



ЗОСЕРЕДЖЕНІ
НА ГОЛОВНОМУ

Всеукраїнська Мережа ЛЖВ

All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH

www.network.org.ua

CURRENT SITUATION IN UKRAINE AROUND ART & SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT

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HIV Epidemiologic Situation in Ukraine



During 2010

- **20,521** new cases of HIV infection were registered in Ukraine

As of March 01, 2011

- **110,401** HIV+ patients are registered in specialized clinics (242.0 per 100 thousand population)
- out of them **14,030** are with the diagnosis AIDS (30.8 per 100 thousand population)
- HIV morbidity rate **increased by 3.3%** in 2010 compared to 2009

The estimated number of PLWH in Ukraine

- **360,000** individuals

The number of PLWH on ART as of January 01, 2011

- **22,016** individuals

Number of PLWH who need ART

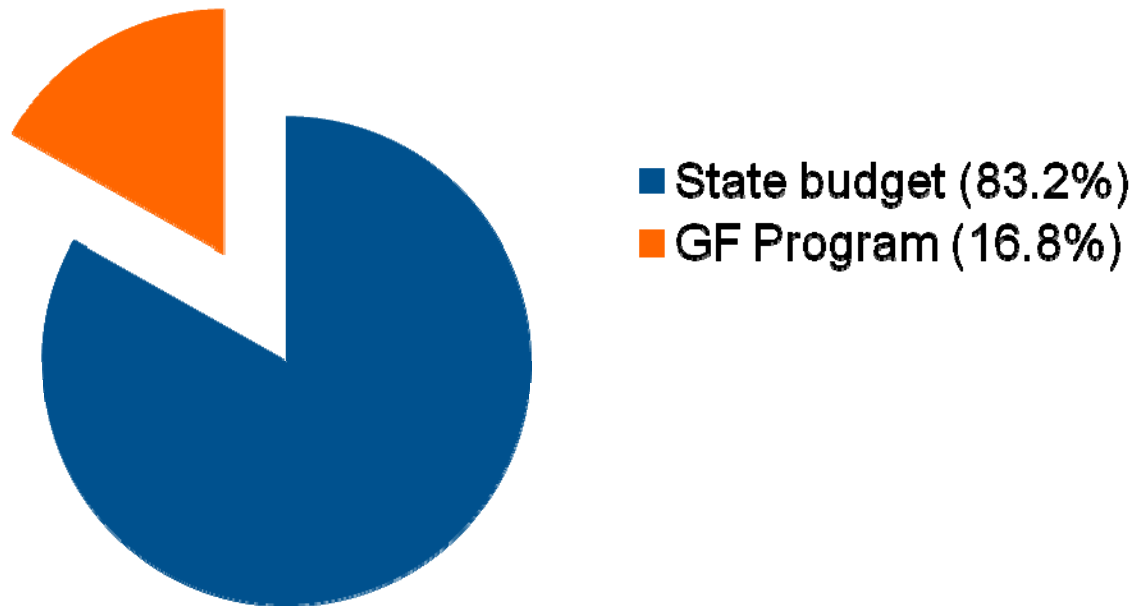
- **8 421 individuals** are in the waiting list
- **92 000 individuals** need ART according to WHO estimates (as of 2010)



Sources of Funding for Treatment Programs in Ukraine

Treatment is provided:

- **18,313** patients on ART for the funds of the state budget
- **3,703** patients on ART for the funds of the Global Fund



Threats of Treatment Interruptions (1)

Early 2011

- For a few months the Network and its partners were receiving alarming information from the regions of Ukraine on the threat of treatment interruption
 - patients were receiving medicines for a short term
 - pediatric formulations were not available
 - adult formulations were split for children
 - treatment regimens were changed for many patients
 - recruitment of new patients for ART programs was terminated
- **19,970 adults** and **2,046 children** on ART were under threat in January 2011.

ART Challenges Today

- **Registered cases when patients were provided with low-quality or expired medicines**
- **Registered cases when marginalized populations (IDUs) were denied of treatment**
- **In prisons ART is provided only for the GF funds. The government even does not plan to provide treatment for prisoners**
- **The state information management system to register patients and ARVs will not stand a considerable increase of patients on ART as far as the most of information is kept on paper and a plenty of record cards and registers need to be filled in**
- **Workload on health care workers is too high in the regions with high HIV prevalence thus the quality of health care services is doubtful. The state does not allocate funds for staff increase in treatment facilities**

Obstacles for treatment in Ukraine (1)

- Multiple delays in ARVs procurement and supply
- Low quality control and monitoring of medicines during registration and marketing, absence of WHO prequalification as a compulsory requirement



Obstacles for treatment in Ukraine (2)

- Exclusion of patients' representatives from all expert groups dealing with the procurement
- Under funding – the National program on HIV/AIDS is funded only for half that is needed
- High prices and corruption - during the last tender for ARVs \$1,700,000 was overspent

Measures Taken by the Network to Prevent Treatment Interruptions (1)

Early 2011

- The Network has monitored the situation with the supply of ARVs in all over Ukraine
- Based on the received information letters and appeals were addressed to officials from the Ministry of Health, the Committee on HIV \ AIDS under the Ministry of Health and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
- The National Press Conference was held. Its aim was to attract attention of all public authorities to the problem of interruptions in ARV treatment. The press conference was attended by patients as well. They spoke openly and honestly about the critical situation in Ukraine.

Measures Taken by the Network to Prevent Treatment Interruptions (2)

- The Network has initiated the additional procurement of ARVs for the country and established a substantial reserve through savings in the Global Fund project in 2010 - 2011. All buffer stocks of drugs purchased for the GF funds were transferred to the Ministry of Health to cover the deficit.
- The Network has held talks with two pharmaceutical companies on emergency supply of ARVs that were available at that time in stocks in Ukraine



Network's Advocacy Activities

Monitoring the Accessibility of ART by the Community Efforts

In February 2011 All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH launched the monitoring of ART accessibility by the community efforts in 12 regions of Ukraine

Information is gathered on:

- provision with ARVs
- availability of tests for ART monitoring (CD-4 and viral load)
- timeliness of receiving the medicines by patients

Sources of information:

- regional AIDS centres
- patients
- NGOs
- doctors in prison hospitals

Monitoring the Accessibility of ART by the Community Efforts



Objectives

- To document the information about the access to ART in regions
- To lobby the patients' interests based on the received information
- To have the instrument for regional and national advocacy for ART accessibility
- To force the government to provide ART for 100% of PLWH who need it

UCAB

(COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD UKRAINE)

- UCAB was established on the basis of All-Ukrainian Network of people living with HIV
- UCAB is guided by the ECAB principles in its structure, procedures and policy with pharma

Today UCAB unites:

- Representatives of people living with HIV
- Representatives of people living with hepatitis
- Representatives of TB patients

UCAB is open for new members representing interests of patients with other diseases

UCAB objectives

- Scaling up access to quality treatment in Ukraine, through open dialogue between patients, pharma and government
- Involving patients in the development of clinical protocols, clinical trials, scaling up new qualitative methods of treatment
- Increasing treatment literacy of UCAB members



Maintenance Addiction Treatment

MAT program objectives according to the Ukrainian legislation (decreasing the risk of HIV-infection and forming adherence to ART among IDUs)

Patients	12,000	14,000	15,300	20,000
Funding per year	2010	2011	2012	2013
State budget	53.75%	52.14%	26.14%	100%
Global Fund	46.25%	47.86%	73.86%	0%

As of June 01, 2011 **6,178** patients are provided with MAT (methadone 87% and buprenorphine 13%). The medicine are procured **only for the GF funds**. The state has not ever allocated funds for the procurement of medicines though it's being declared. **In 2013** the situation will be critical.

MAT Challenges

- The state budget funding does not meet the requirements of the Law of Ukraine “On approval of the National Program on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV-infected and AIDS patients in 2009-2013



Pressure on NGOs, Doctors and Patients (1)

- In December 2010 - February 2011, the police launched a large-scale intervention campaign against MAT program.
- Among regional police offices the instructions were sent out with the requirement to collect personal information about MAT patients, HIV status, period of drug use, type of drug and the place of purchase prior to joining the MAT program.
- Violating the Civil Code of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine on counteraction to HIV/AIDS on, the police demanded from the doctors to provide information on patients' diagnosis and to provide information on treatment of all participants in the MAT program.

Pressure on NGOs, Doctors and Patients (2)

- Simultaneously the Prosecutors Office audited all core contracts, legal documents, accounting and financial records of the Central Office of the Network paralyzing the activities of the organization. At the same time the Department to Combat Organized Crime under the Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine and the Department to Combat Illegal Drug Trafficking addressed to the Network as well.
- The check-ups were carried out in all NGOs implementing the National HIV/AIDS Program (about 200 organizations representing the Network and partners).

International Advocacy Efforts

- To overcome the situation the Network has applied to the UN offices in Ukraine, CSF organizations and other international organizations and donors
- The information was sent out to international mailing lists as well
- Lots of letters were addressed to the Ukrainian President and the government against the interference in the MAT programs and NGOs' activities from EU ambassadors, EU ombudsmen, international organizations and organizations representing SCF
- Thanks to joint activities (special thanks to SCF) the government stepped back and the situation became stable

You have supported not only the Network but ALL NGOs in Ukraine

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

THANK YOU