



# USAID HealthLink Project "Accelerating Efforts to Combat HIV/AIDS in Ukraine"

**HEALTH  
LINK**  
Your health partner

Ukraine's largest HIV testing and one of the  
most effective public health project

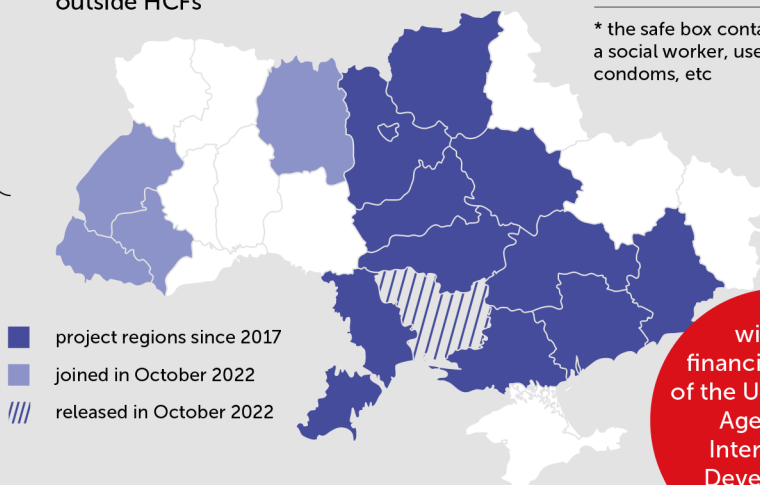
**972,724** PEOPLE HAVE BEEN  
TESTED FOR HIV SINCE 2017

for 6 years

- since October 2017
- one in three newly identified PLHIV in the country was tested through the HealthLink project
- **~870,000** tests performed by healthcare professionals
- **715** healthcare facilities, **32** NGOs, **~10,000** specialists
- **>600** testing locations outside HCFs

- **>24,000** people learned about their positive HIV status
- **~21,000** people received ART
- **~29,000** partners of PLHIV tested, and **~5,000** of them first learned about their positive HIV status
- **~129,000** oral HIV tests distributed
- **~1,500** people received pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for the first time
- **~66,000** safe boxes\* distributed

\* the safe box contains an oral test, instructions, contacts of a social worker, useful brochures, a sticker pack, may contain condoms, etc



with the  
financial support  
of the United States  
Agency for  
International  
Development  
(USAID)

implemented  
CO "100%LIFE"  
in partnership with  
the ICF "Alliance  
for Public  
Health"

## Objectives:

- ✓ overcoming the HIV epidemic by using a quick and safe HIV testing and starting the treatment
- ✓ improving access of PLHIV and KPs to HIV testing, prevention and treatment services
- ✓ reducing stigma and discrimination against PLHIV among the general population and health workers

[prozdorovia.in.ua](https://prozdorovia.in.ua) is the first Ukrainian-language public health portal that created the opportunity:

- **for hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians** to choose the most convenient method and place for HIV testing, PrEP counselling, oral test order
- **for specialists of NGOs and the medical community** to receive constantly updated useful materials for viewing online and downloading

## HealthLink Project in 2023

ata excluding October-December 2023



**212**

project HCFs provided  
HIV testing services



**22,900**

oral HIV tests  
distributed

**97,000** people were tested



**2,801 people** received ART for the first time

**2,838 people** first learned about their positive HIV status



**1.4 million people** reached with HIV and related health information via



USAID.HEALTHLINK.PROJECT

and



prozdorovia.in.ua

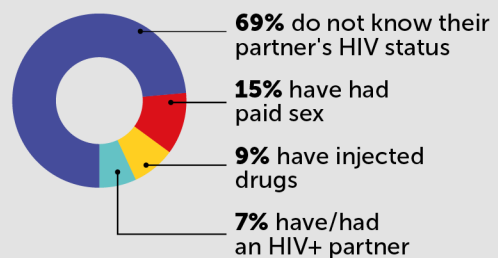
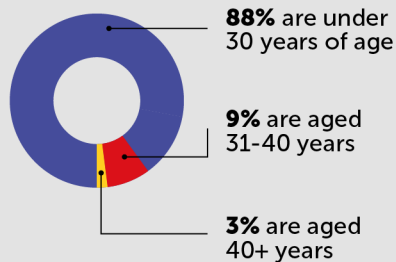
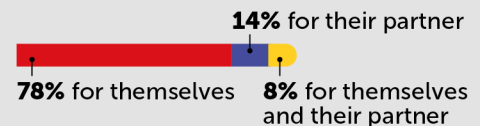
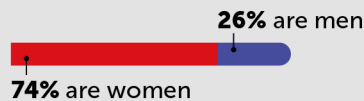
~**100,000** informational materials were disseminated among NGOs and HCFs to reach target audience. All materials are at [prozdorovia.in.ua/materialy/](https://prozdorovia.in.ua/materialy/)

### ORDERING ORAL HIV SELF-TESTS AT [PROZDOROVIA.IN.UA](https://prozdorovia.in.ua)



**16,852**

orders



### Doctors explain the challenges faced by people living with HIV in times of war



СОЦПОРТАЛ

"Oksana Tsapyk says that during the war she felt that she was precisely where she needed to be professionally, carrying out the doctor's mission. She supports displaced people who have lost everything and are confronted with the problem of HIV, comforting them and giving them faith that life goes on and that they can start treatment to live a full life."

# HealthLink Project responds to the challenges of full-scale war

The HealthLink.Recovery initiative aims to restore and expand health services in the regions affected by the full-scale invasion



## KEY OBJECTIVES ARE

1. Improving the health status of the entire population (with a focus on NCDs)
2. Increasing the number of re-signed declarations among IDPs
3. Ensuring further strengthening of primary health care in the context of war

## THE MAIN ACTIVITIES

- procurement of consulting services to provide administrative and legal support
- procurement of equipment, medical supplies and motor vehicles for healthcare facilities (HCFs)
- arrangement of training sessions, online-courses and certificate programs for medical personnel
- initiation of communication campaigns

## MAIN BENEFICIARIES

**Ministry of Health of Ukraine, NHSU, HCA of Dnipropetrovsk region, 14** health care facilities, including **72** outpatient clinics in Kamianske and Pavlohrad districts

## TARGET AUDIENCE OF HEALTHLINK.RECOVERY

- **510,871 people** — total catchment population in 2 raions
- **403,555 patients** with declarations in 14 target HCFs
- **50,857** officially registered IDPs in Kamianske and Pavlohrad raions

# RECOVERY



## COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

### #our\_secret

- on building trust between patients and HCPs; on increasing the demand of target audience for HIV testing service
- **50** pilot project HCFs, **8** NGOs (100%LIFE and APH), **314** healthcare providers. Tools: digital advertising, involvement of influencers, providing materials for HCFs (signposts, posters), informing about testing places (HCFs and others) section at online platform [prozdorovia.in.ua](https://prozdorovia.in.ua)
- **Total communication results:**  
**95,000** users on [prozdorovia.in.ua](https://prozdorovia.in.ua);  
**753,000** total reach by bloggers;  
**142,000** doctors and patients — total reach by other digital channels

### Within International Testing Week

- to raise awareness among the population about the importance of HIV and Hepatitis testing
- informing about testing places (HCFs and others) section at online platform [prozdorovia.in.ua](https://prozdorovia.in.ua)
- Facebook, Instagram, Google
- **3,000** positive reactions from the TA across all channels



## EDUCATION

### 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

### Communication education for NGOs

- a series of webinars on enhancing the cooperation with HCFs, on engaging opinion leaders in HIV/AIDS project, communication under blackout conditions, algorithm for responding to communication crises in healthcare projects and others
- held by communication expert within communication mentorship program

### Partners:

- Your family doctor
- The 2nd Lviv Medical Association
- Lviv City Council
- CO "100% LIFE. LVIV"

## STUDIES

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

 presentation of research results in 2024

 presentation of research results in 2024

## EDUCATIONAL COURSES AND MATERIALS

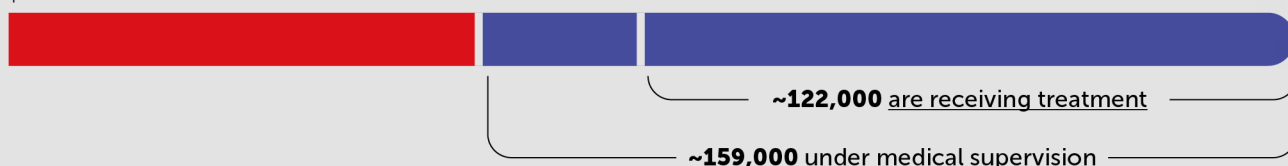
### A list of HIV training courses for physicians

- ... **An online course for PHC doctors**
  - 5 BPD points
  - established in partnership with the NHSU Academy and PHCoffers new knowledge about HIV and provides effective support to patients
- ... **A guide with tips for healthcare professionals**
  - helps to better understand patients and influence their behavior regarding HIV prevention and treatment

- ... **An online course for nurses**
  - helps to improve the professional level and quality of medical care for PLHIV
- ... **A guide with tips for NGO workers**
  - helps to plan communication activities wisely and interact effectively with target audiences

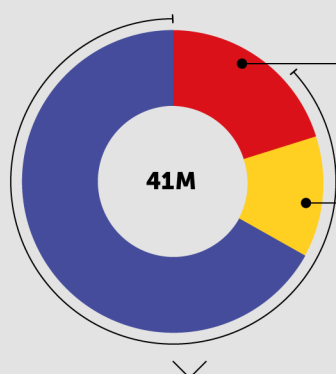
## HIV in Ukraine

~250,000 people living with HIV



>73% of people living with HIV get the virus **sexually**

## 22 MONTHS OF WAR. OVERALL SITUATION IN UKRAINE



~5.9M people left for Europe

~3.7M people are internally displaced

~14.6M people require medical care

~1,422 attacks on healthcare facilities (HCFs), medical warehouses, transports, supplies



~10,000 civilians were killed, among them **560 kids**  
>18,500 were injured



~1,500 HCFs damaged, **195** completely destroyed

~850 damaged HCFs have been fully or partially restored

## **Hepatitis B and C destroy the body asymptotically: only testing will allow timely detection of the disease**

“– I barely persuaded myself to pull myself together – I am a woman, and a woman has to endure everything! It's important that our children would not have these diagnoses,” says Kateryna. At the hospital, she was offered free treatment for hepatitis C as part of the ongoing program, which she began receiving the next day. We examined the children – and they are healthy! It was during this time that the couple met the staff of the Chernihiv Network charity organization, which provided them with moral support in accepting their HIV-positive status, registering and receiving free antiretroviral therapy.”

**ФАКТИ  
ЗДОРОВ'Я**

## INSPIRING STORIES

**"RAISE FROM DESPAIR"**

Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast  
Kherson city NGO "Association of the 21st century"

A social worker's success story: "After the news of a positive HIV test, Mykhailo shut down, he hardly spoke, mostly listened. Since he had concomitant diseases, he was hospitalized. When I entered the ward, Mykhailo had his face turned to the wall. We were sitting like that, in silence. They were silent for a long time. Then, I began to tell him about myself: how twenty years ago I found out about my status. At that time, there was no social worker who could support, tell something, advise, and I had to find out everything all by myself. I told him what it was like before there was no therapy, how people died, how we all waited for that therapy, and what joy and hope that first medication brought. I said that it was a handful of pills, and not as it is now — one pill a day. I told him about my life, about my personal life, about my fears, about my achievements.

After half an hour, Mykhailo turned to me and began to ask questions, so we had a conversation. We talked for a long time. About everything. When I said goodbye, he even smiled — this was the beginning of our trusting relationship and our cooperation.

He's fine now. His cells grow. Mykhailo has big plans for life and the future."

**"BOHDAN'S SUCCESS STORY IS AN EXAMPLE OF STRONG CHARACTER AND IMPORTANT SUPPORT IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE LIFE SEEMS COMPLICATED AND UNCERTAIN"**

Donetsk Oblast CO CF "Ukrainian Resource Center"

As a soldier, Bohdan was confronted with the problem of HIV under unfortunate circumstances — during the treatment of pneumonia. After receiving a positive HIV test result, he was shocked and distressed, especially given his dreams of a large family and a happy relationship with Marina, his girlfriend. But Bohdan was lucky to have a social worker nearby who was able to give him support and hope. The information Bohdan received about the possibilities of antiretroviral therapy (ART), which allows people with HIV to live a full life and blocks the transmission of the virus from mother to child, was important. This information prompted Bohdan to overcome his initial depression and tell his girlfriend Maryna about the importance of HIV testing.

The story became more successful when Maryna also confirmed a positive test result and joined the ART. This couple has decided to overcome the fear of gossip in their small village and is actively seeking the necessary treatment.

Supporting each other and sharing information between Bohdan and Maryna, as well as providing the necessary drugs, have become an important link in their path to health and a happy future.

**"A WOMAN TOOK THE TEST IN A PRIVATE LABORATORY. BECAUSE OF HER MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE TEST RESULTS, SHE THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS FINE"**

CO "100% LIFE" in Dnipro

Svitlana was hospitalized in the Department of Internal Medicine "University Hospital" of DSMU with symptoms of dizziness and high blood pressure. Recently, these symptoms have been bothering her constantly, and her health has been poor. One of the stages of diagnosing the cause of Sviltana's condition was an HIV test, and the result was positive.

The first meeting of Sviltana and the social worker took place in the hospital. The client said that six months ago, her ex-husband asked her to be tested for HIV. She took the test in a private laboratory. Because of the incorrect understanding of the results, she thought that everything was fine, so she did nothing.

During this meeting, the social worker answered all of Sviltana's questions and helped disclose her status to husband, as well as involve him in the testing. The husband got negative result.

Thanks to the efficient and professional work of our team, Sviltana has accepted her status and is actively taking ART. She feels good both physically and emotionally.



# 100%LIFE enters the new 2024 year with a victory —

in a historic move, the Ukrainian Parliament, also known as the Verkhovna Rada or simply the Rada, adopted draft law No. 7457 on the legalization of medical cannabis in its entirety.

We thank all partners for fighting side by side with us!

## 100% LIFE — we do impossible:

**the largest patient organization in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**, which has developed into an international foundation and implements complex projects

**mission:**  
Fight for Life

**24**  
regional branches

## 22 months of full-scale war:

**28** new humanitarian projects, including healthcare and education clusters

**> 2 million Ukrainians** received aid

**a network of 13 shelters** for communities and people in the most difficult circumstances

100%LIFE

# WE DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

**Philanthropy of independence.**  
**32 organizations that have had an impact on the development of Ukrainian society**

"Charitable organization "100%LIFE" is the largest patient organization in Ukraine; our mission is to fight for life."

