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NEWS

60 SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE COMPANIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE UKRAINIAN MARKET

United Nations office in Ukraine has presented the first reference edition of socially responsible companies operating in the Ukrainian market. According to the information provided by “Deutsche welle” radio, the reference book included 60 transnational and domestic corporations that adhere to the principles of the Global agreement in the field of human rights, labour standards, protection of the environment and counteraction to corruption.

“The reference book is the indicator of the preparedness of the Ukrainian business to work under the international standards in the social sphere”, - considers Francis O’DONNELL, coordinator of the UN system in Ukraine. He pointed out that this should be the concern of both private companies and the state. “This publication has demonstrated that Ukraine complies with democratic standards in the social sphere and respects the principles of corporate responsibility of the business. And this means that the country is moving continuously moving towards European integration”, - says Mr. F. O’DONNELL. The main criteria for the selection of companies that have been included into the reference book were social protection of employees. Protection of the environment and adherence to business ethics. The UN system coordinator has noted that most problems emerged in connection with the issues of ethics concerning the employees suffering from HIV/AIDS. The companies that respect the rights of HIV positive people in Ukraine are few and far between. At the same time, Mr. Vasyl KOSTRYTSA, national representative of the International Labour organization is convinced that the Ukrainian business does not have comprehensive social responsibility, since the wage arrears of the domestic enterprises have reached UAH 800 million now. But gradually, according to him, businessmen realize the pragmatism of investing into the social sphere.

SPECIAL COMMISSION WILL REVIEW THE LEGAL GROUND FOR LEASING OUT PREMISES WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF “OHMATDYT’ PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL – MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Commission has been created in the Ministry of Health that will review the legal and judicial relationships of the Ukrainian specialized paediatric hospital “Ohmatdyt” and legal entities that rent premises in the territory of this paediatric medical institution. This information was delivered at press conference by Valeriy IVASYUK, deputy minister of health who will head the commission.

According to him, in pursuance to the Decree of the President and the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers Ukrainian paediatric AIDS centre has been opened in the territory of “Ohmatdyt” where presently only 6 beds are available.

As has been pointed out by Mr. V.IVASYUK, in May this year V.BIDNYI, the then acting minister of health, issued an order by which the heads of the regional (oblast) departments of health must forward all children with AIDS – and there are 7,000 of them – for treatment to the Ukrainian paediatric AIDS centre. It is

natural, pointed out the deputy minister, that the bed availability will not be sufficient to fulfil this order. In the meantime, he emphasized that the tenants at “Ohmatdyt” are 18 economic entities including a tyre fitting working shop, a café, etc.

Apart from the inspection of the lease agreements, the commission, according to Mr. V. IVASYUK, will track all the circumstances that have interfered with the comprehensive performance the Ukrainian paediatric AIDS centre.

THE MORBIDITY RATE FOR ACTIVE FORMS OF TB DISEASE IN KYIV HAS DECREASED BY 15.5%

In the first half of 2007 the morbidity date for active forms of TB disease has decreased by 15.5% - from 26.5 down to 22.4 per 100,000 people compared to the same period of 2006.

This information has been reported on September 14 by Mrs. Lyudmyla KACHUROVA, head of the Main department of health and medical supplies during the extended panel of the Kyiv State City Administration.

In particular, according to her information, the decrease of the incidence rate for TB disease has been observed in children and adolescents – the relevant morbidity value has gone down by 6,45%. A total of 13 children have been diagnosed with active TB disease making 2.9 per 100,000 paediatric population, whereas a total of 14 children were diagnosed with the disease for the same period of last year – 3.1 per 100,000 of paediatric population.

Mrs. L. KACHUROVA has also reported that a total of 130 people have died of TB disease in Kyiv during the first half of this year (the mortality rate is 4.8 per 100,000 people). According to her, the analysis of the death cases provides evidence of the fact that the specific share of people without permanent residence (49 persons) and patients with combines TB/HIV has increased in the structure of the mortality rate, as well as in the structure of the morbidity rate.

The number of public health TB prevention examinations has gone up by 3.8% over the reporting period – from 309.6 to 321.5 per 1,000 people.

According to the official information of the Main Department of Health, in effect as of January 01, 2007, a total of 19, 148 patients were on dispensary control list with anti-TB medical institutions in the capital city, of which figure 2,176 were having active TB disease, including 1,400 bacteria discharging persons.

THE FIRST MEDICAL CENTRE WITH COMPLETE ASSISTANCE CYCLE FOR PREMATURE NEONATES HAS BEEN OPENED IN ODESA

On September 25, “Kolysky nadiyi” (cradles of hope) Assistance Centre for neonates was opened at the site of perinatal centre at Odesa oblast clinical hospital as part of the national program of Viktor Pinchuk Foundation.

The news has been reported by the organizers of the event.

“Kolysky nadiyi” Odesa centre is distinguished from the similar medical facilities by being “the first in Ukraine specialized unit designed for the complete cycle of medical assistance to children with extremely low body weight”, - clarified Mr. Mykola BAYAZITOV, deputy chief medical officer of the hospital. The Centre is

equipped with infant incubators, including a moveable one, two neonatal resuscitation tables and two resuscitation kits for the neonates, the device for artificial ventilation of the lungs and other appliances.

The “Kolysky nadiyi” centre has also been supplied with computer work station, digital camera and multifunctional printer appliance, a scanner device, a copy machine. The cost of all the equipment is more than 145,000 US dollars.

According to the deputy chief medical officer, labour of certain abnormalities are performed at the oblast perinatal centre, including HIV pregnant women. In this regard, the centre is having the lowest rate of the foetus infection in Ukraine at 4.5% (according to the Ministry of Health, the average relevant rate in Ukraine is at 8.2%).

Reference information from UNIAN. According to the data of Odesa oblast department of health, a total of 12, 399 infants were born in the region in the first half of 2007 (11, 779 for the same period of 2006). Of this figure, a total of 25 were premature neonates with extremely low body mass, failed rescue rate was 85%. In total, 143 neonates died in the region during the period January-July (a total of 152 rescue failures were recorded in the first half of 2006).

A total of 2, 258 infants were delivered at the oblast clinical hospital over the first 6 months of this year, with 38 rescue failures.

The “Kolysky nadiyi” program has being implemented for more than a year now. Over this period of time, centres have been opened in Chernihiv, Volodymyrka, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Ovruch, Chernivtsi, Bakhchisaray and Ismail. The opening of the similar centres has been planned for Donetsk and Simferopol. During the time of the program implementation, assistance has been delivered to around 16,000 neonates at the partner clinics. In 2006, the Pinchuk Foundation allocated UAH 2, 525, 000 for these purposes, and UAH 9, 595,000 in 2007.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMISSIONER APPEALS FOR UKRAINE FOR IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Mr. Thomas HAMMARBERG, Council of Europe commissioner for human rights has appealed for Ukraine to immediately improve the human rights protection.

This has been mentioned in the report of the commissioner for human rights in Ukraine made public on October 3.

The report has been based on the surveys the commissioner carried out during his trip to Ukraine in December 2006 when Mr. T. HAMMARBERG visited Kyiv, Lviv and Odesa and had meetings with representatives of the Ukrainian authorities, members of the government, MPs, representatives of the civil society and leading experts on human rights issues.

The commissioner, in particular, expressed his concern for the corruption in judicial process, for too wide supervisory functions on part of the prosecutor's office and the length of the judicial proceedings. In connection with this, the commissioner has given his recommendations to the Ukrainian authorities to apply immediate measures to overcome these shortfalls in the judicial sphere.

The report also highlighted the episodes of tortures, improper attitude towards inmates, and insufficient access to public attorneys. Mr. T. HAMMARBERG has recommended to carry out a number of measures, including wit regard to the establishment of comprehensive policy on the record of episodes of improper

behaviour on the part of militia representatives, as well as on the improvement of medical and sanitary conditions at pre-trial-detention centres (SIZOs).

The report also indicates the cruel attitude towards women, human trafficking and the problems with children's rights that have been identified by the government as the most immediate priorities. The commissioner has pointed out that the problem of cruelty concerning women is a clearly defined social problem, and he has recommended concrete steps for the improvement of the situation. According to the commissioner, urgent steps are also required in the improvement of the protection of the rights of children, as well as in the combat against pornography, narcotic drugs and human trafficking.

The commissioner of the Council of Europe has also expressed his concern over the spread of HIV/AIDS in Ukraine and has given his recommendations to the state authorities to improve access to treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of people infected with the virus. The commissioner has appealed for the government to immediately create a national plan of actions to stop the pandemics by including wide public awareness campaign into the plan.

The report has expressed concern over the exclusion of the elderly people, homeless persons and "street" children from social life.

The commissioner has also stressed the need to remove obstacles with regard to the implementation of the laws on the rights of minorities. According to him, it is essential to ensure social integration of Gypsies and Crimean Tatars, as well as to effectively implement the European charter of regional languages into the educational system.

In addition, Mr. T. HAMMARBERG emphasized the need to ensure the legal status of property of the religious communities and the importance of satisfying the judgements with regard to the return of the property and facilitating the enhancement of the dialogue between religious trends.

The commissioner of the Council of Europe has also appealed for Ukraine to ratify the Convention of the Council of Europe concerning actions against human trafficking and to implement its provision in practice as soon as possible.

In his report, the commissioner of the Council of Europe has also expressed his hopes that the new Ukrainian government will listen to his recommendations and will implement them in practice.

UKRAINE TAKES INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH CUBA CONCERNING BEST PRACTICES EXCHANGE ON HIV/AIDS COUNTERACTION

Ukrainian medical specialists take interest in further cooperation with Cuban colleagues concerning the exchange of best practices and advanced modern technologies in counteracting HIV/AIDS, learning the Cuban model of providing primary medical and sanitary assistance, financial facilities and methods of funds distribution for the needs of the family medicine for possible implementation in Ukraine, the exchange of educational plans and programs for educational training of doctors, managers, medium medical personnel and standards of rendering medical assistance, as well as health promotion of Ukrainian children with HIV.

According to information from the press office of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, this was discussed on October 9 during the meeting of the work group on healthcare issues of the Intergovernmental Ukrainian-Cuban commission for trade and economic and research and technical cooperation.

During the meeting the course of the work implementation was also reviewed, in accordance with the provisions of the bilateral Agreement. The Parties have confirmed their readiness to continue their cooperation in the sphere of health and development of medical and pharmaceutical industry.

According to information from the press office of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, cooperation has been stepping up on the creation of joint ventures for manufacturing of medicinal products. A number of agreements have already been executed between Ukrainian and Cuban pharmaceutical enterprises. The production of the Cuban vaccine for hepatitis B has been launched in Ukraine. Free approval of Cuban-made medicinal products have been carried out in Ukraine. Over the six months of 2007, the import of pharmaceutical products manufactured in Cuba has made up 417.14 thousand US dollars; the export has been 18.89 thousand US dollars.

Issues have been agreed upon on mutual recognition of the approved medicinal products, establishment in Ukraine of manufacturing facilities for production of ready-made medicinal formulations on the basis of Cuban active pharmaceutical ingredients, cooperation between Cuban and Ukrainian research and development institutes with the purpose of development and evaluation of new vaccines, assistance to the Cuban side in supplying the UAZ-derived ambulance vehicles for hard-to-reach mountain regions.

Members of the working group have confirmed the readiness of Cuba to continue the Programme of providing medical assistance to children affected by Chernobyl catastrophe implemented at "Tarara" paediatric hospital.

AIDS AND AUTHORITIES

THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION IN 2007 OF THE NATIONWIDE PROGRAMME OF YOUTH SUPPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2008

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by its decree # 621-p dated August 08, 2007 approved measures for the implementation in 2007 of the Nationwide programme of youth support for the period 2004-2008.

In particular, the government has binded over the Ministry for family, youth and sports, the Ministry of education and science, the Ministry of health, the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC), oblast (regional), Kyiv and Sevastopol city state administrations to provide for the information support of the population on the consequences of spreading HIV/AIDS in Ukraine, non-medical use of narcotic products, damage from tobacco smoking and abuse of alcohol.

The activities will be carried out under the funding of the state budget.

The government has also binded over the Ministries and Agencies to provide with deadline December 15, 2007 the Ministry for family, youth and sports with the information on the progress status for its generalization and submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by January 15, 2008.

MINISTERS OF HEALTH OF UKRAINE AND GERMANY HAVE SIGNED DECLARATION ON COOPERATION

Ministers of health of Ukraine and Germany, Mr. Yuri GAYDAYEV and Mrs. Ulla Schmidt have signed the Joint declaration on cooperation between Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of public health.

According to information from the press office of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the declaration was signed on September 20 in Kyiv subsequent to the results of the negotiations of the ministers.

"I am very glad that we have managed to sign this agreement that is the result of cooperation and at the same time activates friendly relationships between our countries. We have agreed to cooperate in many directions in the field of medicine on the basis of neighbourhood. Each party has something to learn and something to offer", - said Mrs. U. Schmidt, the Federal minister.

During the working meeting of the ministers, discussions were made on the progress of reforms in the field of healthcare in Ukraine and Germany, main directions have been identified in cooperation for counteraction to HIV/AIDS, preventive measures against narcotic abuse, infectious and non-infectious diseases, provision of medical assistance to children and mothers, the development of the family doctor institution, improvement of the treatment quality standards. The parties will have meetings at the highest level at least once per year.

"Germany is the leader in the European medicine. Therefore, cooperation with German medical specialists has been very important for us. In addition, we are coming over to a new level in our relationships in the field of healthcare, that is, the official cooperation", - summarized Mr. Y. GAYDAYEV.

At the same time, direct discussions took place between representatives of the partner clinics of the Federal Republic of Germany who possess vast practical experience and willingness to cooperate, and Ukraine on the issues of advance professional training for the Ukrainian medical personnel in the Federal Republic of Germany, implementation of up-to-date technologies, modern methods of diagnostics, clinical and surgery interventions, post-surgery rehabilitation in the fields of oncology and emergency medical assistance. German partners will familiarize Ukrainian colleagues with national approaches concerning the organization, identification of the structure and reasonable utilization of professional personnel.

It has been agreed that the bilateral cooperation will be taking place in the form of the following direct partnerships: between the clinic of Murnau and Kyiv clinical hospital of emergency medical assistance and the clinic of Augsburg and Dnipropetrovsk oblast oncological dispensary.

ON SEPTEMBER 22 CHARITY ACTION "RACE FOR LIFE" WAS HELD IN THE DOWNTOWN OF KYIV

In the downtown of Kyiv – in Khreschatyk and Independence Maidan a charity action was held titled "Race for Life".

According to information from the press office of Shevchenkovsky city of Kyiv rayon state administration who was the organizer of the event, the race took place as part of the celebrations dedicated to the rayon's 70th anniversary.

The main purpose of the "Race for life" action was to provide opportunities to all the well-wishers to make their donations in resolving the issues of overcoming the HIV/AIDS epidemics in Ukraine. The funds obtained as a result of the performed action event will be directed to the improvement of the facilities at specialized medical institutions where assistance will be rendered to mothers and children with HIV. In particular, the funds will be provided to Kyiv maternity house # 4 (16, Heroiv Stalingradu vul.), the only maternity house in the city where pregnant women with HIV AIDS receive treatment and deliver; and the

Ukrainian paediatric specialized hospital; “Ohmatdyt” (28/1, Chornovola vul.) where children with HIV receive treatment at separate infectious department.

SOCIETY

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS HAD APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH HIV THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS AT TIME OF ARREST

Non-government organizations have appealed to the government authorities to resolve the issue of providing the opportunity of receiving antiretroviral medications to persons with HIV at time of their detention and arrest.

This information was reported on September 26 by Mr. Pavlo SKALA, acting director of the department of policy and communications of the International HIV/AIDS alliance in Ukraine, during the press conference at UNIAN agency premises.

According to him, at present time there has been great number of cases when HIV-positive persons and patents with AIDS were deprived of their right to receive the prescribed medicinal products under conditions of temporary detention or arrest.

Mrs. Viktoriya BONDAR, head of the national advocacy project of the international charity foundation “Vertical” pointed out that this situation was about the threat to the health of people with HIV.

According to her, in the event these people fail to receive the medications on time, the process of treatment is interrupted, thus possibly leading to severe consequences for the health of these persons, and sometimes even their death. In this respect, she added that nowadays in Ukraine almost 6,000 people are receiving antiretroviral therapy.

Mrs. Lyudmyla STOROZHUK, deputy director of the Ukrainian AIDS prevention and control centre, has reported that non-government organizations initiated the resolution of this issue. According to her, the working group was created by the order of Mr. Yuriy GAYDAYEV, the Minister of health, that developed the draft Instruction “On the procedures for treating persons receiving antiretroviral medications at time of their detention and arrest (taking into custody)”. Mrs. L. STOROZHUK has also added that this document is now pending approval at the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and following its validation it has to be registered at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

A participant of the press conference having HIV-positive status has informed that was recently retained by Obolon rayon militia station officers and he had to many times ask the officer who were taking him under custody with the request to provide him with the drugs for treatment. He has pointed out that his diagnosis was disclosed and he actually did not manage to receive the required therapy.

Mr. P. Skala, in his turn, stressed that these kinds of episodes are not uncommon. He expressed his opinion that in this manner the Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is being violated in Ukraine. Mr. P.SKALA has also emphasized that as of today nobody has cancelled the provisions of the laws of Ukraine with regard to the strict observance of human rights to receive treatment and medical assistance, including from law-enforcing authorities.

According to Mr. P. Skala, the adoption of the interdepartmental instruction will enable to outline the procedures for provision of medical assistance to sick people who are temporarily under custody or arrest.

IN KRYVYY RIG A TOTAL AMOUNT OF SOCIAL ADVERTISING HAS MADE UP 1,300 HOURS OVER THE 6-MONTH PERIOD

Around 1,300 hours of broadcasting video clips and almost 500 m² of posters of social advertising "StopAIDS: this applies to everyone" has been disseminated over the 6-month period by Kryvyy Rig city department of All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV.

Kryvyy Rig city department of All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV over the period of 6 months has been providing support for the implementation in Kryvyy Rig of the awareness campaign titled "StopAIDS: this applies to everyone" that is released as part of the Ukrainian media partnership in struggle against HIV/AIDS.

For instance, over the period of implementation of the campaign in Kryvyy Rig, video- and audio clips have been broadcasted on TV and plasma screens in public transport, city lights and billboards on outside carriers across the city.

By placing the social advertising in its city, Kryvyy Rig city department of All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV contributes to the public awareness of this issue, the reduction of the stigma and discrimination of HIV-positive people. Better awareness of people on the threat of HIV, on the HIV/AIDS epidemics in Ukraine, on the routes of HIV transfer must decrease the number of new incidence episodes of infection with human immune deficiency virus. Indeed, the epidemics have continued to spread in Ukraine and in Dnipropetrovsk oblast, in particular. Thus, in 2006 a total of 2,465 new cases of HIV have been recorded in Dnipropetrovsk oblast (2,045 in 2005). The fact that the epidemics has continued to grow has been evidenced by this year data: over the 6month period of 2007 a total of 1,383 new cases of HIV have been recoded in the oblast, whereas over 6 months of 2996 a total of 1,313 new cases of HIV were recorded. According to the data of Dnipropetrovsk oblast AIDS prevention and control centre, in affect as of the first half of the year 2006 the cases of HIV were recorded in all rayons (districts) of the oblast, however, the most affected with epidemics were regarded the cities of Kryvyy Rig (5,282 cases), Dnipropetrovsk (2, 387 cases) and Ternivka (517). In total, the incidence rate of HIV in Kryvyy Rig rayon for the first half of the year 2006 was 386.8 persons per 100, 000 residents.

More detailed information can be obtained at Kryvyy Rig city department of All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV by telephone in Kryvyy Rig +380 564 51 05 79.

PINCHUK FOUNDATION HAS JOINED CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

Pinchuk Foundation has joined Clinton Global Initiative at the 3rd annual conference during which William Clinton announced the beginning of the international programme of the project. Earlier, the project united businessmen, civil and political figures mainly in the USA.

W. CLINTON appraised the charity contribution made by Pinchuk Foundation. "I would like to thank Viktor PINCHUK and Olena FRANCHUK for their active social activity and support rendered to our international programme", - pointed out W. CLINTON at the conference.

According to the information provided by Pinchuk foundation, this took place at the third conference of the members of the Clinton Global Initiative.

V. PINCHUK, in his turn, thanked W. CLINTON and said that his foundation indentified those most important directions that required investment to resolve problems that the mankind was facing. "The Foundation creates conditions for the accumulation of efforts of philanthropists and public figures. And thanks to this opportunity appears to resolve the objective of this scale, that would not have been possible to resolve all alone", - said V. PINCHUK.

In his opinion, the international programme Clinton Global Initiative will help create global charity network that will enable to coordinate and unite the activities of the well-doers from different countries.

The Clinton Global Initiative has already assisted Ukraine in granting access to special prices for medications to HIV-positive people and patients with AIDS. Thanks to W. CLINTON, the price of these medications for Ukraine was reduced by almost 10 times.

During the course of the 3rd conference of the members of the Clinton Global Initiative, the philanthropists pledged to implement 2,400 charity projects that would encompass more than 100 million people around the globe.

NETWORK OF JOURNALISTS IS BEING CREATED IN KYRGYZSTAN TO HIGHLIGHT HIV-RELATED ISSUES

Non-government Foundation "Rainbow Information centre" has presented its new project called "The creation of network of friendly journalists" that is being implemented by the financial support of the "Soros – Kyrgyzstan" Foundation.

"Of all others, the journalists can help improve the public awareness level for the HIV-related issues, and create favourable environment in the society for the prevention of this disease. Indeed, HIV has been written about, video clips have been created, however, according to our mini-survey, all this have not been enough. At present, due to HIV transmission to children in Naukatsky and Kara-Suuysky districts of Osh region the issue of discrimination of these people has become more challenging", - says Mr. Dilshad ATABAYEV, the project coordinator.

The information centre has developed a series of seminars for local media workers not only on the issue of HIV prevention and their highlighting in the media, but also on the issue of social prejudices and discrimination of people with HIV.

Apart from the seminars, the foundation is planning to arrange regular press-conferences, consultations for journalists and, at the end of the project, a TV debates involving the media, non-government and government organizations.

REGIONAL TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS ON THE ISSUES OF HIV/AIDS AND TUBERCULOSIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN DONETSK

On November 01, 2007 the organization "Transatlantic partners against AIDS" (TPAA) will held a regional training in Donetsk for journalists and editors on the subject of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. The training will take place owing to the financial support of the US Agency for International Development (USAID)

as part of the Ukrainian media-partnership in the struggle against HIV/AIDS (UMP), the implementation of which being coordinated by the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) and “Transatlantic partners against AIDS” (TPAA).

During the training the issues such as the current progression of the HIV/AIDS epidemics in Ukraine, including Donetsk oblast, will be discussed. In addition, discussions will take place at the training on the impact HIV/AIDS epidemics is having on the modern society. In addition, such aspects will be discussed as the most common mistakes as to the access to HIV/AIDS medications and therapy, as well as the important role of the media journalists and editors in highlighting these issues. Special attention will be given to the issues of the journalists’ ethics and social responsibility of journalists. The issues of human rights in the context of HIV will be reviewed in detail, as well as the aspects related to stigma and discrimination of HIV-positive people. Also, as part of the training a separate module will be dedicated to the issue of HIV/associated tuberculosis and TB epidemics in Ukraine in general.

On the training programme for journalists

The training programme for journalists improves the awareness and strengthens the capacity of the Russian and Ukrainian journalists and editors in the issues of HIV/AIDS for the purpose of increased quality and frequency of publications/reports in the media concerning HIV/AIDS and the related issues. TPPA has developed a complex educational programme on HIV/AIDS for media workers, and has been providing Russian and Ukrainian journalists and editors educational opportunities to improve their understanding of the situation regarding HIV/AIDS epidemics; has provided support for them to create analytical publications or programmes on HIV/AIDS and related issues; as well as making them capable of providing better educational support to the public on the routes of prevention of the infection and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

On Ukrainian media-partnership against HIV/AIDS (UMP)

The Ukrainian media-partnership against HIV/AIDS (UMP) was established with the purpose of improving the public awareness on the issues of HIV/AIDS, overcoming discrimination of HIV-positive people and reducing the rate of the epidemics spread in Ukraine. UMP consolidates leading Ukrainian mass media, advertising agencies, and government and non-government organizations in Ukraine in the conduct of informational campaign on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. UMP is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and its coordination is being carried out by the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) and “Transatlantic partners against AIDS” (TPAA).

The conduct of the training became possible thanks to the financial support provided by the US Agency for International Development (USAID-Ukraine).

The conduct of the training has become possible due to the financial support provided by the US Agency on international

development (USAID-Ukraine)



TPAA INFORMS ON THE PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP TO JOURNALISTS ON HIGHLIGHTING THE TOPIC OF HIV/AIDS IN UKRAINE AS PART OF THE JOURNALIST PROGRAMME

On September 25, the International Charitable Organization “Transatlantic partners against AIDS” (TPAA), the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) provided information on granting scholarships as part of the Scholarship programme for journalists for 2007. With funding provided from USAID and IREX, journalists will receive \$10,000 to implement special projects in highlighting the topic of HIV/AIDS within the Ukrainian media partnership in the combat against HIV/AIDS (UMP). Apart from financial support, the scholarship holders will have an opportunity to take part in trainings, meetings of the press-clubs and other activities aimed at the improvement of their understanding of the problem of HIV/AIDS and the related issues.

The projects on granting scholarships to journalists have had their purpose to encourage significant coverage of the issues related to public health, social, economic, political and cultural aspects of HIV/AIDS problem. As well as methods and programs used in dealing with the epidemics. The programme of scholarships in Ukraine has been operating now as an integral part of UMP, which currently includes more than 30 leading media companies taking active part in the StopAIDS campaign started in October 2006. UMP encompasses the communicative potential of the media in highlighting the issues of prevention and awareness of the HIV/AIDS problem with the aim to slow down the incidence rate of the epidemics and ensuring the absence of stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The scholarship holders for 2007 include the following journalists and the media:

Mrs. Raisa Krayeva. Within the project of Mrs. Raisa Krayeva, a journalist from Odesa, a number of reports will be created for TV broadcasting, information reports for publication, as well as a radio programme; the heroes of her reports will be HIV-positive children, teenaged orphans, “street children” and people who surround them. The project will last 9 months; it is expected that as part of the project, publication will be released in Odesa and neighbouring areas, in such media editions as “Vechirnya Odesa”, “Porto Franko”, “Gazeta 24”, “Odeskyy visnyk” and “Ne vidlitay”. TV reports will be broadcasted on such TV channels as “Krug”, “Art”, Channel 38” and “Nova Odesa”.

TV company “Uman”. AS part of the project, on a monthly basis 10 (ten) consecutive TV programmes will be developed and broadcasted, in the course of which the discussions will be arranged on issues related to HIV/AIDS; the project has its aim to provide TV audience an important information about the epidemics and the support in counteraction to stigmatization. The TV company “Uman” is already known as the media that has successfully implemented social projects. This project that will receive the scholarship, will be implemented during the period of 10 (ten) months.

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“Transatlantic partners against AIDS” (TPAA) is the independent non-government organization, having its offices located in Kyiv, Moscow and New York, aiming its efforts at combating HIV/AIDS in Ukraine, Russia and the neighbouring countries. TPAA has been improving the awareness and building political will; it has been carrying out high-quality surveys and analysis; enhances the potential of the civil society; stimulates the establishment of innovative partnerships and supports government decision-makers, business leaders and mass media leaders in their efforts directed at slowing down the rate of HIV/AIDS epidemics in the region. As

was reported in spring 2006, currently the process of merging of TPPA and the Global business coalition on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (GBC) has been underway. Once combined, the programmes of GBC and TPAA will cover four continents with their activities.

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About the Journalism Program

The Journalism Program raises awareness and builds capacity among Russian and Ukrainian journalists and editors in order to improve the quality and frequency of reporting on HIV/AIDS and related issues. TPAA has developed a comprehensive HIV/AIDS journalism curriculum and creates educational opportunities for Russian and Ukrainian journalists and news editors to improve their understanding of the epidemic; support their analysis of HIV/AIDS and related issues in their publications or programming; and empower them to better educate their audiences about ways to prevent infection and support people living with HIV/AIDS.

About the Ukrainian Media Partnership to Combat HIV/AIDS (UMP)

The Ukrainian Media Partnership to Combat HIV/AIDS (UMP) was formed in order to increase public awareness of HIV/AIDS, decrease stigma and discrimination of those living with HIV/AIDS and decrease rates of new HIV infection in Ukraine. UMP unites leading Ukrainian mass media, advertising agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations to collaborate on the informational campaign for HIV/AIDS prevention. UMP is financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its coordination is organized by International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) and Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS (TPAA).

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

WHO HAS ANNOUNCED THE THREAT FOR POSSIBLE EMERGENCE OF NEW LETHALLY DANGEROUS DISEASES

The new report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the issue of global health safety in the 21st century provides warning on the high probability for the emergence of new lethally dangerous diseases and appeals for the governments to unite efforts in the combat against new medical threats, reports Agency France Presse.

According to WHO report, in recent times new infections has emerged on an “unprecedentedly” more frequent scale, and since 1970 one or more infections has emerged each year. “It would be too naive and wrongful to believe that sooner or later a new AIDS, new Ebola, new atypical pneumonia will not emerge”, - the reports says.

In addition, “old” infections – TB, influenza and malaria continue to remain a problem. These infections go out of control due to weak healthcare systems, biological mutations and increasing resistance to antibiotics. The international significance of infections that cause epidemics is enormous”, - says Dr. Margaret CHAN, WHO Director General.

“We have lived through global changes – our relationships with the animal world, our trips around the world, our social and sexual behaviour have also been changed by our relationships with the world of microorganisms. The results have been the emergence of new pathogens, their spread across the world” - says Dr. Mike Ryan, Director, Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response.

“Considering universal vulnerability to new infections, global solidarity is required, collective actions in the face of the global threat”, - says Dr. M. Chan. Such actions should include on open exchange of medical information, technologies between the rich and poor countries that is not only essential but is» the main route to global safety of public health”.

UP TO 51 BILLION US DOLLARS IS NEEDED TO ENSURE ACCESS FOR TREATMENT TO ALL PEOPLE WITH HIV WORLDWIDE

From 32 to 51 billion US dollars is needed in order to ensure universal access to antiretroviral medications to all people with HIV worldwide by the year 2010.

As was reported by the UN New Centre, this has been emphasized in the new report of the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on the prospect of financing efforts in the combat with pandemia.

According to the report, these funds would be enough for the treatment of 14 million people.

In addition, the document pays attention to the fact that such countries as Brazil and Botswana have managed to reach considerable progress in the access of people with HIV to treatment, however, many other countries can not still fully rely on the financial assistance of ht international community. Indeed, this year the donors have promised to allocate only 10 billion US dollars to the AIDS treatment activities.

The report has been timed to the international conference of the donor states of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria that will be opened today in Berlin. Representatives of approximately 30 countries that will announce the financial contributions to the Fund for the period 2008-2010 will take part in the conference. At the present time, the Global fund covers 20% of the total international funding of programmes to fight AIDS.

THE DONORS PROMISED TO PROVIDE 9.7 BILLION US DOLLARS TO THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS

At the conference in Berlin the donors promised to provide 9.7 billion US dollars to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

“With this new funding international community will make a decisive step to reaching its goal defined by the strategy of combat against the disease”, - noted Mr. Kofi ANNAN, representative of the Global Fund, former UN Secretary General and one of the initiators in creating the Fund.

In her opening word to the conference, Mrs. Angela MERKEL, the German Federal chancellor, has emphasized that AIDS, TB and malaria are the part of the vicious circle of poverty – they feed the misery and at the same time are its consequence. She appealed to the donor states to allocate the funds required to the combat against these adversities.

The funds promised by the donors will be used for financing the activities of the Fund for the period 2008-2010. According to preliminary estimates, the total needs of the Global Fund during these three years will make up 12-18 billion US dollars.

At present time, the Global Fund provides for 20 per cent of all the international resources that have been allocated for the fight against AIDS, and two thirds of the funds for the treatment of TB and malaria.

Over the first five years of its operations, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria has saved the life of 1.5 million people who faced the dangerous infectious diseases. The goal of the Fund is to prevent

death of another five million people, however, for this purpose its funding has to be increased. Over the period of its existence, the Fund has provided more than 450 grants worth a total amount of 7 billion US dollars for the funding of programmes in 136 countries across the globe.

AIDS AND SCIENCE

MEDICATIONS AGAINST HIV CAN HELP IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER

Researchers from the American institute for Cancer research have found out that the medications used for the treatment of HIV-positive patients can be also efficient in the fight against cancer, reports Reuters.

The case is about the medications that refer to the class of protease inhibitors that are capable of slowing down the reproduction of the human immune deficiency virus and prevent the occurrence of clinical signs of AIDS. These medications influence the synthesis of the protein that is taking part in the development of many types of cancer. Therefore, the scientists decided to test them in their capacity to suppress the development of malignant tumours.

The results of the studies conducted on cell cultures and on laboratory mice turned to be positive: protease inhibitors were indeed capable of slowing down the growth of malignant cells in certain types of cancer. For instance, it has been established that nelfinaver produced by Roche group of companies under the "Vlrasept" brand is capable of inhibiting the growth of the cancer cells in certain types of lung cancer and breast cancer types insusceptible to drugs.

Other medications of this class also possess the similar effect. The scientists have already started clinical trials of these medications at cancer clinics.

PREGNANCY PROTECTS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIV

As reported by POZ, new data published in October issue of the "Journal of Infectious Diseases" demonstrate that pregnancy not only fails to speed up the development of HIV but also can protect women from the progression of the disease. The study has shown that pregnancy in HIV-positive women reduces the risk of AIDS or death by almost 60% compared to women who have never become pregnant.

Dr. Jeniffer TAYI, the principal author of the study from the medical school of Vanderbilt University and her colleagues were following up 759 HIV-positive women from 1997 till 2004. 540 women were receiving antiretroviral therapy. During the course of the trial 139 women became pregnant. The scientists found out that AIDS stage was identified only in 11 women (8%) who became pregnant, compared to 149 (24%) who did not become pregnant.

It has to be pointed out that women who became pregnant usually initially possessed higher immune status, earlier started and better complied with the therapy regimen. However, even after the exclusion of these factors, the risks for the development of AIDS was lower for women with pregnancy experience.

This data has been good news for all women with HIV who are going to give birth to a child. Mrs. Ratjy ANASTOS, the doctor from the medical centre in New York provides the following results of the study in her editorial: "For women pregnancy is always a very risky game: there are no guarantees that the course of the pregnancy will be normal and the child will be healthy. HIV-positive women are having additional difficulties; however this study demonstrates that although pregnancy reduces the progression of the disease, in any case this is a benefit.

STRESS FACILITATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIV

As reported by POZ, high level of stress in people with HIV increases the risk for quick development of AIDS. This has been reported in the press release disseminated pursuant to the results of the recent study of the American medical association.

The study was conducted by Sheldon Cohen and his colleagues. They carried out the review of other studies concerning the link of the stress and various diseases, including HIV. In their review they were using the studies that had been conducted since 2000. The investigators have found out that the stress does facilitate to the development of HIV. The authors came to a conclusion that the stress is the important factor of unhealthy way of life, similar to poor nutrition or smoking. Constant stresses lead to hormonal disorders, as well as they suppress the function of the immune system.

At the same time, the authors have been cautious in their conclusions. They have pointed out that the majority of people who suffered major psychological traumas do not develop physical diseases as a result of that. However, the stress increases the risk for the development of the available chronic diseases.

HIV-POSITIVE PEOPLE ARE RECOMMENDED TO QUIT SMOKING

Small study published in the September issue of "AIDS Patient Care and STDs" journal has demonstrated that the quality of life of people with HIV improves if they quit smoking. In addition, when smoking is quitted, the symptoms of HIV-associated diseases decreased.

In this study Daimon VIRDIN and his colleagues from the Texas University offered to 77 smokers with HIV various methods of treatment of their smoking dependence. Participants completed questionnaires on the symptoms of HIV-associated diseases and the quality of life. The same questionnaires they completed after 90 days. Approximately 85% of participants agreed to try to quit smoking, and 36.8% managed to do this.

The investigators have found out that those who were not smoking during the course of the trial reported the reduction of symptoms, as well as the improvement of the quality of life, including mental, physical and emotional well-being.

DIGEST

AIDS IS A PROBLEM THAT CONCERNS EVERYBODY

According to the information from the World Health Organization, 370,000 people in Ukraine are infected with HIV. The experts advise the Ukrainians to use the German experience where rapid spread of the disease was stopped back in the early 90s.

Ukraine is occupying one of the first places in Europe by the incidence rate of HIV/AIDS. Every day this disease is taking the life of ten Ukrainians. The disease has been progressing, removing social borders. However, people start to take notice of the problem only when someone who is near is infected.

NATIONAL STRATEGY TO FIGHT AIDS IS REQUIRED

In Ukraine the authorities are not too much concerned over the issue of HIV/AIDS spread, they tend to be handled by non-government organizations, while the society does not demand to affect the inactivity of the

state, since people do not know the real picture of the spread of the disease, - convinces Dr. Gundo WEILER, head of the HIV/AIDS programme of the European regional bureau of the World Health Organization:

“It is necessary to systematically inform on the opportunities of treatment. Meaning that it is necessary to speak in such a manner that people should seek medical assistance. At the same time, it is not possible to underestimate the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Large amount of funds have been allocated for therapeutical methods, however, there have been no systematic work with the public that would have been supported by the state. In Germany special organizations exist that deal with these specific issues. Ukraine lacks national strategy in combating AIDS and its prevention”.

PUBLIC TABOOS AND THE SPREAD OF AIDS

The idea of Dr. G. WEILER as to the conduct in Ukraine of a wide-spread public awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS and its consequences has been supported by Mrs. Ute SCHUMANN, the head of the European Union project on AIDS prevention among Ukrainian youth. She pointed out that nowadays in Ukraine there have been a lot of social obstacles that do not allow to conduct educational work on the disease. Among other factors, Mrs.U.SCHUMANN has named social taboos, economic and cultural factors. In her belief, the need to fight HIV/AIDS has not yet been firmly formed in the conscience of the Ukrainians. Exactly for this reason the objective and balanced information on the spread of the disease is required here, says Mrs. U. SCHUMANN. “It is obvious that in Ukraine the mass media have not yet reached such level of development when the problem of HIV/AIDS spread would be comprehended in reality. Taking into account that in Ukraine AIDS has been progressing most rapidly than in any other European country, a conclusion can be made that the mass media have not been providing enough information to the people about the consequences of the disease”.

THOROUGH INFORMATION SUPPORT IS BETTER THAN HYSTERIA

In Germany open and sincere talk about HIV/AIDS began in the mid 80s. After the public hysteria the then government decided to inform on the issue starting from school, says Farid MULLER, MP of the German Federal land of Hamburg:

“At that time we were lucky with the Minister of public health, this was a liberally-minded and brave woman Mrs. ZUSMUT, who, incredible as it may seem, represented a conservative party. She did not yield to hysteria that dominated in the society then, and she created all over Germany the system of prevention of HIV/AIDS. At the same time, public awareness educational campaign was being conducted through the mass media. It was then that the wording appeared that is relevant also today: “AIDS is a problem than concerns everybody”. This worked well and similar appeals were accepted by the people”.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS ON COOPERATION OF THE STATE AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

In order to stop the epidemic of HIV/AIDS spread in Ukraine, Mr. Farid MULLER recommends to the authorities to focus on the issue and to initiate more projects aimed at prevention of the disease. From his side, he pledged to provide support to international projects for Ukraine in the European Parliament and promised to facilitate to their funding.

“I have been convinced that in this aspect it is difficult for the authorities to find contact with risk groups in order to arrange the prevention of AIDS. Therefore, for such cases in Germany there are a number of projects for these target groups and appropriate financing is allocated. It is due to these projects that non-government organizations more easily find common language with these people than the state can do.”, - says

Mr. F. MULLER. He added that something similar to the European model of cooperation between authorities and non-profitable organizations he saw in Odesa where the local authorities finance the project of non-government organizations that exchange syringes for HIV persons. Mr. F. MULLER considers that non-government organizations are the important part for the prevention of the disease in the society and Ukrainian should in no way abandon the assistance of these organizations.

“However, nobody has stripped the state of its obligations. The authorities have to finance these projects and resolve these problems from its side. First and foremost, the state has to define the tasks that can be delegated to non-government organizations”, - Mr. F. MULLER has pointed out.

At the same time, he noted that Ukraine is more prepared for openly resolve the problem of HIV/AIDS that Russia. Mr. F. MULLER has stated that Ukrainians are ready to adopt the experience of fighting the disease gained by other countries.

**** by the information from “Deutsche welle”*

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP DECLARED THAT CONDOMS ARE INFECTED WITH HIV

Archbishop of the Roman Catholic church of Mozambique believes that European condoms have been intentionally infected with HIV. Archbishop Francisco CHIMOYO declared that antiretroviral medications were also infected, in order to “more quickly decimate the people of Africa”. The Roman Catholic Church has been officially against the use of condoms and believes that the fidelity in marriage and sexual restraint are the only preventive means. HIV-activists have been outraged by the statements of the archbishop calling it “nonsense”.

“we have been using the condoms for years now, and we are still confident in their safety”, - said Mrs. Marcella MAKHANYAN, a famous HIV activist. THE UN agency stated that antiretroviral medications have fully proved its efficacy for the treatment of people with HIV. The medications do not heal the disease completely; however they attack the virus at a number of sites simultaneously. Approximately 16.2% of adults are HIV-positive in Mozambique. 500 people die every day from AIDS in the country.

Archbishop CHIMOYO said to the journalists that only restraint, and not condoms can protect from HIV/AIDS. “Condoms are not reliable because I know that in two countries of Europe condoms are intentionally produced with virus”, - he said, though he denied to name the countries. “They want to decimate the people of Africa. This is their programme. They want to continue the colonization. If we are not careful, we can disappear in a century”.

HIV activists of Mozambique have been shocked with the claim made by the archbishop. “Condoms are the best method to protect against AIDS. People should use condoms”, - said Mr. Gabe JUDAS, the head of the organization “Tchывirka” – a theatre group that stage plays on the subject of HIV/AIDS.

**** by the information from BBC*

AIDS AND CULTURE

ANNIE LENNOX HAS COMPOSED HIV ANTHEM

Annie LENNOX has released a new album titled "Songs of Mass Destruction", the first performance of which took place on October 2. The central song of the album - "Sing" – is dedicated to the combat against

AIDS. "I intentionally was trying to compose an anthem song. HIV has reached the scale of the pandemic, especially in Africa and especially among women. In my opinion, my song can be useful and can support these women, to make them be listened to" – explained A. LENNOX to a correspondent of the web site www.billboard.com.

In order for this musical message to safely reach the light-minded mankind, ANNIE LENNOX addressed to many famous female singers for women solidarity. She sent a great number of letters with the appeal to take part in the recording of the background vocal. As a result of this more than twenty star singers took part in the project, among them Madonna, Pink and Celine Dion.

The promotional tour "Songs of Mass Destruction" started on October 8 and will consist of 16 performances. The first performance will take place in San-Diego.

REPORTS

ROAD MAP CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO THE PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRY UNTIL 2010

*****continued. Beginning in the previous issue**

The report has been prepared by the intersectorial working group on issues of universal access. The document has been based on the results of the three national consultative boards and released with support of the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

"How are we securing the universal access in Ukraine? I know that many among you will doubt whether we are capable of reaching the treatment coverage value of 60% at all...however, in the difference between 60 and 100 per cent lies my life and the life of thousand of people who are living with HIV/AIDS" – a Ukrainian civil activist, a person living with HIV.

SECTION 4: UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO TREATMENT

Rationale

The access to the treatment of HIV and AIDS has been growing fast in Ukraine; however the coverage reaches only a fraction of the urgent needs that, according to the estimates, will be rising rapidly over the forthcoming years. Until the year 2004 the access to antiretroviral therapy in Ukraine was limited, with only 250 patients receiving the AR therapy. In August 2004 wide spread implementation of the treatment began for people with progressive HIV in six regions, the share of which for all the recorded HIV cases reaching over 70%. By the end of 2005, ART programme was expanded to 15 regions and more than 3,050 patients were covered making up 59% of patients with AIDS in Ukraine.

Identifying the needs.

The forecast until the year 2010 has been made using the programme "Spectrum" (Spectrum Policy Modelling System, version 2.38, edition 6, project "Policy", 2005) and has been based on the most conservative estimates of people living with HIV / AIDS in Ukraine who will require access to the treatment until the year 2010 inclusive. Even if the universal access to the treatment is reached in 2010, more than

23,000 people will die of AIDS in the next five years. In case of the lack of the universal access to the treatment, these figures, according to the estimates, will be twice higher – reaching to more than 49,000 deaths from AIDS.

Identification of the universal access to the treatment in Ukraine.

During the course of the consultative boards, the participants have reached consensus concerning the following definition of the universal access to the treatment in Ukraine: The universal access to the treatment in Ukraine has been defined as 100% access to all the patients being under medical follow-up and shall be identified as the patients having progressive HIV, to diagnostics, treatment and medical care.

The participants have agreed upon that for the purpose of reaching the universal access, the access to the treatment has to be based on the three key principles, as follows:

- i. Complex coverage
- ii. Quality of services
- iii. Equal nature of access.

I. Complex coverage

In order to reach universal access, the treatment of HIV/AIDS has to be provided for with the complex coverage and include the following components:

I.i. Territorial coverage

The universal access to the treatment requires that the treatment of HIV / AIDS shall be provided for in all the 27 oblasts of Ukraine, and be as much as possible moved near the place of residence of patients. This requires the expansion of the provision of the retroviral therapy and the treatment of opportunistic infections beyond the existing network of the AIDS Centres. The in-patient assistance should also be provided for at all the major industrial cities, irrespective of the fact that whether the city is an oblast capital or not.

I.ii. Training of the qualified medical personnel

The universal access to the treatment requires the presence of the appropriate number of qualified trained and supported medical personnel for the implementation for the treatment of HIV / AIDS in order to follow the rate of the quick growth of the number of patients with progressive HIV. Auxiliary medical personnel should be trained both in the system of specialized medical assistance (regional AIDS Centres), and in the system of doctors of primary and secondary level of the network of treatment and prevention medical facilities.

I.iii. The mobilization of all the groups to ensure continuous assistance

Complex coverage requires mobilization and adequate training of all the appropriate associations of citizens that provide proper social and psychological support to ensure favourable disposition for treatment, including social workers, non-government organizations, private sector and providers of related services of care and support.

I.iv. Universal access to the essential laboratory assessments

The universal access to the treatment also requires that all the patients be granted free access to the laboratory assessments with the purpose of identification of the clinical stage and monitoring of the treatment, diagnostics of opportunistic infections (OI), in accordance with the national protocols. Laboratory assessment should be accessible at each medical institution that provides treatment, as well as include opportunity of collection the material for laboratory assessment at treatment institutions of rayon (district) level.

I.v Reliable supply of medicinal products for antiretroviral therapy and OI / reduction in prices

The universal access to the treatment requires reliable supplies of medicinal products for antiretroviral therapy and the treatment of opportunistic infections that increase in accordance with the increase of demands. For this purpose, continuous reduction of prices is essential to ensure the maximum coverage with available resources; in addition, until the year 2008 local production of ARV medications must be initiated on the basis of the results of the review of technical capabilities.

II. Quality of services

In order to reach universal access to the treatment of HIV / AIDS the quality of the provided services should be ensured. Reaching the essential quality requires for the treatment services to include the following components:

II.i. Quality voluntary consultancy and testing

The universal access to the treatment requires that the people should be granted access to the high-quality voluntary consultancy and testing (VCT). Quality VCT should be extended beyond the existing network of AIDS Centres. VCT should include information on the opportunity for treatment and appointment of patients in need for VCT, to receive essential medical assistance in accordance with the national protocol on VCT, as well as the provision of information on the available opportunities to obtain social and psychological assistance.

II.ii. Provision of the quality laboratory assessment

The universal access to the treatment also requires that all the patients who are under medical follow-up, should be granted access to quality laboratory assessment, as specified in the national protocols. For each patient this should include the access to the measurement of the CD4 count and virus concentration at least once per quarter, as well as OI diagnostics, if necessary. Laboratory assessment should also include PCR diagnostics for neonates to identify possible HIV infection as soon as possible. For patients with progressive HIV infection and all the patients who receive treatment, the laboratory assessment should also include genotyping of the resistance and laboratory monitoring of therapeutical efficacy and adverse reactions. In order to ensure reliability and quality of the laboratory assessment, it is necessary to create a national system of internal and external control for the quality of laboratory trials under the management of the National reference laboratory.

II.iii. Reaching quality and transparency of procurement and supply management

The universal access to the treatment also provides for the establishment and support by the government of Ukraine of the unified national system of procurement and supply management (PSM) for quality goods, required for the treatment and care of patients with HIV / AIDS (medicinal products, equipment, reagents, etc.). These medications and medical supplies should be purchased, supplied and tested on time to avoid breakdowns in supplies, as well as to ensure the opportunity to change the treatment regimen, if necessary.

II.iv. Multiprofile nature and continuity of treatment services

The universal access to the treatment also requires that the services should be versatile and be should be aimed at the needs of the patients. The universal access to the treatment should also ensure such procedures in providing services in treatment and support that would guarantee that the patients will receive then on a continuous basis and that will guarantee a long-term stable support for people living with HIV.

II.v. Ensuring the favourable disposition to treatment

The universal access to the treatment requires the use of consultation services, provision of psychological support and the implementation of programmes to create favourable disposition to treatment, including the resolution of the issue of using the replacement therapy for patients with opioids narcotic dependency.

II.vi. Prevention of the vertical transmission of HIV using a highly active antiretroviral therapy for pregnant women,

The universal access to the treatment requires that HIV-positive pregnant women should receive highly active antiretroviral therapy throughout the pregnancy with the purpose of minimizing the chance of HIV transmission from the mother to the child down to the level of less than 2% until the year 2010.

III. Equal nature of access

In order to reach the equal nature of access, the treatment of HIV / AIDS should have equal rights and include the following components:

III.i. Guarantee of the equal access to the treatment to all who requires it. The universal access to the treatment should ensure that all people having progressive HIV infection can easily and on an equal basis receive the treatment, irrespective of their occupation, way of life or legal status. This requirement should be ensured by the presence of programmes on the creation of the favourable disposition to the treatment. This, in particular, is important for the groups of population that are most stigmatized, such as the users of injected narcotic drugs, inmates, men having sexual contacts with men; or the groups that face obstacles from the law on the way to the treatment, such as commercial sex workers, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

III.ii. Treatment of all HIV-infected children

All the HIV-infected children will be provided for the priority access to diagnostics, prevention activities and, in case of need, to the treatment that will ensure the coverage of at least 80% of children by the end of 2007, and more than 90% by the end of 2008, thanks to which a 100% universal access will be secured by the end of the year 2009.

III.iii. The use of differential approach to provision of the universal access to the treatment

Any plan for the extension of access to the treatment should take into account the existing inequality between different groups of population, as well as take into consideration social and psychological needs of various groups of population. The needs and existing obstacles that the most marginalized groups of population face have to be identified in order to reach the equality of access for these groups of population by the year 2010 (including the access to the replacement therapy for patients with opioids dependency, the access to ART for the refugees and persons with unidentified citizenship status, etc.).

III.iv. Provision of mobile access to ART in different oblasts

Equal access to the treatment requires that treatment services and access to ART should be accessible for patients in case of their movement between the oblasts, both temporary, and permanent.

III.v Training of personnel to ensure individual, oriented to the needs of the patients approach in the provision of medical assistance.

Equal access to the treatment requires training of medical specialists to ensure individual approach oriented to the patient's needs in providing medical assistance. Special attention should be drawn to the overcoming of stigmatization and discrimination of the vulnerable groups of population, since these groups

would evade treatment if they face discrimination or bad attitude of the personnel during the course of receiving services.

SECTION 5: UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CARE AND SUPPORT

Rationale

As evidenced by the international experience, the improvement in the access to services on the care and support facilitates the process of destigmatization of HIV, the increase in the demand as to the voluntary consultancy and testing, as well as early follow-up and prevention of infectious diseases (such as TB) and sexually transmitted diseases among both HIV-positive, and HIV-negative people. Moreover, the provision of services on the care and support creates opportunities for the prevention of HIV infection.

In order to ensure the extension of the universal approach on the care and support it is necessary to link medical services with the social ones that would create conditions for the treatment of opportunistic infections, consultancy, palliative assistance for people living with HIV and support for the close circle of people living with HIV and orphans.

In accordance with the guidance and standards that are proposed by the organization Family Health International (FHI), the complex of services on the care and support shall include the following components:

- Doctor and nurse care;
- Access to appropriate diagnostics;
- Treatment and prevention of opportunistic infections, including TB;
- Follow-up of HIV-associated diseases and palliates;
- Antiretroviral therapy;
- Psychological support;
- Social and economic support for families, orphans, vulnerable children;
- Human rights and legal support;
- Community involvement;
- Support of those who provide assistance;
- Mechanism of transfer to other institutions that provide appropriate services.

Identification of needs

According to the data of recent national estimates and official statistics of the Ukrainian centre on prevention and combat against AIDS (as of November 2005), the prognosis concerning the number of people who are at the present time require services of care and support is as follows: a total of 377,600 people living with HIV are available, of which number 63,000 have been under monitoring of AIDS centres. According to the data of the International Alliance on HIV/AIDS as part of the programme “Overcoming of HIV/AIDS epidemics in Ukraine” with support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, by the end of 2005 approximately 11,000 people living with HIV (the aggregate number) will be covered with services of care and support. Based on the data of the All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV, in the year 2005 the services of care and support were provided to only 5,000 clients. At the present time, there are 63,000 HIV-infected people available who are officially registered with medical institutions and who require services of care and support, or will require them in the near future. According to the estimates of the annual increase in the number of registered people, during the next 5 years (until the year 2010), the number of people living with HIV that will

require care and support will be 120,000. It should also be taken into account that in 2010 ART will be provided to only 7,000 people living with HIV, and these people will require services of care and support.

The society must ensure the appropriate quality of life for people living with HIV, in particular to those who are having the terminal stages of AIDS and their families. However, there are no facilities in Ukraine to reach this objective. With the available limited government budget for public health and non-medical assistance and care, the provision of services of care and support for HIV / AIDS has not been considered now as the priority in Ukraine and has been maintained within limited extent only by means of the programme "Overcoming of HIV / AIDS epidemics in Ukraine" implemented by the funds of the grant of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Definition of "Universal access" to the services of care and support in Ukraine

Participants of consultative boards have discussed and reached consensus as to the definition of the "Universal access to care and support". In accordance with the consensus, the criteria (parameters) of the universal access are as follows:

- i Complex nature, i.e. the services should be provided that include all the appropriate components of services on the care and support;
- ii Equal nature of access meaning the absence of discrimination on any grounds, including gender and legal issues;
- iii Absence of regional priority with regard to the access to services, including city or rural area;
- iv Intersectorial complementarity and interaction of services;
- v Timely response to the change in the situation, meaning to ensure the appropriateness of services to the needs of clients in accordance with the appraisal and analysis of the situation (the number of potential users of services, the number of organizations providing services, territorial reference, etc.);
- vi Availability of generally accessible information on services;
- vii Stability, continuity of services;
- viii Quality of services, meaning their compliance with international and national standards;
- ix Expertise that is ensured by the educational training of national specialists in accordance with national and international standards.

Consequently, the universal access on the care and support has been defined as the complex of services that includes all the appropriate components, and meets the above cited criteria.

Definitions of "Care" and "Support".

The participants of the consultations have provided definitions for the "Care" and "Support", as follows:

- Care is the complex of services aimed at the improvement of physical condition and quality of life of people living with HIV, and ensures the continuity, intensity, individuality of providing assistance (social welfare, provision of medical assistance, etc.).

- Support is the complex of services aimed at the improvement of mental and emotional, social, material status of people living with HIV and their close circle that ensure the provision of services in accordance with the needs and demands of the client with the purpose of creating social and economic and psychological independence (consultancies, psychotherapy, groups of self-assistance, follow-up, etc.).

Target groups

In the process of strategic planning and rendering of services of care and support provided to people living with HIV among the general public, it is necessary to also take into account special needs of individual target groups. Such groups can be people living with HIV, as follows:

- Pregnant women and families with neonates;
- Teenagers aged 10-18 years being at highest risk;
- People living with HIV having infections;
- Consumers of injected narcotic drugs, commercial sex workers, men having sex with men;
- People living with HIV at custody (inmates or convicts);
- Socially non-adapted people: uncared-for and homeless people, street children.

Services of support are also provided and have to be provided to people who were affected by the epidemics, namely: close circle of HIV-positive people, as follows:

- Family members;
- Children who lost their parents due to the death of AIDS;
- Sexual partners of people living with HIV;
- Friends, colleagues of people living with HIV.

Within each of these groups service should be provided with account for age and gender needs.

Coverage

The participants of the consultative boards have determined the general objective that is to ensure by the year 2010 of the care and support for at least 30% of people living with HIV / AIDS and are under out-patient monitoring by the AIDS prevention and combat centres. In the process of planning the extension of the scale of the service provision and essential resources with the purpose of ensuring support to those who have suffered from the epidemics, it is necessary to take into consideration the estimated ratio of people living with HIV and their close circle as 1:3.

Main obstacles

As a result of the review of the current situation in the field of provision of services on the care and support in Ukraine, the participants of the consultative boards have determined the following main obstacles in reaching the universal access in Ukraine for the seven directions, both at national and at regional levels by the year 2010.

1. Public awareness work, government policy and legal framework

At present a number of normative and legal acts are effective in Ukraine in the field of legal regulation of the issues of HIV / AIDS. The main normative and legal act of the legal regulation of the issues of HIV / AIDS in Ukraine is the Law of Ukraine “On the prevention of the disease of the syndrome of acquired immune deficiency (AIDS) and social protection of population”. The said law determined the general provisions and government policy in the field of combat against the AIDS disease.

Art. 4, 17-24 of the law declare the provision of social protection, access to testing and consultancy and social protection of HIV-infected people, patients with AIDS, their family members, as well as provision to all the people living with HIV of all types of medical assistance in accordance with the procedures, as specified by this Law and other normative and legal acts.

The main provisions of the Law meet contemporary international norms, however the policy maintained by the state does not contribute to the effective implementation of this Law, the country lacks law enforcement mechanisms. In addition, departmental normative acts very often contradict to the law or to one another.

In the Concept of the strategy of government activities aimed at prevention of the spread of HIV / AIDS, for the period until the year 2011 and the National programme to ensure prevention of HIV, assistance and treatment of HIV-infected people and patients with AIDS for the period 2004-2008, par.21-29 the following has been stipulated in the field of care and support:

- * extension of access for the public to voluntary consultation and testing of HIV;
- * ensuring care, support and provision of psychological and social assistance to HIV-infected people and patients with AIDS;
- * establishment of hospitals for patients with terminal stage of AIDS (hospices);
- * involvement of representatives of non-government organizations (including the All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV / AIDS) for the care and support of HIV-infected people and patients with AIDS.

Nowadays no developed national concept is available in the country for the care and support of people living with HIV. The implementation of the activities scheduled by the National programme of measures on the care and support does not have adequate financial support and clear-cut quantitative objectives.

Participants of the consultative boards have reached consensus that the main obstacles in the extension of the universal access to the care and support are the following:

- Imperfection and inconformity of the legislative and normative and legal framework (acts);
- Lack of a unified coordination mechanism concerning HIV / AIDS in the field of legislation;
- Inadequate law-enforcement mechanism;
- Lack of the system of training for judges and attorneys, their motivation and involvement into the activities in the field of protection of rights of people living with HIV and vulnerable groups, and the implementation of judicial practice and attorney's support;
- Insufficient level of understanding of the importance of problems concerning the development and implementation of services on the care and support on the part of decision-makers;
- Lack of standards for service provision of care and support;
- Lack of government policy on the involvement of private sector.

2. Strategic planning, disposition of resources and harmonization

Due to the fact that Ukraine lacks a unified system of management for the National programme and a unified national system of monitoring and evaluation of HIV / AIDS, specialists do not possess complete information concerning the organizations that provide services on the care and support, scientifically justified data and strategic information for strategic planning. Ukraine lacks strategic plan for the care and support both at national and at local levels. In connection with this it is very difficult to speak on the issue of the disposition of resources of the key partners and harmonization of their activities in the field of care and support. At the local level the involvement of people living with HIV into the process of planning activities on counteraction to HIV / AIDS, the implementation and evaluation of these activities have been insufficient.

The following factors have been identified as the main obstacles with regard to the extension of the universal access to the care and support in Ukraine:

- Insufficient practice of using strategic planning based on scientifically justified data and definition of specific needs;

- Lack of the unified system of management of the National programme on HIV / AIDS;
- Lack of strategy and unified standards of services for the care and support.

3. Stable funding

The volume of funding has not been adequate to the extension of the epidemics and the demands for services on care and support. Participants of the consultative meetings have agreed upon the fact that the main obstacles on the route to the extension of the universal access on the care and support in Ukraine are the following:

- Inadequate mechanism of efficient funds management;
- Limited volume of government and local funding for programmes on the care and support (current funding has been provided to large extent by the international donor organizations);
- Lack of the mechanism to provide social order for NGOs.

4. Human resources

Currently in Ukraine the government system of personnel training on the issues of care and support is imperfect (medical, social workers, psychologists, judges and attorneys). The participants of the consultative meetings have agreed that the main obstacles on the route to the extension of the universal approach on the care and support in Ukraine are insufficient number of qualified personnel.

5. Organization and systems

At present in Ukraine the access for people living with HIV to services of care and support has been secured mainly within the programme "Overcoming of the epidemics in Ukraine" and with support provided by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria implemented by the International Alliance on HIV / AIDS in Ukraine. However, the complex of activities in the field of care and support as part of this programme has been implemented only in 8 regions of the country. The number of organizations that provide services has also been limited. No government concept has been available as to the system of services on the care and support, as well as national standards, personnel, physical infrastructure, interdepartmental network of organizations providers of services of care and support.

There has also been a lack of system on the establishment of the culture of legal rights for providers and users of services, motivation and involvement of judges and attorneys into activities in the field of protection of the rights of people living with HIV and vulnerable groups, as well as the implementation of judicial practice and attorney support. Low level of knowledge on HIV / AIDS among both general public, and specialists has been making a significant contribution to the high level of stigma and discrimination in Ukraine. There has been a lack of the government strategy for education, public awareness and communication.

The participants of the consultative meetings have determined that the main obstacles in reaching the universal access on the care and support in Ukraine by the year 2010 are the following:

- Lack of the system of services on the care and support, including professional personnel, national standards, physical infrastructure, interdepartmental network of organizations providers of services of care and support;
- Lack of standards on the provision of services of care and support;

- Lack of scientifically justified or empirical data for making estimates of the demands for the services, the number of covered people, efficiency and cost effectiveness of services on the care and support;
- Low level of judicial culture either of services recipients, or of service providers;
- Lack of motivation and the involvement of judges and attorneys into the activities in the field of protection of the rights of people living with HIV and vulnerable groups, and the implementation of judicial practice and attorney support;
- Resources limitation (economical, human, informational, etc.);
- Lack of the unified national system of monitoring and evaluation.

6. Infrastructure

The comprehensive approach to the provision of assistance for people living with HIV has been increasingly becoming relevant in Ukraine. The participants of the consultative meetings have determined that the comprehensive assistance for people living with HIV is the system of all-round care and support that should encompass psychological and social services, consultations of the legal adviser and physician, informational support, groups of self-assistance, arrangement of leisure activities, etc.

Minimal package of services

The International Alliance on HIV / AIDS in Ukraine as part of the programme “Overcoming of HIV / AIDS epidemics in Ukraine” has developed the standards of minimal package of services for adults and children.

The minimal package of services for adults living with HIV includes the following:

- psychological (consultancy via the “Crisis counselling line”, “equal to equal” and/or participation in groups of self-assistance and/or consultation of a specialist, prio- and post testing consultancy) and/or social and economic (non-medical and non-therapeutical care at home, facilitating in the access to medical services, facilitating in the access of testing for CF4, provision of humanitarian aid, representation of social interests of clients at medical institutions, public social security bodies, government institutions, local self-government bodies); educational training for people living with HIV and their close circle for skills in the provision of services on the care and support; public awareness and educational activities (dissemination of publications, talks, trainings, maintenance of databases of HIV-servicing organizations, etc.).

The minimal package of services for children born from HIV-infected parents, and HIV-infected children shall include services in accordance with the age groups and demands, as follows:

Neonates – medical and social welfare, care, hygiene, nutrition and supportive environment, medical rehabilitation, provision of humanitarian aid (milk formulas, vitamins, hygienic paediatric health care items, toys, etc.)

Children aged from 18 months to 15 years – medical and psychological support, education and development, social and legal support, and support in obtaining disability benefits (social work, Ministry of labour and social policy, social protection and financial allowance, medical rehabilitation, support for the family, favourable disposition to treatment and positive prevention activities, occupational guidance, etc.).

At present, the services of care and support have been mainly provided by non-government organizations. People living with HIV obtain these services through the network of local HIV-servicing organizations, All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV, its regional representative offices, action groups, Red Cross Society (RCS) and its regional representative offices. The contribution of RCS regional

representative offices jointly with the Network of people living with HIV in the provision of non-medical care has been significant. Over the recent years, in response to HIV / AIDS epidemics in Ukraine, a number of non-government organizations has emerged dealing with provision of services on the care and support to HIV-positive people and their close circle, lobbying on their interests and protection of their rights, formation of tolerant attitude towards people living with HIV from the public. However, in order to ensure universal access on the care and support to all who is in need for it, the current number of organizations has been desperately insufficient.

The list of government institutions that provide services in this sphere has been very limited. These are regional Centres of prevention and combat against HIV / AIDS and the Centres of social services for family, children and youth and their specialized sections and agencies. The Centres of social services for family, children and youth jointly with people living with HIV with support granted by UNICEF have been providing a complex of services on the care and support through the network of the Centres working with HIV-infected children and youth.

The main obstacles with regard to ensuring universal access to the services on care and support include the following:

- Insufficient physical infrastructure for the provision of services on care and support;
- Insufficient informational support concerning the services on care and support;
- Lack of institutions to ensure palliative care (hospices);
- Insufficient number of trust offices for voluntary consultancy and testing (VCT) of various ownership forms that would provide services in accordance with the national protocol for VCT.

7. Partnership

In the field of provision of services on care and support in Ukraine, different forms are available of interdepartmental partnership of the organizations that provide the services, however, their number is limited. In addition, there exist a problem both of the cooperation between the government and non-government sectors, and the cooperation between the HIV-servicing non-government organizations themselves. There has also been a lack of normative regulation of the cooperation between the NGOs and the government organizations, including social ordering.

Such situation has also been maintained by insufficient level of understanding of the significance of the issues concerning the development and implementation of services on care and support on the part of the decision-makers.

The participants of the consultative meetings have determined the following main obstacles in reaching the universal access on care and support:

- Insufficient level of cooperation between the government and non-government sectors;
- Insufficient level of cooperation between the HIV-servicing non-government organizations themselves that provide services on care and support;
- Lack of normative regulation for the cooperation between the NGOs and government organizations;
- Lack of comprehensive coordination function of the National Coordination Board;
- Insufficient level of understanding of the significance of the issue with regard to the development and implementation of services on care and support in the part of the decision-makers;
- Insufficient support from the state concerning the implementation of services on care and support.

Proposed solutions

The participants of the consultative meetings have reached consensus with regard to the following solutions that will enable to overcome the above listed obstacles for all seven directions with the purpose of reaching universal access to care and support by the year 1020:

1. Advocacy, government policy and legislative framework

- Improvement of the legislative framework in the field of provision of services on care and support;
- Bringing of normative and legal acts in the field of provision of services on care and support to correspondence with the effective laws;
 - Normative and regulatory acts in the field of provision of services on care and support must be of intersectorial nature;
 - Advocacy with regard to the involvement of the institution of judges and attorneys to the development of the legal culture in the field of HIV / AIDS with the purpose of protection of the rights of people living with HIV and the reduction of stigma and discrimination;
 - Advocacy with regard to the adoption by the Supreme Court of Ukraine of the decision on the identical application by the judges of the effective legislation of Ukraine in the field of protection of the rights of people living with HIV and vulnerable groups; the application of the principle of law of practice;
 - Establishment of the system of educational training for judges and attorneys, their motivation and involvement into activities in the field of protection of the rights of people living with HIV and vulnerable groups;
 - Widespread public awareness activities with regard to the availability of attorneys carrying out legal support for people living with HIV and representatives of vulnerable groups;
 - To review of the existing normative acts with regard to staying of HIV-positive children in organized groups and boarding schools. Normative acts must have intersectorial, interdepartmental nature and must be approved by the Ministry of education of Ukraine;
 - To review the regulatory norms in the field of provision of social assistance and welfare benefits to people living with HIV, their resocialization and rehabilitation;
 - Ensuring the mechanism to provide disability group to people living with HIV who receive ART, in accordance with the effective criteria of disability; social assistance and welfare benefits (the Ministry of public health, the Ministry of labour and social policy, the Ministry of finance);
 - To introduce changes into the normative and legal acts that regulate the circulation of narcotic products with the purpose of ensuring continuity of the replacement therapy for clients (HIV-positive consumers of injected narcotic drugs) who receive services beyond medical follow-up;
 - Change of the taxation norms for citizens in part of paying the income taxes in the event of receiving humanitarian aid (The Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine);
 - Change of the taxation norms for charity providers, sponsors among private enterprises with the purpose to encourage support of services on care and support through the free charitable assistance by NGOs;
 - Introduction of the institute of social work with people living with HIV into the system of medical institutions (into the staff register of medical institutions), as well as necessary number of social workers and psychologists should be included into the personnel register of penal enforcement institutions;

- Introduction of licensing and/or accreditation of programmes of NGOs and government institutions that provide services on care and support;

- Development and implementation of the mechanism of government ordering (at all levels) for the services on care and support.

2. Strategic planning, disposition of resources and harmonization

- Development of the concept of the system of services on care and support;

- Securing quality surveys to justify the demands for provision of services, as well as evaluations for the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the services and events;

- Securing coordination of intersectorial organizations providers of services with the purpose of harmonization and optimization of service provision;

- Securing participation of people living with HIV in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services on care and support;

- Development and implementation of the mechanism of identification of needs in the educational training for personnel potential;

- Development and implementation of the unified standards for service provision and support, including on the issued of service provision of nurse out-patient monitoring;

- Development and implementation of the unified standards for service provision on care and support both for the government and non-government sectors;

- Development of indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of services on care and support.

3. Stable funding

- Providing for effective management and utilization of funds;

- Starting from 2007, increase in the volume of government funding is required and at the same time mechanisms of social ordering of services must be developed;

- Starting from 2008, it is necessary to use widespread practice of implementation of social ordering;

- Increase in the volume of funding for services on care and support using the funds of the Ministry for family, youth and sports of Ukraine;

- Development and increase in the number of target departmental programmes on providing care and support, Centres of social services for families, children and youth, and mobilization of resources at local level.

4. Human resources

- Development of up-to-date educational programs for training and advanced training of specialists, social workers and psychologists on the issues of provision of services on care and support for people living with HIV. Implementing them into special courses of educational institutions of all levels of accreditation (the Ministry of public health, the Ministry of education and science, the Ministry for family, youth and sports of Ukraine, the Ministry of labour and social policy, the Ministry of Justice);

- Training and advanced training of specialists (must begin from the year 2007) in accordance with the needs of the regions;

- Implementation of the centralized strategy in this sphere – mobilization of communities with regard to the implementation of services on care and support;

- Capacity building for people living with HIV and communities for their involvement in the planning, implementation and evaluation of services on care and support.

5. Organizations and systems

- Development and implementation of the system of services on care and support, including national standards, personnel, physical infrastructure, interdepartmental network of organizations providers of services on care and support;

- Development of activities on the formation of legal culture for providers and users of services;

- Active involvement and utilization of potential of the ombudsman's institute;

- Implementation of activities aimed at the reduction of stigmatization and discrimination and the improvement of tolerance on part of the general public, specialists working with people living with HIV and their close circle, at work places, etc.;

- Implementation of widespread continuous public awareness campaign and the implementation of industry sectorial programmes at work places;

- Public awareness activities (people living with HIV) and target groups of people living with HIV on the available services by means of:

Information provided by NGOs on the available services;

Consultations at the site of AIDS Centres, in-patient institutions, narcotic drug dispensaries, Centres of social services for families, children and youth;

Information web sites;

Redirections;

Mass media, including social advertising.

6. Infrastructure

- Diversification of organizations providers of services on care and support;

To expand the number of organizations, for instance, at the expense of the government services of the social sector: the services of social protection of population by means of advocacy, motivation and the establishment of supportive environment;

- Involvement of religious organizations to the provision of services in this field. Arrangements for the training of personnel (Council of churches, the Committee on religious issues);

- Development of the mechanism of redirection or the system of appointment cards;

- Extension of the network of trust offices (provision of voluntary consultancy and testing (VCT) services) in accordance with the orders of the President and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

7. Partnership

- To develop and implement the mechanism of clear identification and distribution of activities (types of services, work) and responsibilities with the purpose of coordination in combination of joint efforts and minimization of duplication;

- Coordination of activities of different ministries, agencies and sectors in the context of "Care and support" (in the first place, the Ministry of public health, the Ministry of education and science, the Ministry for family, youth and sports of Ukraine, the Ministry of labour and social policy, the National coordination board and Regional coordination boards on the issues of prevention for the spread of HIV / AIDS, NGOs, national and international projects, etc.);

- Government support of organizations providing services on care and support (through social ordering, providing of premises on beneficial terms, etc.);

- Creation of conditions for effective cooperation of NGOs and other organizations, including government ones;

- Providing for comprehensive coordination function of the national coordination mechanism.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUBSEQUENT STEPS

This report presents the first contributions of the national and regional participants of activities on counteraction to HIV / AIDS epidemics in Ukraine into the development of the Road Map to ensure universal approach to the prevention of HIV / AIDS, treatment, care and support by the year 2010.

The report has identified a number of obstacles, such as the lack of stable funding from international donors, for instance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria , and the need to provide for continuous access to inexpensive retroviral medications that have to be overcome at regional (CIS) and even global level.

Members of the Working Group on the issues of universal access in Ukraine will be pleased to make their contribution into the further activity as part of the regional and global process of providing general access.

In any case, most of the obstacles, objectives and solutions identified in this report will require joint efforts at national and regional (sub-national) levels in Ukraine. The following steps have been proposed by the members of the intersectorial Working group in order for the initiatives that emerged during the first consultation meetings be transformed into the national strategy in providing universal access to the prevention, treatment, care and support by the year 2010:

i. To ensure the dissemination of the report on the universal access among all the national and regional participants that have made their contribution into all three consultative boards and the preparation of this report;

ii. To expand the authorities of the national intersectorial Working group on the issues of general access with the purpose of developing a working plan on the implementation of the provisions of this report, as well as the development of concrete proposals with regard to the continuation of the process of planning in the issues of universal access;

iii. To carry out comprehensive review of the existing Concept on activity strategy of the government aimed at prevention of the spread of HIV / AIDS, for the period until the year 2011 and the National programme to provide prevention of HIV, assistance and treatment to HIV-infected people and patients with AIDS for the period 2004-2008 for its compliance with the goals and objectives of universal access;

iv. To develop new strategic programme on HIV / AIDS, with annual working plans and budgets with the purpose of introduction of the goals and objectives of the universal access into the national strategy on counteraction to HIV / AIDS;

v. To take measures for the process of providing universal access to be further carried out under the management of the government of Ukraine, and for it to further support and encourage active participation and contributions of the key parties concerned, including people living with HIV / AIDS, non-government organizations, regional representatives, international and donor organizations.

Only a few months ago, the universal access was considered in Ukraine as an abstract and unreal idea. Due to the global initiative to ensure universal access, at present this has become a clearly identified national goal with specific objectives. This report suggests a rather ambitious approach in order to ensure that the goal of the universal access is implemented in Ukraine by the year 2010. However, by starting this process in

Ukraine, nowadays we see high level of preparedness for hard work that will have to be taken up in order to the universal access to become a reality.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FACE OF FEAR FOR HIV

Fear is one of the strongest and long-term human sensations. Gennadiy ROSCHUPKIN came to know that he was infected at the end of October 1998 when he was 18 years old. We hope that his story on the fears of people of HIV will help not only to realize these fears but also learn how to control them.

“Diagnosis – HIV infection”, beyond any doubt, has affected all my further life. The knowledge of the fact that you are HIV-positive is a heavy burden that does not become lighter with years. Quite to the contrary, to bear this burden is becoming more and more difficult. The feeling of fear adds to this even more: old fears keep growing, new fears appear.

However, wonders will never cease in this life. Once one famous woman in America – Wendy ARNOLD – told me horrific (and the only one that exists) is only my own fear. The very truth itself! These words helped me to look at this world in a different way.

THE FIRST AND THE LARGEST FACE – “THE FEAR OF DEATH”

The fear is something that evolves, once it was much simpler and probably had only one face. And «the fear of death” indeed, could have been this face. A human starts to fear death before understanding comes of being alive. “The fear of death” is the need for existence; this fear lives in the human body.

When a person develops (irrespective where, in the family, school or in the street) a knowledge comes that life span will be of unknown, however still rather defined period. For instance, 70-80 years. Therefore at 20, when a person is full of energy, the “breath of death” is not yet felt/ forty or fifty years is a large period for a human being that has just turned 20. There is nothing to compare this period of time to. However, a person comes to know that he is infested with HIV, and death is approaching him with catastrophic pace. Five or seven years is the period of time that can be matched for the past life, to see how much and what has been done for the same period. Death becomes a close reality and, respectively, “the fear of death” starts to be felt so painfully vividly.

In fact, not the death itself is so horrific, but the uncertainty, obscurity, disconformity of it with anything else. One can compare the feeling of “fear of death” with the feeling in sudden falling into an unknown pit, and with one’s eyes bandaged. They say that fear has big eyes. This is indeed so. The “fear of death” is having two eyes, - the “fear of pain” and “the fear of physical handicap”. Both are being opened up slowly. However, once opened, they doom the human to always be in a strained expectation of inevitable handicap and pain.

THE SECOND FACE – “THE FEAR OF INCAPACITY TO CONTROL ONE’S LIFE”

This face can be also called “the fear of incapability to really plan your future” for the purpose of being brief, I will henceforth call it “the fear of no control”.

When a person starts to acknowledge himself as a living being, he experiences conscious desires. A human being starts to make himself familiar with the surrounding world, with the experience of other people, with their errors and achievements, own experience appears. All this serves as a ground for the creation of a “an air castle” called “This what my life will be like, and this what I will be”. Naturally, by the age of 20 this

“castle” is more or less clearly outlined, - a person starts to willingly look for something definite. With no doubt, with time “the castle” changes its contours, and sometimes is being rebuilt completely. It is the scale and the duration of ambitions that determine the possible strength of “the fear of no control” in the future.

I think that it is quite understandable that when a person comes to know about his positive HIV test result, his “air castle” is not merely falling apart disintegrate, it explodes. A person is being showered with debris that is nothing but his former hopes and ambitions. And when “the air castle” has fallen apart (it is indeed a possible reachable image of the desired future), then all the “steps” built in order to reach it can become obsolete. A person at the same time can lose not only the future but also the past.

The “fear of no control” also has eyes. Enormous, black eyes. There are three of them – “the fear of no control of the near future”, “the fear to lose the achieved”, and “the fear to lose friends and relatives”. It is with these eyes the person who has come to know that he is having HIV starts soon to look at the surrounding world and to see himself in it.

When the eye called “the fear of no control of the near future” opens, a person can lose the initiative and get lost in the doubts such as “So I need to? I will anyway have no time to do this, so this is all in vain”, or tries to completely shift to others the responsibility for making any decisions. If a person with HIV / AIDS starts to make frequent scandals and demand (that is to say, demand) help, - this person does not have any hope in his own will, he has abandoned it to “the fear of no control”.

When the eye called “the fear to lose the achieved” opens up (in other words, this eye can be called “the fear of external solitude”), - a person does not even think about the future. This eye can see only backwards. The achieved reaches enormous, blown out of proportions significance. This is like a fight for the last piece of bread in this life: if one loses it, then nothing is left of the life.

The life becomes empty. Mostly, the eye called “the fear to lose the achieved” is directed at social status of a person, and does not apply to any personal relationship with anybody. During this time an HIV-positive person most commonly perceives all that is going on only as an attempt at all he has achieved before or as a proof for the integrity and inviolability of the achieved (and anything more than this is rarely needed). Even the hope for the treatment becomes only a hope to safeguard what is present.

When the third eye called “the fear to lose friends and relatives” opens up (in other words, this eye can be called “the fear of internal solitude”) - no reality exists for a person who gears. A human being while looking at the world can generally lose the ability to change his own opinion. It becomes ‘geek’ as teenagers say today, a fanatical guard of the own past: positive appraisal is given only to those that resembles any positive facts in the past, nothing new can be accepted anymore. One of the main results of the perception of the world through the eye called “the fear to lose friends and relatives” can be the assuredness that HIV-positive person will certainly be refused in his attempt to start new friendly and/or sexual relationships for the fear of possible consequences (infection and/or accusation in links with “a vile” person, an HIV-positive person). The continuation of this can be the assuredness that relatives and friends today can abandon this person with HIV for the similar reason.

THE THIRD FACE – “THE FEAR THAT SOMEBODY WILL LEARN ABOUT SOMETHING”

Everybody is having something one would like to hide from others, and sometimes from one’s own self. Of all things, the image of the desired future would be “I am rich, famous, intelligent and respectable; I am having a perfect family and good friends!” – will be removed by the memories incompatible with this. But the

past can not cease to exist, to become nothing. When a person comes to know that he is having HIV, this fear opens up enormous perspectives! Since a lot have to be hidden. Especially when one looks at the world as a permanent threat.

It is the very "fear that somebody will learn about something" makes a human being to loose even the last efforts in hiding out his problems (whether real or imaginative) and thus close all the routes for their solving. And the most important concerning this fear is that it makes us hide away not only from surrounding people but also from our own self.

No doubt, I have dramatized, and I have done that on purpose. However, all the described is a reality. To more or less extent in every HIV-positive person live these three faces and distort the surrounding world for him. They have significant impact on the doings of people with HIV, that in its own turn, forms the attitude of people surrounding the HIV-positive persons and, as a result, the attitude of HIV-positive people to the surrounding public. And the weakening of health takes place in direct proportion to the enhancement of fears".

We can also add the following: to feel fear is the same natural as to live through any other emotions, such as joy, grief, surprise, anger. Learning how to manage one's own fears is possible and is essential, at least in order to avoid ruining your own self with their uncontrollable collapse.

The nature of self-control is in learning not to feel fears (this task is beyond anybody's reach) or hide away, ignore them. The genuine voluntary control over one's emotions is in living through the fears, sometimes even losing self-control; you would be capable to help yourself to return to the condition of emotional balance. And if you have difficulties in overcoming your emotions, specialists can help you, - psychologists, psychotherapists. The forces of fear fade away when we approach them.

****according to materials of the web site www.aids.ru*

AIDS AND THE LAW

HIV ISSUES AT DETENTION FACILITIES

Until 1997 the policy of the penal system of Ukraine with regard to HIV-infection was based on the forced examination and isolation of HIV-infected people. This strategy of response to the HIV epidemics could not have resolved the problem of HIV at penal institutions.

Starting from April 1997, the penal system of Ukraine discontinued mandatory testing of the inmates for antibodies to HIV and isolation of the infected people. As a result of implementation of the new strategy for the prevention of HIV, it was managed to remove the social strain that was taking place in the media of the penal system, to substantially increase the level of knowledge on HIV / AIDS, the routes of transmission of the virus and the methods of its prevention.

The dynamics for the increase in the number of HIV-infected people in the penal system of Ukraine is not different from that of other countries and, beyond any doubt, is related to the epidemic situation in the country. The most serious problems that can determine the future of the penal medicine in connection with the presence of HIV are the following:

- incapacity due to the restricted funding to provide treatment to the increasing number of patients with AIDS, as well as voluntary testing and the performance of epidemiological monitoring.
- doubtful efficiency of public awareness programmes in connection with inability to provide people under custody at detention facilities with condoms and disinfectants. The most likely funding from the state

budget in the nearest future can be only for food, the conduct of the high priority antiepidemiological activities, provision of medical assistance to patients with infectious diseases, symptomatic treatment of patients with AIDS. These are the high priority needs. Coverage of costs for prevention medication against HIV from the budget funds remains doubtful for the nearest future.

However, there have also been positive changes. Until recent time, the antiretroviral therapy has not been accessible for HIV-positive inmates that was the violation of the human rights. At present the situation is being changed.

Starting from the end of 2005, the process began that allows to hope that the antiretroviral therapy will gradually become accessible at prisons already from the beginning of the year 2007. The issues of implementation of the antiretroviral therapy to be used at prisons are being dealt with by the State department of Ukraine on the execution of punishment jointly with the Ministry of public health of Ukraine.

****according to the materials from <http://helpme.com.ua>*

PROCEDURES OF INTERACTION BETWEEN CENTRES OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR FAMILY, CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND THE HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF HIV / AIDS PREVENTION

1. These Procedures shall determine the functions of the Centres of social services for family, children and youth (hereinafter referred to as the Centres) and healthcare institutions with regard to the joint implementation of activities aimed at the prevention of HIV / AIDS in Ukraine.

2. The interaction of the Centres with territorial healthcare authorities on the provision of assistance to narcotic drug-dependent, HIV-infected children and youth shall be carried out on the basis of the agreements on cooperation and joint activities.

3. The Centres and territorial healthcare authorities in their activities shall be governed by the Constitution of Ukraine (254к/96-BP), the laws of Ukraine, the acts of the President of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the orders of the Ministry for family, youth and sports of Ukraine and the Ministry of public health of Ukraine, and by these Procedures.

4. The functions of the Centres concerning the provision of social services for various aspects of prevention of HIV / AIDS shall be as follows:

the conduct of informational and educational prevention activities (lections, talks, video lections, etc.) with children, youth, parents and teachers concerning the prevention of HIV / AIDS;

the conduct of educational activities of prevention nature (seminars, trainings) for children, youth, parents and social workers concerning the prevention of HIV / AIDS and the provision of medical and social services to HIV-positive children, youth and members of their families;

the arrangements for the development, production and dissemination of informational and educational materials on various aspects of the prevention of HIV / AIDS;

the supply of informational and educational materials to medical specialists;

the arrangements for the exchange of syringes for consumers of injected narcotic drugs and their transfer for disposal to the healthcare institutions;

the provision of social services to HIV-infected children, youth and members of their families, including through the network or centres for HIV-infected children and youth;

the conduct of pre-testing and post-testing consultations;

the arrangement of social support for HIV-infected children and youth, in line with the appointments from the healthcare institutions;

the creation of the databases of institutions and organizations that provide social services to narcotic drug-dependent, HIV-infected children and youth in respective regions;

the conduct jointly with healthcare institutions of preparatory activities and organizations of the performance of volunteers on the issues of the prevention of HIV / AIDS and social support of HIV-infected children and youth;

the provision of statistical information to healthcare institutions concerning social work with drug-dependent, HIV-infected children and youth;

the involvement of government and non-government institutions, non-government organizations, including international ones, to cooperation on various aspects of the prevention of HIV / AIDS.

5. The functions of the government and communal healthcare institutions on the provision of medical assistance to drug-dependent, HIV-infected children and youth shall be as follows:

the arrangement for the provision of medical and diagnostical, consultative medical assistance to drug-dependent, HIV-infected children and youth in cooperation with the Centres of social services for family, children and youth;

the implementation of new technologies in the prevention, diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent, HIV-infected children and youth;

the implementation of preventive work on the prevention of HIV / AIDS;

the extension of information on the available structures that operate in the field of prevention of HIV / AIDS;

the arrangements for the disposal of the used syringes;

the acceptance and disposal of the used syringes exchanges by the workers of the service centres, work of the Centres with consumers of injected narcotic drugs in compliance with the requirements of antiepidemiological regime;

the conduct of the pre-testing and post-testing consultations;

the provision of premises to the specialists of the Centres for the provision of social services at healthcare institutions on contract terms;

the conduct jointly with specialists of the Centres of informational and educational work with drug-dependent, HIV-infected children and youth;

carrying out the exchange of scientific and technical information and the information of the international information databases;

the organization jointly with the specialists of the Centres of educational training seminars for medical specialists on various aspects of the prevention of HIV / AIDS;

the conduct by the healthcare institutions of the training of specialists of the Centres on the pre- and post-testing consultations;

the organization of supervision for specialists of healthcare institutions;

the participation jointly with specialists of the Centres in the development and dissemination of methodical recommendations, informational and educational materials on various aspects of the prevention of HIV / AIDS;

in an expeditious manner or on request to provide to the Centres statistical information on the status of incidence rate for HIV / AIDS and the prognostic estimate;

the involvement of the government and non-government institutions, non-government organizations, including international, to the cooperation on various aspects of the prevention of HIV / AIDS;

the establishment of the database of healthcare institutions and organizations that provide assistance to drug-dependent, HIV-infected children and youth.

***These procedures was approved by the joint Order of the Ministry for family, youth and sports and the Ministry of public health of Ukraine under # 3925/760 dated November 17, 2006. the Order was registered at the Ministry of justice on December 18, 2006.

USEFUL CONTACTS