



# USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## COMBATING HIV/AIDS



Street children studying at the Caritas NGO Day Care Center, Donetsk. The Center was supported by the USAID SUNRISE project. (Photo: Natalia Kravchuk)

### OVERVIEW

USAID has worked with the Government of Ukraine (GOU), other donors, multilateral and international agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to prevent transmission of HIV and contain the spread of HIV among most-at-risk populations since 2001. Under the *President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR)*, the U.S. Government (USG) signed a Partnership Framework with the GOU on Cooperation in Countering HIV/AIDS from 2011-2015 on February 15, 2011, which serves as an umbrella for ongoing and expanded HIV/AIDS programming in Ukraine. Furthermore, USAID programs leverage grant resources from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) for HIV prevention activities for most-at-risk populations (MARPs), outreach to street children and youth, and TB/HIV co-infection.

### THE CHALLENGE

Ukraine is experiencing the most severe HIV/AIDS epidemic in the European region and the Commonwealth of Independent States. At the end of 2009, the estimated HIV prevalence among the adult (15-49 year old) age group was 1.29 percent. UNAIDS estimates that there are 350,000 people living with HIV. The reported cumulative number of clients registered with national AIDS Centers by the end of 2011 was 202,811.

The HIV epidemic in Ukraine continues to be driven by unsafe drug injection and sexual practices, and remains concentrated among most-at-risk populations, including people who inject drugs, prisoners, commercial sex workers, men having sex with men, and the sexual partners of these populations.

Since 2007, the reported primary mode of HIV transmission has been shifting from injecting drug use to sexual transmission through the partners of most-at-risk populations (MARPs), showing a changing epidemic pattern and the necessity to focus future prevention efforts increasingly on MARPs while continuing to scale up comprehensive prevention activities for male and female who inject drugs.

### OUR PROGRAMS

USAID provides support to reduce the transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS through the promotion and adoption of preventive behaviors; increased provision of state-of-the-art comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment services to MARPs, with a focus on building civil society service delivery capacity; improved access to TB/HIV co-infection services at the national level and in USAID-supported areas; and building national support for services targeted to MARPs such as medication-assisted therapy (MAT). USAID also helps reduce the policy, legal, regulatory and fiscal barriers inhibiting access to quality HIV/AIDS related services in order to meet international standards, and increases institutional capacity of civil society and public sector institutions to ensure sustainable delivery of quality services.

USAID has increased prevention services to MARPs, particularly injecting drug users, as injecting drug use is a primary driver of Ukraine's epidemic. USAID has piloted comprehensive care service models for HIV-infected people who inject drugs that could be replicated throughout the country. Methadone-based treatment programs have been initiated in five regions and USAID's targeted technical assistance will strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of medication assisted treatment (MAT). Moreover, USAID programs strengthen collaboration between local governmental departments, NGOs and communities in high priority regions.

## HIV/AIDS PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK GOALS

- Reduce HIV transmission in PWID and other most at risk populations.
- Improve quality and cost-effectiveness of HIV services for most at risk populations.
- Strengthen national and local leadership, capacity, policies and resources.

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

**HIV/AIDS Service Capacity Project:**  
Futures Group International

**Strengthening Tuberculosis Control  
in Ukraine:**  
Chemonics International

**Technical Assistance on HIV and TB:**  
World Health Organization (WHO)

**Strengthening Pharmaceutical  
Systems:**  
Management Sciences for Health

**For more information, please contact  
USAID/Ukraine Development  
Outreach & Communications,  
tel. (+380-44) 537-4600 or visit  
<http://ukraine.usaid.gov>  
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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The PEPFAR program in Ukraine has leveraged considerable resources from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). A number of activities developed under USAID's HIV prevention program were later scaled-up and incorporated into Global Fund programs. The PEPFAR prevention program implemented by USAID has shown demonstrable results that suggest the influence of prevention activities on stemming the annual HIV incidence rate in Ukraine. While the spread of HIV has slowed nationally, the annual growth rate of HIV in the nine regions where USAID has focused its prevention efforts has been more or less eliminated. The growth rate of new HIV infection cases in 2004 was 27.4 percent and has dropped dramatically to just 1.2 percent in 2010.

Specific prevention programs, piloted through USAID's support and later scaled-up nationwide with Global Fund resources, include:

- Rapid HIV counseling and testing by civil society organizations for people who inject drugs, sex workers, and men who have sex with men in nine USG priority oblasts;
- Peer intervention model to cover hard-to-reach segments of people who inject drugs (young males, stimulant drugs users in 15 oblasts, females who inject drugs);
- needle and syringe exchange in communal and private pharmacies in three oblasts/regions; later expanded to 143 sites across the country;
- Designed, piloted and assessed integrated care model for medication-assisted therapy, antiretroviral treatment, and Tuberculosis for people who inject drugs in five oblasts.

Through USAID's support, a new AIDS law of Ukraine was approved in January 2011.

In 2011, USAID assistance reached 125,550 people who inject drugs, 23,819 commercial sex workers, 17,472 men who have sex with men, and 3,479 street children with HIV/AIDS information and services. The implementation of MAT projects in five regions for 310 HIV-positive people who inject drugs (of which 30 percent were women) achieved successful results. Over 93 million USG-donated condoms and 450,000 female condoms were distributed to service sites and NGOs that support HIV prevention efforts among MARPs. High quality HIV Counseling and Testing services were provided to 20,903 individuals.

Over 1,900 professionals from AIDS-service NGOs, Governmental services for youth, and AIDS Centers were trained in a variety of topics related to organizational development, human resource development and management, and HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment and support service delivery.