



SITUATIONAL REPORT

Community Action for HIV Control

APRIL 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

4242

people were tested for HIV

187

people were confirmed with the diagnosis

155

people received treatment

4.4%

monthly testing yield

* operational data as of May 01, 2024

This quarter (January-March), we detected the largest number of HIV cases compared to any other quarter over the life of the project: **427** people learned about their positive HIV status and started treatment! In total, our partner NGOs tested **11,209** people with a **testing efficiency of 3.8%**.

For the second quarter in a row, we have received no duplicates after implementing the national deduplication procedure — which is a great result. With our partner organizations, we strive to keep it up!

● THE PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED IN APRIL:

1 grant selection for expansion of activities of eight HIV service NGOs

2 grant selections to strengthen the area of restoring access to healthcare services*

9 monitoring visits to partner NGOs

* As a result, psychological support spaces will be created in 8 communities in Zhytomyr, Kyiv, and Chernihiv oblasts, and mobile medical teams (MMT) will now cover the Kirovohrad and Sumy oblasts.

● COOPERATING WITH COMMUNITIES

On April 16, the steering committee of the National Key Communities Platform (NKCP) met. Over the next year, the members of the Platform plan to coordinate between communities and strengthen advocacy at the local level, as well as assess the needs of communities in the regions to further increase their capacity to advocate for these communities. Preparations are already underway for the VII NKCP Forum, which is scheduled for September 2024.



● IMPROVING APPROACHES TO HIV TESTING



We developed a guidebook for our partner NGOs, a collection of basic approaches and methods for engaging key and priority populations in HIV testing services.

This document will be useful for social workers and project coordinators, as it allows them to streamline approaches to testing and improve them within their organization.

The document is available here: <https://bit.ly/3QeqVZ1>



● ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

We conducted an organizational capacity assessment (ITOCA) for all of our partner NGOs implementing various program components on the ground. ITOCA is a Pact approach based on identifying priority areas for development.

Now all partner organizations have organizational development plans to provide better services to clients.

ITOCA is not just a (self-)assessment tool organizations can benefit from. It is a powerful 'pause-and-reflect' moment - an opportunity for people to step away from the daily routine to comprehend (and appreciate!) their successes, explore potential improvement areas, and review priorities. Inclusive by nature, ITOCA is designed to let every participant speak out and be heard.

This way, the organization gets a common vision and specific, mutually agreed upon steps forward toward their development. And, of course, they are not alone on their paths; Community Action stays close by with all the support available..

Mykyta Volodov, Capacity Development Manager

● LAUNCH OF THE GOPORUCH PLATFORM



We are preparing for the pilot launch of the GoPoruch platform, which allows the user to conveniently sign up for HIV testing at the nearest NGO in just a few steps. This is an adapted version of the Online Reservation App for HIV Service Delivery Programs, developed by FHI360 with the support of PEPFAR, which is used in 18 countries to provide social and medical HIV services.

We have already conducted a technical deployment of the platform's test environment, which will be available to three partner organizations: CO 100 Percent Of Life. Kyiv Region, CO Charitable Society All-Ukrainian Network Of People Living With HIV/AIDS of Lviv City and PO Alternative. Together, we will test the platform's capabilities, adapt a new algorithm for working with clients online, and test this approach to attracting new clients to HIV testing. .

● SUCCESS STORY

Vitaliy (name changed) for a long time refused to think about getting tested for HIV. He often cited conspiracy theories and propaganda from the internet as an excuse to avoid testing.

” Vitaliy previously injected drugs for a long time and knew he was at risk: *“I admitted the risks, but I ignored the problem. I was convinced that I was not in danger. HIV was not my story, not my problem. It was easy to believe that HIV was fiction.”*

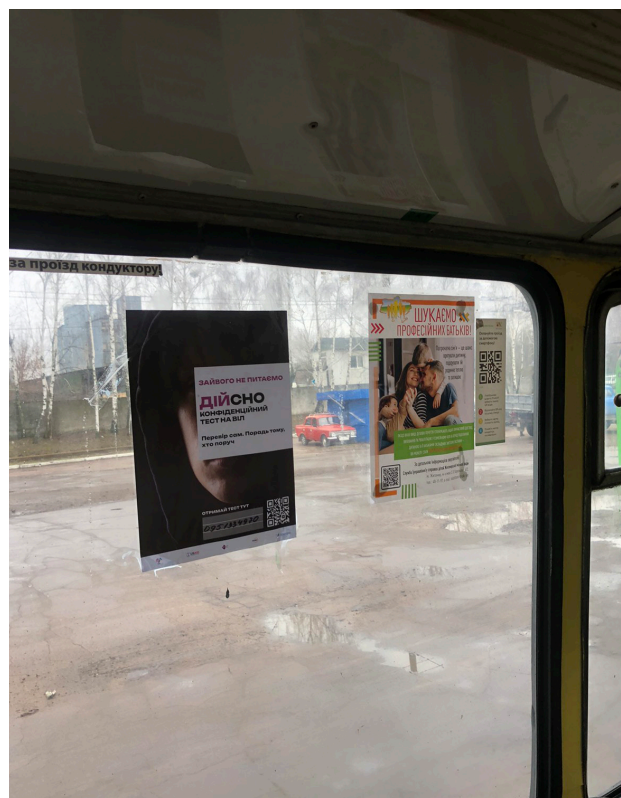
One day, Vitaliy found the poster with the addresses and phone numbers of the charitable fund Let Your Heart Beat. He only remembers that it said something about PWID but did not delve into the content of the advertisement; he just wanted to get something for free. Vitaliy repeatedly visited various charitable organizations in search of free food, clothing, and medicines.

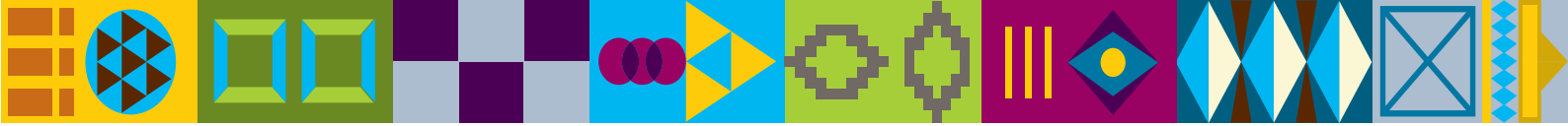
After three months, a social worker convinced Vitaliy that HIV testing could save his life, and he agreed. When his test result was reactive, it was not the result he had hoped for.

” Natalia also remembers his reaction well: *“Rejection, resistance. It seemed that he felt fear for the first time. Vitaliy did not want to finally confirm the diagnosis and make an appointment with a doctor.”*

However, the social worker provided all possible support to Vitaliy and explained the importance of starting HIV treatment. Additional tests at the clinic revealed serious complications with tuberculosis. It was a great challenge for Vitaliy, but with the help of social workers, he managed to get through it and started taking ART. *“Of course, there are difficult moments, but I know that I am not alone, and I have support”,* — Vitaliy says.

In total, at least 832 clients decided to get HIV tests because of a demand generation campaign implementation; the advertisements, billboards, posters, etc, led to the detection of 11 positive cases.





● MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS

Three vehicles for mobile medical teams were transferred to the CO 100 Percent Of Life. Kyiv Region and CO Chernihiv Branch of Charitable Organization All-Ukrainian Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS to enable doctors to visit communities and provide medical services there without hindrance.

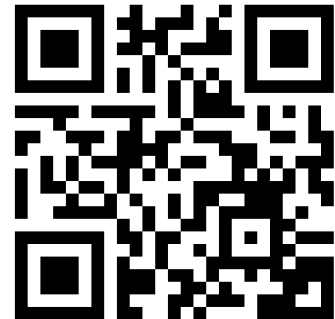
With the support of USAID, we are actively implementing comprehensive mobile services to restore access to healthcare services at the community level. We believe that this approach will be used to invest in the health of Ukrainian citizens in addition to the state-supported Medical Guarantee Program to local community governments.

Volodymyr Kurpita, COP of USAID-funded Community Action for HIV Control project



Meanwhile, MMTs continue to work in the communities of Kyiv, Chernihiv and Zhytomyr oblasts. In April, 591 people received medical and psychosocial support services.

The work of MMTs is highly valued in many countries around the world where there is limited access to medical facilities. In Ukraine, MMTs successfully operate in different regions, providing various medical and psychosocial support services. Read about how we work and how this activity is implemented in other countries in this article on Pact's website: <https://bit.ly/44jcLeY>



● MOBILE PHARMACIES

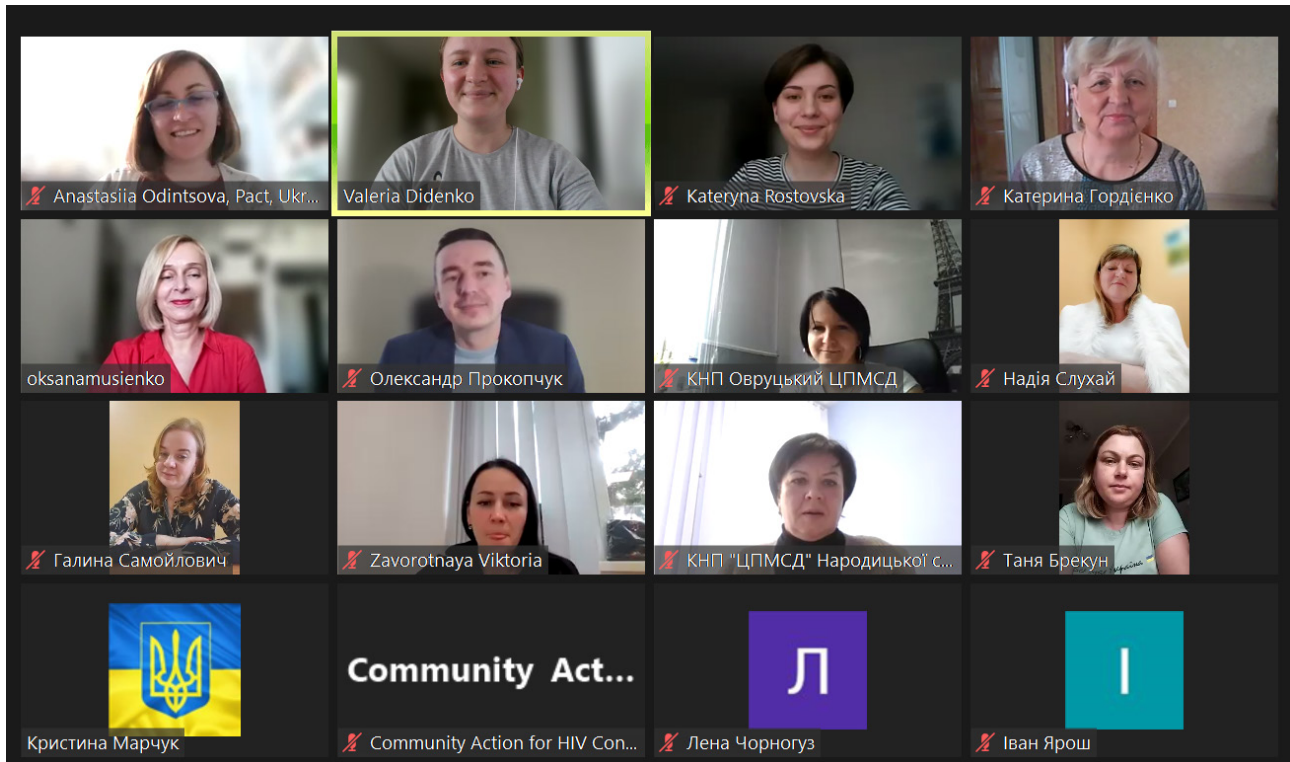
On May 21, we will hold a roundtable discussion called "Mobile Pharmacies in Communities: Peculiarities of Work and Challenges," where, together with partners and stakeholders, we will discuss common problems in the work of mobile pharmacies and develop solutions. All the details are coming soon, but for now, save the date and time (10am) in your calendar!



● HEALTH AMBASSADORS

There are already 26 health ambassadors working in Chernihiv and Zhytomyr oblasts, and Kyiv is tirelessly recruiting new ambassadors to join its ranks. In the communities, they are the first liaisons between MMT doctors and community residents, and they take care of motivating their neighbors to start taking care of their health. The scopes of work and program documents are already available on linktree: https://linktr.ee/cahc_restoration

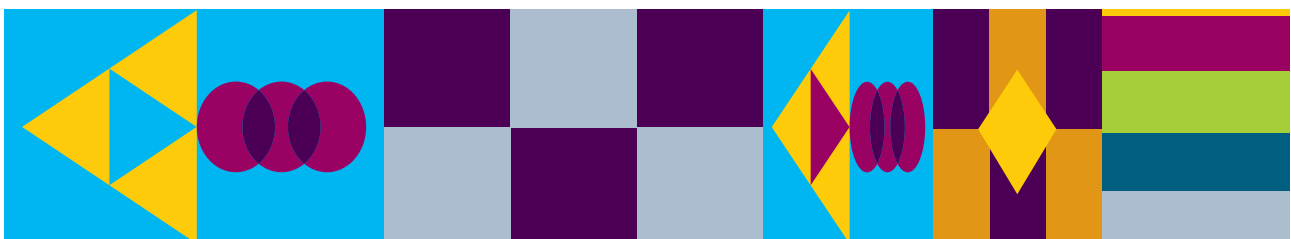
We conducted an online training for future ambassadors on the role of health ambassadors in preventing non-communicable diseases and promoting healthy lifestyles among community members. First, we explored the algorithms of actions, specific routes for community residents, and ways to effectively talk to them: how to gently influence and persuade, talk about health, and be heard.



● PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SPACE

Our partner organizations have already selected 32 locations and signed memorandums with local governments to open psychological support spaces. Now, residents of remote and de-occupied communities will be able to receive professional psychological assistance online as close as possible to their place of residence.

The concept of psychological support spaces: <https://bit.ly/3UtzcdQ>



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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