

ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH:
response to challenges caused by the Russian aggression against Ukraine
(situational report as of 14.03.2022)

Key approaches

In the situation of an unprecedented Russian aggression, the Alliance for Public Health is, as always, at the frontlines, fighting for Ukraine and its people. We remain with the people of Ukraine in the struggle for the sovereignty of Ukraine. The key priorities at the moment are the **safety of project personnel and clients and preserving key services that will enable beneficiaries to retain access to life-saving treatment (especially OAT and ART medicines)**. To promptly respond to new challenges, activities of the APH include those aimed at **responding to the aggression**, including procurement, organization and provision of humanitarian aid.

HUMANITARIAN AID



Preparation to transporting a humanitarian cargo by a mobile laboratory of the APH

The APH has decided to provide its mobile ambulatories for humanitarian needs, incl. evacuation of vulnerable populations, women and children, and delivery of foods and medicines. They work around the clock, delivering humanitarian cargoes from Western Ukraine to Kyiv and Eastern Ukraine.

Altogether, humanitarian convoy Kyiv-Lviv-Kyiv has taken three trips (7 trucks, approximately 42 tons of cargo), and there has been three Kyiv-Lutsk-Kyiv trips (3 trucks, approximately 18 tons of cargo). Humanitarian goods are delivered to a warehouse in Kyiv to be further distributed to NGOs, TDF units, hospitals, etc. Separately, drugs and humanitarian goods are delivered to Brovary (Central Rayon Hospital), Kozelets and other hotspots near Chernihiv.



Alliance Humanitarian Patrol Team



Now our mobile clinics will have special stickers

The APH does not forget about the needs of key populations who are now in dire need of humanitarian aid.

For example, our partner organization, Club Eney, thanks to APH's initiative, received a shipment of humanitarian goods for drug-dependent clients who are currently deprived of everything. We will not leave people from our communities behind — that is our committed position, and we will keep working in that direction.



Also, activities of many partner organizations are refocused to provision of humanitarian aid. Upon APH's agreement, mobile laboratories are used to deliver humanitarian goods; also, redistributed funds are used to procure humanitarian goods. Partner organization "Social Initiative for Occupational Safety and Health", thanks to APH's flexible response and change of intended use of available funds to humanitarian targets, has collected



Humanitarian cargo in Odessa

information about current humanitarian needs and organizes procurement and shipment of the necessary goods. **The aid targets clients with children coming to social services seeking help.** Valuable humanitarian shipments have already been transported to Kyiv, Rubizhne, Sievierodonets, Slovyansk, Kreminna, Dobropillia, and Kherson oblast. Food, medicines and diapers have been delivered.

The office of our partner organization, 'Way Home' (Odesa) has also become humanitarian head quarters. They use a mobile ambulatory of the APH to transport humanitarian cargo.

ACCESS TO TREATMENT

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

A new service, #HELNow, helps people in accessing ART, treatment of TB, hepatitis, and OAT.

Presently, #HELNow service provides the following types of support:

- Support and coordination for accessing ART, opioid agonist treatment (OAT), TB and hepatitis treatment
- Support and coordination of accessing psychological aid
- Support of online access to lost prescriptions for HIV treatment

As of 14 March 2022, 303 cases were opened. That includes:

- ART/HIV-related issues: 176 (62 in Ukraine, 114 abroad)
- OAT: 120 (82 in Ukraine, 38 abroad)

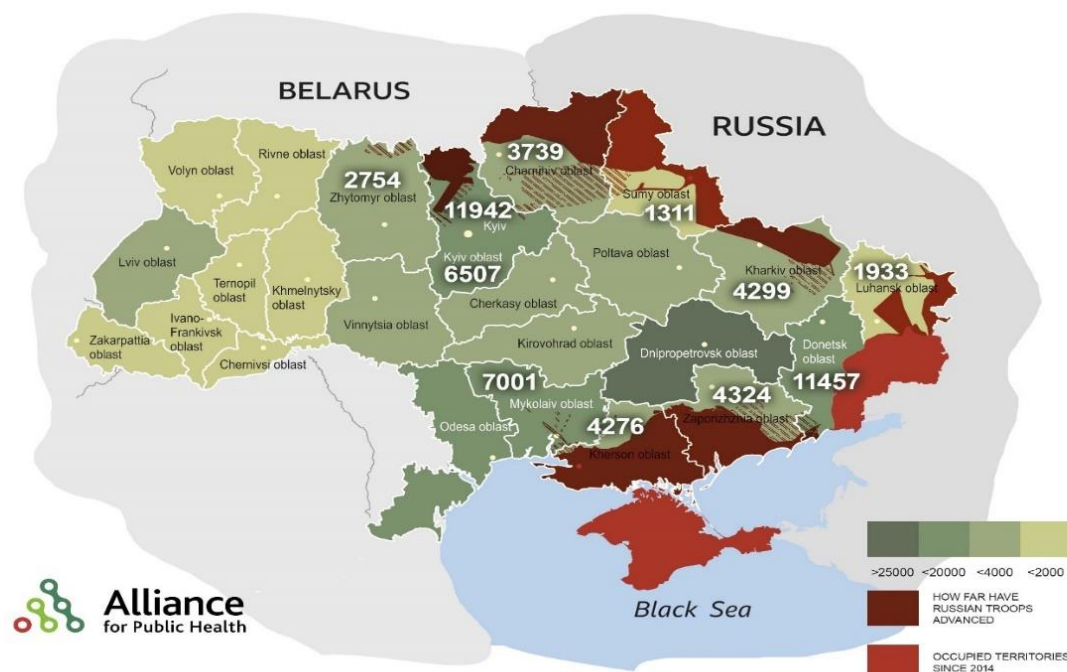
Others (tuberculosis, hepatitis) — 20 (mostly concurrent with other diseases)

A graphic for the 'Help NOW' service. It features the logo 'Help NOW' with 'ua' in a blue circle. Below it, text in Ukrainian says 'ДОПОМОГА УКРАЇНЦЯМ ЗА КОРДОНОМ З ОТРИМАННЯ ДОСТУПУ ДО ЛІКУВАННЯ ВІЛ, ТБ, ГЕПАТИТУ ПО ВСЬОМУ СВІТУ:'. A list of services includes: '• ART, ПТБ, ЗПТ', '• координація отримання лікарських призначень за кодом', and '• психологічна підтримка'. It also says 'Звертайтеся:' followed by contact information: 'helpnowua@gmail.com', '/helpnowbot', and 'google-форма (через qr-код)'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

ACCESS TO ART

100 thousand people living with HIV reside in cities and oblast affected by the Russian intervention, fighting or partial occupation. On the territories of Ukraine where the invasion and fighting go on, there are 98261 PLWH including 59543 ART patients.

Numbers of patients receiving ART in high-risk regions



In most of the regions, the projects aimed to ensure adherence to treatment continue their work. In some, their working hours are shortened due to curfew. Yet, contact with many clients, as well as with some regions, has been lost¹. In most regions, activities are focused on providing ART to both patients permanently living there and those arriving as evacuees.

- Kyiv:** mobile teams work only partially, because most employees have left the city, but they provide online consultations to clients under the adherence component. The only social worker that remains there delivers treatment within Kyiv. **60% of clients from suburbs cannot be contacted.**
Kyiv oblast: the team has been evacuated and provides online consultations; only a social worker in Boryspil provides offline consultations and delivers the drugs. The HCF in Bila Tserkva continues dispensing ART medications. **Contact with 50% of project clients has been lost.** ART is being sent to patients by mail, but this activity is limited because of closure of many post



Delivery of ART medicines, Dnipropetrovsk oblast

¹ Data on MCF projects (supported by CDC), Treatment HealthLink, supported by USAID

offices. ART is delivered directly only to severe patients.

- **Odesa oblast:** All resources of our partner organization, NGO 'Alternativa', are used to provide ARV drugs to patients — both their clients and others. This process is complicated by the fact that only a monthly stock of drugs can be issued. Patients who have been forced to leave had been given discharge records with treatment schemes and, wherever possible, supported in accessing the treatment at their new place of stay. Patients who have come to Odesa as IDPs also receive this help. Where possible, the drugs are sent via Nova Poshta postal company.
- **Chernihiv oblast** — online consultations are provided to clients; also, ARV and PrEP medications are delivered to those clients that can be reached by the MA. Testing for PWID has been renewed in the town of Kozelets. People get actively tested at the blood donation sites. Delivery of medication by mail has been suspended.
- Active work continues in **Kirovohrad, Poltava and Dnipropetrovsk** oblasts where



Transportation of CD4 blood specimens,
Dnipropetrovsk oblast

social workers deliver tests and ART medications. In Dnipropetrovsk oblast, ART drugs are still, to some extent, sent to patients by mail. Besides, blood specimens for VS, CD4, etc. testing are transported.

- **Mykolaiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts:** operations continue taking into account martial law and current situation; ART drugs are delivered to clients; wherever possible testing is conducted in cities. Testing in rural areas is currently not possible, though most activities used to be conducted outside oblast centers.
- **Donetsk oblast:** ART drugs are still sent to clients by mail where possible. Mobile team in **Kostiantynivka** delivers ART within the city; online consultations are provided. Testing outside the oblast center is now impossible (before, 95% of activities used to be conducted there).
- **Uman** (Cherkasy oblast): testing/counseling/support services are provided, as well as online consultations. Operations of the mobile team in Kirovohrad oblast have been suspended.

Warfare areas

- **Mariupol** – there is basically no contact with the city; mobile team coordinator has called to confirm she was alive. Contact with other personnel has been lost.
- **Kherson** — people stay in air raid shelters and provide online counseling on adherence to project clients; wherever possible, they deliver ART drugs.

Stories of beneficiaries

Kyiv oblast: *Anastasiya, a resident of Nemishayeve, joined the project just before the war; she is 20 weeks pregnant.. She took a rapid test as partner of a PLWH (her husband brought her) and learnt she was HIV-positive. With the support of Kyiv oblast mobile team staff, she got registered and started ART. When the war started, she could not leave the settlement, as it was surrounded by the Russian army. The mobile team kept in touch with her all the time. Eventually, two weeks later, Anastasiya and her husband were able to escape and come to Vinnytsia oblast. As she had only a three-day stock of drugs, and, considering her pregnancy, she could not allow interruption of the treatment, the project team delivered the drugs to her place of stay. She is now in safety, and can continue the treatment. A social worker keeps in touch with her and tries to support her in these very difficult times.*

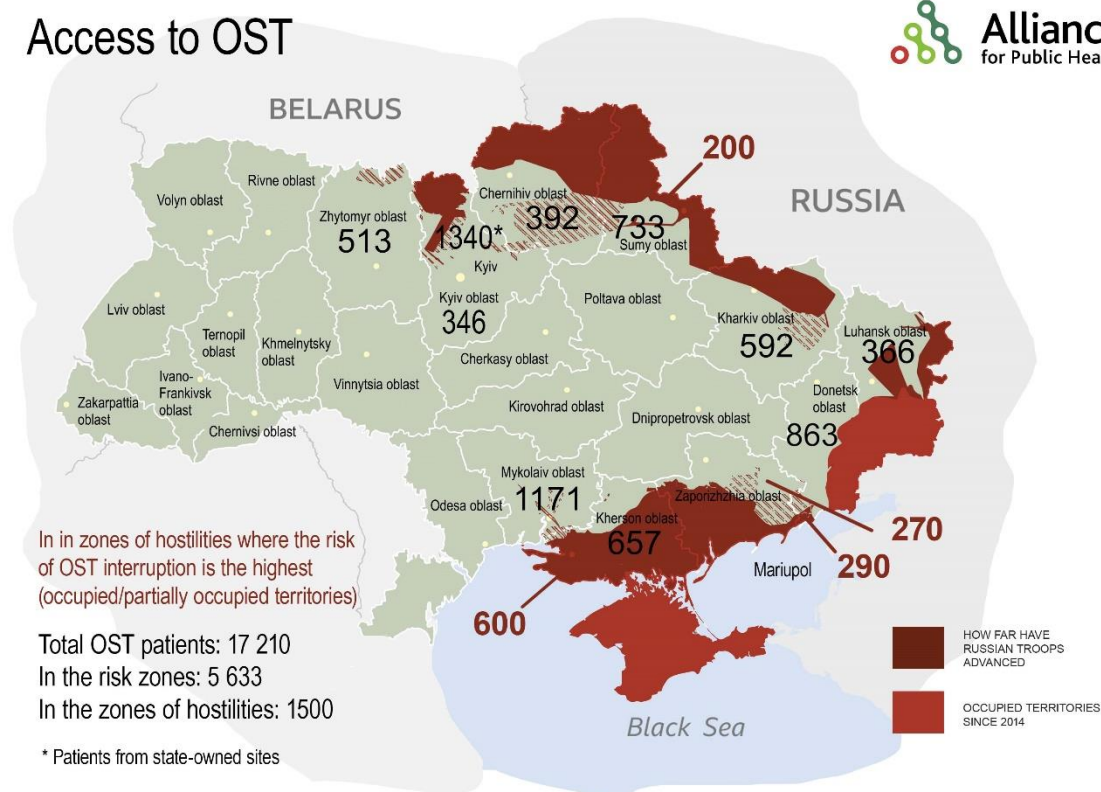
Donetsk oblast: A driver of the mobile team from Kostiantynivka says: 'We do nothing heroic here, we just do our job'. Despite the difficult situation, the team continues its work. While departing for Slovyansk, they learnt that four clients of the project located at the border with Donetsk oblast were asking about evacuation to Kramatorsk. The team took a risk and drove extra 50 km to take the clients to safety.



OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY

One of the key lines of activities of the APH is joint (with public institutions, community-based organizations and patient organizations) coordination of efforts to ensure preserving **patients' access to OAT**.

Access to OST



General situation:

As of February, there were more than 17210 OAT patients all around Ukraine. Also, according to official data, more than 2700 patients were receiving the treatment at private clinics. Though, in fact, this number can be 5000 or even more. Though most patients receive OAT in oblast centers where there are still some drugs in stock, and the patients receive 10-15-30-day supply of the drugs, we already can speak about **interruption/possible interruption of the treatment** (when the patients on the occupied territories run out of the drugs or

delivery possibilities will be blocked) in Mariupol, Kherson oblast (including Kherson itself and occupied towns, such as Nova Kakhovka), Zaporizhzhia oblast (Melitopol, Berdiansk), Sumy oblast (Okhtyrka, Lebedyn, Konotop, etc.), Kharkiv oblast (Chuhuyiv, Balakleia, etc.).

Displaced OAT patients

Displaced OAT patients: according to available data (being updated), displaced patients have moved to:

- Khmelnytskyi oblast — 11 patients
- Poltava oblast — 18 patients
- Lviv oblast – 23 patients
- Chernivtsi oblast – 6 patients
- Ivano-Frankivsk oblast – 5 patients

Key trends:

- APH's projects supporting OAT patients are carried on.
- Patients moving to other regions of Ukraine receive prompt support. They all continue OAT. According to recent reports, there are up to 100 displaced patients (the date is updated daily).
- Most patients (except those in occupied towns/sites and towns where heavy fighting goes on) stay at home and wait for the drugs to be delivered. Most sites still have some reserves thanks to previously issued 10-15-30-day supply and small stocks.
- The APH, in collaboration with the international SOS project and international partners, coordinates provision of medicines to OAT and ART patients in other countries, incl. Moldova, Poland, Germany, and Hungary. According to recent reports, there are from a few to up to 10 such patients in each of the countries (the data is updated). For prompt informing, APH's project site (<https://zpt.org.ua>) offers a 'For wartime' button in its mobile app.
- In the city of Dnipro, as a part of the project supported by CDC, they, together with the police, organized delivery of methadone to Pavlohrad and Nikopol using medical vehicles of the site.
- Operation of the OAT site on the left bank of Dnieper in Kyiv received the necessary support, such as transportation of health personnel; the situation is similar in a number of other cities: social workers of NGOs and patients help medical workers in reaching the sites. In Zhytomyr, patients from TDF forces or volunteers, or those having problems with transport are given up to 30-day supply of the drugs. The situation in other places is similar. Also, patients guard health personnel and sites.
- OAT hotline is working; it is used to monitor the situation, collect information about the needs, respond to critical cases and make efforts to resolve problems of clients.

The PHC of the MoH together with the APH and '100% Life' have conducted an accelerated procurement of medications in Odesa. They collected information about the needs in the regions where the situation with the stocks was approaching critical. They identified transport operators and sites to receive and store the drugs. The medications have already been delivered to Vinnytsia; supplies for Lviv and Uzhgorod are on the way. Delivery to other regions (except for towns and locations that are occupied or where heavy fighting is ongoing) has been planned for the nearest future, yet it will depend on the situation.

Stories from different regions

Lviv (Charitable Organization 'All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS'): The support was provided to a family couple from the town of Irpin of Kyiv oblast (Maryna, 33, and Ihor, 31) who moved to Lviv together and did not know where they could obtain OAT drugs. The patients were depressed and tired after a long journey. Social workers provided psychological support and helped the couple to find accommodation. The clients also were counseled on health issues and were referred and accompanied to testing and medical examination. To ensure that they would quickly get necessary treatment, they were taken right to a healthcare facility where they were able to get registered and start receiving the drugs.



Khmelnytskyi (Khmelnytskyi oblast chapter of the CO 'All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS'): A case manager was approached by a client of a paid OAT site registered in Kharkiv. He had been staying in his home city as long as possible, hiding from shelling, because he was tied to the OAT program. When he could not receive the drug, he decided to leave the city. In Khmelnytskyi, he immediately received counseling from the case manager who helped him to get registered at an OAT site and

supported him psychologically. The displaced man was very grateful for quick response and support with the registration that enabled him to continue the treatment without interruption and receive the drugs to retain his mental and physical health.

Zhytomyr (NGO 'Perspektiva'): 'We now have a unique OAT community. We communicate, we identify problems and resolve them as much as we can, we collect information about real needs and try to meet them at once. This concerns both serious problems and little issues our clients encounter. We are able to hear and consider everyone's opinion! We also truly appreciate our health workers! On the very first day of the war we gave all of our clients a 15-day supply of the drugs. All men serving in the AFU or TDF, or manning check points received a monthly supply. We got 23 new clients, many of them have moved from occupied territories or heavy fighting areas. We accepted them all on the very day they came, without red tape and delays. Though now we have our fears about when a new batch of the drug is going to come; are we going to make it without reducing dosage? It is a very pressing issue that cannot yet be answered. One of the doctors of the site has left the city, and that is why another doctor — despite his considerable age of 73 and mobility problems — replaces him every day. Two nurses with little kids come to work every day of the week and do not leave their workplace even during air raids. It is good that now funding



provided by Alliance for Public Health has resolved the problem of transportation of health workers, because before that one of our nurses had to take an hour-long walk commuting in the city subjected to rocket attacks. Now our health personnel is taken to work and back home by car. Thanks a lot for that!"

Yuliya Rubtsova, OAT coordinator

ACCESS TO HIV PREVENTION SERVICES

All NGOs implementing GF-funded projects work responding to the current situation in their respective regions. Service provision is currently suspended in some regions such as Kharkiv, Sumy, Mariupol, and Sievierodonetsk. From 24 February 2022 until 11 March 2022, **1904 clients** were reached with various prevention services (data came from 18 regions of Ukraine, including 1368 PWID, 103 SWs, 176 MSM), and that includes **101** new clients. The information is being updated.

Because of internal displacement of project clients, they are referred to local organizations at their new places of stay to ensure uninterrupted service provision. For that, every organization has assigned focal points from among service providers to consult the newcomers on relevant services, site locations and so on.

TUBERCULOSIS

Services of **daily observed treatment of patients with TB/DR-TB and comprehensive psychosocial help to patients** are still provided depending on the specific situation in each region. **Common problems:** we keep losing contact with clients; clients increasingly require psychological and legal support. Doctors provide remote, phone-based consultations; reminders about drug administration are sent via text messages. It is difficult to provide clients with food packages, as food is now scarce. In some regions, clients cannot undergo medical examination. Though there are no problems with TB medications so far, we observe shortages with medications. As a lot of patients move to other regions, a problem with their registration arises, which is dealt with by PHCs.

Stable planned enrollment of clients takes place only in Lviv, Zakarpattia and Odesa oblast, and, to some extent, in Volyn oblast.

Problematic regions:

Mykolaiv oblast: most patients outside the city of Mykolaiv are inaccessible, except for phone connection (though some places cannot be reached by phone as well). The access to the TB dispensary located near a strategic bridge that is raised most of the time is thus complicated.

Odesa oblast: Food packages are a problem as warehouses are empty. But suppliers have informed that, as soon as situation in the region is normalized, they renew their cooperation with the NGOs at once.

Kherson oblast: Because of the fighting in the oblast and Russian blockade of Kherson, there are several currently unresolvable problems: TB medicines and food cannot be delivered to the rayons of the oblast; very often, telephone connection is absent; the occupants take phones away from people, so taking them on journeys to keep in touch is a risk for NGO personnel. There is a problem with medications in Nova Kakhovka.

VIRAL HEPATITIS C

HCV treatment and social support of patients who started the treatment in 2021 and January and February of 2022 are carried on despite the war. Social workers of local NGOs provide remote psychological aid and support to the patients, observe daily administration of drugs and inform people about prevention of HCV re-infection.

The HCFs have issued a full-course supply of DAA drugs to almost all of their patients. Residents of Kyiv can receive the drugs monthly at Kyiv City Clinical Hospital no. 5. Residents of frontline and near-frontline territories struggle with obtaining the medications. According to a manager of CO '100% Life. Kyiv Region' who is responsible for HCV microelimination efforts in the city of Kyiv and Kyiv oblast, 5% of the patients are presently unable to receive the medication. The NGO works hard to organize logistics for delivery of the drugs. In the regions far from the fighting (e.g., Zaporizhzhia, Rivne, Vinnytsia, Cherkasy), new patients are being enrolled.

Despite the difficult situation in Kherson, head of CO 'Mangust' was able to deliver the medicines to Oleshky and Hola Prystan using the mobile ambulatory. There is no contact with Mariupol and Mykolaiv now.

In most regions, the problems persist regarding diagnosing HCV before the start of treatment and assessing effectiveness of the treatment, as HCF laboratories and a private laboratory contracted by the APH have stopped operations on the 24th of February. However, the APH and NGOs work to change logistical arrangements trying to use those laboratories that still work in some cities/regions.

INFORMATION

- For the purpose of timely informing members of vulnerable populations about access to services, safe behaviors, etc., the work of national press has been changed. They now work online as bulletins.
- Up-to-date information will be posted on the Facebook page of the APH ([AlliancePublicHealth](#)) with hashtag #ЗавждиНаПередовій / #AlwaysOnTheFrontline

Alliance for Public Health is providing humanitarian support in the context of war. To support the people of Ukraine and our work on the provision of emergency assistance, we would like to ask for your support by donations in any amount to the following accounts:

Beneficiary: ICF "Alliance for Public Health"

Address: 24 Bulvarno-Kudriavska St., 01601 Kyiv, Ukraine

Bank name: JSC "Credit Agricole Bank"

SWIFT code: AGRIUAUKXXX

Bank address: 42/4, Pushkinska St., Kyiv – 01004, Ukraine

USD (bank correspondent is compulsory):

Account number: UA073006140000026009500299105

Correspondent bank name: Credit Agricole SA (France)

SWIFT code: AGRIFRPP

Account Number: 20586620000

Correspondent bank address: 12, place des Etats-Unis 92127 Montrouge Cedex, France

EUR (bank correspondent is not compulsory):

Account number: UA063006140000026000500198937

Correspondent bank name: Credit Agricole S.A.

SWIFT code: AGRIFRPP

Acc. No.: 20586612000

Correspondent bank address: Paris, France

GBP (bank correspondent is preferable):

Account number: UA773006140000026008500198939

Correspondent bank name: Credit Agricole SA (France)

SWIFT code: AGRIFRPP

Acc. No.: 21185549000

Correspondent bank address: 12, place des Etats-Unis 92127 Montrouge Cedex, France

Purpose of Payment: Donation.

Together we can help!

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