



A Europe free of AIDS, TB, and viral hepatitis - and no one left behind

## CSF Ukraine Regional NGOs Response Coordination Call<sup>1</sup>

06 July 2022, 11-12:00 CET

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### 1. Joint letter of CSF and Polish organisations to WHO to speed up the bureaucracy behind the shipment of TLD

TLD generics from India had to be distributed directly to HIV clinics in Poland. WHO offered to organise the shipment. There is delay and lack of information.

- The letter was written and the process is in progress. An email from Nicole (WHO) was received, but there is no information given on the timeline of when the problem will be solved and the treatment will be supplied.
- The Polish government informed that everything was done correctly from their side and they are just waiting. However, WHO informs that the delay is from the both sides.
- On 19 July, the ECDC-WHO HIV network meeting will examine issues around continuity of HIV services for refugees with the Public Health Centre of Ukraine and focal points from various countries including Poland. If the community participates in that meeting, it could be useful to join and ask the specific questions regarding the bureaucracy. It can be a platform where answers that are more direct must be given.

**ACTION POINT 1:** Participate in the WHO/ECDC meeting and ask the specific questions regarding the bureaucracy and the delay

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<sup>1</sup> This is a report from the CSF Ukraine regional NGOs response call. The information shared is reported as heard. The report was not run by speakers. Please, treat this report with caution as the situation and actions of different actors evolve rapidly and because personal data is shared to help link people to care and for no other purpose.

## 2. Naloxone Shipment from Czech Republic

Following a call between Ukrainian and Czech stakeholders, including the office of Czech National Anti-Drug Coordinator, and ad hoc responses to the needs of the key populations, it was proposed to send 1,000 doses of naloxone to Alliance for Public Health under the supervision of the Minister of Health of Czech Republic.

- The 1,000 doses of the Naloxone from Czech Republic arrived to a warehouse in Poland on 1 July 2022. There is still a need to confirm whether the shipment has arrived in Ukraine. As it is already July 6, and the logistics and linkage between Poland and Ukraine is very well established, the shipment is expected to be in the final points of delivery. Warehouses in Poland are established as a hub for different kinds of treatment and humanitarian aid.
- These 1000 doses are rather symbolic keeping in mind the number of 350,000 people who inject drugs.
- Alliance for Public Health is expecting for some next shipments, but there is no information about the Czech Republic Plan's on this issue.

**ACTION POINT 2:** Anton updates about the delivery of TLDs.

## 3. CSF coordination team writes a letter to the UN and European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety to push Hungary, Cyprus and Slovakia to get rid of the legislation stating that people coming from third countries must report their HIV status to authorities

No updates

**Action point 3:** check with the Coordination team at the CSF

## 4. Country Updates: Issues & Solutions

### Poland.

#### Foundation for Social Education (FSE):

- Is in the process of getting emergency money from WHO, AIDS Action Europe and WEEPI and expects to receive the funds in the middle of July.
- For this reason is expanding services and the activities: services are expanded in the testing places, new harm reduction service was added. Ukrainian people working in Poland speaking in Polish and Ukrainian languages are being recruited.
- People of other nationalities who do not have insurance are using the services including the mobile service unit. They do not have access for care. They officially have access for antiretroviral therapy, but not access to care.
- Received news that in Warsaw Clinic there are 400 new patients from Ukraine. And normally per year there are around 500 new patients in clinic. There is no more capacity, and no new doctors or nurses. For this reason, the director of the hospital decided that they will no longer take care of people without insurance.
- There is lack of TLD generics, for this reason the government decided that all patients can receive treatment only for one month, as it is government afraid there will not be enough treatment. It would be useful to have a stock of Truvada for example.

**Action point 4.** At the WHO/ECDC call advocate for healthcare access for all, other groups who don't have national insurance or a temporary protection status.

#### Social AIDS Committee (SKA)

- Are in constant contact with EHRA at monitoring situation
- Have found funding from AIDS funds for the activities in particular outreach
- Now are having discussions with Mercy Corpse to have funding for activities with two main areas which is peer work outreach and stationary help and also contact with people who live all around the country, in more remote parts. The travel costs to HIV clinics will also be included in the budget.
- There are challenges with the access to Hepatitis C treatment. Also, in Poland if a person is taking drugs, including substitution therapy or alcohol, they are excluded from the reimbursement system for hepatitis C treatment

## 5. Harm Reduction International

WHO started documenting all those facilities that have been targeted and are now no longer operational. If there is similar data focusing on how many people were affected, who used to go there, who no longer has access to needle and syringes or HIV or TB treatment etc., it will be used for advocacy. Alliance for Public Health is doing reports on this topic and HRI will use those documents.

## 6. TB Treatment

- TB drug availability in Ukraine at least in those clinics in areas that are not directly affected by the current conflict or occupied, is okay. The systems of the national TB program continue to work
- WHO Europe has undertaken a quick survey on the availability of TB drugs across Western Europe and the EU. It discovered, that the situation is much better a low or middle income country, because that's where the drugs are made available through the Global Fund, and the markets in wealthy countries are far too small to be of interest to the companies
- There are difficulties getting access to drugs for multi-resistant TB
- TB Europe coalition is planning to make much closer direct contact =with particular organizations that could assist with the identification who have or might need TB treatment in the various recipient countries.
- Is in discussions with WHO as they want to know more about the civil society work.
- Where do other networks receive additional funding to distribute to the members in the emergencies?

## 7. Next CSF Ukraine Regional NGOs Response Coordination Call

20 July 2022 – 11:00-12:00 CET