks financial revenues, and monitors the epidemiological situation regarding the spread of HIV in countries implementing PEPFAR-supported programs. Based on the results of these meetings, strategies to eliminate or prevent and treat HIV may be modified.

The introduction of the «secret client» tool for monitoring the accessibility and quality of HIV services, which our project implements, was noted as one of the most significant achievements!

Our community development project team, led by Iryna Gryshayeva and AFEW-Ukraine, has been working hard to implement this tool. The results of the instrument use helped identify problems that were addressed to improve the quality of HIV services.

The piloting of the «secret client» in August-October 2023 in 29 medical institutions was successful. The following problems around accessing high-quality HIV services were identified:

- ✓ Clients were unable to plan or pre-register for testing,
- ✓ There was not adequate pre-test information and/or post-test counseling,
- ✓ Violations of private health information confidentiality were observed,
- ✓ Clients were discouraged from taking rapid tests,
- ✓ Clients were required to pay for services or consumables that should be provided free of charge.

For example, clients could not receive HIV testing services without a referral from a family doctor until the Center for Public Health Center helped resolve this issue.

In the future, we plan to introduce a tool for monitoring HIV testing services in non-governmental organizations!

● LAUNCHING SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS



We shot an incredible video that motivates people to get tested for HIV and find out their HIV-status. As a result of this campaign, more than 700 HIV self-test kits have already been ordered.



ЦЕНТР
ГРОМАДСЬКОГО
ЗДОРОВ'Я

Partner NGOs as well as many other projects and organizations supported the distribution of the video so that even more people could make the most informed choice for their health.

The information campaign in Kyiv and the regions of Ukraine dedicated to European Testing Week and World HIV/AIDS Day was successful thanks to the cooperative efforts of NGOs and other partners!



Don't miss a separate special issue of the digest on how communications can successfully engage representatives of key and priority populations in HIV testing!

● STARTING RECOVERY IN COMMUNITIES

In December, the first mobile medical teams of the project went on their first departures to the communities of Kyiv Oblast. On December 26th, the medical mobile team visited the Baryshivska community, and on December 28th — the Tetivska community. And 42 patients received healthcare services then.

The mobile medical team of the Kyiv region includes: a family doctor, a nurse, a social worker, a psychologist and a driver.

What services are provided?

- ✓ consultation with a doctor
- ✓ hearing test
- ✓ measurement of blood glucose level
- ✓ blood pressure measurement
- ✓ psychological assistance

In January, mobile medical teams are scheduled to visit Chernihiv and Zhytomyr regions.



● CONTINUED TRAINING OF MONITORS

We regularly meet with community representatives who monitor the accessibility and quality of 12 HIV services in 28 cities of 17 regions of Ukraine. Thanks to their active involvement and careful analysis of the monitoring data, we are able to collect information and provide it to the Center for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine to catalyze changes and services improvement. You can follow the monitoring progress here: bit.ly/monitoringHIVservices



Vasyl Malikov, monitor of the project

Community-led monitoring is not just a mechanism of accountability, but it is also a way to involve communities themselves in the processes that will help to overcome the HIV epidemic. I am very impressed by the slogan of this year's December 1st campaign, «Let Communities Lead!» because it says that community-led monitoring is one of these steps.



Working meeting of consultants on monitoring the availability and quality of HIV services, December 14, 2023

● SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We continue to conduct communities of practice meetings for social workers to discuss difficult cases together and develop joint solutions! The last professional topic covered this cycle was emotional burnout of specialists, which the participants had very positive feedback about.

Additionally, we started a new direction: communities of practice for organizational development specialists! With them, our colleagues work on technical topics and help implement organizational change plans more effectively.

#interesting_analysis_with_personal_examples #relaxing
#activity_of_participants
#positive_new_information #activity_of_participants
#relaxing #ease_of_perception
#activity_of_participants #relaxing
#I_liked_the_whole_meeting
#interesting_analysis_with_personal_examples
#I_liked_the_whole_meeting
#positive_new_information #activity_of_participants
#ease_of_perception #really_liked_all_themes

For me personally, interviews give me a sense of community. I am able to communicate with professionals, get great advice and interesting ideas, which I add to my «piggy bank» as a manager. I sincerely hope that my experience will be useful to my colleagues. This is not just mutual assistance, but also the time I spend on improving myself as a specialist.

Svitlana Bolsheva, CO «FREE ZONE»

● DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS OF SOCIAL WORKERS

You can read about the intensive start of work with partner NGO specialists in October-November in the previous issue of the situation report. During these months, we held seven kick-off meetings on various topics to effectively start the new program year.



In December, we continued to train social workers and successfully held two webinars on basic issues of ARV and opioid substitution therapy (OST) in counseling clients, and encouraging treatment. These were conducted so that they can better provide client-centered HIV testing and prevention services, including referrals for treatment.

53 participants from partner NGOs, eager to develop their professional skills and stay updated on current guidance, attended the technical support webinars.

Як діють АРВ-препарати?

1. Інгібітори зворотної транскриптази (ІЗТ) пригнічують відтворення вірусної РНК усередині клітини.

- НІЗТ (Нуклеозидні ІЗТ),
- ННІЗТ (Нуклеотидні ІЗТ),
- ННІЗТ (ненуклеозидні ІЗТ)

2. Інгібітори інтегрази перешкоджають проникненню вірусної ДНК у ядро клітини CD4.

3. Інгібітори протеази протидіють появі нових копій ВІЛ.

4. Інгібітори проникнення запобігають злиттю що містить рецептор CD4 (Т-лімфоцити).

5. Інгібітори рецепторів блокують проникнення вірусу всередину клітини-мішені, діючи на корецептори

Стан впровадження ЗПТ в Україні (на 01.11.2023)

Всього **21284** пацієнтів **65.5%** запланованого

Бупренорфін гідрохлорид(табл)	2390
Бупренорфін гідрохлорид/налоксон (табл)	0
Бупренорфін гідрохлорид (пролонг)	134
Метадон гідрохлорид (табл)	18760
Метадон гідрохлорид (рідкий)	0

Thanks to these webinars, I gained additional knowledge that I can share among clients and medical professionals who sometimes have false outdated knowledge.

Alina Zhernyak, CO «FREE ZONE»

I knew little about substitution therapy programs, but I heard a lot of new and interesting things. Now I know what to say to clients and how to say it.

Tetiana Isakova, CO «Light of Hope»

We need to educate our clients, because the more they know about access to treatment, to ARV and OST, the less they will be stigmatized and discriminated against and the better they will know their rights as patients.

Inna Polka, CO “One hundred percent life Cherkasy”



● SUCCESS STORY

Five years ago, Yulia found out she had HIV. Sometimes, her treatment would be interrupted and on one occasion it caused her health to deteriorate so much that she was hospitalized.

Yulia's daughter is already on treatment, her son is not infected with HIV, but Yulia could not tell her husband that she was HIV-positive. Yulia was afraid that he would leave her as soon as he learned the news.

— I came to see her in the hospital when she got worse because of the interruption of treatment and asked her: «Do you want your husband to be in this condition?» This question made Yulia re-think her decision and she agreed to tell him everything.

Natalia, a social worker at the CO Chernihiv branch of charitable organization “All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV/AIDS”.

Mykyta did not hesitate to get tested. His result was positive, he was registered and started treatment.

— I knew mostly stigmatizing things about HIV: that it was an incurable disease that spreads among drug users and sex workers. When I saw the test, my life seemed to be over. However, we were lucky because there was a reliable organization nearby that provided information and support.

Mykyta recalls the day of the test.

Now he and his wife come to Natalia's counseling sessions and support each other, by sharing reminders to take ARVs and take health responsibilities seriously.



● OUR INSTRUMENTS



Platform #TESTnearby
bit.ly/testporuch



Chat-bot #TESTnearby
bit.ly/testporuch-bot



Chat-bot #ARTnearby
bit.ly/ARTporuch-bot



Platform #ARTnearby
bit.ly/ARTporuch



To access all the instruments of the project, follow the link:
bit.ly/CAHC-linktree

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