



SITUATIONAL REPORT

Community Action for HIV Control

FEBRUARY 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

3563

people were tested for HIV

85

people were confirmed with the diagnosis

74

people received treatment

2.4%

testing efficiency per month

* operational data as of March 01, 2024

● SUMMARY OF THE SUB-GRANTEE FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

We are strengthening the capacity of NGOs to test and identify new HIV cases among key and priority populations. To do this, our team held a meeting based on the results of the first quarter with sub-grantees’ project coordinators and social workers who provide services based on DSD models.

During the meeting, we highlighted approaches that helped to strengthen the detection of new HIV cases at the community level, discussed the

challenges faced by NGOs in the process, and described the technical support and training that our project can provide.

Representatives of the organizations shared successful solutions and ideas that helped them while implementing activities. The meeting identified problems that can complicate the work of our NGOs but also inspired NGOs to move forward with their plans.

● TWO YEARS OF WORK DURING A FULL-SCALE WAR

10 years ago, Russia started a war in Ukraine, and two years ago, the whole world woke up to the news of a full-scale invasion. We are grateful to the Armed Forces of Ukraine for allowing us to continue our work. Together with partner NGOs, we are developing a culture of HIV testing among representatives of key and priority groups despite air raids, shelling, and other aspects of the war.



HIV testing campaign in Kryvyi Rih

February 24 unlocked all my memories, because I am an IDP from Donetsk region. Almost 10 years ago, I was forced to leave my home and start my new life in Zaporizhzhia, which became my second home. I quickly pulled myself together because I realized that other people needed my help and support.

Zaporizhzhia is a frontline city, part of our region is still occupied, and we constantly hear air raid alerts. Despite this, I stay here and continue to work.

**Liudmyla, social worker
at CO «100% Life Zaporizhzhia»**

After February 24, many people left Kryvyi Rih, and there was horror all around. Clients were afraid that they might die because of the lack of medicine, not because of the war. How can you test for HIV when there is war around? But I always took HIV tests with me when I went to the shelters and tested people. There have been positive cases.

We have gotten used to it, and are working. But we are still scared. I was often told to leave Kryvyi Rih with my children, but how will the clients be without me, how will I be without them?

**Iryna, social worker
at CO «100% Life. Dniprov region»**

● NATIONAL KEY POPULATIONS PLATFORM (NKPP) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

We support the work of the NKPP. On February 8th, the NKPC Steering Committee met to discuss strategic issues regarding the further development of the platform.

During this meeting, members of the Steering Committee proposed inviting other communities to join the platform. In addition, the meeting discussed plans to support the NKPP Secretariat with the project, strengthen the communication component, organize training for young community leaders, and invite a representative of the Pact to join the NPCC Advisory Board.



Meeting of project specialists with members of the NKPP Steering committee

● ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

To protect everyone's rights, to protect everyone's health—this is the slogan of Zero Discrimination Day. It is being celebrated for the tenth year in many countries around the world. The goal of this day is to remind us of the importance of building a safe and tolerant society where no one suffers from prejudice because of who they are.

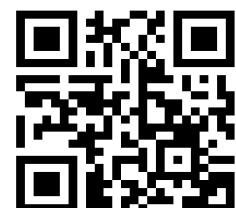
Our project is conducting a communication campaign together with partner NGOs to urge Ukrainians to take care of creating and preserving such a society. Everyone deserves respect regardless of their status and/or representation of a key population.

It is equally important to recognize and be grateful to representatives of key populations for the work they do every day, within projects and in everyday life, to improve access to HIV services in the regions and fight stigma and discrimination.

A separate issue of the digest, which we prepared for Zero Discrimination Day, is dedicated to the initiatives through which our project engages communities to bring the end of HIV in Ukraine closer: monitoring of HIV services, cooperation with the National Key Populations Platform, regional TB/HIV coordination councils, and improving the HIV regulatory framework.



ІННОВАЦІЇ для ПОДОЛАННЯ ЕПІДЕМІЇ ВІЛ



● KITS FOR SAFE TESTING

We are pleased to share with you the new design of oral HIV test boxes developed for our partner NGOs.



What is included in the box?

- oral HIV test and instructions for use
- algorithm of actions in case of positive and negative test results
- contacts of social workers
- condoms and lubricants
- nice bonuses like stickers and postcards

Boxes can be ordered from our partner organizations through two convenient ways: testporuch.phc.org.ua, which allows you to find the nearest NGO, or test-vdoma.com.ua, which works all over Ukraine.

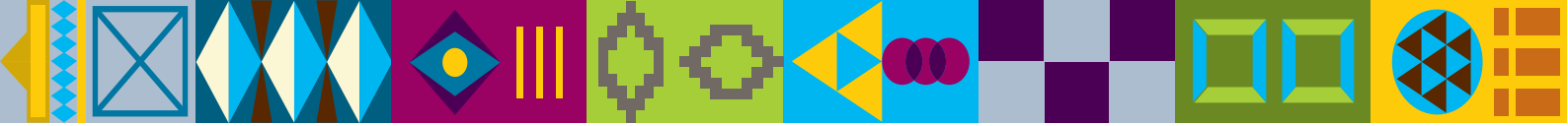
On Valentine's Day, some NGOs conducted social media campaigns and testing events to encourage members of key and priority populations to find out their HIV status.

● HIV TESTING AT HOME

The TestVdoma platform has resumed delivery of oral test kits orders! During the winter, orders occasionally not received or dispatched due to temperature restrictions. At temperatures below 0°C, it is impossible to guarantee the reliability of the test results.

From February 1 to March 1, 2024 the platform distributed **more than 2 thousand tests!** This is an average of **more than 60 orders for 150 tests per day.** If you are at risk for HIV but cannot come to a testing site, you can order oral HIV tests for yourself and your loved ones at test-vdoma.com.ua.





● MORE AND MORE PEOPLE RECEIVE MEDICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES IN COMMUNITIES



People are very positive, they were waiting for our meeting. Most people need consultations of less common specialists, in particular cardiologists.

Olena Mysiuk, a family doctor from the mobile medical team in Zhytomyr region

In February, thanks to the mobile medical teams, 839 people were able to receive medical and psychosocial services in the communities of Zhytomyr, Kyiv and Chernihiv regions.

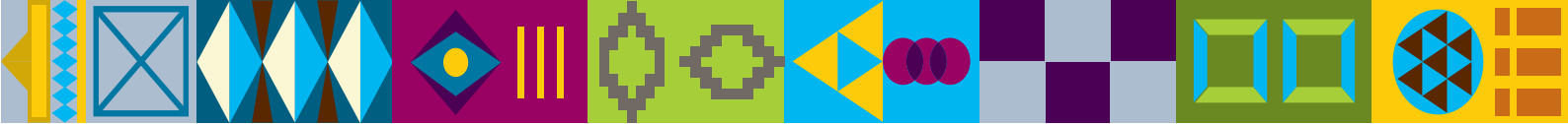
The team managed to provide many referrals to doctors who can provide specialized medical care.

In Chernihiv Oblast, specialists of the mobile medical team continue to provide consultations to people who are unable to come to the appointment on their own. In addition, particular attention is paid to the mental health of community residents during the visits.

We have had cases of people with severe depression. Mostly these are lonely people who do not have the strength to overcome all the problems in their lives on their own. Usually, in rural areas there are many lonely people who lack communication, understanding, support, and so they are all very happy when we visit them.

Tatyana Shemet, psychologist at Varvynske MMT





This month, the mobile medical team of the Kyiv region continued to record a significant number of people with anxiety disorders. The team's specialists said that cardiovascular and lung health are the most common concerns. This month was also notable for the Kyiv team for the large number of screenings for gender-based violence. There was a case of a positive result and a person was referred for assistance.



For the specialists of the teams from both communities in Kyiv region, initial training was provided on the use of a mobile ultrasound machine, an audiometer (a device for acoustic measurement of human hearing), a defibrillator and a biochemical analyzer. The ability of the mobile teams to provide medical services has now increased significantly.

● CAROLINE ANSTEY, PRESIDENT & CEO OF PACT, FAMILIARIZES HERSELF WITH THE WORK OF MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS

This month, Caroline Anstey, Pact President & CEO, and Cristine Betters, Senior Vice President for Business Development, visited Ukraine for the first time. They visited the village of Baryshivka, where mobile medical teams from Kyiv region are working.

During the meeting, they discussed the work of medical teams in communities and the practical implementation of their activities in Baryshivka. The direction of restoring access to medical services of our project in the Kyiv region is implemented by the organization CO "100 Percent of Life. Kyiv region", which was able to effectively organize the work of mobile medical teams.



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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