



SITUATIONAL REPORT

Community Action for HIV Control

JANUARY 2024

● 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 non-governmental organizations worked to

3147
people were tested for HIV

107
people were confirmed with the diagnosis

92
people received treatment

3.04%
testing efficiency per month

* operational data as of February 01, 2024

● ALGORITHM FOR PROVIDING HIV TESTING SERVICES

This document describes the steps and stages that service providers should follow when counseling and implementing assisted and unassisted HIV testing, and when involving KPs in testing and treatment (<tr.ee/vINtuwOvWY>)



● INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF TESTING

By engaging new partners, the project increases the effectiveness of community-based testing. Since the beginning of the third project year, our new partner organizations have achieved a high percentage of testing efficiency. The BO «100 VIDSOTKIV ZHYTTYA IVANO-FRANKIVSK» tested 55 people, of whom 5 were positive (9.1%), and the PO «Synergy of Souls» tested 221 people, 20 of whom were positive (9.0%). Keep up the good work!

From October 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024, CO «100 Percent Life. Kyiv region» continues to successfully implement index testing. 66 PLHIV provided 153 contacts of their partners, 99% of whom were involved in testing. Of these, 32% have a positive result, and 2 more people are to be tested in the near future.

New partner NGOs, such as the CO «CF «UKRAINIAN RESOURCE CENTER» in Donetsk

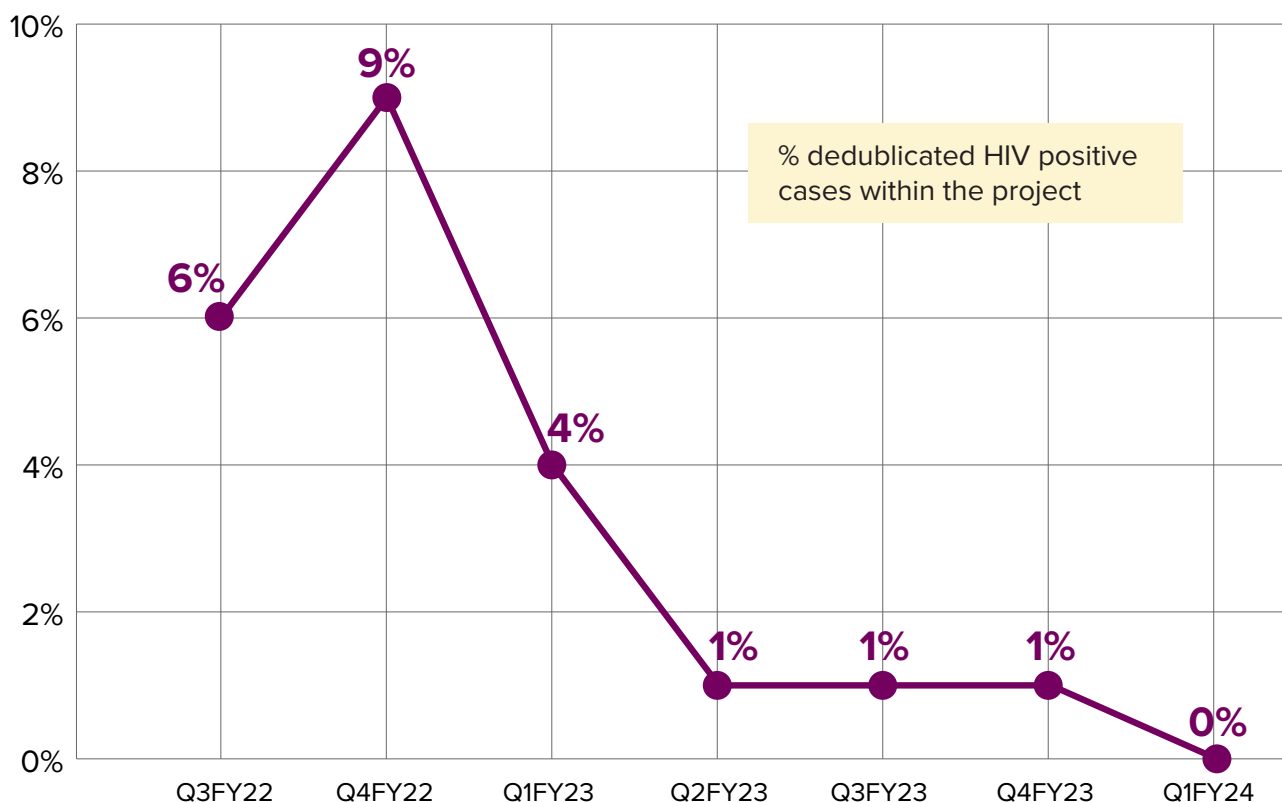
Oblast and NGO «Alternative» in Odesa, are also joining index testing, as the modality remains the most effective way to detect new HIV cases.

The «Social Risk Networks» modality, which is one of the most effective testing strategies, has changed in the context of war. It is difficult for certain groups of clients to provide information about their environment to social workers, so clients may instead refer their social connections to NGOs for services. To record such referrals, in December 2023, the project added the ability to record the reason for referral to testing to the DataCheck: «Referral for testing from among KPs». Already, 74 people who have come to the NGO have mentioned this reason for applying. This improves the reliability of the data on modality.

In the first quarter of the third project year, partner NGOs tested **8,201 people, of whom 315 were positive (3.84%). This quarter, the project reached 0% deduplication** for the first time, and this is an incredible achievement!

315
(3.84%)

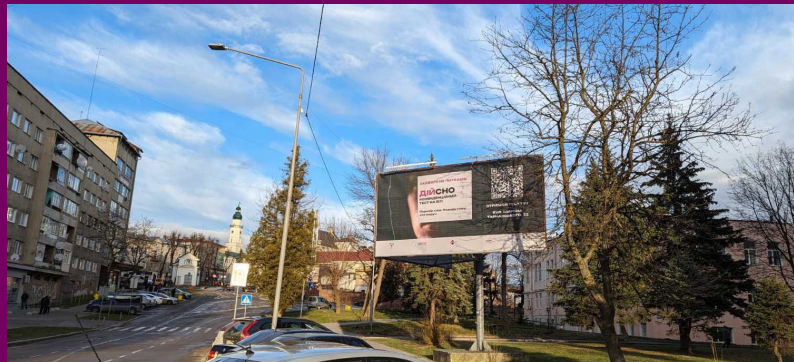
8201



● DEMAND GENERATION CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE HIV TESTING

In January, we launched a demand generation campaign in Kyiv and the cities where our partner NGOs operate. The campaign is aimed at motivating representatives of key and priority populations to come to an NGO for HIV testing. The website testporuch.phc.org.ua, billboards, and posters include the address of the organizations where social workers are ready to test clients.

Look for 120 billboards on the streets of cities and listen to our radio spot on twenty Ukrainian radio stations! We will soon launch in pharmacies, trains and online — don't miss it!



● HELPING NGOS IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH SKILLS

In December, we completed an online English course for our partner organizations, which we conducted with the US Peace Corps Ukraine!

For four months, the leadership of nine organizations we work with, along with representatives from other Ukrainian organizations working to overcome the HIV epidemic had the opportunity to improve their conversational skills, learn relevant terminology and learn how to present their organization's work in English.

They were assisted by native speakers from the United States as well as volunteers with many years of experience teaching English. We hope the knowledge gained will help our partners further develop their relationships with international partners.

Thank you for such a cool idea! I thank the organizers for their inclusiveness and friendliness, and the teachers for their professionalism and quality materials. It was interesting to be in a group of other partner NGOs, which enhanced the assimilation of knowledge in our field of activity

Participant of the online course

● SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AN NGO AND AN ONLINE HIV TEST ORDERING PLATFORM

HIV testing can be uncomfortable for some people, especially if you consider that such a sensitive procedure is performed by a stranger and the result may not be as expected.

To address this problem, there is a convenient way to order an oral HIV self-test through the TestVdoma system (<https://test-vdoma.com.ua>) and get tested in a private and comfortable environment without piercing your finger. Individuals can consult a social worker if they have additional questions or the test result is positive.

In one case, an 18-year-old man called the platform's support line for ordering HIV self-testing tests and said: «I've been tested and I'm positive, what should I do next?»

Viktor (name changed) told us that he had sex with men, putting him at high risk of HIV infection, and wanted to be tested in the most confidential conditions possible, as he is a student who currently lives in a dormitory.

” *«I know that you can live with HIV just like you can live without it, and there is treatment, especially since it is free, so I have nothing to worry about,»* says Viktor.

He was quite calm and constantly insisted that he did not need detailed information, he just needed guidance on next steps to take. Viktor was referred to a social worker of the CO «100 percent of life. Kyiv region».

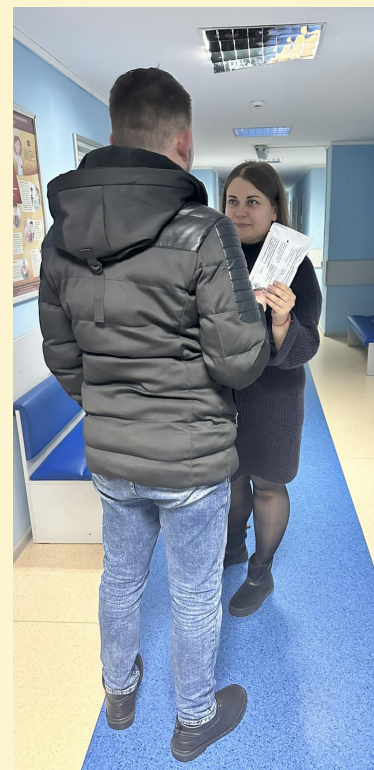
” *«Since the client lived far from Kyiv, I helped him get directly to the hospital by calling a taxi, met him and realized from the first words how bad his psychological state was,»* says Yulia, a social worker at the organization.

At the meeting, Viktor was scared, stressed, and afraid that his partner would blame him for his status because his partner's status was negative (which was confirmed by repeated HIV testing). Yulia helped to dispel his fears and myths and reassured him.

The diagnosis of HIV infection was confirmed both during Yulia's repeated testing and at the medical facility. There, the doctor prescribed antiretroviral therapy for Viktor and put him on the dispensary register.

” *«Established cooperation with his partner and, more importantly, client-friendly NGOs has helped the client to receive timely, high-quality and client-oriented services. This will help him to accept the diagnosis and reduce the level of self-stigmatization and lead to a successful treatment process in the future,»* says Tetiana Minenko, TestVdoma coordinator.

Now Victor is successfully taking treatment, and receiving all the necessary counseling on living with HIV. The project's psychologist is also working with him to come to terms with his HIV-positive status.



● INVESTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT COORDINATORS IN NGOS

We are announcing a cycle of training for project coordinators at our partner NGOs!

First, we will offer a competency model to NGOs and support its first application with project coordinators. The first step is to assess the competencies of the coordinators, which are based on eight components including strategic thinking, operational capacity, result orientation, etc. This determines the strengths and priority areas for development of each project coordinator. In the future, NGOs can expand the application of the competency model to other coordinators or roles in the organization.

In addition, we are launching the Management Skills Development course aimed at strengthening the coordinators' skills in interacting with the team, making decisions, delegating, monitoring the implementation of tasks, motivating, giving feedback, and resolving conflicts.

Such teams are highly desirable to work in and motivate everyone to bring the end of the HIV epidemic closer!



● SUPPORTING THE WORK OF REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCILS

Between January 17th-18th, Kyiv hosted a two-day workshop for members of regional TB/HIV coordination councils representing key populations.

The workshop aimed to strengthen advocacy skills of members in regional TB/HIV coordination councils. The participants analyzed how to create conditions for effective interaction between the members of coordinating councils, shared their experiences working under war conditions, strengthened cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental sectors, and presented and analyzed activities related to monitoring HIV services in the community.

The participants also familiarized themselves with the results of the «Secret Client» tool as a

component of community-based monitoring of HIV services. They shared information about how information collected by communities in the region can be used by coordinating councils to plan and monitor HIV services and best practices.

The participants noted the creation of a community passport, containing all available information about the community in the region, which can be used by the coordinating council and donors to plan, coordinate, and finance activities.

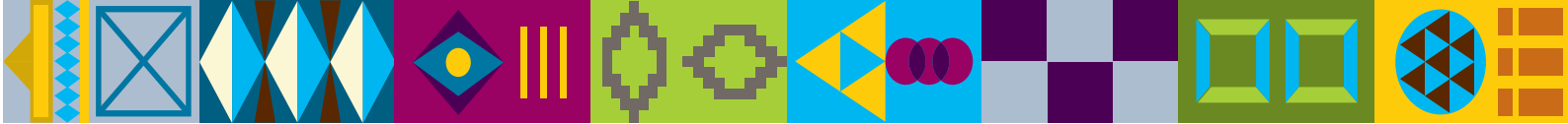
During the event, the participants worked in groups with representatives of the Secretariat of the National TB/HIV Coordination Council to develop advocacy tools and improve their effective cooperation skills.



● LINKTREE FOR THE RESTORATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

We have created a linktree, which contains all the important documents, reports, information materials and screenings related to the restoration of medical services. Save the link to have it on hand whenever you need it. (linktr.ee/cahc_restoration)





● MEDICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITIES

Residents of remote and de-occupied settlements can receive timely medical and psychosocial assistance. Mobile medical teams have started working in three regions, and 432 people have already received medical and psychosocial services in the communities. In total, visits were made to more than 26 settlements.

432

people have already received medical and psychosocial services

The teams, which include a family doctor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, work in the Baryshivska and Tetiivska communities of the Kyiv Oblast; Slovechanska, Narodytska and Olevska communities of the Zhytomyr Oblast; Talalaivska, Sribnyanska and Varvynska communities of the Chernihiv Oblast. What kind of medical care can people who have made an appointment receive?

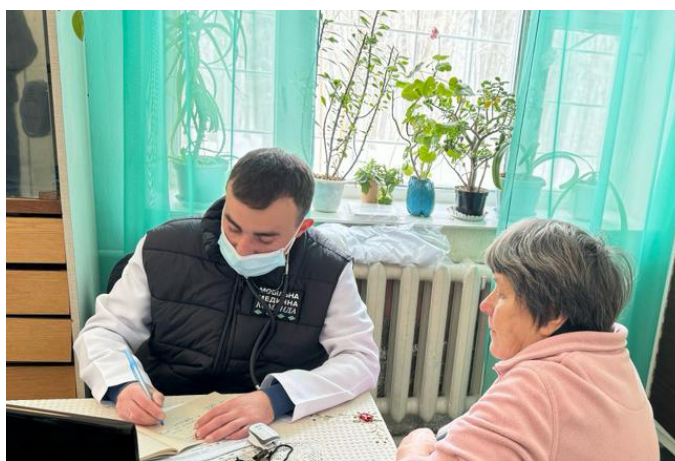
26

settlements

Foremost, it includes screening for non-communicable diseases (diabetes, depression, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hearing impairment, etc.), counseling and diagnostics, psychological support, and other services.



In December, mobile medical teams made their first visits to Kyiv Oblast, where **60 people** were able to receive medical services during their first visits. In January, they managed to reach **91 more people** with their services.



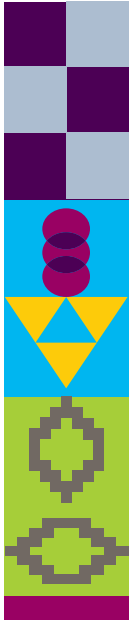
MMT's operates in Tetiivska community in Kyiv region

People living in the village have trouble getting to hospitals. Thanks to this project, they will be able to receive proper medical care. I also see this as an impetus for the development of primary healthcare, as doctors learn how to do a full examination, especially screening for non-communicable diseases. During the war, it is very important that mobile medical teams bring medical services closer to patients. I can say that this training was sincere, simple and accessible.

Oleksandr Polishchuk, director of Tetiiv Primary Health Care Center, Kyiv Oblast.



MMT operates in Baryshivka community, Kyiv region



In January, the team from Zhytomyr Oblast started its work, and in **9 visits** managed to provide medical and psychosocial assistance to more than **225 clients**. People sought help for problems related mainly to the cardiovascular and endocrine systems. Among psychological services, consultations on reducing anxiety and how to cope with excessive stress were in demand.

9

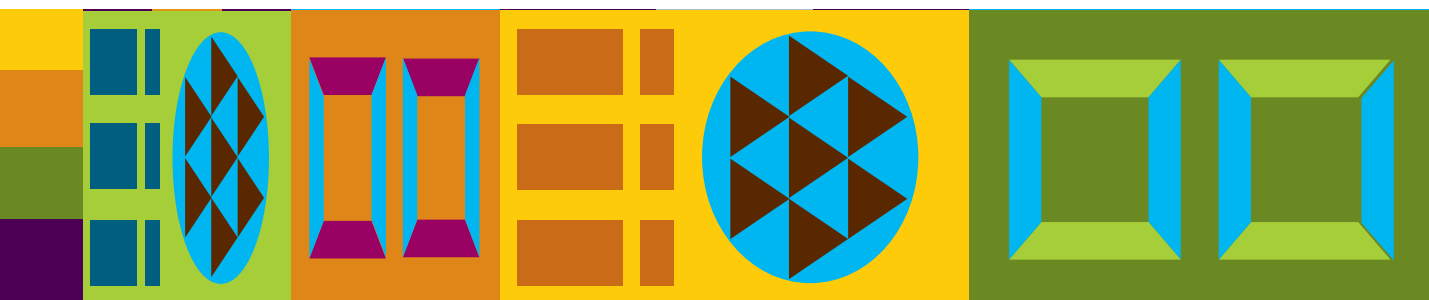
visits by the team from Zhytomyr Oblast

225

people have already received medical and psychosocial services



MMT operates in Radcha village, Narodytska community, Zhytomyr region



116 residents in remote communities in Chernihiv Oblast also gained access to medical and psychosocial services in January thanks to mobile medical team visits to settlements in Varvynka, Talalaivka and Sribnyanska communities — Hnidyntsi village, Korinetske village and Oleksyntsi village.

During the first visit, we counseled 21 people. The most common needs included blood pressure measurement, blood sugar testing, and psychosocial support. People also asked for prescriptions for medications. Overall, we have positive impressions and will be happy to continue working in this direction.

Roman Kolodyazhnyi, family doctor of the mobile medical team in Chernihiv Oblast



First MMT visit to Ghidentsi Vavrynska community, Chernihiv region

● 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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