

Ukraine's experience in scaling-up HIV testing and further referral of high-risk population to health-care institutions

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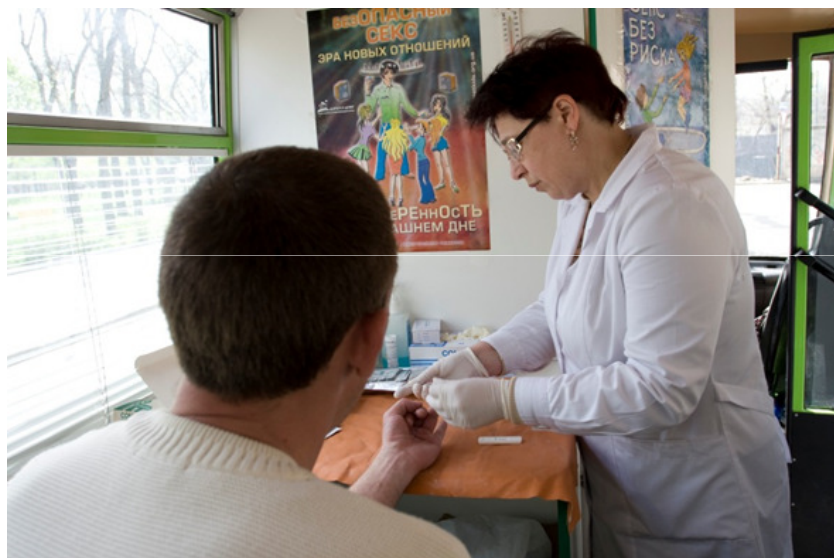
ICF “International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine”

Kyiv, Ukraine



Ukraine has one of the most severe HIV epidemics in Europe

- Estimated 350,000 people living with HIV and 1.1% HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-49 years – the second highest in Europe after Estonia (*as of the end of 2009 according to UNAIDS Global Report*).
- The sexual mode of HIV transmission has dominance in Ukraine
- The epidemic remains concentrated in high-risk groups



The major task was scaling-up of HIV detection among high-risk population particularly

- Estimated size of risk groups is the following: IDU-290 000, FSW-78 000, and MSM-95 000
- Only 25% of PLHA were tested and are aware of their status in Ukraine



Development of a comprehensive package of services for high-risk groups

We use a comprehensive package of services, representatives of risk groups can receive :

- counseling and testing on sexually transmitted infections (Syphilis, Gonorrhea and Chlamidiosis)
- followed by the direction of the complex STI-treatment



Prevention, testing, vaccination of viral hepatitis (B and C)

- testing on Viral Hepatitis B (HBsAg) and hepatitis C
- followed by the direction of the vaccination against viral hepatitis B
- HBcor –testing before vaccination against viral hepatitis B



Conduction of joint testing on HIV/STI/Viral Hepatitis

- Testing is conducted using rapid tests with usage of mono-tests and a combo-tests-simultaneous testing for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and C simultaneously



Testing in mobile clinic

- As of 31.12. 2011 (cumulative since 2008) was carried out 162 589 visits of the vulnerable groups by 15 mobile clinics
- In mobile clinics were provided the following services: VCT (using rapid tests), screening tests for STIs (syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia), and viral hepatitis B and C, pregnancy testing, counseling physicians (infectious, dermatovenereologists, gynecologists), distribution of informational materials, syringes, alcohol wipes, antiseptic, condoms (male, female) and in the direction to the HCIs for the treatment and vaccination



Training on testing and VCT for physicians of different specialties, working with high risk groups

- During 2011-2012 six trainings were conducted on VCT for NGOs and for physicians of different specialties, working with high risk groups
- VCT section was included in the program of four training sessions on STIs (4 trainings) and Hepatitis (2 trainings)



Informational activities of NGO staff and medical staff working with vulnerable groups

- Development of unified base of rapid testing points and placement of information on the website of Alliance and partner organizations
- An information film on the work with the rapid tests distributed to NGOs and posted on the website of the Alliance, produced information materials on HIV testing for groups at risk <http://www.aidsalliance.org.ua>
- Designed and implemented a "forwarding algorithm and account customers with a positive rapid test for HIV infection among NGOs and health facilities"

Our results

- HIV testing during last 4 years increased in 9 times (405 389 HIV tests were done on 01.01.2012, cumulative)
- 138 points of HIV rapid testing were created
- Over the past two years the number of HCI, where representatives of the groups at risk can be counseled and tested increased twice - narcodispensaries, STI clinics, TB-clinics, territorial medical associations and regional health centers
- Number of groups at risk covered with HIV prevention programs also increased for the last 4 years

We appreciate not only the process, but the HIV testing result

- Providing the target group forwarding and social support for those at risk to regional AIDS centers, confirmation of the diagnosis and with a positive diagnosis - staging for outpatient observation, the ability to timely receipt of antiretroviral therapy

Trend of increasing complaints from vulnerable groups for clarifying positive rapid test for HIV in medical institutions
(87, 6% in the second half of 2011)

The following has contributed greatly to increase in the number of HIV tests in Ukraine

- Development of a comprehensive package of services, introduction of combi tests
- Conduction of testing in the mobile van
- Involvement and mandatory training on testing and VCT for physicians of different specialties
- Possibility to obtain information on testing points' locations in each region through the Internet

Thank you for your attention!

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