

## **Ukraine case study:**

using funding opportunities  
to improve health and services  
for people who use drugs  
in the time of war

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# War in Ukraine

## UKRAINE

**near 20% territory** occupied by russians

**15 million** left their homes – 7 mln as war refugees  
and 8 mln as internally displaced people

**1432 medical institutions** were significantly  
**damaged or killed**

## ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

**1.2 mln Ukrainians** received support from Alliance

**Over 250,000 key populations** received support  
**with services and commodities**



# Attacks health facilities, NGOs and patients

The offices of our partner organisations in the regions have been repeatedly targeted by enemy missiles



The office of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society in Kherson



Completely destroyed partners' office in Mariupol



In some settlements, not only workplaces, but also employees' homes were damaged

And this is Tetiana, a social worker with the organisation, who works in the project for the active TB case finding. On the night her house was hit by a rocket, she was fortunately hiding in a bomb shelter, so she survived. Now she stays in the shelter every night and works on the streets during the day. She says she cannot leave because there will be no one to help people from vulnerable groups to detect TB.





# KEY PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS DURING THE WAR

**Sustain the core:** HIV, OAT, Harm Reduction, TB, Viral Hepatitis

**Mobile:** demand for mobile clinics' services increased in times. During the war APH and its partners operate over 50 mobile clinics.

**Digital:** chat bots, HelpNOW, Help24 on-line counseling, on-line commodity orders, telemedicine.

**Agile:** addressing emerging needs such as overdose prevention, mental health. Human rights. Gender.

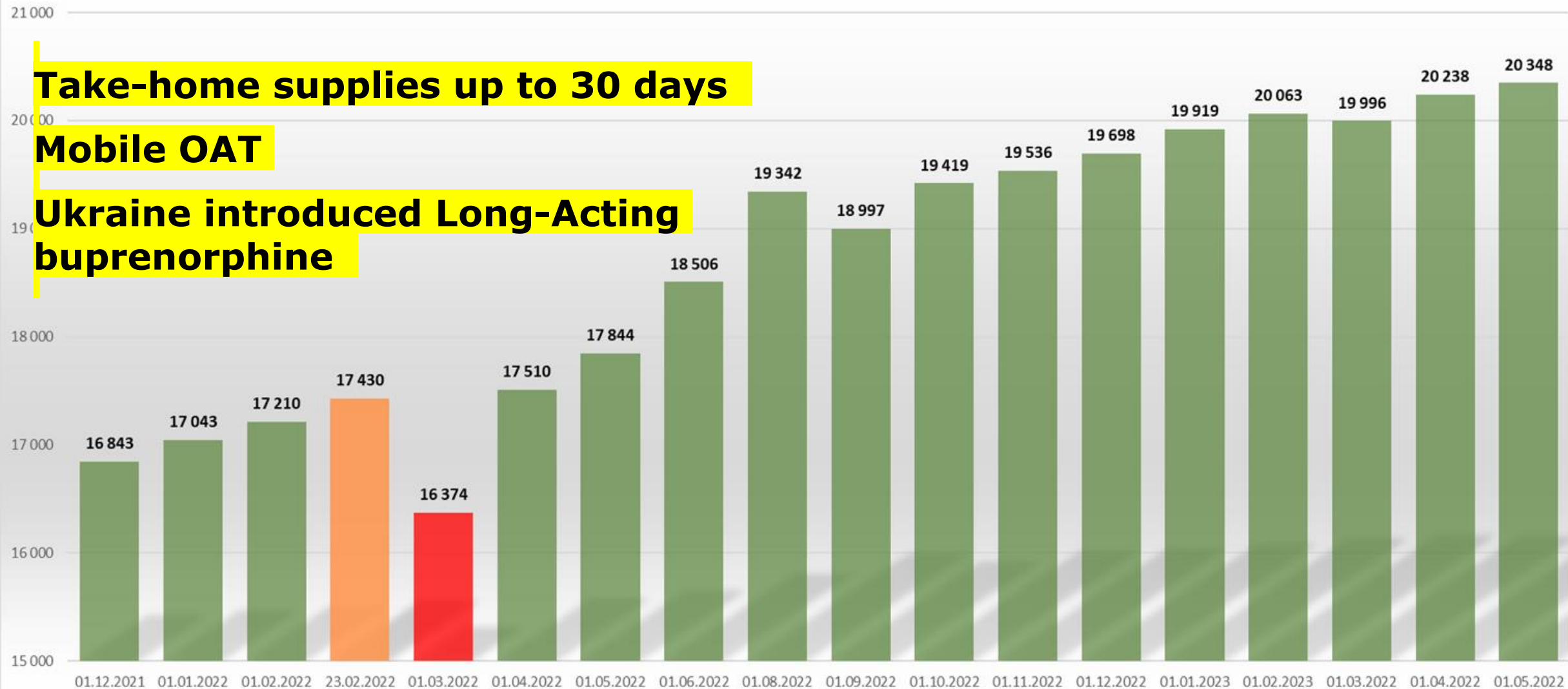
**Relevant:** internally displaced, war refugees, humanitarian support, evacuation, food, winterization, shelters / housing.

**Innovative:** long-acting buprenorphine, CAB LA, drug checking, deploying AI.

**Share with other countries:** Ukraine passed the crash test sustaining HIV, TB and Hepatitis programs during the war

# Sustaining OAT program during the war

Dynamics of enrollment of patients to the OAT program during the war





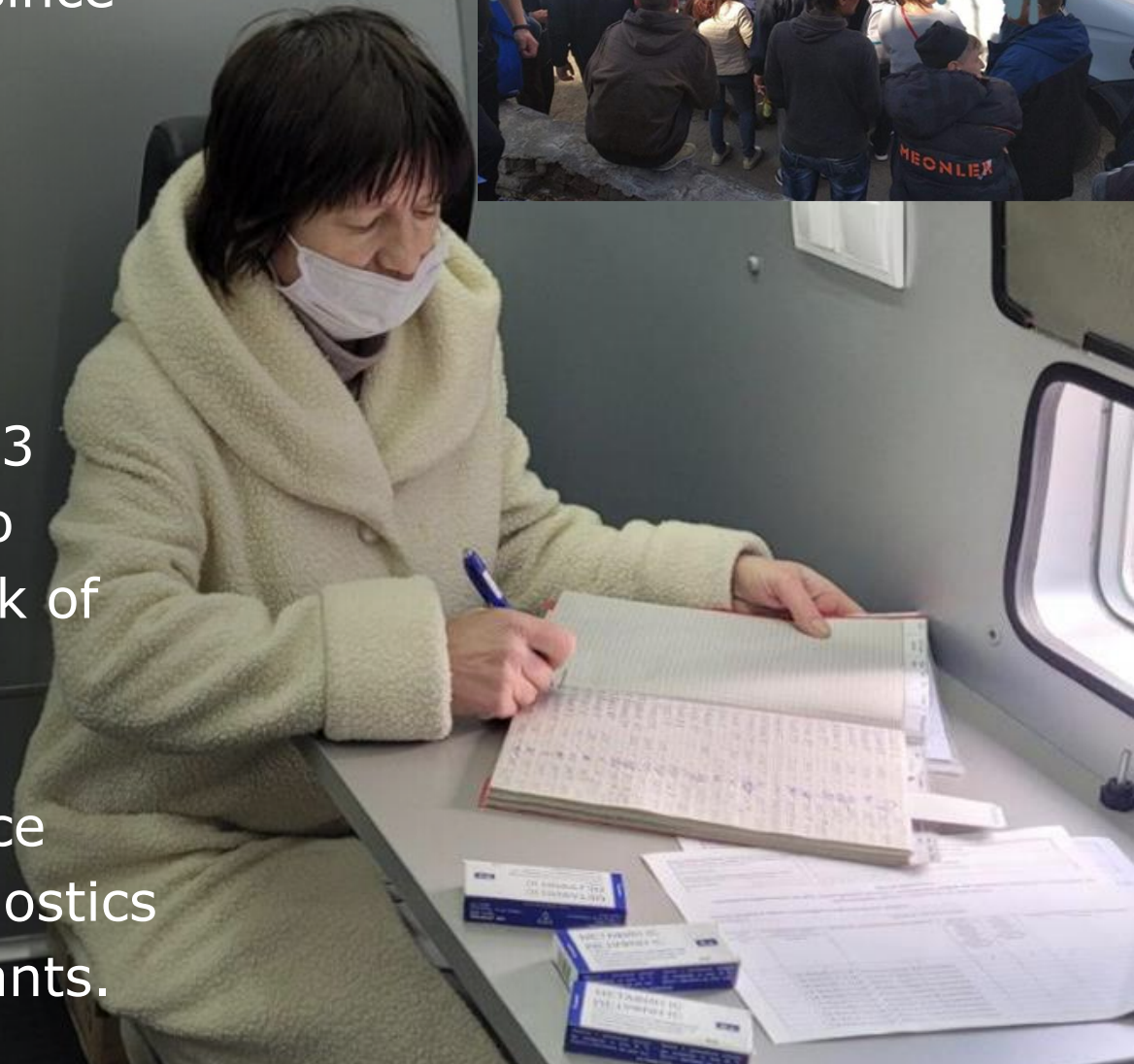
# Mobile Clinics for PWID

**50 mobile clinics** have been operational since the beginning of the war

**Over 50000 PWID** received mobile clinic services since February 2022

**“Mobile” methadone** from February 2023 special mobile clinic delivering methadone to patients to their homes within the framework of home-based hospitalization treatment.

**Core and extended packages** core service package + OAT, psychosocial support, diagnostics and testing, TB, ART, hepatitis, antidepressants.



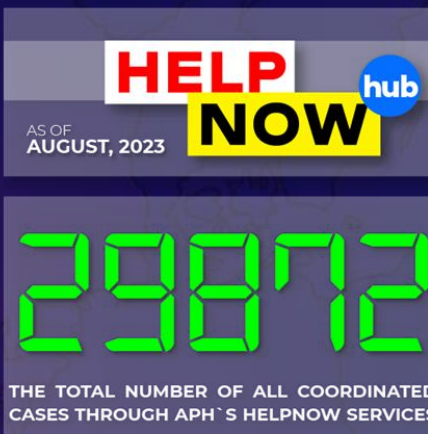
# Emergency response - supporting care continuum for KPs and PLHIV from Ukraine affected by the war

**HELP NOW** hub

In 2022-2023 has provided **1875 services** for access to OAT.

The total number includes also the OAT access-related services provided in Ukraine.

Almost 40% of the total provided services were from Poland, and almost 30% from Germany, 10% from Ukraine, and only 20% from other countries.



## 1. #HELPNOW SERVICES PER DIRECTIONS

18364



For access to ARVs	6247	34.0%
For access to OAT	1826	9.9%
For Access to TB/Hepatitis	1284	7.0%
For Access to Social Issues	6899	37.6%
Other requests	2108	11.5%

## 2. #HELPNOWHUB AND PARTNER SERVICES:



## 3. SHELTERS AND ADDRESS SOCIAL SUPPORT



About **1000** people used the services of shelters

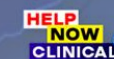


Total address social support **190**



## 4. TOTAL ONLINE MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS

9301



Since 2023 Supported by Help24

ONLINE CONSULTATIONS AT THE **HELP24 PLATFORM** - **1632**

ONLINE CONSULTATIONS USING OTHER MEANS OF ONLINE COMMUNICATION: **CELL PHONE, MESSENGERS (VIBER, TELEGRAM, WHATSAPP, ZOOM ETC)** - **7669**

**#HelpNow started** its work on **1 March, 2022** - on the 6th day of the full-scale invasion

People from **50 countries** and **200+ cities** received services



# Online services for PWID. Platform Help24 (9 months of 2023)



- **4 635 HelpBoxes** individual prevention kits, which can be ordered **online**. **31 041** syringes, **2 618** needles, **1497** HIV oral tests, **57 976** condoms, **40 968** lubricants, useful educational materials, **29 063** alcohol wipes, **1 339** combo tests for HIV, hepatitis B, C and syphilis. The spectrum of offered products is adjusted to the changing drug scene and demands of the community
- **2 024 counseling sessions by various medical specialists.** The platform also offers psychosocial and legal counselling

**Online services and postal delivery allow reaching clients all over the country despite migration and disruptions of service infrastructure while addressing confidentiality concerns of stigmatized communities**



# Services for PWUD in recreational contexts including MSM who practice chemsex (9 months of 2023)

**3 214 PartyBoxes** - prevention kits for clients and their partners, which can be ordered **online** after completion of online questionnaire that also informs the improvements in programme design.

The PartyBox **includes:** HIV oral test, condoms, lubricants, useful printed materials, safer sniffing tools, promo materials, vitamins, colorimetric reagents for drug checking

**50 educational lectures and trainings**

**12 112** clients received services at **60 electronic dance music events**

**4 497 online counseling sessions** by psychologists, harm reduction specialists and medical specialists.

**Increasing demand for psychological counselling and other mental health services. Distribution of drug checking reagents along with appropriate harm reduction guidance addresses increasing risk of overdose.**





# Overdose prevention in the wartime



- **28,7% PWID in Ukraine** reported about the overdose experience by narcotic substances (IBBS 2020).
- The demand for the overdose prevention services has almost doubled since the beginning of the war. **Social workers of 31 NGOs distributed 75 412 ampoules of naloxone among 54 630 PWID over the past 19 months of the war.**
- After the beginning of the war, the Alliance promptly purchased and distributed **additional 28 000 ampoules of naloxone** in prevention projects among PWID.



# MINI-GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES



During 2023, **143 mini-grants** were issued to initiative groups from representatives of KP incl. PWID. Average amount of a mini-grant is \$5,000.

In general, **19 000 PWID and their families** received assistance within the framework of mini-grants



# Support shelters for PWID

**6 SHELTERS** supported  
during 2022-2023

**310+ PWID** received  
accommodation services



# Introducing AI artificial intelligence to improve program results

## Coupon-based recruitment strategies in the APH Optimized-Case Finding (OCF) project during the war

### Basic

3-5 coupons for all eligible

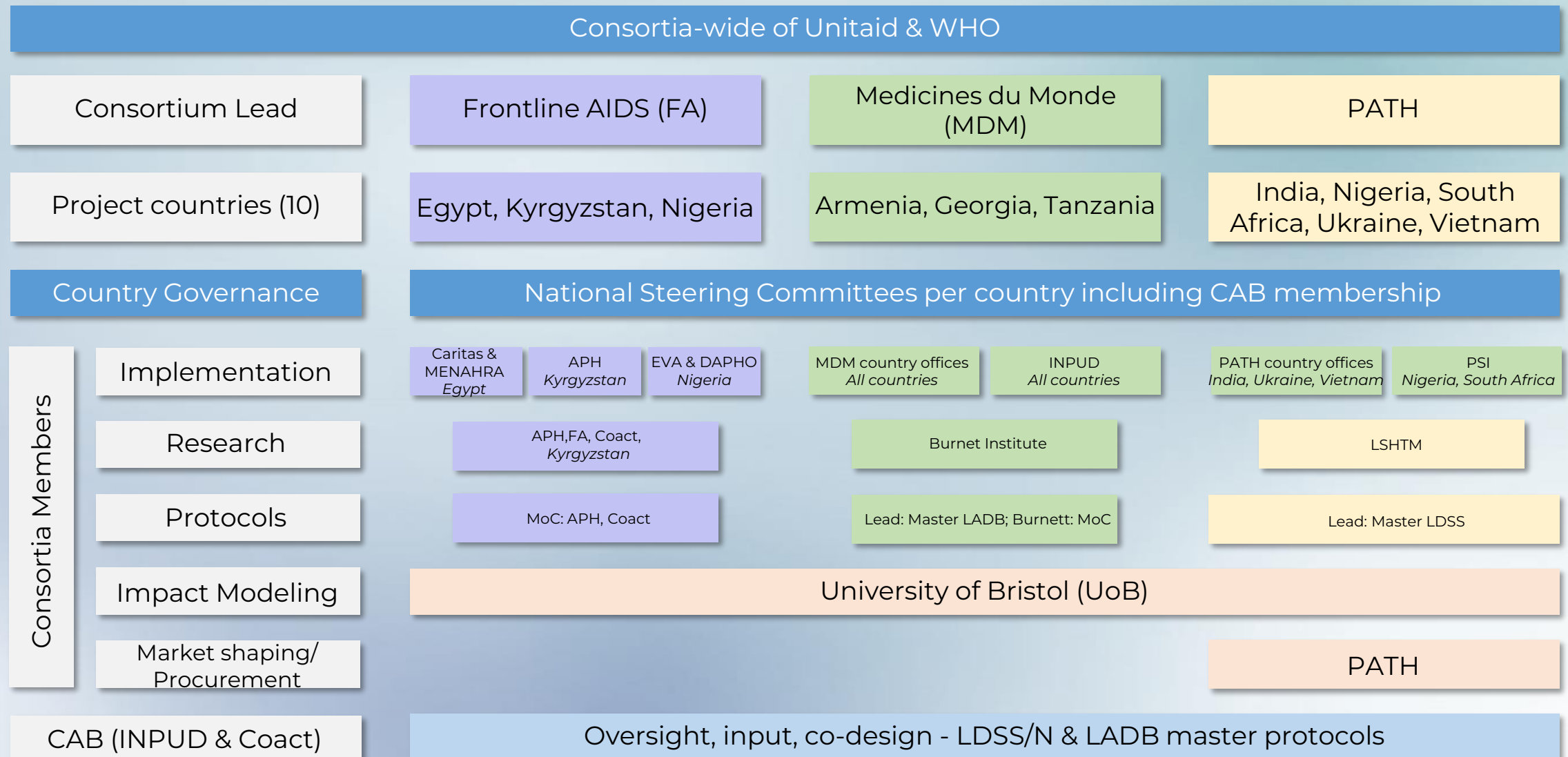
### AI (ML) model

More optimised distribution. **AI model trained on more than 300 000 clients records**, which predicts the probability of the client to direct people with highest probability of undiagnosed HIV cases

AI model vs. basic strategy results in case finding, 2022+2023, % HIV detection rate









**GREAT THANKS TO  
ALLIANCE TEAM  
AND ALL  
PARTNERS!**

**TOGETHER WE WILL WIN!**

