



# USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## HEALTH



USAID brochure provides information how to fight TB. (Photo: Olha Myrtyalo)

### THE CHALLENGE

Almost 30 percent of Ukraine's population still lives below the poverty line. Social and economic realities and an overburdened health care system challenge Ukraine's ability to address rising rates of infectious diseases, especially TB. Infant and maternal mortality rates and abortion rates are high in comparison to other countries in the region.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Expand DOTS approaches to improve TB treatment outcomes and prevent TB/HIV co-infection and multi-drug resistant and extensively drug-resistant – TB.
- Improve mother and infant health services.
- Reduce abortion rates through increased use of modern contraceptives.

### OVERVIEW

USAID's programs in health focus on improving the availability and effectiveness of health services and ensuring that Ukrainians are better-informed health consumers. USAID also works to increase Government of Ukraine (GOU) capacity to provide quality services in family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH), maternal and infant health, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB). In addition, USAID supports the development of a collaborative relationship between civil society and government to expand access to and improve quality of health services and advocate for a more transparent health management system and supply chain.

### OUR PROGRAMS

#### Tuberculosis Prevention and Control

USAID supports policy change and helps the GOU implement the National TB program. Past USAID programs focused on strengthening the laboratory network for quality TB diagnostics, improving treatment regimens, mobilizing community support, and institutionalizing best practices. Since 2007, USAID has been working to increase access to quality TB services based on the WHO-recommended *Directly Observed Treatment Short course* (DOTS) strategy. A new five-year project, *Strengthening TB Control in Ukraine* focuses on improving TB treatment outcomes and adherence to appropriate TB treatment regimens. It seeks to ensure the implementation of effective management of multi-drug-resistant (MDR) TB cases, an effective response to growing rates of TB-HIV co-infection and the strengthening of pharmaceutical systems.

#### Maternal and Infant Health

USAID has supported effective, evidence-based mother and infant health care services in Ukraine since 2002. USAID supports the Ministry of Health in developing national guidelines and clinical protocols for inpatient and outpatient services, as well as to revise educational curriculum for medical universities and colleges. Currently, USAID, in close consultation with the GOU and its Perinatal Care Initiative, provides on-site, technical assistance to institutionalize effective pregnancy, safer birthing and newborn care practices in Kharkiv and Crimea oblasts.

#### Family Planning/Reproductive Health

USAID seeks to reduce high rates of abortion and unintended pregnancies through increasing the appropriate and effective use of modern contraceptive methods. Communicating the benefits of modern contraception and reducing the fear of hormonal contraception is the major focus of a new *Healthy Women of Ukraine* project. This project works with health providers to improve counseling skills in those oblasts not assisted from 2005-2010. USAID pursues partnerships with private pharmaceutical companies to improve the dissemination of information about modern FP methods. With a view towards sustainability of FP services, USAID supports local capacity building of a leading Ukrainian FP NGO and smaller regional NGOs working on women's rights, HIV/AIDS and with youth. Finally, USAID supports the Ministry of Health to implement the State Program *Reproductive Health of the Nation Program until 2015*.

## **IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

### **Strengthening TB Control in Ukraine:**

Chemonics International,  
Program for Appropriate  
Technology in Health

### **Maternal and Infant Health Project II:**

JSI Research and Training  
Institute, Inc.

### **Healthy Women in Ukraine Project :**

JSI Research and Training  
Institute, Inc.

### **Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems:**

Management Sciences for  
Health

### **Health Systems 20/20:**

Abt Associates Inc.

### **Technical Assistance on HIV and TB:**

World Health Organization  
(WHO)

**For more information, please  
contact USAID/Ukraine  
Development Outreach &  
Communications,  
tel. (+380-44) 537-4600 or visit  
<http://ukraine.usaid.gov>  
or  
[http://www.facebook.com/  
USAIDUkraine](http://www.facebook.com/USAIDUkraine)**

April 2012

## **Health Systems Strengthening**

USAID works to improve financing, management and operations in selected health facilities in Crimea through the optimization of services and building institutional capacity. This assistance is directed to determine more efficient ways to use available human and financial resources. USAID is also supporting the Ministry of Health of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea with the creation of a University Clinic.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **TB**

Since 2001, USAID has provided technical assistance to the Government of Ukraine to combat the TB epidemic, from initiating to rolling out the DOTS strategy to regions with the highest TB burden. Together with the Ministry of Health, USAID assistance has increased access to quality TB services, reached 50 percent of the population, and demonstrated the effectiveness of the DOTS-based approach in TB diagnosis and treatment. Over 5,000 individuals, including primary health care providers, were trained in *Stop TB Strategy* elements to integrate best practices into the primary health care system.

USAID technical assistance also introduced best practices in TB recording and reporting systems to improve TB program management. The Ministry of Health adopted an electronic TB information system for Ukraine that improves case management, strengthens provision of medicines, and monitors drug prescription practices. The system will help reduce the risk of the development of drug-resistant forms of TB. TB diagnosis rates increased through improved laboratory systems and institutionalization of quality assurance procedures. Almost 70 percent of laboratories have improved performance in microscopy diagnosis.

### **Maternal and Infant Health Care**

USAID assisted the Ministry of Health to develop and disseminate more than 50 evidence-based clinical protocols in obstetrics, neonatology, pediatrics and infection control. Over 16,000 health care professionals were trained in infection control, quality improvement, neonatal resuscitation, communication, counseling and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, monitoring and evaluation. Technical assistance for maternal and child care was provided to 20 Ukrainian regions. More than 50 percent of births today in Ukraine directly benefit from these evidence-based perinatal technologies.

### **Reproductive Health/Family Planning**

Access to modern FP services increased eight-fold from 343 health facilities in 2005 to over 3,630 in 2011. Approximately 75 percent of Ukraine's population of reproductive age in 15 oblasts of Ukraine has been reached with modern FP practices and information. Over 10,600 health providers (ob-gyns, family doctors, nurses and midwives) have received training in reproductive health, post-partum and post-abortion FP, and can counsel on modern FP methods.

Around 14 million people have learned about the advantages of modern FP methods. As a result, positive attitudes towards modern contraception in Ukraine increased by 10 percent. The updated post-graduate FP curriculum was introduced in 13 medical universities in Ukraine. The capacity of 30 NGOs was strengthened to provide educational activities and advocate for state support for FP.