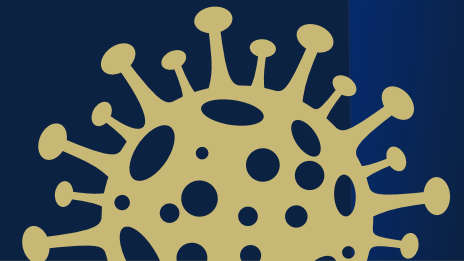
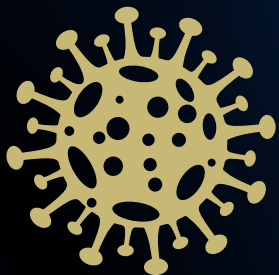


THE SECOND REGIONAL PROGRAM OF THE SOS 2.0
PROJECT UNDER THE COVID-19 RESPONSE MECHANISM (C19RM):

RESULTS OF WORK, ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES

THE EXPERIENCE OF SOS 2.0 PROJECT PARTNERS
FROM EECA AND SEE COUNTRIES





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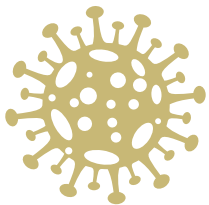
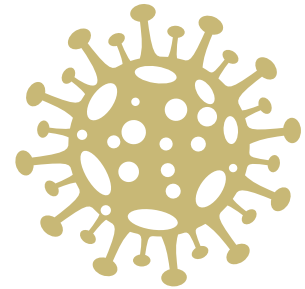
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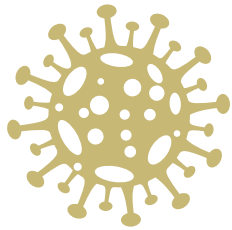
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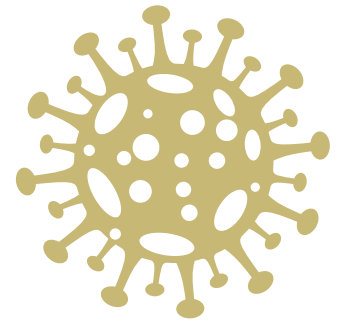




INTRODUCTION



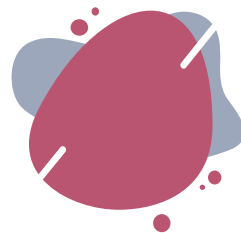
From October 1, 2021, the SoS project team started implementing the second regional program on COVID-19 to ensure sustainable access to services for key HIV-related population groups. The main tasks for implementation are: monitoring and advocacy by community efforts; prevention of manifestations and assistance to victims of domestic and gender-motivated violence in the conditions of lockdowns using the REACT tool; institutional support of state bodies - contingency planning; social mobilization – advocacy of access to comprehensive care for women who use injection drugs; digital technologies; purchase of rapid antigen and PCR tests for COVID, etc.



THE INTERVENTIONS WERE ALIGNED WITH THE COVID-19 MODULAR FRAMEWORK:



COVID-19 CONTROL AND CONTAINMENT INTERVENTIONS



COVID-19-RELATED RISK MITIGATION MEASURES FOR PROGRAMS TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS



EXPANDED REINFORCEMENT OF KEY ASPECTS OF HEALTH SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSE SYSTEMS

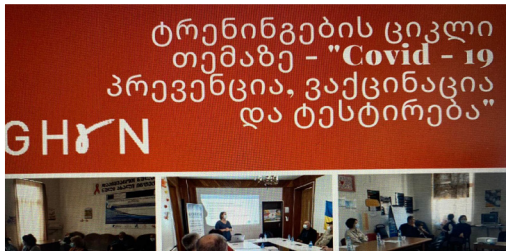


COVID-19 RESPONSE WITHIN REGIONAL PROGRAM IN GEORGIA



Trainings for CSO/CBO staff members on COVID prevention and vaccination and conducting COVID rapid test

- ▶ The training cycle was conducted in 27 CSO HIV service sites throughout Georgia. The trainings were conducted by two qualified trainers from NCDC. Training module was created and adapted to target audience and Training included topics on COVID prevention, Vaccination and diagnostics (how to take/prepare specimen for rapid testing on COVID).



<https://ghrn.ge/info/502/?fbclid=IwAR3WF-G7krN8WPF6NIJr-cgSAaNxW1J2LbJ5fCam-NI5oYLEqH4w6UenQIXt8>

Living support to KPs – distribution of food vouchers

- ▶ 1600 food vouchers were delivered to partner organizations (400 to Tanadgoma, 398 to PLHIV Foundation, 164 to TB center, 100 to Temida and 538 to 14 GHRN service centers).

Operational Research of Barriers and Facilitators to TeleClinic Services for Key Populations

- ▶ The aims of this operational research was to evaluate barriers and facilitators to uptake of TeleClinic services for Key Populations and develop recommendations for its enhancement.
- ▶ Overall, 50 participants were interviewed using the semi-structured questionnaire. They were:
- ▶ TeleClinic service providers, (2) TeleClinic beneficiaries and (3) HIV/TB prevention service providers.
- ▶ Study results, including main findings and recommendation were shared with GF country grant implementation unit for consideration in planning the next round of TeleClinic service delivery (within Nation GF grant).

Online and innovative virtual interventions can be supportive to reach high risk groups and provide needed counseling and home-delivery services among them to promote and support vaccination process:

- ▶ Digital skills improvement training for CSO staff was conducted during implementation period for 35 participants.
- ▶ Workshop – Improving the social platforms of CSOs engaged in HIV service provision
- ▶ Financial support (boosting) of advertising on social media of non-governmental organizations – GHRN provided financial support for participant organizations to promote their social media pages and services provided by the organization for key population groups.
- ▶ Support non-governmental organizations to manage social networks with graphic visuals (designer) – The graphic designer created visuals for CSOs.
- ▶ Chatbot was created – that was integrated into social media platforms and websites for all the participant organizations, and automatically provide information to beneficiaries about Covid-19, prevention, vaccination, services, and other relevant information for them.

IN the next phase

- GHRN provides support based on needs
- GHRN provides support based on needs
- GHRN continues Financial support (boosting) of advertising on social media of non-governmental organizations. GHRN continues Monitoring Advertising at social media and support in web-page management issues
- GHRN provides support if needed
- GHRN Continues – Adaptation / supervision of online bots, identification of new topics by pilot;



COVID-19 RESPONSE WITHIN REGIONAL PROGRAM IN KAZAKHSTAN



Assistance provided to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and representatives of key populations (KPs) who find themselves in a difficult life situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- ▶ 1,549 people received assistance in the form of gift certificates of 10,000.00 tenge (20 USD) from a network of retail stores
- ▶ 69 people received assistance in paying for compulsory social health insurance contribution
- ▶ 31 people received assistance in documenting (recovery of identity cards)

Personal Protective Equipment and COVID-19 Antigen Tests

- ▶ 124,000 disposable masks and 10000 antiseptics were distributed to NGOs working with representatives of PLHIV and KPs
- ▶ 10,000 COVID-19 antigen tests were distributed to state organizations working with representatives of PLHIV and KPs

Regional meeting «Health of HIV-positive migrants in Eastern Europe and Central Asia», Almaty, Kazakhstan

- ▶ On March 10-11, 2022, the Regional face-to-face meeting “Health of HIV-positive migrants in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The event was organized for discussion and exchange of experience between the heads of health authorities of the countries of origin and reception of labor migrants in the Central Asian region for effective and timely treatment of international HIV-positive migrants.

Objectives of the meeting: presentation and discussion of new research in the field of migrants’ health and their access to health services in the receiving countries – Russia and Kazakhstan; discussion of evidence-based arguments based on research with decision makers, representatives of civil society, academia and international organizations; identification of opportunities for expanding cross-border arrangements between countries of origin and reception of migrants in order to organize timely and legal treatment of migrants, wherever they are.

“Situation Analysis on the Provision of HIV Health Services for Foreign Migrant Citizens in Kazakhstan”

This report is available on the website:
<https://caapl.org>,
<http://migrationhealth.group/>



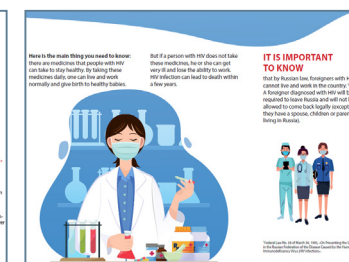
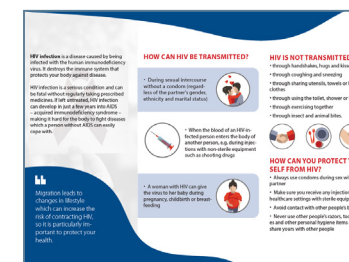
“Overview of best practices based on civil society and medical institutions in the Russian Federation in assisting foreign migrants in the Russian Federation and overcoming barriers for migrants to access HIV services”

This report is available on the website:

- <https://caapl.org>,
- <http://migrationhealth.group/>



Information materials have been developed on various aspects of the health of labor migrants in Russia, designed to provide people with correct and accessible information on how to protect their health, what to do in case of a disease





COVID-19 RESPONSE WITHIN REGIONAL PROGRAM IN MOLDOVA

Ensuring access to COVID19 prevention and testing for people from key HIV-affected populations

- ▶ HIV Services Contingency Plan developed for key populations during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ▶ Informing and instructing employees and customers on safety measures related to COVID19
- ▶ Trained staff on COVID-19 testing methods and provided them with appropriate protective equipment
- ▶ Monitoring and technical support for the use of COVID-19 Ag Test and testing for COVID19
- ▶ Established contacts and created a database of partners from the Commonwealth countries in order to provide assistance to PLHIV who found themselves abroad during the pandemic with a limited supply of the drugs they need



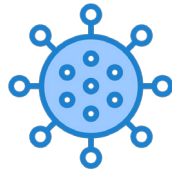
9

Organizations and government agencies received rapid tests and have been instructed by testing methods on COVID-19



5000

Tests were distributed to organizations and used



287

Cases of COVID19 infection It was revealed through rapid tests

A consolidated purchase of 30 vending machines was made



5 x



"2021 COVID-19 Response Mechanism Additional Funding for Moldova" (C19RM) Program, which is funded by the Public Institution "Coordination, Implementation and Monitoring Unit of the Health System Projects"

10 x



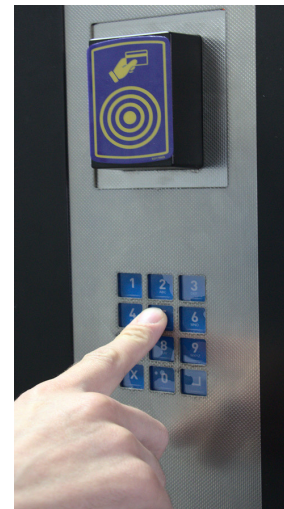
"Sustainability of services for key populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region" (#SoS project) Program, which is funded by the International Charitable

15 x

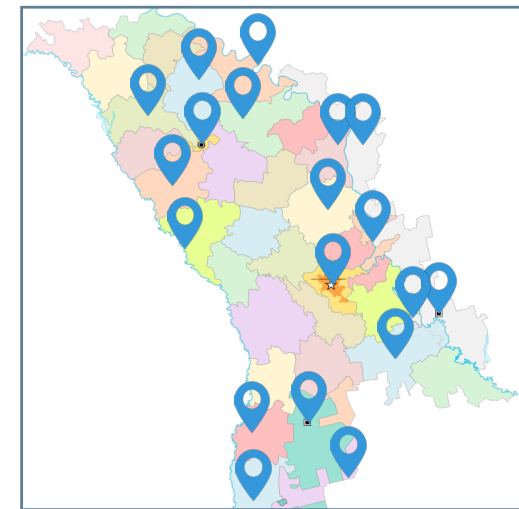


"Strengthening Tuberculosis control and reducing AIDS related mortality in the Republic of Moldova", which is funded by the Public Institution "Coordination, Implementation and Monitoring Unit of the Health System Projects"

Increasing access to handouts to reduce the risk of COVID 19 infection



Distribution of vending machines on the territory of the Republic of Moldova





COVID-19 RESPONSE WITHIN REGIONAL PROGRAM IN MONTENEGRO

- ▶ Procurement of 3 vending machines to reduce contacts during COVID 19
- ▶ Development and dissemination of webinars on COVID 19 related topics
- ▶ Establishment of COVID 19 knowledge base on www.zdravlje.co.me
- ▶ Immunization campaign – materials, information and media dissemination among KPs services spot provision
- ▶ Development and distribution of articles, materials and other information products on COVID 19, immunisation and its impact on key population



Lessons learned and next steps:

- ▶ Continuing work on effective and quality education and information of KPs according to COVID 19 situation in a country
- ▶ Promotion of immunization and support to increasing dropping rates of vaccination
- ▶ Supporting mental health of KPs and staff working on HIV services

COVID-19 RESPONSE WITHIN REGIONAL PROGRAM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In second part of the Response Mechanism in Bosnia and Herzegovina we tried to facilitate, and support efforts of the health system in response to Covid-19 by provision community-based HIV prevention services to KAPs, to provide online support through mHealth platform for PLHIV and providing psychological support and counselling to PLHIV and KAPs.

- ▶ To provide an immediate support and tackle this unbearable situation, Partnerships in Health offer m-health services provided in an online (telemedicine) mHealth platform for PLHIV. Through mHealth platform, physicians and their patients are connected directly. Both categories have codes and passwords, and they could log on at any time. Patients could directly give questions and get answers to their own physicians. Physicians replies and they could see at any time which patients contacted them
- ▶ We also hired psychologists for psychological support. Counselling takes place through a platform which was already in use for C19 counselling.

Community-based Check Point

To address the challenges in accessing the health services and lack of community-based service provision, including the testing on HIV, counselling, and impaired referral systems, through Covid 19 Response Mechanism we provide the community-based testing, counselling and linkage to care. The Check Point providing testing and counselling services for HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis. Establishment of the Check Point with premises in local community enable the KAPs and PLHIV to services in accessible, supportive, and stigma-free environment. After testing all clients with positive tests immediately are referred to the Infective Diseases Clinic



RAPID COVID-19 TESTS, PCR TESTS, COVID-19 EQUIPMENT PROGRAM SUPPORT



130 thousand Rapid Antigen Tests for COVID-19 were procured for 4 countries (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Tajikistan). The tests are intended for testing key population groups and their immediate environment. The purchase of equipment for COVID-19 for North Macedonia also took place.

(BEST PRACTICE) COVID-19 RESPONSE WITHIN REGIONAL PROGRAM IN UKRAINE

How the test systems for COVID-19 were issued

- ▶ Telegram Chatbot was developed during quarantine restrictions on issuing HIV tests, but as soon as the COVID tests were delivered in organization, we added them to the set.
- ▶ Issuance of tests based on the organization and outreach routes The client could receive the test at the office of the organization, or the social worker handed it over at the agreed place
- ▶ Testing clients in the office of the organization conducted by trained social workers



Detection dynamics in 2021

- ▶ The first delivery of test systems – 250 pcs. The number of positive cases was 45%
- ▶ The second delivery (came at the peak of growth in autumn) – 500 pcs.
- ▶ The number of positive cases was 75%



The principle of issuing tests and further customer support

- ▶ Client with a positive test result the social worker suggested issuing an additional test for his partner, or a family member with whom the person was in close contact (if any).
- ▶ Clients with a positive test result referred to friendly family doctor for further treatment.
- ▶ Informing the community about self-isolation and treatment
- ▶ at home (mild forms of the disease) were carried out with the help of
- ▶ live broadcasts by specialists and family medicine

СНОВА ЗДОРОВО
COVID — ДЛЯ ЧАЙНИКОВ
27 03 19:00
Инна Ефимова семейный врач
в прямом эфире
partnerodessa

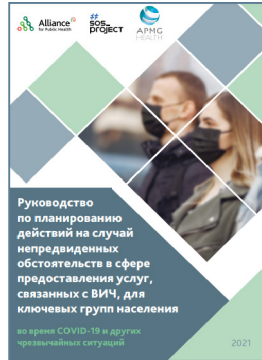


National Contingency Planning for Key Population HIV Services during COVID-19 and Other Emergencies



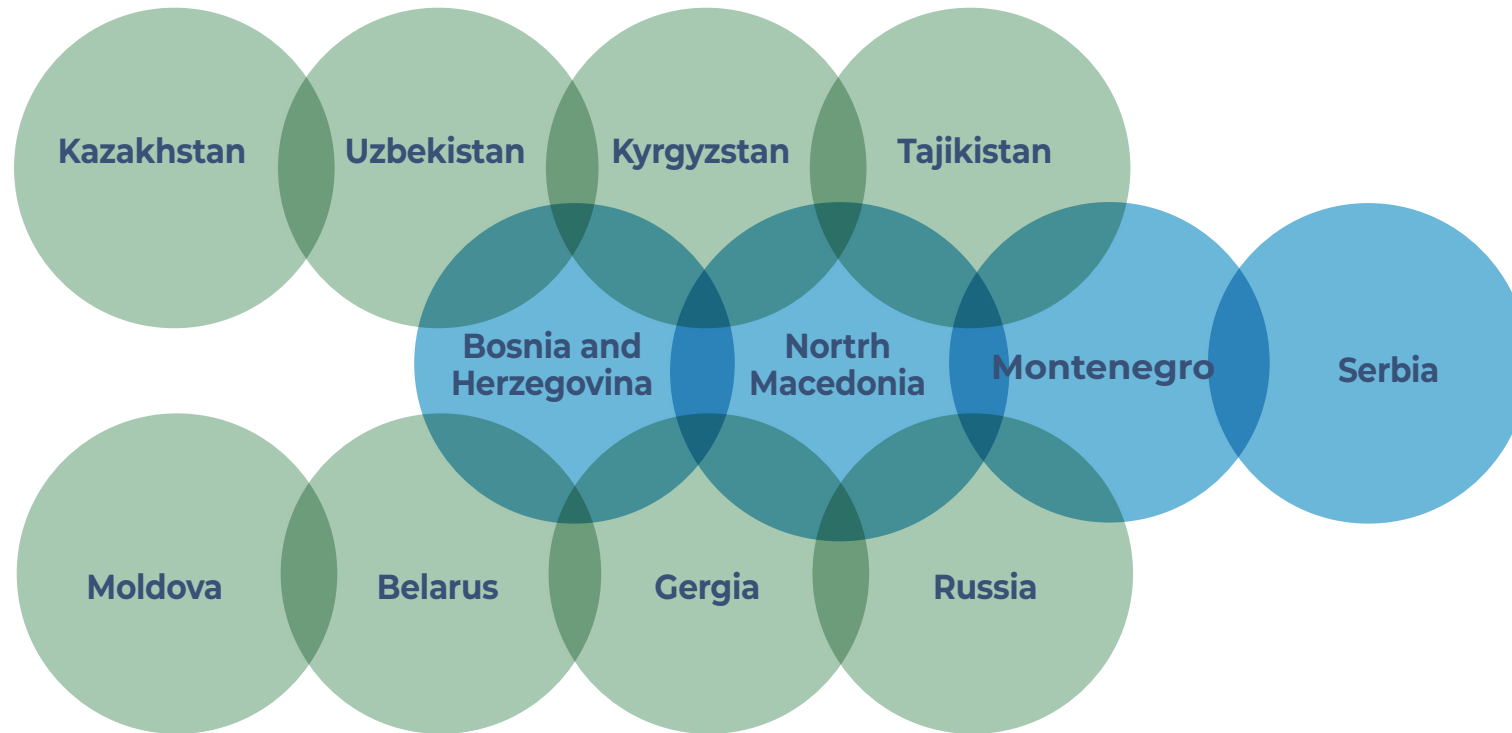
National contingency planning

- ▶ Analysis of the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic
- ▶ Strengthening service delivery systems
- ▶ Ensuring reliable and sustainable results



Structure of the Guide

- 1 HIV prevention
- 2 HIV testing and linkage to care
- 3 HIV treatment and care
- 4 Prevention and Management of Coinfection and Comorbidities
- 5 General Care (including sexual and reproductive health, nutrition)



1) Adaptation to the work of health systems of the regional contingency planning Guide

2) Development of a national contingency planning

3) Presentation of national planning at the CCM meeting

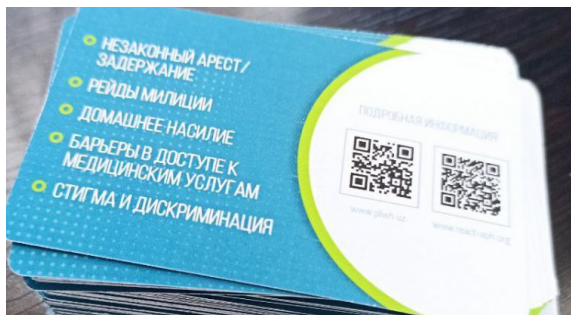
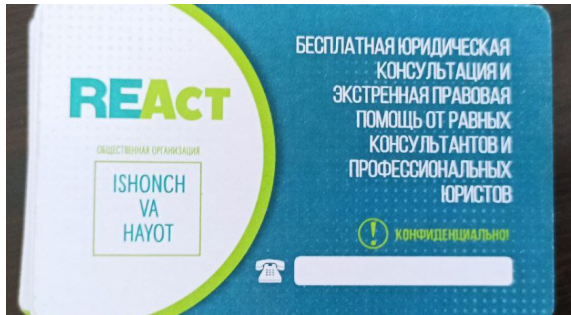
4) Implementation and use of both Guides in the work of the health system



SUPPORTING REACT TOOL ON COVID-19 RESPONSE

National contingency planning

- ▶ Distant legal consulting to avoid face-to-face meetings between client and REActors
- ▶ Emergency reaction and support
- ▶ Broadening of coverage of clients with services
- ▶ Removal of barriers while accessing to REAct services



The level of stigma due to HIV status among those who contacted the hotline is

35%


Recorded cases of violence by law police agencies

43%

Analitical reports

Conducting Regional Study “Domestic and other forms of violence among transgender women, sex workers and women who use drugs during COVID-19 pandemic”

ТАДЖИКИСТАН



15 апреля, 2022

Облилась бензином и хотела себя поджечь: когда нет сил терпеть унижения и насилие в семье

Alliance for Public Health REACT PROJECT TheGlobalFund

ДОМАШНЕЕ И ДРУГИЕ ФОРМЫ НАСИЛИЯ ПО ОТНОШЕНИЮ К ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЯМ УЯЗВИМЫХ К ВИЧ ГРУПП НАСЕЛЕНИЯ ВО ВРЕМЯ ПАНДЕМИИ COVID-19

ОТЧЕТ ПО РЕЗУЛЬТАТАМ АНАЛИЗА ОБРАЩЕНИЙ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЕЙ КЛЮЧЕВЫХ ГРУПП И ЛЮДЕЙ, ЖИВУЩИХ С ВИЧ НА ГОРЯЧУЮ ЛИНИЮ

ПРОЕКТ

УВЕЛИЧЕНИЕ ДИСТАНЦИОННОЙ ЮРИДИЧЕСКОЙ ПОДДЕРЖКИ ДЛЯ ЖЕРТВ ДОМАШНЕГО НАСИЛИЯ И НАРУШЕНИЙ ПРАВ ЧЕЛОВЕКА В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ: ОТКРЫТИЕ ГОРЯЧИХ ЛИНИЙ ДЛЯ ЖЕНЩИН ИЗ ЧИСЛА КЛЮЧЕВЫХ ГРУПП НАСЕЛЕНИЯ С ПОВЫШЕННЫМ РИСКОМ К ВИЧ-ИНФЕКЦИИ И ЖЕНЩИН, ЖИВУЩИХ С ВИЧ

ТАШКЕНТ 2022



react-aph.org



PARTNERSHIP WITH EHRA ON COVID-19 RESPONSE

- ▶ EHRA in partnership with EWNA developed guide Help impossible to ignore to provide guidance for professionals working in both governmental and non-governmental organisations offering comprehensive care for women who use drugs and experience gender-based violence
- ▶ 2 trainings with UNODC for the police on response to the cases of gender-based violence
- ▶ 1 training for social workers and shelter staff on how to provide support for women who use drugs survivors of gender-based violence
- ▶ 3 educational webinars with VOICE on addressing violence against women and girls in emergencies for managers and social workers providing shelters for key populations in Ukraine and in neighboring countries
- ▶ Collected best practices from CECCA region of integrating assistance to women affected by violence into harm reduction programmes

- ▶ Distributed 5 subgrants to Kazakhstan, Serbia, Ukraine, North Macedonia and Russia



ReGeneration, Serbia

Developed training for social workers, received accreditation and already conducted several trainings. Provided psychological and legal support, distributed food and hygiene packages, supported visits to OBGYN



Convictus, Ukraine

Provided trainings on gender-based violence for clients and staff of rehabilitation centers, group and individual supervision sessions, distributed food, hygiene packages and direct financial support, purchased equipment for shelter



HOPs, North Macedonia

Provided legal and psychological support, distributed food and hygiene packages, worked on the development of by-laws to establish a referral system between different institutions working with response to gender-based violence, developed guidelines for dealing with victims of gender based violence, particularly gender based violence among women who use drugs and Protocol for Harm reduction services, conducted trainings



Revansh, Kazakhstan

Opened a crisis apartment for women who use drugs survivors of gender-based violence, seminars for law enforcement and staff of crisis centers on the specifics of the response to gender-based violence against women who use drugs, introduced organization of special social services for women with children from vulnerable groups (women who used drugs, came out of prisons, women with HIV positive status)



Andrey Rylkov Foundation, Russia

Established contacts and referral system with psychologists and lawyers specializing in working with women survivors of violence, non-governmental shelter, developed brochure for women, organized online support groups, provided legal and psychological consultations, distributed hygiene packages, trained staff on how to respond to cases of GBV and how to start a conversation about it with clients





PARTNERSHIP WITH ECOM ON COVID-19 RESPONSE

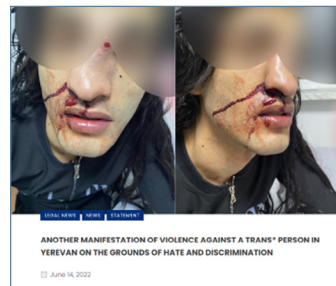
1. Health and social well-being of MSM and trans* people in EECA during COVID-19 pandemic

The study aimed to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and well-being of LGBT people in the region. Previously, similar studies have not been conducted in the region, and therefore it was critical to collect strategic information from members of our community. During the study, more than 1000 respondents from 4 countries – Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan were interviewed.

2. Flexible Shelters for LGBT Victims of Rights Violations during COVID-19 Pandemic in EECA

In total, 6 cases of providing a shelter were supported, in cases related to violence: Uzbekistan – 2 cases (trans* woman, gay); Tajikistan – 2 cases (trans* woman and trans* man); Kyrgyzstan – 1 case (gay); Armenia – 1 case (trans* person) – <https://ngngo.net/en/2022/06/14/another-manifestation-of-violence/>.

In Kazakhstan, during the revolution, 23 trans* people received medical assistance in the form of hormonal drugs, 57 trans* people received psychological counseling, 3 trans* sex workers were provided with food.



3. Monitoring and Documentation of Rights Violations Faced by Trans* People during COVID-19 Pandemic in EECA

Held in 3 countries: Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan.

The study identified the main challenges faced by trans* people during the pandemic:

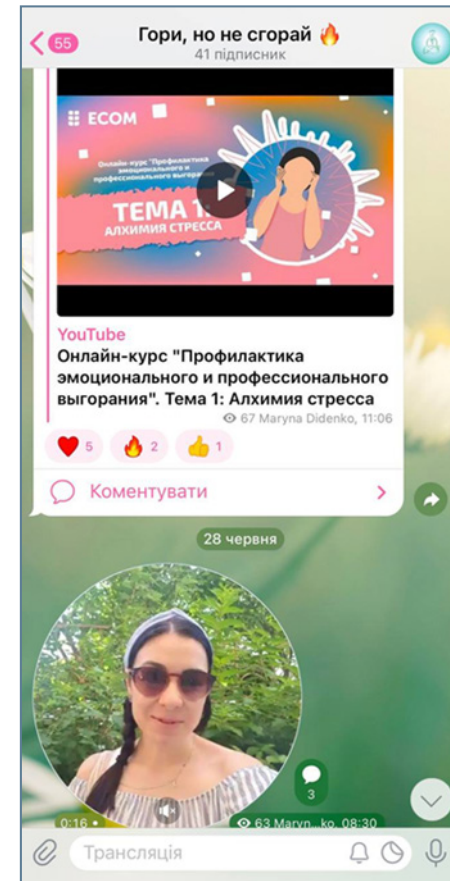
- ▶ – domestic violence due to the need to live with the family
- ▶ – loss of job and economic independence
- ▶ – deterioration of mental health: neurosis, anxiety, depression, suicidal attempts
- ▶ – difficulties with the continuation of the trans* transition, since all medicine is focused on COVID-19

many trans people refused to be tested (and later vaccinated) for COVID due to fear of discrimination and misgendering

- ▶ – limited access to sexual health services for HIV+ and trans* sex workers
- ▶ – limited access to hormone replacement therapy (impossible to visit a doctor and get a prescription)

4. Online Marathon for Prevention of Professional Burnout among Activists

The online course on the prevention of professional and emotional burnout was called “Burn, but do not burn out.” Within 3.5 weeks, 47 participants and participants completed 6 webinars.



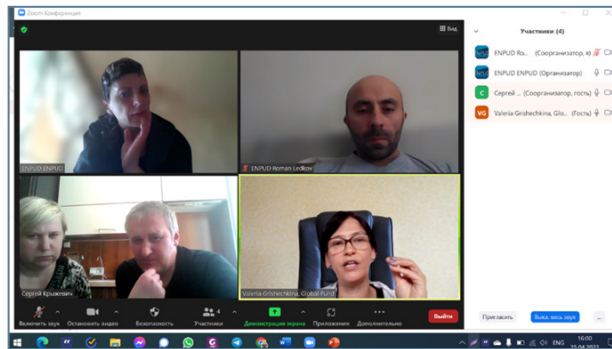


PARTNERSHIP WITH ENPUD ON COVID-19 RESPONSE



The ENPUD Treatment Expert Council confirmed its significant involvement in the work on access to RRT treatment in the region. During the project from November 2021 to April 2022 3 meetings were held with representatives of pharmaceutical companies, 3 meetings with the expert community of physicians and 3 meetings with representatives of the state and non-state health sectors. Main results:

- ▶ Meaningful participation in access to OST: pharma, medical professionals, government
- ▶ Medical Expert Council School
- ▶ Understanding the specifics of RRT, cross-country cooperation and advocacy experience



Использовалась документальная фиксация курса, как видео так и печатного блоков, с последующим использованием как матричной версии для формирования ЭСПЛ ("начальный курс").



A strong official communication has been established with the managers of the pharmaceutical companies, who are responsible for the production of OST. Monitoring of the participation of pharmaceutical companies in the licensing of OST drugs, their procurement and delivery is supported. The direct participation of the ENPUD representatives in monitoring the procurement of OST drugs in Belarus, Georgia and Kazakhstan had a significant impact on the organization of tenders, the procurement and delivery of drugs to countries.

The main results that have been achieved:

Ukraine

Direct work has been organized to support, accompany and counsel patients of OST programs, HIV-positive and their family members who are forced to move from the places of hostilities.

Georgia

A direct contact has been established with the pharmaceutical company "ALKALOID AD Skopje", the main supplier of Methadone in Georgia.

Kyrgyzstan

The PWUD community is significantly involved in the development and promotion of legal acts that directly affect OST programs, which has a positive effect on both self-assessment and the quality of the program.

Moldova

The collection and provision of information for orientation of OST patients from Ukraine in more than 30 countries was organized – as a result, since February, during the reporting period, cases were accompanied – 34 people in 15 countries.

Belarus

Through the efforts of the PWUD community, the delivery of OST drugs to the hands for self-administration has been achieved.

Kazakhstan

A PWUD community representative and OST participant entered for the first time with CCM as an alternative.

Armenia

It was possible to prepare and include a new member of the council in the current work of the ENPUD.

#SOS_PROJECT 



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