



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

CSF Ukraine Regional NGOs Response Coordination Call

09th March 2022

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1. Follow-up Action Points from Previous Call

- List of medications needed in Ukraine for the next two weeks: in process.
- Already in contact with EMCDDA (via Raminta Stuikyte) about OAT.
- Pieter Vanholder (ED EATG) wrote to different pharmaceutical companies to understand what they are planning.
- OAT: Germany is going to organise a shipment to Ukraine.

2. Update on WHO Coordination re. Medicines Supplies and Other Basic Needs in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries

In Ukraine

- Three partners calls managed by the **National Centre of Public Health** and facilitated by **WHO country office**: the challenges are mainly related to supply and distribution to the affected area. There is a critical point for opioid agonist therapy (OAT). Supply issues are connected to both **capacity to store** in the regions and **increased demand**, resulting from the increased internal displacement of people and increased demand.
- Principal recipients** and **Global Fund** have made available emergency allocations to ensure that stock that is already in the country can be repurposed and redirected to the areas that are affected by shortages – Ongoing process.
- Global Fund** has approved on 8 March, 15 million allocation through the emergency funding towards Ukraine to cover ART, TB and OAT needs in addition to what is generally funded by national counterparts. Current discussion on how to make deliveries as fast as possible, understanding the current gaps (available/planned/on the way) and start anticipating the upcoming needs.
- WHO** engaged in the discussion on **ART** needs, these have been presented by the National Centre of Public Health - soon ready to be processed. There were already issues with shortages before the war and the order was expected for March.

One of the issue is how to get the supplies from the warehouse to the affected areas. Global Fund tother is working government on this and the role of WHO to look at list to ensure that there are son

- **OAT:** still unclear how much of external procurement is still needed. Considering that the main local manufacturing centres are Odessa and Kharkiv, it will be likely that outside support will be needed. There were also many people redirected from private to public clinic.
- WHO has produced **a rapid guidance on how to manage OAT challenges in emergency and humanitarian settings**.
- International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) issued a call to countries to reduce regulatory for the export, transportation, and provision of medicinal products containing controlled substances. See [here](#)
- WHO will try to assess how to make WHO supply chain available if donations are made while GF is deciding how to bring and allocate additional supplies to the countries
- OAT stocks distributed by NGOs (Kharkiv narcologist refused to dispense this stock) - in process.
- Alliance for Public health is helping as needed with distribution
- **TB:** The current supply is ensured until June (or even October). Possible gaps are due to specific drugs or inaccessibility/ storage not accessible or gets depleted.
- Inclusion of **PrEP**, Needle and Syringe programme and **hormone therapies** in the assessment for Ukraine, Moldova possibly and UE. It is now a matter of coordinating different requests to make sure that needs are reflected in supplies.
- Acute emergency kits have been sent from Poland to Lviv. There a re still issues with safe corridors
- Challenge to share information about OAT access to the community and update doctors on how to use it. Start a Telegram Channel with the consultants to address the situation case by case.
- There is a need for material support lack of permission to send money as a material help, donor flexibility is needed, especially as safe corridors are still not a reality.
- Access to food and medicine in prisons was highlighted as an issue.

Outside Ukraine / Neighbouring countries

- Efforts to ensure the coordination and continuity of the services. WHO liaised with neighbouring countries to establish specific focal points for HIV, TB, OAT.
- This week there will be a meeting on TB on how manage cases, information needs and data sharing
- There will be a similar discussion to ensure neighbouring countries have access to regimens that are available for people coming from Ukraine.
- **PrEP**, Needle and Syringe programme and **hormone therapies** were included in the WHO country assessment request for neighbouring countries but it is awaiting a response regarding supply capacity, funding and other needs
- WHO is working on estimates to support countries in planning for emergency supplies. Inclusion of **PrEP condoms** and **hormone therapies** in the assessment for Ukraine, Moldova possibly and UE. It is now
- OAT: not accessible through private clinics, often unable to provide services.

Action point 1: CSF to advocate for flexibility on the part of donors for material help

Action point 2: Please send details on OST and ART requests to date in receiving countries to Stela Bivol bivols@who.int.

3. Services for Refugees from Ukraine

ECEE, Central and Eastern Europe Network Group Contacts for Ukrainian refugees with HIV and their doctors

- **a list of contacts of centres that accept PLHIV** has been created for Ukrainian refugees in Poland and updated daily. <https://www.eceenetwork.com/patients>
- Currently, they are receiving 10-20 people per day, mainly in Krakow, Warsaw and Lublin.
- Difficulty of identifying people who have not been diagnosed yet.
- Rapid tests limitations: they are not provided for people who are already using ARV.
- It is important to let doctors in Ukraine know that they should provide people with certificates.
- Alliance for Public Health has agreed with the national structure to help obtaining information regarding previous treatment

- Searching for a solution with the Ministry of Health to have a system where to find information about the current regimen of people who need treatment to support requests before relocation.
- On OAT - the national coordinator on drugs and national drug coordinator in Poland have the contacts of the Ukrainian OAT coordinator (and WHO contact) to link if someone is asking for OAT. They reported that at least two sites have Ukrainian OAT clients already
- Some refugee centres are planning to receive 10.000 people – one of them near Warsaw.
- There is a safe passage from Lviv to Poltava.
- In case the organisation or institution wants to organise transport, delivery on their own the T1 must be issued to the PL/UA border and closed there before passing over to Ukraine. So, the normal Customs process must be followed for transits/T1s. All custom regulations, clearance and taxes apply here.
- Any organization, institution sending humanitarian aid convoys to Ukraine should cooperate first with MSZ (Ministry Of Foreign Affairs of Poland) within action #PomagamUkraine. There is a contact form on the website for anyone interested in providing help to Ukraine (<https://pomagamukrainie.gov.pl/>). There will be no need to have import clearance and release for free circulation. Documents should be issued automatically, ready to print and present to custom at the Polish-Ukrainian border.

Action point 4: Find way to communicate on needed certificates without being stigmatising.

HELNow, Alliance for Public Health

- **HELNow** is a coordination emergency service to help Ukrainians access TB and Hepatitis treatment and OST developed in joint forces with regional and international NGOs and involving PHC MOH Ukraine (<https://aph.org.ua/uk/novyny/helpnow-servis-dopomogi-ukrayintyam-zakordonom-u-dostupi-do-likuvannya-vil-tb-gepatitu/>). The service can be accessed through APH social media (including a Telegram group).
- So far, more than 100 requests have been received, mainly coming from Ukraine, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, Germany, Turkey, Thailand, Egypt. ART covers 53% of requests, 40% are about OAT and 7% TB and HEP.

Life4me+

- Service implemented during the COVID-19 emergency is now used by Ukrainians for ART needs. So far, 50 requests have been received from different countries.
- Information about help and support in different countries have been collected and organised on a Telegram channel (<https://t.me/life4mehelp>). Information has additionally been disseminated on social media.
- Most of the requests have come from Ukrainian people who were already abroad and used to travel back to Ukraine for ART or received it by post. The request is to get it onsite. Life4me+ has been providing instructions about where to go and what documents are needed. Some requests are from Russia, Italy, Spain, Thailand (countries where information is missing).
- Need to provide / collect precise logistic information on how to get support from different countries.

4. How to Support as Local Organisation, Sharing Knowledge and Monitoring Access to Health Services in 'Host' Countries

Lithuania

- Regular weekly calls on Tuesday with updates. Services are mobilised and ready, but currently there is not a big request. Moldova and Poland have a different situation (e.g., translation). Potential issues concerning OAT accessibility.

Poland

- Looking for a plan B regarding other countries open for refugees.
- Uncertainty about treatment availability for the future: for now, the Ministry of Health has guaranteed that people will receive it.
- OAT: officially, it will be provided. However, HIV and OAT clinics are only in big cities.
- OAT This is the list of OAT sites <https://www.kbpn.gov.pl/portal?id=107094>.

Czech Republic

- So far, 100 000 refugees have registered for long-stay. The current capacity is likely to be exceeded in two weeks' time.
- Regarding HIV and other treatments, everyone who applies for refugee status will automatically have access to health care.
- Requests for financial donations have been quickly responded by pharma companies for people who are stuck in their country without treatment.

Italy

- Ministry of Interior communicated on 9/3 that over 23.000 Ukrainian people arrived in the country and were hosted in reception centres (this info came after the meeting so the report was updated). The Ministry of Health guaranteed that OAT, ART and urgent medical supplies are free. People will be tested for COVID-19 and will receive a vaccine, if wanted. Information on organisations ready to support refugees has been included in the APH form.

Action point 5: Regional and national partners have update and coordination calls every week (Thursday at 12 CET). There is a mailing list to share all updates and needs. People who are interested to be in this list and to take part in the calls can contact Ghanna Dovbakh (anna@harmreductioneurasia.org).

Action point 6: It is suggested to have one overall situation report call for information sharing needs and solutions mitigating the consequence of the war in Ukraine. In case of specific issues, other calls can be scheduled for smaller groups.

5. AOB

- There is a hormonal treatment request from trans people in Ukraine. They are asking for supplies that would cover ~500 trans people. The info was shared with WHO and UNAIDS who will follow up.
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- It is central to increase the numbers of country contacts for OAT in the database of services, so that people have immediate access to it. However, it should be accounted that the situation differs from country to country (e.g. Germany). Moreover, discussion is to be had so that people can be redirected to OAT providers different countries and contacts be provided. Perhaps WHO, EMCDDA could support.
- It was asked whether all clinics and doctors are able to immediately support patients to avoid withdrawals

Action point 7: Clear centralised information on OAT to overcome language barriers.

Next CSF Ukraine Regional NGOs Response

Coordination Call

16th March 2022 – 11:00-12:00 CET

Additional Links

Contacts for Ukrainian refugees with HIV and their doctors by the ECEE network	https://www.eceenetwork.com/patients
List of OAT sites in Poland	https://www.kbpn.gov.pl/portal?id=107094
Database of broader health, social and other services for refugees in 30 countries and also on-line	https://eecapplatform.org/en/services-for-ukrainian-refugees/
EHRA Fundraising for direct payments of basic needs of people who use drugs	https://harmreductioneurasia.org/support-to-ukraine/
ECEE: Contacts for Ukrainian refugees living with HIV	https://www.eceenetwork.com/patients
Ukrainian House in Warsaw	https://uk.ukrainskidom.pl/

