Public organization "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL"

Annual program report

2020 (01.01.2020-31.12.2020)

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Introduction

PO "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL" specializes in providing services for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among men who have sex with men (MSM), focused on the progress and consolidation subgroup of gay and bisexual men as part of LGBT community and the community in general; promoting the reduction of homo-, bi- and transphobia in Ukrainian society.

The organization started working in 2001 with a group of activists who, aware of the major risks of MSM in Kyiv launched a public initiative on HIV/STIs. Legally "Alliance.Global" was registered in 2002. Since then, the organization conducted over 50 projects and studies among MSM, which allowed to achieve 40% coverage of MSM population that receives services in HIV/STI prevention in Ukraine.

The organization is constantly evolving and covers all new trends. Today the main activity of "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL" is mainly focused on activities of outreach/social work, HIV/STI testing and prevention, paralegals, development of community centers for MSM and regional advocacy for access of key groups to health and social services.

Outreach services provide social consulting and distribution of free condoms and lubricants among MSM in popular public places in order to establish direct contact with the target audience.

Testing for HIV/STI is performed in the community centers for MSM of PO "Alliance.Global" and partner medical institutions. The service is free, anonymous and confidential.

Community Centers of PO "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL" is based on the principle of "all services in one place." Here, MSM can receive social consultations, PrEP, can be tested for HIV/STI by rapid-tests, communicate with other members of the Community Center, can receive psychologist's consultation. All services are free, anonymous (except PrEP) and confidential.

Educational, informational, entertainment and thematic events in the community centers are focused on the development of individual potential of each MSM.

Physical health and psychological well-being of all MSM are the key principles of the Community Centers and PO "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL".

Our advocacy work is in the field of health and rights of MSM/LGBT people on the national and local levels, mobilization and strengthening of leadership and organizational capacity of MSM, which is implemented since January 2018 within the National MSM Consortium. The National MSM Consortium #MSM_PRO is a platform for organizational interaction of Ukrainian public leaders representing POs "ALLIANCE.GOBAL", "LGBT Association LIGA", "Gay Forum of Ukraine" and "Spectrum Kharkiv", working to expand rights and human freedoms, as well as ensuring a decent standard of living and high quality services for people at high risk of HIV infection. The activities of the National MSM Consortium are conducted by public organizations working on the terms of significant participation of men who have sex with men.

I he main priority advocacy tasks of the Consortium today are the introduction of registered civil partnerships (RCP) in Ukraine, amendments to the Criminal Code to prevent hate crimes, in particular in the context of SOGI, allocation of budget funding for public health services for MSM, development of regional leadership.

Within the framework of the human rights direction of our organization, we have two national paralegal networks: MSM/LGBTQ and adolescents affected by the HIV epidemic. Specially trained paralegals provide primary legal assistance in cases of violation of rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), HIV status, age, etc., are engaged in media monitoring of attitudes towards LGBTQ by decision-makers, right-wing radical groups, etc., and responding to hate speech. Paralegal networks cooperate with a number of human rights organizations such as the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, "KyivPride" PO, the OSCE, etc., as well as informational and educational activities for MSM and vulnerable adolescents.

From 2016, the creative team of the organization, launched an information campaign "GETTEST" about free testing for HIV and STIs for MSM, which since 2018 has become an all-Ukrainian one. All information about the campaign on the project site <u>www.gettest.com.ua</u>

From 2018, the creative team of the organization launched an information campaign about nationwide program of innovative HIV prevention (PrEP) in Ukraine. All information about the campaign on the project site <u>www.prep.com.ua</u>

From 2019, the organization launches the Shelter project for MSM / LGBT people. The project oriented on people who is in difficult living situations or suffering from persecution and discrimination because of SOGI (sexual orientation and or gender identity). More about the project on the organization's special page <u>http://ga.net.ua/ua/poslugi-organizatsiyi/shelter-dlya-msm-lgbt-2/</u>

The strategic plan of the organization

January 2020 to December 2023 (three years) Approved in September 2019

The main principles of the strategic plan:

1. Values of the organization:

1.1. NGO ALLIANCE GLOBAL adheres to the principles of non-discrimination, tolerance, equality, security, openness, and respect for the individuals.

1.2. Values of the NGO "ALLIANCE. GLOBAL": equality, diversity, safety.

2. Vision and mission of the organization:

2.1. Mission: NGO ALLIANCE GLOBAL strives to achieve a decent standard of living and health for MSM / LGBT people; is a leader in healthcare and the rights of MSM / LGBT people and other groups.

2.2. Vision: A society where everyone is respected and accepted, regardless of any of its characteristics (including SOGI).

3. Objectives:

3.1. Strengthening measures to improve/maintain the health of various groups of the population: Reducing the level of HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis, increasing access to mental health programs, etc.

3.2. Mobilizing communities and advocating for their rights and needs.

3.3. Promoting positive public opinion towards MSM / LGBT and other groups.

Description of the organization's projects

"Serving Life" MSM in Kyiv, Chernihiv and Dnipro

Project implementation period: June 2020 - September 2021

Donor: PATH, USAID

Project goal: The USAID-funded Serving Life project aims to reduce HIV transmission through detection, care, and treatment for people living with HIV in penal and civil sector community settings in 12 PEPFAR regions of Ukraine. The project is working to increase case detection and enhance linkage, retention in care, and treatment for key populations including detainees, prisoners, ex-prisoners, men who have sex with men (MSM) and people who inject drugs (PWID) within community settings.

Project description

The **main goal** of the project is to reduce the spread of HIV among MSM in Ukraine.

On the way to achieving the goal of the project the **main tasks** are:

1. Conduct mapping of MSM hotspots and update it on the quarterly basis by analyzing MSM social networks/mobile apps and arranging working meetings with MSM, MSM leaders and representatives of MSM-service NGOs;



2. Create an MSM-friendly counseling room ("one-stop shop") at the premises of a civil healthcare facility;



3. Arrange laboratory diagnostics of sexually transmitted infections: chlamydia, trichomoniasis and gonorrhea, at a state laboratory for MSM who will need it;

4. Conduct information and outreach activities to prevent and raise awareness of HIV, STIs and viral hepatitis (VH) among MSM community;

5. Detect new HIV cases among MSM by creating a peerto-peer network of case-finders;

6. Implement ICT model among HIV-positive MSM and their partners;

7. Foster ART adherence and ensure psychosocial support to HIV-positive MSM;

8. Support HIV-negative MSM at high risk of HIV infection in accessing and continuing HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

The main activities of the project in 2020 (June-December 2020):

In general, for all regions of the project:

- With the financial support of PATH and fundraising resources of the NGO "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL" an advertising and information campaign was conducted to attract MSM to the CT on the basis of the website www.gettest.com.ua. Advertising and information materials were placed on such resources as Google, Hornet, gayUA.com, Facebook, instagram, Bluesystem.
- An information campaign and online registration of clients to receive services by clients was conducted through the campaign website www.gettest.com.ua at testing points within the project. The mechanism of distribution of online registrations according to the schedule of social workers in the project worked.
- Social workers of the project conducted social and motivational work through their own pages in the smartphone applications Hornet and Grindr and social networks / dating sites facebook, Instagram, Bluesystem, where they provided advice (both on their own initiative and with the first questions from a potential client) on testing on HIV / STIs. Upon arrival at the test sites, clients received motivational and social counseling on testing and safe sexual behavior.
- Motivation was provided by social workers to involve HIV + MSM sex partners in HIV / STI testing.

KYIV

During the project in 2020, the organization worked in the following areas:

• Testing point work for MSM on the basis of the private clinic "Healthy Family". This clinic provides the organization with appropriate conditions for the provision of counseling and testing services for HIV and STIs by equal forces, namely - the work of the testing point in the evening and on weekends (Mon-Wed, Fri from 16.00 to 20.00 and Saturday from 14 .00 to 18.00); providing a tolerant medical professional; location of the point in the city center, which simplifies the logistics task for potential customers of the project.

• As part of the well-established work with the Healthy Family Clinic, laboratory tests for chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis are available to our clients.

• The project continues cooperation with the Kyiv City AIDS Center on the prompt involvement of MSM in ART with the help and participation of social workers.

DNIPRO



During the project in 2020, the organization worked on the following

directions:

• Established cooperation with "Regional Dermatological and Venereological Dispensary", where from 1.08.2020 there is a Friendly Cabinet to MSM at st. Baikalskaya 9A, office 18. Schedule of Monday-Friday (12:00 - 18:00), Saturday (9:00 - 15:00).

• On the basis of the Friendly Cabinet, the client has the opportunity to receive services from: testing and counseling, laboratory diagnosis of chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis, as well as support to receive ARVT (by consent).

CHERNIHIV

During the first 3 months of the project (October-December 2020) in this region, the organization managed to launch work in the following areas:

• Organize the provision of services by staffing the full team of social workers and management of the direction;

• Within the framework of the project, a scheme of work with the Chernihiv Regional Center for AIDS Prevention and Control on the prompt involvement of MSM on ART with the help and participation of social workers was established and redeveloped.

• Organized work of testing point for MSM at Chernihiv, st. Heroes of Chornobyl 3. This



point provides the organization with appropriate conditions for the provision of counseling and testing services for HIV by peers, namely - the work of the testing point was carried out in the evening and on weekends (Monday, Thursday and Sunday from 18:00 to 20:00); convenience of location of the point.

Key achievements of the project

KYIV

The key achievements for the project during 2020 can be considered:

• Operation of the MSM-friendly Cabinet on the basis of the private clinic "Healthy Family", which allowed to attract clients to the CaT.

• Advertising campaign on the website www.gettest.com.ua for informing the community and other representatives of MSM about the possibility of receiving free services with the possibility of online registration to receive these services.

• Availability for MSM services for laboratory diagnosis of STIs. This allowed to motivate a wider audience of MSM to the CaT.

• On the basis of the project and in cooperation with other activities of the organization NGO "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL" was able to organize the provision of a full preventive package of services for representatives of MSM.



• As part of the GETTEST information campaign, 192,763 unique users were informed about the opportunities to receive QT services.

DNIPRO

• Functioning of the Cabinet friendly to MSM on the basis of KP "Regional Dermatological and Venereological Dispensary D PR ", which made it possible to attract clients to the project services.

• General advertising campaign of the organization on the basis of the website www.gettest.com.ua for informing the community and other representatives of MSM about the possibility of receiving free services with the possibility of online registration to receive these services.

Chernihiv

• Cascade of services: In total, 39 MSM were involved in project services in Dnipro during the reporting period;

- number of positive results of rapid HIV testing 1 MSM (2.6%);
- were placed under medical supervision 1 MSM (100%);
- for the first time received ART 1 MSM (100%).



| | | - | 2 | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | Received rapid HIV test | Received a positive RT result for HIV | Received support to the hospital | Taking on the Dispensary Register | Started taking ART |
| ΚΥΙν | 1123 | 55 (5%) | 54 (98%) | 54 (100%) | 54 (100%) |
| CHERNIHIV | 39 | 1 (2,6%) | 1 (100%) | 1 (100%) | 1 (100%) |
| DNIPRO | 464 | 8 (1,7%) | 7 (87,5%) | 7 (100%) | 6 (85,7%) |

Project results for 2020 year

Community Center in Kyiv

Project implementation period: January - February 2020

The purpose of the project/area: providing a key group of MSM community with a safe space with the provision of psychological support, peer-to-peer counseling; formation of safer sexual behavior, adherence to HIV testing every 6 months.



Project activities

The Community Center is a "Safe space" space that is constantly working to mobilize MSM in HIV, STI prevention, capacity building, and consolidation, and various activities to support MSM / LGBT people.

During 2020, group events were regularly held to exchange information and experiences; a "comfort zone" was provided for HIV, STI, and viral hepatitis testing, and project beneficiaries were consulted; individual psychological support was provided.

The community center is open to visitors Monday through Sunday from 2 to 9 p.m. During the day, most visitors use testing services, and in the evening, customers come to regular or unique community events.

Among the entertainment events, the hallmark of the community center for several years

in a row is the intellectual game "Mafia", which gathers halls full of people wishing to play the game.

The community center communicates with its customers through modern social media: Facebook groups, Instagram, Telegram channels, Instagram Stories, and IGTV.

Throughout the year, there were **"Discussion Clubs"** where visitors discussed current or urgent needs for MSM service and the LGBT movement.



In order to mobilize MSM, throughout the year the group meetings of creative and artistic events and entertainment events were held to convey preventive information in an accessible and understandable form.



Throughout the year, the center was visited by delegations of colleagues on HIV prevention and human rights projects from around the world.

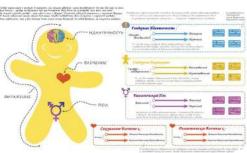
The Community Center has supported various global promotions, events and European Testing Weeks. Training related to HIV, STIs, and mental health, as well as gender and sexual diversity, group experiments on relationships, love, and hate, for both visitors and staff of the center.

Employees of the Community Center took part in the 13th LGBT conference in Kyiv.

The results of the project during 2020

For the first two month of 2020, the community center covered 720 beneficiaries.

All of these clients were tested for HIV in the community center. The social workers of the center identified 9 cases of HIV infection, all such clients were provided with case management and assistance in obtaining ART.



Strengthening leadership in advocacy to develop the capacity of the MSM community at the national and regional levels to ensure the sustainability of HIV services

Project implementation period: January - December 2020 Donor: 100% Life - PLHIV Network (the Global Fund) Project goal:

Ensuring a decent standard of living, health and rights for MSM, in particular through the sustainability of HIV/AIDS services during the transition from donor to budget funding, strengthening community capacity and partnerships with allies, and liberalizing legislation on SOGI and MSM/LGBTI+ community.



Project objectives:

1. Advocacy for access to public health services for MSM at the state and local levels, including:

1.1. Budget advocacy at the national level to improve the mechanism of financing services for MSM from the state budget in the interests of community-based organizations and MSM service NGOs.

1.2. Monitoring of processes for procurement of medical and social services for MSM at the expense of the State and local budgets.

1.3. Advocacy for formal inclusion to the local coordination councils on HIV/AIDS and TB, public health, elected by the MSM community.

2. Develop and promote of the legislative initiatives to ensure equal rights and freedoms for MSM/LGBTI+ community members in Ukraine, including: Develop and promote of the legislative initiatives to ensure equal rights and freedoms for MSM/LGBTI+ community members in Ukraine, including:

2.1. Introduction of advocacy measures to promote registered civil partnerships (#RCP).

2.2. Promoting the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in new regulations.

2.3. Advocacy against the adoption of normative legal acts (or amendments to them) aimed at restricting human rights and freedoms for LGBTI+ in Ukraine.

2.4. Preparation of strategic information, analytical and information documents that ensure the effectiveness of achieving the positive changes mentioned above.

1. Strengthen the organizational, leaders and expertise potential of MSM/LGBT people, increase community visibility, strengthen interaction and coordination with allies, including:

3.1. Providing technical assistance to MSM/LGBT leaders and activists in order to strengthen their organizational, leaders and expertise potential.

3.2. Conducting training activities for MSM, in particular, on the basics of fundraising and writing project applications.

3.3. Organization and holding of the 13th National LGBTI conference with international participation.

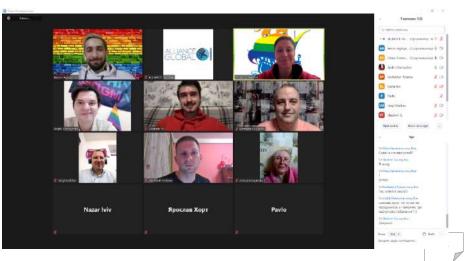
3.4. Strengthen cooperation with allies and strengthen partnerships: with key community leaders, community self-organizations, MSM service and other NGOs working with MSM and / or other key groups, with international and human rights organizations.

3.5. Proactive participation in the work of the National Council for Combating Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS and its bodies.



The most significant successes of the MSM/LGBTI+ community and the National MSM Consortium during 2020.

- 1. Entering the community into direct contact with a new group of parliamentarians and new factions and inter-factional parliamentary associations.
- 2. Building a strategic partnership with the Ombudsman's Office.
- 3. Ensuring the existence of a block of issues on the agenda of the Consortium in the draft of the updated National Strategy in the field of human rights (approved by the President) and in the draft Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy in the field of human rights for 2021-2023 (approved by the Cabinet of Ministers).
- 4. Ensuring the submission to the Verkhovna Rada of the draft Law of Ukraine of April 24, 2020 № 3316-2 "On Amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine (on the regulation of liability for crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance)".
- 5. Joining the rights of associate members of the Inter-factional parliamentary association (parliamentary platform) "Health of the Nation and Human Rights".
- 6. Ensuring that Ukraine receives a direct official recommendation from the UN global system to introduce the registered civil partnerships.
- 7. Thanks to the technical assistance provided, three new NGOs based on significant community-based participation were officially registered in 2020.
- 8. Successful holding of the 13th National LGBTI Conference of Ukraine as a key collective professional and leadership event, in the context of the severe COVID-19 pandemic in Ukraine and the worldwide.
- 9. Ensuring the political will of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine to promote and support the Government's two main legislative initiatives of the Consortium on registered civil partnerships (RCP) and on amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine on the prevention of crimes motivated by intolerance.
- 10. Radical improvement of the system of representation of organizations representing the interests of MSM in the National Council for Combating Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.
- 11. Formation of a new format of leadership and activism development in Ukraine within the MSM key group in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, using new online platforms and online tools for communication and attracting new activists.
- 12. The National Expert Mechanism (EGHR Ukraine) has been strengthened through the involvement of excellent new national experts from the MSM/LGBTI+ community.
- 13. Involvement of new promising regional MSM activists and volunteers into the work of the Consortium and Networks of Paralegals.
- 14. The National MSM Consortium was institutionally expanded in the summer of 2020, a new young LGBT organization, NGO "SPECTRUM KHARKIV", joined to it.
- 15. Greater visibility of the community and the strategically important issues that concern it has been ensured through media interviews, ΤV appearances, and increased interaction and cooperation with



allies from both the non-governmental sector and the authorities. The significant revival of the Consortium's media activity was mainly due to the appearance of a separate PR and communications consultant at the project.

16. Transparent and active participation of MSM/LGBTI+ activists and other key communities was ensured in the formation of a new application for the Global Fund for the period 2021-23.

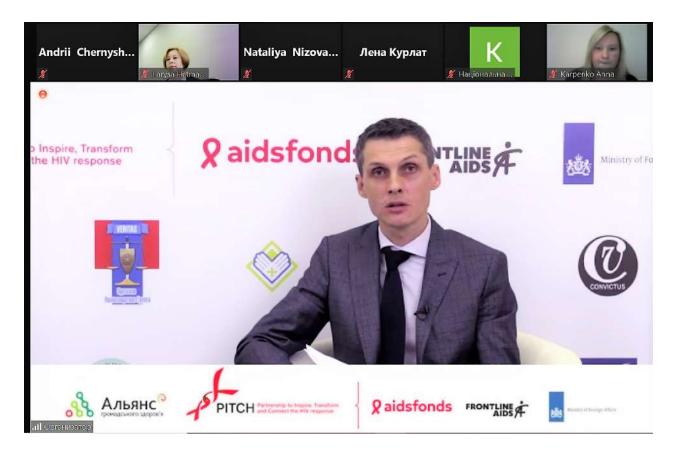
Capacity building of MSM and strengthening of partnership relations in 3 regions of Ukraine

Project implementation period: January - December 2020

Donor: Alliance for Public Health (PITCH Project)

Project goal: Strengthening the leadership capacity of MSM and conducting effective activities with the help of allies to ensure the sustainability of medical and social services and the rights of MSM at the local and state levels.

Target group of the project: MSM activists; employees and volunteers of LGBT and MSM service NGOs; leaders of self-organization centers of key communities in the regions; local/state decision-makers.



Project objectives:

- 1. Conducting of the budget advocacy to ensure the sustainability of services for MSM at the expense of state and local budgets:
 - Participation of MSM leaders in certain regions (Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk regions and Mariupol City - Donetsk region) in the development of local HIV/AIDS policies (new region/city public health programs, sectoral general social health and social programs, etc.) and inclusion the MSM component to them;
 - Determining the possibility of financing services from local budgets for MSM needs: defining of funding mechanisms, additional package of services and their calculation, the criteria of organizations - recipients of services.
- 2. Advocacy for receiving of preferential premises at the local level as one of the important elements of ensuring the sustainability of services (Dnipro, Mariupol).

- 3. Involvement of MSM leaders to the local coordination mechanisms and intersectoral working groups, participation of community leaders at work of these mechanisms / groups to develop and make proposals for policies related to the rights and health of MSM.
- 4. Providing professional expert support to MSM leaders, regional coordinators and other stakeholders on advocacy, strengthening community leadership and organizational capacity, participation in information and training activities on responding to violations of MSM rights, strengthening community visibility.
- 5. Further increasing the circle of allies and formation of common advocacy priorities at the local level.
- 6. Holding round tables, as well as other working and informal meetings, negotiations with MSM/LGBT representatives, other key communities, NGOs, human rights organizations and government officials to promote advocacy initiatives as part of this project.



Activity results:

1). Sustainability of HIV/AIDS prevention services for MSM and other key groups in Kherson region is ensured, namely:

- Provision of HIV/AIDS prevention services for MSM and other key groups in Kherson region at the expense of the state budget within the Transition Plan from donor to state funding (continuously from November 2019), for our partner organization the Charity Fund "Mangust";

- extended preferential/free lease of premises for the provision of services for MSM in Kherson. The provision of services has prevented the interruption of

provision these services, which is a critical factor in overcoming HIV/AIDS epidemic.

2). Thanks to the advocacy work carried out during 2019-20, were held elections and MSM representatives were included into the regional and city coordination councils on HIV/AIDS and TB (Mariupol City, Dnipro City, Dnipropetrovsk region, Kherson City). Their inclusion has allowed more influence on decision-makers to promote the interests of MSM in the region.

3). A draft law has been prepared to amend the Criminal Code to prevent crimes caused by intolerance (on 20 grounds, including SOGI). The plans to submit this bill to the Committee on Law Enforcement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and to register the bill.
4). Partially funded activities related to national advocacy for MSM and strengthening the leadership and organizational capacity of MSM/LGBTI+, as part of the 13th National LGBTI Conference Online (5-7.11.2020).



The national network of paralegals

Project implementation period: January-December 2020 Donor: 100% Life (PLHIV Network)

Project description

The National Network of Paralegals is a human rights project of ALLIANCE.GLOBAL, the main purpose of which is to provide free legal aid to the community of MSM and adolescents, teach activists the basics of human rights, human rights training, media coverage of discrimination and violation of key communities.

The network of paralegals is represented in all regions of Ukraine, except for territories not controlled by the government. The network had 80 paralegals trained in basic legal aid for the MSM community and adolescents with HIV; and about 100 volunteers, of the end of 2020.

This success was achieved through to the work with the audience, mainly in TikTok. The audience of this social network is young people, who have not been covered by any projects before.

During 2020, the Paralegal Network conducted dozens of human rights trainings and workshops, as a result of which more than 150 people received basic knowledge on providing paralegal assistance. The events took place in different formats and in different regions of the country.

There was coordination of paralegals on the process of providing assistance in cases of violation of rights, communication with paralegals on the support of open cases, as well as monitoring of social networks, and identification of violations situations. As of the end of December 2020, monitoring identified 43 verified cases of rights violations, more than 50 offenses that did not become cases, as well as a total of more than 200 requests for advice or assistance.



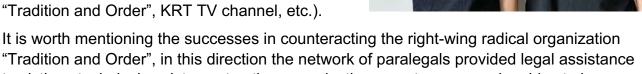


The most significant success of the project in 2020 was the revocation of the license of the national KRT TV channel, due to appeals of the network of paralegals to the government agencies and protests (Responses of the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting and the Ombudsman). For the first time in Ukraine, broadcasting licenses were revoked from an entire TV channel due to its open homophobia, indicating this fact in official documents.

The campaign against the KRT TV channel began with complaints about homophobia and violations of anti-discrimination legislation in their TV programs. Subsequently, the project coordinator organized a "Disruption" of live broadcast on the channel with the

participation of representatives of the radical organization "Tradition and Order". This attracted considerable public attention to the TV channel and its homophobic rhetoric, which allowed the TV channel to be permanently deprived of its broadcasting license as a result of appeals..

Due to this situation, cooperation was established with the ombudsman's office, which led to a number of positive responses to the network's appeals (Regarding homophobic bills, homophobic statements of the children's ombudsman, the activities of the radical grouping "Tradition and Order", KRT TV channel, etc.).



to victims, technical assistance to other organizations, sent numerous inquiries to law enforcement agencies and ombudsman, meetings were held with partner organizations (UHHRU, ZMINA, 100% Life), which as a result allowed to draw significant public attention to this organization and to initiate proceedings against the above-mentioned NGO.

Communication with other human rights organizations and mass media was strengthened or established: ZMINA, GenderZ, KyivPride, Frontline defenders, more than one meetings were held with representatives of UHHRU and the legal department of 100% Life, Detector Media, etc.

Coverage of paralegal networks in the media and social networks, as well as information products, covered more than 4,000,000 people, excluding mentions in the national media, the coverage of which cannot be determined. Representatives of the team took part in TV broadcasts and gave expert comments on the issue of MSM / LGBT people and adolescents affected by the HIV / AIDS epidemic. In total, more than 200

communication products were created: including more than 40 mentions in national media, such as Ukrainian Pravda, DW, Suspilne, Detector Media etc.; more than 150 posts on social networks, collaborations with bloggers, streams (maximum number spectators for one stream 2700 people).

A significant success of the project was the creation of a paralegal account in TikTok (Monthly coverage of 1,200,000 people, 24.6 thousand subscribers and 880,000 likes), a significant increase of paralegal network account on Facebook (Monthly coverage of 30,000 people, 900 subscribers) and Instagram (Monthly coverage of 115,000 people, 4,000 subscribers)







National information campaigns

www.gettest.com.ua & www.prep.com.ua

Project implementation period: January - December 2020

Donor: Alliance for Public Health and AIDS Funds

Project goal: Involvement of MSM in HIV and STI counseling and testing services (including pre-exposure prophylaxis - PrEP).

Project description

The media campaign provided up-to-date information on the health aspects of MSM, promoted HIV and STI testing, safer sexual practices, and PrEP. The campaign was conducted based on web resources <u>www.gettest.com.ua</u> and <u>www.prep.com.ua</u>.

The campaign includes tools such as:

 communication with online platforms on the placement of advertising messages about services for MSM with redirection of clients to the site of the Get Test and PrEP campaign;

 coordination and development of information materials/articles/messages on web resources;

 preparation of short information messages and videos for social networks and YouTube;

 popularization of services of prevention programs by carrying out informational and educational actions;

• monitoring the effectiveness of the campaign.



Get Test and PrEP are platforms for involving MSM in testing, filled with up-to-date information on:

- sexual and reproductive health of MSM;

- current information on PrEP;
- aspects and features of HIV self-testing;
- maps for testing services;
- entertaining and educational content about LGBT people;

The main purpose of the platforms is to accumulate the audience of MSM (including its hard-to-reach subgroup - bisexuals and MSM who use drugs) on the web resource to further involve it in HIV and STI testing, as well as the opportunity to take an online screening test of TB. The web-page will allow you to register for HIV and STI testing in the regions where prevention programs are implemented.

Working communication was established with regional HIV service organizations working with MSM. The purpose of this communication (e-mail, telephone conversations)



was to collect operational information for further posting on the campaign web-pages on the location of MSM testing points, their schedule, list of services provided, contact person for forwarding applications for services and PrEP.

Among the MSM / LGBT target resources where advertisements were placed are:

- mobile applications for MSM audience (Hornet);
- dating sites for MSM (BlueSystem, gayUA.com);
- social networks (Facebook, Instagram. Youtube);
- search services (SEO-optimization, targeted advertising by keywords);
- Google contextual advertising

The placement of advertising on these resources takes place with different intensity and will be adjusted based on the results of the analysis of indicators of attracting real customers from among the general audience covered by advertising messages and spent financial resources.

A special online registration form for receiving services is available on the web resources of the media campaign. As a result of such registration, an electronic application form was automatically generated, which was sent in real-time to the contact e-mail address of the relevant NGO in the selected region and duplicated to the e-mail address of the communication manager to monitor the process of involving MSM and TG in testing.

General results of GETTEST.COM.UA:

• During the reporting period, the site's audience was 351,236 sessions, where users viewed 416,847 pages with an average session duration of 00:56, of which 308,134 were unique views; On average, site visitors viewed 1.19 pages per session.

• In 2020, 1,857 MSM used the recording service for testing.

General results of PrEP.COM.UA:

• During the reporting period, the site's audience was 72,524 sessions, where users viewed 146,273 pages with an average session duration of 01:31, of which 44,711 were unique views; On average, site visitors viewed 1.51 pages per session.

• In 2020, 1,091 MSM used the recording service for testing with PrEP consultation.

HealthLink in Dnipro

Implementation period: October 2019 - September 2020

Donor Name: Alliance for Public Health, United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The project aims to expand access of high-risk groups, their sexual partners to quality, "friendly", counseling and testing services, timely coverage of HIV-infected people with care and support services, antiretroviral treatment, as well as prevention of new cases of HIV infection.



Project activities:

The first and most important aspect in the construction of the work structure was the actual separation of the two main areas - communication / PR and technical support of the project. A new service provider, communication and promotion specialist has been involved. According to the results of the

communication specialist work, social networks have worked very well leading to 1,200 new followers on Instagram and 400 on Facebook.

It's worth mentioning that we managed to find a new, quite spacious, and cozy venue in the city center of Dnipro, which became a much better alternative to the previous one. The location and the team made it possible to create the same "safe space" where everyone can be themselves and feel free.

To ensure the safety in the community center, we provide an option of meeting the client outside of the office and conduct a preliminary screening for aggression and affiliation to the MSM community. This year we continued working on the promotion of the MenSpace brand creating new branded products to attract new clients and promote the services and the organization in the Dnipro region. The



new office has 2 fully equipped accorinding to the SOPs testing rooms to deliver HIV and STI testing; community center also includes a large game/meeting room and a lounge area which provides an opportunity for regular group events with an attendance of 10-15 clients per day.



To stay in the community club client must receive an assisted HIV and STI testing service.

All social workers engage clients to counseling and testing services via the Internet, through their individual pages on social networks, i.e. Hornet, Facebook, Instagram, blue system, etc. Clients can also sign up for testing or receive services of their interest at a convenient for them time through our web page (<u>https://menspace.tk/</u>).

As a result of our communication specialist's negotiations with the administration of the blue system web page we managed to purchase banner promoting project's services.

Project consistently engages around 25 volunteers that provide support to social workers in engaging new clients to counseling and testing services.

In FY20 Project strengthened and deepened its collaboration with partners NGOs and health facilities.

In FY20 project services were adapted to the COVID19 pandemic to keep the quality. The community center was reorganized into a testing point, without an option of extra stay. Office was equipped with additional COVID related preventive equipment to protect both service providers and clients. Clients who were cautious coming to the office had the



opportunity to receive a safe box by mail (a set for oral self-testing, condoms, and lubricants).

Project results for FY20

In FY20 1608 clients received HIV rapid tests, 2018 were covered by prevention services, 41 clients were tested positive for HIV and 41 started ART. As a prevention intervention, we launched distribution of oral tests in April 2020; as a result, 1573 oral tests were distributed during April-September 2020.



Expanding access MSM to HIV prevention services in Kyiv region -HealthLink

Project implementation period: October 2020 - September 2021

Donor: Alliance for Public Health, United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Project goal: The aim of the project is to expand the access of representatives of the highest risk groups, namely MSM, their sexual partners to quality, "friendly" groups, counseling and testing services, timely coverage of HIV-infected people with care and support services, antiretroviral treatment and prevention new cases of HIV infection, including PrEP.

The objectives of the project are the following:

1. Promote the formation of a safe pattern of behavior among project clients, which will allow them to maintain health and at the same time act as agents for further involvement in testing of sexual partners and "social / communicative" networks.

2. Provide services to support the HIV testing process to project clients.

3. Redirect project clients to other social and medical services and projects that provide services in the region according to client needs.

4. Ensuring the navigation process, which includes confirmation of a positive result of a rapid HIV test in a CHP, HIV testing, assistance in ensuring diagnosis and timely referral for treatment, initiation of ART.

5. Expanding the network of friendly doctors to the MSM community.

The main activities of the project in 2020 (October-December 2020):

The activity in the 4th quarter of 2020 will be well-attended to a new service point to the project for the MSM in the Kyiv region.

New points are added to the service bully added to the website www.gettest.com.ua, an online platform for health and health care and prevention of HIV-Infections and STI, for the ability to online record before the social policy in the future until the last graph on misyatsi.

During the reporting period, a total of 101 MSM was covered by prevention services.

Regarding the cascade in Kyiv region:

- 101 clients received assisted testing services,
- 3 clients received a positive HIV result (3%),
- **3 clients** were under medical supervision (100%) and **3 clients** started taking ART (100%).

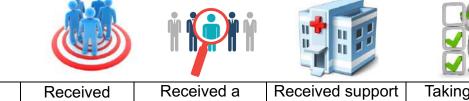
All clients who were identified by social workers as a result of a quick test were asked to bring their sexual partners. Work in the direction of IT continues, in the format of involving all partners in motivational counseling, involving close associates (permanent and casual partners).

836 condoms and 494 lubricants and 40 oral tests were distributed to implement the prevention direction.

Regarding additional motivation for clients, namely HCV testing and syphilis: 46 clients received HCV assisted testing services, all CT results were negative. Assisted testing for syphilis was received by 45 clients, all CT results were negative.

Regarding customer engagement: models, it is advertising on social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Bluesystem, Hornet). Advertising campaigns are focused on attracting customers to the site www.gettest.com.ua where the client can independently choose the services that interest him, sign up for free, convenient time.

Project results for 2020 year (October-December 2020)





| | | - | | the second se | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | Received rapid HIV test | Received a positive RT result for HIV | Received support to the hospital | Taking on the Dispensary Register | Started taking ART |
| Kyiv region | 101 | 3 (3%) | 3 (100%) | 3 (100%) | 3 (100%) |

Kyiv MSM Shelter

Project implementation period: January – December 2020

Donor Name: ViiV Healthcare

The aim of the project: The main objective of the project was the creation of Shelter – a safe place for MSM and TG to live, where they could live from one to three or six months in case of emergency.

Project description:

Shelter's program included the help of a psychologist and the conduct of individual and group psychological consultations. During the entire period of stay in Shelter, each client should have received psychological support, help, and advice. The result of the staying in

Shelter was to be a successful search for housing and work, as well as the implementation of the socialization of each client.

One of the objectives of the project was to ensure the safety of clients during their stay in Shelter. It was necessary to prevent the possibility of an attack on Shelter and his clients by right-wing organizations, as well as to screen out potentially unsafe clients using a preliminary questionnaire and a mandatory interview with a psychologist.

Besides, it was necessary to inform the LGBT community about the existence of Shelter to make it accessible to those who need help.

Stages of the project:

To implement our project, we found and prepared an apartment in Kyiv, which is within walking distance from



the metro station. This apartment can accommodate 15 MSM / TG people at the same time. At the time of the launch of the project, there were 7 old beds in Shelter, 6 of which we replaced with 14 new beds in July 2019. We managed to find LGBT-friendly landlords who were not against living the stated number of customers. After discussing economic and organizational issues, we signed a long-term contract. Thus, we have an apartment for all 2 years of the project (2019 - 2021) with the right to extend in case of further work of the project.

To ensure the safety of Shelter's clients, we, together with a psychologist and project consultants, developed Questionnaires for the settlement, which were mandatory for each participant of the project and allowed us to assess their psychological state. Before

the settlement, the potential client of the project had to undergo an interview with a psychologist, so that we could assess the risks and prevent possible conflicts inside the Shelter. We also spelled out the rules for staying in Shelter and clear instructions for maintaining the confidentiality of Shelter's location. Besides, we informed the nearest police stations about the existence of Shelter to protect clients from right-wing organizations in the event of their attack.

We also developed questionnaires and topics for conducting psychological support groups. Thanks to interviews with a psychologist, we were able to provide regular psychological support and counseling at group events.



Project Implementation Results:

As of March 2021, we have received 69 applications and were able to provide a safe place to live for 63 people. The average term of a client's stay in Shelter was 2 months;

during the period of the project's existence, there were no repeated applications.

All 63 of Shelter's settled customers were from the MSM group. Most of them came from different regions of Ukraine, including from the temporarily occupied territories of Lugansk and Donetsk regions. During their stay in Shelter mostly all clients found a job and are currently renting a separate house for themselves, most often with other former clients of Shelter.



Introduction of innovative models of HIV detection among MSM in Kharkiv and Kharkiv region

Project implementation period: January - December 2020

Donor: Elton John Aids Foundation (Through Alliance for Public Health)

The project aims to support the expansion of HIV treatment among HIV-infected MSM by effectively identifying HIV cases in the community and providing social support using a navigation approach.

Project description:

The project envisages finding a new approach and practical ways to involve cross-groups of MSM (chemsex) in testing vulnerable groups, which allows directing testing to the group with the highest probability of HIV-positive cases. The project includes the possibility of using oral tests, which are sent by mail in the Kharkiv region by registering on the Internet resource and allows access to previously not covered groups of hard-toreach non-urbanized MSM. There is also an anonymous testing and counseling center in Kharkiv, which encourages MSM to test regularly in a friendly space. All employees recruited to the project took an online course "Lessons in Risk Reduction" from the Alliance for Public Health and received certificates from social workers. The project involved two social workers and one medical consultant. A memorandum was signed with the Kharkiv Regional AIDS Center and a client route was built, which includes the full support of the client to the AIDS center, assistance in registration, and receiving ART through a doctor friendly to MSM.



The main part of the work was carried out using the online-outreach method. Social workers recruited clients for testing through social networks, websites, and dating apps.

In the social network for dating MSM -"Hornet", as well as on dating web-pages and in Telegram-channels, informational articles were published with a link to free HIV testing and support for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Also, social workers sent private messages, attracting customers to the testing

point.

In addition to online-outreach work, to attract customers to register through the site hivtest.org.ua was used advertising mailing with the placement of banners on "Facebook" and "Hornet", which was conducted by the "Alliance of Public Health".





various LGBT friendly institutions and visit local TV channels to tell the regional audience about the possibility of free testing within the framework of the project.

During 2020 year a 1576 MSM were covered by testing and consulting by equal consultants. 39



cases of HIV infection were identified among MSM. All MSM received social support and assistance in starting treatment.

Io expanding coverage audience the social workers attended evening events in clubs and techno establishments in Kharkiv ("Heat", "Tarot", "Belly") in order to enter the MSM audience ChemSex parties and promote testing. During this time the drug quality testing kits were distributed for ChemSex parties to engage the audience in HIV testing.

Social workers conduct field HIV-tastings in





Accompaniment and support for pre-exposure HIV prevention (PrEP) Accompaniment

Project implementation period: January - December 2020

Donor: Alliance for Public Health

The project aims is to help reduce the spread of HIV among MSM by introducing PrEP as part of a combined prevention and care program in Ukraine.

Project description:

The project envisages the work of equal social workers in 5 regions of Ukraine, where their main function is to assist MSM clients to obtain PrEP.

Social workers recruit clients, counsel them about PrEP and sexual behavior, conduct HIV testing, provide assistance in obtaining the medication and follow-up. The organization has partnership agreements with 5 health care facilities in 5 regions where it is kept on the balance of Prep.

When a client applies to the issuance site by going directly to the project office, the social worker must establish the candidate's compliance with the specified conditions for selecting clients to participate in the project.

The social worker draws the potential client's attention to the fact that in order to participate in this project, he must meet a number of requirements and explain to the client the benefits of participating in the project. The social worker initiates the screening with the help of a special questionnaire. If the eligibility criteria are met, the potential participant will be informed about the need to undergo the next stage of screening procedures - mandatory medical diagnosis on the basis of partner medical institutions in accordance with the list of examinations.

Potential clients have the opportunity to get to the points of issuance of prep on their own or with the assistance of employees of the organization and contact a responsible medical professional. Participants are invited to use the services of a social worker to undergo all types of diagnostics included in medical screening.

Project Implementation Results:

During January-December 2020 a 1361 clients in 5 regions received services (consultations on PrEP, HIV testing, accompaniment by social workers to the aids center to receive a PrEP medication). 980 of them receive a service in Kyiv city, 60 of in Chernihiv city, 60 in Kyiv region, 105 in Kharkiv city, 156 in Dnipro city.

Ensuring MSM access to PrEP with medication delivery and clients taxi service delivery in COVID19 risk conditions in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro

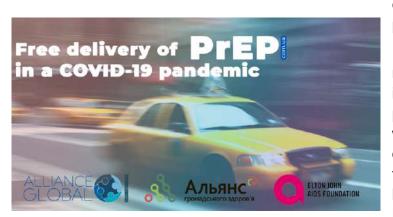
Project implementation period: June - November 2020

Donor: Elton John Aids Foundation (Through Alliance for Public Health)

The project aims is to help MSM to safety receive PrEP under COVID-19 condition using taxi and postal services provided by project.

Project description:

In Ukraine, there is a PrEP program for MSM. More than 1000 people yearly receive PrEP in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Dnipro. They are newly or receive monthly pills previously joined to the PrEP program. In Ukraine, a quarantine position was introduced in



connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

All public transport was canceled; movement in big cities became impossible. AIDS centers where people get PrEP are out of town. It was create a barrier to MSM in obtaining PrEP, as moving around the city puts them at risk of becoming infected with COVID-19. Lack of commitment to PrEP

among MSM can lead to a new outbreak of HIV infection among MSM in the biggest Ukrainian cities – Kyiv, Kharkiv and Dnipro.

The project involves the use of web-site prep.com.ua to order medication delivery

services to clients using postal and courier delivery, as well as escorting new clients by taxi to the AIDS center and back home. The provision of the service itself is accompanied by a social worker. From the organization's side, logistics is carried out to order a taxi, monitor, and build a customer's route. The project provides for the reduction of the risk of infection with COVID-19: the



sterillium, masks, respirators and gloves is provided for clients for the safety of the period of trip to the PrEP issuing points. The implementation is took place in biggest Ukrainian cities: Kyiv, Kharkiv and Dnipro.

Project Implementation Results:

During the project, one of the three services of the project was used by 478 unique clients. Service # 1 (delivery of the client by taxi for the first receipt of PrEP) was used by 256 MSM: Kyiv - 164 MSM, Kharkiv - 62, Dnipro - 30 MSM. Service # 2 (second receipt of PrEP by mail) was used by 280 MSM: Kyiv - 172 MSM, Kharkiv - 78 MSM, Dnipro - 30 MSM. Service # 3 (third receipt of PrEP, by mail) was used by 238 MSM: Kyiv - 144 MSM, Kharkiv - 80 MSM, Dnipro - 14 MSM.

Support of HIV-positive MSM in Kyiv

Project implementation period: January 2020 - December 2020

Donor: Solidarite SIDA

The aim of the project is the provision of support and conduction of support and selfacceptance group meetings for HIV positive gay and bisexual man, and other MSMS in Kyiv.

Project description:

The group is aimed at people living with HIV, and those who have recently been diagnosed, and is based on the principle of "peer-to-peer" (all group members and the facilitator are HIV-positive). The main slogan of the UAGuys + group is "HIV: life goes on!"

The main advantage of participating in this particular group is the comfort and freedom to choose a place for meetings (participants discuss together and choose a place for the next meeting). The group is held once a week (Saturday or Sunday).

Participation in the support group meetings allows HIV positive MSM in Kyiv:

- get the necessary moral support;
- communicate with people who face the same problems;
- discuss support or partnerships;
- prepare for the possible consequences/risks of disclosing your HIV status;
- learn about adherence to ARV therapy and why it is important to adhere to it;
- how to take care of your health and protect your partner;
- find new friends and like-minded people;
- receive, if necessary, individual consultations from a psychologist;
- a good time with peer people.

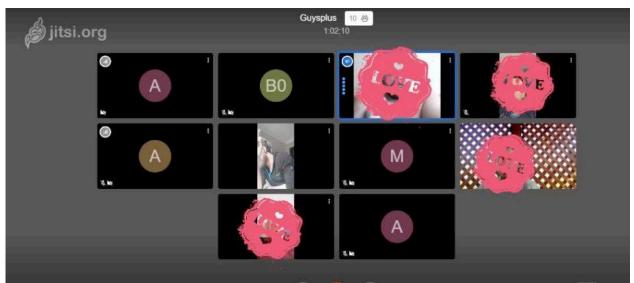
Besides the support group meetings, the individual peer-to-peer consultations as well as psychological consultations are provided.

During project implementation in total 45 group meetings were held in the period January 1st, 2020 – December 31st 2020, 143 Phycological consultations have been provided. Invited experts were involved in the conduction of several group meetings, to discuss topics by participant's requests.

Peer-to-peer support, psychological support was provided mostly online. Support group meetings were conducted in a mixed format. During the supper time and warm weather (June-September), the meetings were conducted in open space outdoor venues, to ensure safety and reduce covid-19 risks for group members. All other group meetings were conducted online to ensure the safety and accordance with the strict restrictions due to quarantine. No other major change has been made during 2020.

As some of the participants have stated during meetings, the existence of such a support group is essential and important for them, as this is the only place and space where they can feel fully safe and secure in society, where they can share their thoughts and worries and gain knowledge.

Mutual support and solidarity, as well as knowledge and experience gaining among participants of the group, are one of the key accomplishments and achievements of support groups.



One of the achievements of the project, as mentioned by the group members is the reduction of self-stigma and acceptance of themselves among HIV-positive MSM due to the support-group meetings.

With the conduction of support group meetings, peer-to-peer and psychological support provision we aim to help MSM PLHIV to accept themselves, start the ARV treatment and establish good adherence. During the support group meetings, meetings with experts, informational meetings, we provide information and knowledge to raise the awareness and capacity of group members, thus contribute to self-acceptance, quality of life of people living with HIV. As a result of our activities, we receive the highest level achieving of commitment and adherence to ART among project participants and their acquaintances.

Conclusions

The main qualitative achievements of the organization in 2020:

- The organization has become the largest MSM / LGBT organization in Ukraine (by a wide margin)
- > The strategic vision of the organization and the main activities
- > The gradual expansion of cooperation with international donors
- The organization became the first among MSM/LGBT organizations in Ukraine with experience in implementing national media campaigns
- Significant expansion of the geography of the organization
- Organization of clients' access to innovative means and methods of prevention (PrEP, chemsex, STIs, etc.)
- Mobility of the organization change of places and routes of service provision depending on the availability and needs of MSM
- Development and strengthening of social work on the Internet with coverage of hard-to-reach MSM (increase in the number of social workers and clients covered by HIV / STI prevention projects)
- There was a constant monitoring and response to the needs of clients in the organization of group events
- The organization provided a wide range of services, which led to a constant and stable increase in customer coverage
- Creating a strong basis for further development of the organization and diversification of grant activities