



USAID HealthLink Project "Accelerating Ukraine's Efforts to End HIV"



April-August 2023

data as of 15.08.2023



220

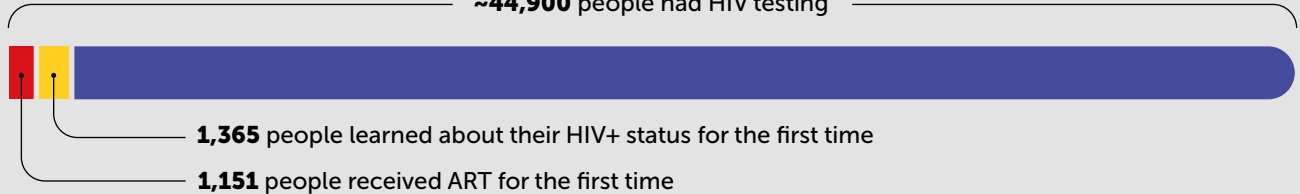
HCFs provide HIV-related services within the Project



22,900

oral HIV tests were distributed

~44,900 people had HIV testing

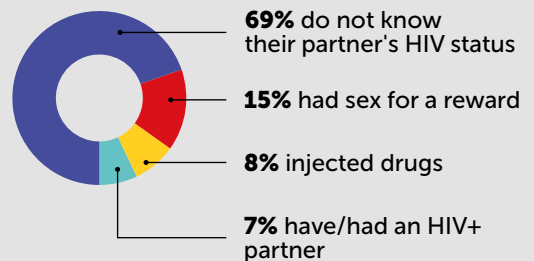
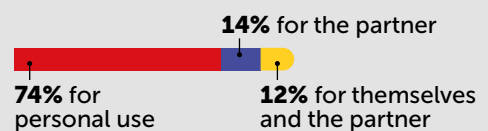
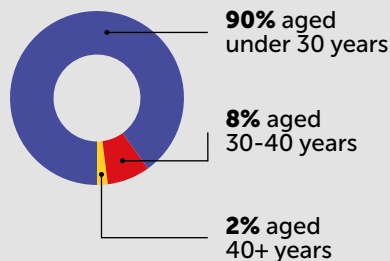


more than 536,000 people have been reached with information about HIV and related health themes through <https://facebook.com/USAID.HEALTHLINK.PROJECT> and <https://prozdorovia.in.ua/>, several hundred thousand more – through the social networks of partner NGOs, media, public events

ORDERING ORAL HIV TESTS THROUGH [PROZDOROVIA.IN.UA](https://prozdorovia.in.ua)



14,286
orders

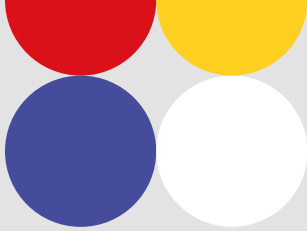


How Ukrainians with HIV are surviving the war. Stories of a military man and a pregnant woman



SOCPO**R**TAL

"My wife and I dreamed of having a son. Somehow, we haven't managed it before... Now, when the war is raging, our dreams have more power, and life has more value. My wife and I are taking ART and we know that we will have a healthy child," says Denys, who learned about his HIV status while serving in the Donetsk region.



WE TEACH

training for family doctors in Lviv

- >500 primary care physicians in Lviv and the region were trained in HIV testing and counselling – and received the appropriate BPD scores
- during 6 months, 20,288 people have been tested in Lviv, i.e. 2.5 times more than last year
- we wish that everyone, and not only in the Lviv region, have the opportunity to find out their HIV status quickly, free of charge and confidentially

partners:

- [Your family doctor](#)
- [The 2nd Lviv Medical Association](#)
- [Lviv City Council](#)
- [CO "100% LIFE. LVIV"](#)

training for project personnel

Lviv

- radiation safety training

Odesa

- training on stopping critical bleeding using turnstiles and tourniquets

Dnipro

- mentoring meetings with a psychologist on overcoming anxiety and depression

WE SUPPORT

- we provide humanitarian aid, including medicines, to clients in need
- we provide food products for the needs of partner HCFs
- we provide psychological assistance
- we refer IDP clients to services that help with housing, clothing, food
- we promote health care via social media

WE RESEARCH

impact of the war on primary healthcare facilities that provide HIV services
implementation of self-testing as part of the HealthLink project



 September 2023

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WE RECOMMEND

[A LIST OF HIV TRAINING COURSES FOR PHYSICIANS](#)

[online course for primary care doctors](#)

- 5 BPD points
- established in partnership with the [NHSU Academy](#) and [PHC](#)

offers new knowledge about HIV and provides effective support to patients

[online course for nurses](#)

helps to improve the professional level and quality of medical care for PLHIV

[guidelines with tips for healthcare professionals](#)

helps to understand patients better and to have an impact on their behaviors in terms of HIV prevention and treatment

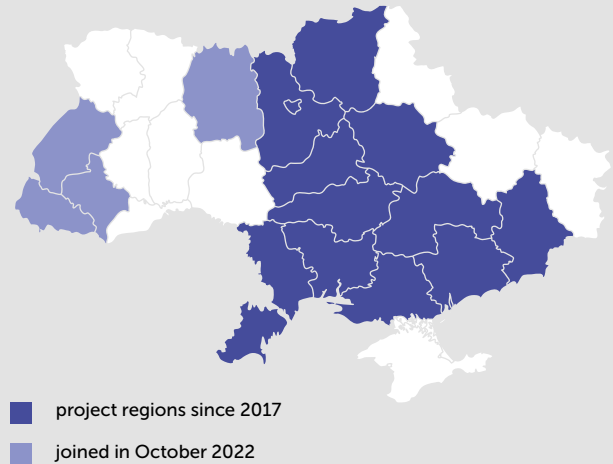
[guidelines with tips for NGO workers](#)

helps to prudently plan communication activities and effectively interact with target audiences

One of the largest and most effective public health projects in Ukraine



- supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID)
- in partnership with the [Alliance for Public Health](#)
- since October 2017
- every third newly discovered PLHIV in the country got tested as part of the HealthLink project



~955,000
people were tested

- ~24,000 people learned about their HIV+ status for the first time
- ~21,000 people received ART
- ~28,000 partners of PLHIV were tested, and 4,700 of them were tested positive
- ~115,000 oral HIV tests were distributed
- ~1,000 people received PrEP for the first time
- ~60,000 safe boxes were distributed
- ~850,000 tests were carried out by healthcare professionals
- 714 HCFs, 27 NGOs, ~10,000 specialists
- >600 community testing sites

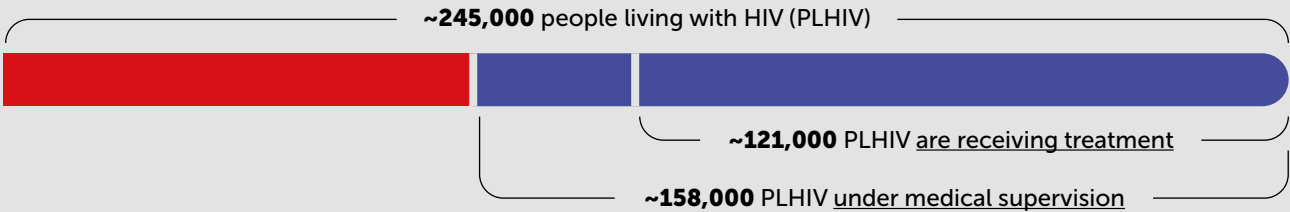
for 6 years

How is it to have a healthy baby even if you have HIV. Maternity story



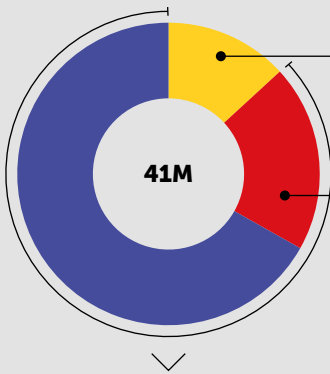
"I felt a double responsibility. I had to save the life of both the mother and her child. We sat on a bench in the park. Sofia calmed down a little. She had already stopped looking for answers of how such a mistake could have happened. She and her husband were expecting a child, wishing the child a better fate. Therefore, they paid attention that Sofia needed to take ARV therapy every day, which is free and available, and is provided by the hospital every month," says Olha Ivanenko, a social worker.

HIV IN UKRAINE



>73% of PLHIV get HIV through **sexual contact**

18 MONTHS OF WAR. OVERALL SITUATION IN UKRAINE



~5.9 M people became refugees to European countries

~5.1 M people are internally displaced

~14.6 M people are estimated to need health assistance

~50% of healthcare facilities in the eastern and southern regions are partially or completely non-functional



~26,000 civilian casualties, including **~9,400** killed



~1,129 attacks on HCFs, medical warehouses, transports, supplies

Heroines of the medical front. 6 stories of women who help the most vulnerable Ukrainians during the war



SOCPORTAL

"I remember that horrible day when the war broke into our lives. We were ready for it, but still, it was unexpected, which left us worried and frightened. However, we didn't give up and didn't just run away from Chernihiv. Our mission was more important than anything and we continued to help people, especially those living with HIV. We worked around the clock to provide ART to HIV-positive people. We were ready to make any sacrifices to help those in need. I am very proud of our team and know that we've done everything possible to save the lives of those who depend on our aid," says Angela Moyseyenko, Chairperson of the Board of the Chernihiv Network.

INSPIRING STORIES



"I HEARD THE FEAR IN HER VOICE GRADUALLY DISAPPEAR"

The war disturbed Svitlana's quiet life three times: first, in 2014, and then twice during the full-scale invasion. Together with her elderly mother, the woman lived in the Donetsk region, and then she moved to Dnipro in February 2022. One day, she and her mother went for a walk, and a missile destroyed their new home. This time, the women moved to the shelter.

During the health examination in the hospital, Svetlana was tested for HIV and had a positive result. The social worker recalls that during their first meeting, the woman was morally broken. In the following days, they spoke with a psychologist several times. **"I saw her become more and more collected, and the fear in her voice gradually disappeared,"** says the social worker of CO "100% Life in Dnipro". The woman managed to move from denial to acceptance. Svitlana continues to attend the psychological care group, she got registered and initiated the ART regimen. She is an example of a strong Ukrainian woman who found the strength to build a new life despite extremely difficult circumstances.



HELPING THOSE WHO RESCUE OTHERS

In early July, the enemy shelling hit the beach in Kostiantynivka (Donetsk region), where the locals were relaxing. Unfortunately, two civilians were killed and many were wounded. Seven paramedics, who provided assistance to the victims, turned then to the local Dovira office to provide them with HIV post-exposure prophylaxis, as they were exposed to risky behavior. All were tested for HIV and given PrEP. They were also recommended to see a doctor again a month later, but given the unknown location they will be at in the future, the doctor consulted them and provided oral tests for self-testing. She is in touch with the paramedics and is awaiting the results of retesting.



LOVE WINS!

Marichka learned about her HIV status back in 2018; back then, she firmly decided she wouldn't have any relationship because she would not be able to share her diagnosis with anybody. However, some time later, the girl met Oleh at a friend's birthday party and fell in love with him. After a while, the man offered to marry.

Marichka turned to a social worker of CO "100% Life. Kyiv region" to get assistance, and they began to plan a way to disclose the status. The social worker shared practices that help disclose the HIV status to the partner and explained that there was a special program for discordant couples that allows them to live a quiet life without the virus transmission risks, that is, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

"Currently, the girl is taking ART, the man is taking PrEP, and they regularly visit the doctor. If necessary, they seek my help. They are going to have a baby soon," the social worker said. **"The use of PrEP in discordant couples is essential as it helps with pregnancy planning, reduces fear and anxiety significantly, and gives partners peace of mind and confidence in their health."**