



QUARTERLY DIGEST

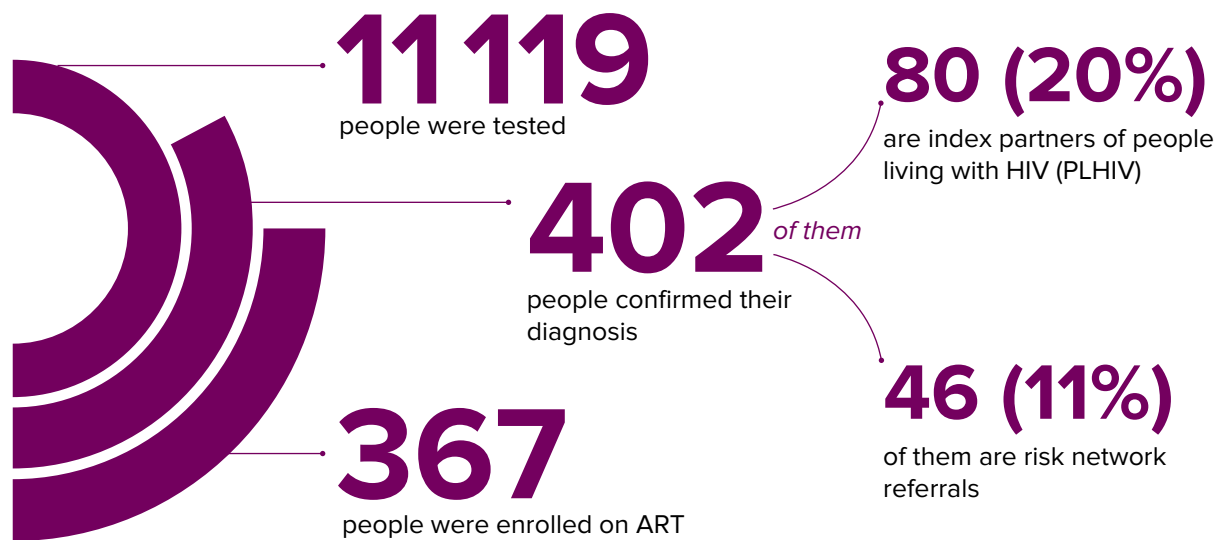
Community action for HIV control

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:



* operational data as of January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

● QUARTER LEADERS

Our partner NGOs: PO Synergy Of Souls, CO Network 100 Percent of Life. Zaporizhzhia and CO 100 Percent Of Life. Kyiv Region were the most effective in testing people for HIV this quarter. As of March 26, we collected the following data on the effectiveness of testing:

6,3%

in PO Synergy of Souls

255

people tested

16

positive case

6,2%

CO Network 100 Percent of Life.
Zaporizhzhia

373

people tested

23

positive case

5,3%

CO 100 Percent of Life.
Kyiv region

1304

people tested

69

positive case

Index testing remains one of the most effective ways to detect new HIV cases. Insights of this quarter:

● **CO 100 Percent of Life. Kyiv region** detected **40%** of all positive cases of the organization for the quarter thanks to index testing.

● **CO 100% Life Dnipro Region** was able to involve all index partners whose contacts it received in testing, and **54%** of them tested positive.

● **CO Charitable Society All-Ukrainian Network Of People Living With HIV/AIDS –Lviv City** received the highest rate of consent to provide contacts: **95%** of PLHIV provided contacts of their partners

They are keeping up the good work!

The achievements of the project and each partner NGO are described in the article «Enhancing outcomes through client-centered services amid war in Ukraine» on the Pact!

Read more and find out about the successful tests that were conducted by CO Charitable Foundation Ukrainian Resource Center, CO 100% Life Dnipro Region, CO Light of Hope and PO Istok!



The project made progress in implementation their quarter by holding meetings and developing agreements or guidelines like:

 **3**
competitions
and grant
agreements

 **8**
monitoring
visits to
partner NGOs

 **3**
new
policies and
guidelines*

* Policies and guidelines were developed to regulate the disposal and sorting of medical and e-waste. The project has already introduced new regulations and conducted training for partner NGO staff.

● TRAINING FOR NGOS AND MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS

We continue to improve the competencies of social workers, coordinators and other specialists of our partner NGOs. This quarter, we held:



an online workshop for partner NGO service providers on the implementation of DSD models at the regional and local levels



online training for consultants of the National HIV/AIDS Hotline on the use of Mylan HIV self-testing kits

It is always interesting to learn new things with you: new approaches to counseling or the use of new tests for HIV self-testing in Ukraine.

Larysa Kotova, consultant on assisted support, CO SAAPF, Kyiv



online training «HIV testing services» for specialists of mobile medical teams in Zhytomyr region, operating within the framework of restoring access to health services

Everything was interesting and useful at the training. Counseling, the legal framework for a healthcare professional, and, of course, practical exercises with the use of rapid tests

Natalia Kozhan, nurse, NGO In Touch Ukraine Foundation



online training on testing for hepatitis B virus



online training on reducing harm from substance use

There is never too much information and experience from the trainer and colleagues. A great training on such a complex topic

Sergiy Zubkovsky, CO 100 Percent Of Life, Kyiv Region



online training «Quality improvement in the context of HIV» (piloting for 5 NGOs)

We had the opportunity to discuss the results of the work and define the tasks and criteria of the process. It was useful and interesting

Mariana Marchuk, CO Charitable Society All-Ukrainian Network Of People Living With HIV/AIDS of Lviv City



online workshop on psychological support for clients during psychosocial screening



an online workshop for communications specialists of partner NGOs on the implementation of campaigns, public events, and other communication activities at the regional and local levels



a series of meetings of communities of practice for service providers (topics: «Discordant couples», «Ethical principles and the principle of «do no harm» in counseling», «The impact of gender on access to medical and social services»)

I like the fact that you can talk freely about the obstacles that arise during your work. The meetings are organized so that you can test your knowledge, have constructive discussions, and analyze interesting cases with your colleagues

Participant in the meetings



group supervisions devoted to working with cases of gender-based violence



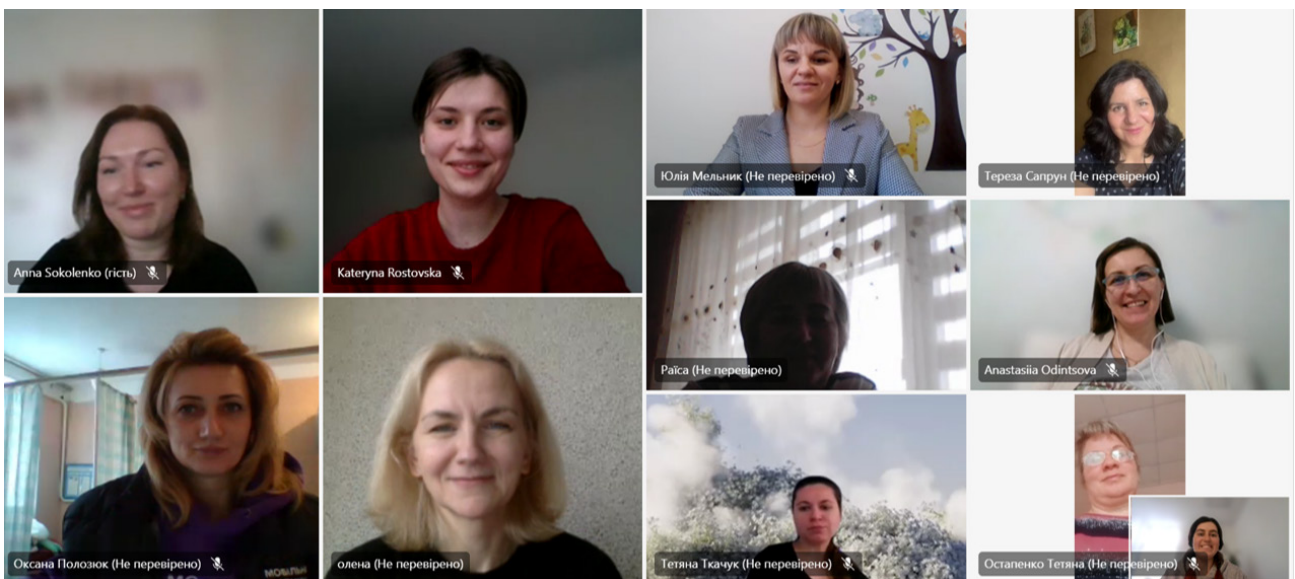
online training on the nature of gender-based violence and its identification



online training on working with cases of conflict-related sexual violence

Victims of violence often find it difficult to talk about it, in particular, due to the fear of judgment. Therefore, a crucial task is to create spaces where it is safe to share this experience and to train professionals who will be ready to demonstrate unconditional support and zero tolerance for the offender's actions

Kateryna Rostovska, junior program specialist on mental health and combating GBV

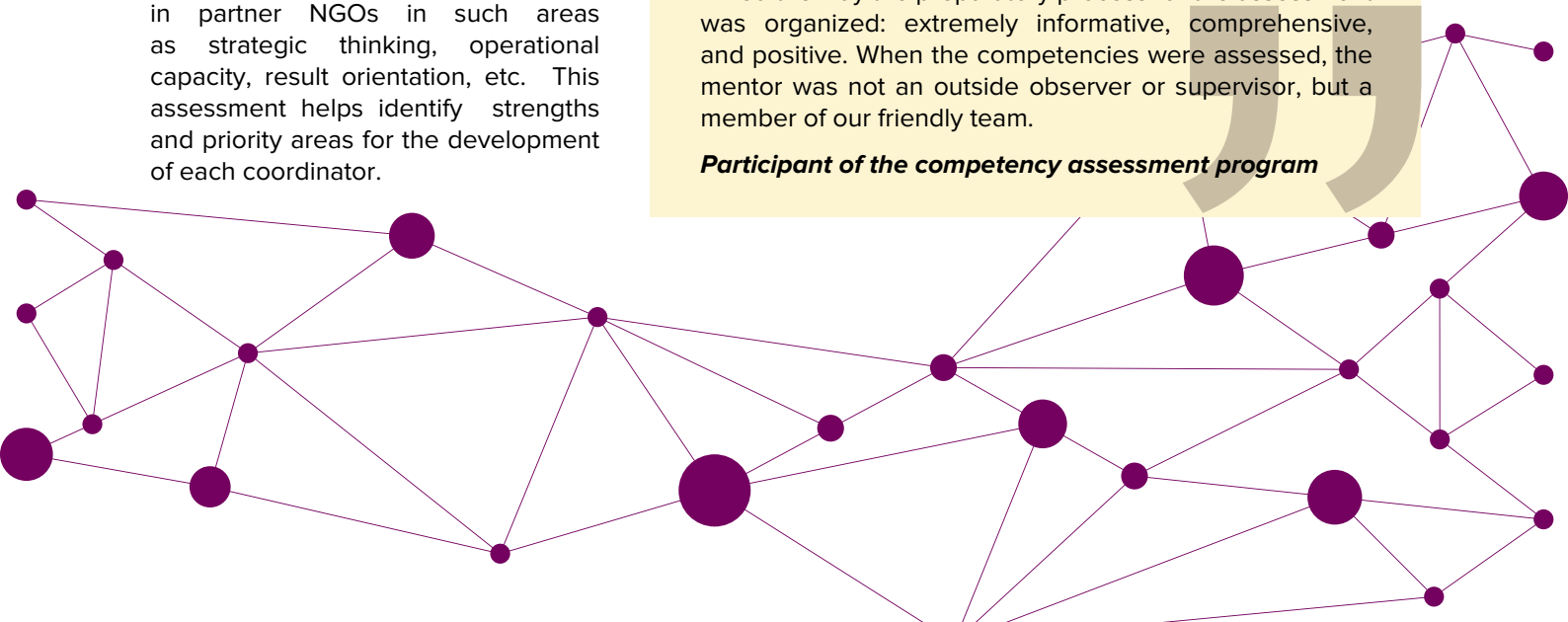


● ASSESS COMPETENCIES

We continue to assess the competencies of project coordinators in partner NGOs in such areas as strategic thinking, operational capacity, result orientation, etc. This assessment helps identify strengths and priority areas for the development of each coordinator.

I liked the way the preparatory process for the assessment was organized: extremely informative, comprehensive, and positive. When the competencies were assessed, the mentor was not an outside observer or supervisor, but a member of our friendly team.

Participant of the competency assessment program



● DEVELOPING MONITORING OF VIRTUAL SERVICES

We held a working meeting on monitoring the accessibility and quality of HIV services in our project, where we discussed:

- the results of using the «secret client» tool to evaluate the provision of services on the TestVdoma platform and the continuing of this tool to evaluate HIV and HBV testing services, as well as additional services in partner NGOs,
- additional services KP representatives can receive from partner NGOs (screening for NCDs and GBV, distribution of humanitarian aid, etc.)
- community requests regarding problematic aspects of access to diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis and standards of service delivery of substitution maintenance therapy programs with the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

Such events help to analyze the experience of implementing new tools and continue to improve the work of NGOs in the field of HIV services.



● ANALYTICS ON HIV TESTING IN HEALTH INSURANCE PACKAGES

We have prepared an analytical note on HIV testing services in the packages of the Medical Guarantee Program. In this brief, you will find information on which healthcare packages include HIV testing, where and how to get HIV testing services, what are the grounds for providing services upon self-referral, and what documents regulate the specifics of medical data transfer.



● INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

For three months, we have been running a national awareness campaign where we encourage representatives of key populations to get tested for HIV at our partner NGOs. In addition, partner organizations have launched regional campaigns in their cities. Online and offline activities, carefully planned for each target group, have already brought at least 695 new clients to our NGOs for HIV testing. The campaigns utilized:

 **120** billboards

 **20** radio stations

 **400** suburban train cars

 **80** areas in pharmacies providing OST



● SUCCESS STORY. A LIGHT OF HOPE

Unconditional support and the absence of stigma and discrimination are the basis of the work of our partner organizations that provide HIV testing services. When a client comes to an NGO, he or she must feel safe.

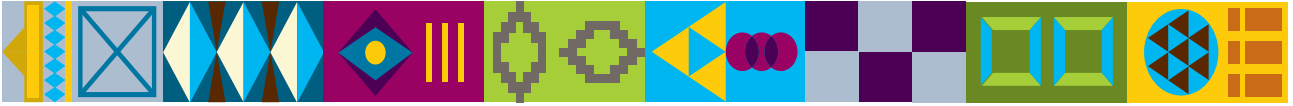
” *A woman came to our office asking to be tested for HIV. She told us that she had been sick for a long time, and treatment did not help. She also admitted that she was taking non-injecting drugs, — says Svitlana, a social worker at the CO Light of Hope.*

At the consultation, Natalia (name changed) was stressed, and was cautious about making contact. The woman had learned about the organization through social media and came for testing from another region because she was too afraid that someone in her city would find out about it. The test result was positive.

” *I suspected that I was HIV-positive, but it was very embarrassing to find out my status for sure. I had all kinds of thoughts about how to live my life and what to do now, — Natalia recalls.*

On the same day, Natalia talked to a social worker, went to an infectious disease doctor, and was registered with the clinic. She received the necessary antiretroviral treatment, which has already improved her health. Natalia started a new stage of her life without fear, or judgment and with the support of the organization's team.





BUILDING A HEALTHY FUTURE

● OPPORTUNITIES

If your organization operates in Sumy and Kirovohrad regions, and you see the need to develop mobile medical teams in your region, [apply for the competition!](#) Applications will be accepted until April 5.



● HEALTH AMBASSADORS

As part of the project, the Health Ambassadors program has been launched in remote communities in Zhytomyr and Chernihiv oblasts. In April it will be launched in the Kyiv region.

Health ambassadors help community members raise awareness of healthy lifestyles and thus promote the idea of health care, and help build healthy lifestyle skills. In addition, health ambassadors inform residents about MMT's visits to communities, as well as the launch of mobile pharmacies, patient transportation services, and psychological support spaces.

There are already 23 health ambassadors working in the communities.

Read our review to find out how the Health Ambassadors' programs work in Ukraine and abroad: <https://tr.ee/StoP3uPEIN>



● NEW LAUNCHES

We are actively working on launching these activities in the communities.



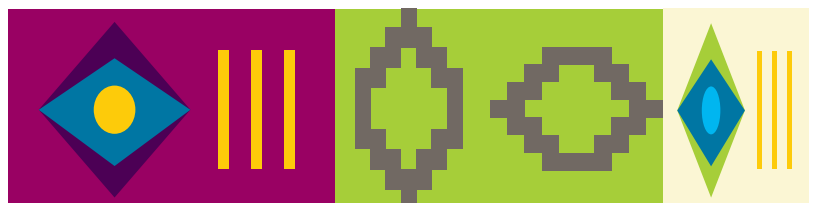
mobile pharmacy units: specially equipped vehicles of the SE Ukrvaktyna will bring medicines to remote communities, in particular under the Affordable Medicines program;



psychological support spaces: safe rooms where community residents can receive qualified psychological assistance online for free;



a patient transportation service to bring people with serious chronic diseases, people with limited mobility, and those who have been referred by doctors from mobile medical teams to medical facilities.



● MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS (MMT)



Zhytomyr
region

34 of visits to
communities were
made by MMT

897 residents of
communities
received services

In the village of Noryntsi in the Narodytska community, as many as 24 out of 25 people who came for a checkup were referred to narrow specialists during one of the visits. Most people were found to have chronic diseases of the cardiovascular or endocrine system. There is also high demand for psychological counseling, as people face a lot of pain, depression and anxiety as a result of the war.

* in the period from January 1 to March 31, 2024



Chernihiv
region

29 of visits to
communities were
made by MMT

754 residents of
communities
received services

Mental health problems remain widespread in the communities of Chernihiv Oblast: MMT's psychologists recorded various degrees of depression in patients. In addition to psychological consultations, community residents had the opportunity to visit a gynecologist, cardiologist, and neurologist, in addition to their family doctor. Specialists of the mobile medical team encountered a case of domestic violence and were able to provide the necessary assistance.

* in the period from January 1 to March 31, 2024



MMT's visit to a remote village is an extra reason to get out of the house, see your fellow villagers, and socialize. I believe that this is also a therapy for people, an event that makes people move a little bit physically, emotionally and morally.

Oksana Movchan, MMT psychologist



Kyiv
region

21 of visits to
communities were
made by MMT

460 residents of
communities
received services

Specialists in the mobile medical team continue to provide assistance to residents of the Baryshivska and Tetievaska communities. Cases of heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease have been recorded, and there are also requests for psychological assistance. In the Baryshivska community, a case of type 2 diabetes was detected promptly: based on the results of the blood glucose assessment, the client was prescribed preventive treatment and referred to an endocrinologist.

* in the period from January 1 to March 31, 2024



● 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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