









****RESPOND**



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RESPOND

Funded under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) the five-year (2012 -2017) USAID RESPOND Project was implemented in Ukraine by Pact, Inc. in collaboration with FHI 360. The project supported the development of sustainable country-led programs aimed at reduction of HIV transmission among key populations and their sexual partners.

The objectives of the RESPOND project were twofold:

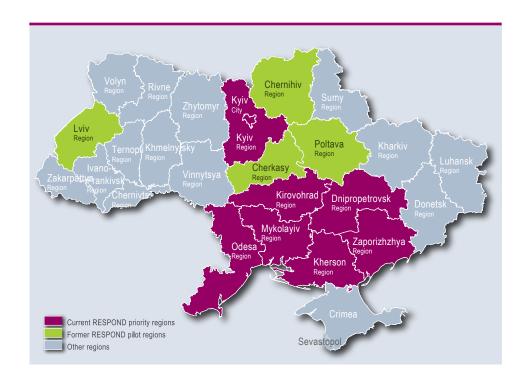
- 1. Increase the quality of HIV/AIDS services targeting key populations and their partners.
- 2. Strengthen the capacity of Ukrainian institutions and organizations to deliver quality HIV/AIDS programs.

In October 2015, RESPOND pivoted to PEPFAR 3.0 and the UNAIDS' Fast Track Strategy to reach the 90-90-90 targets within its technical assistance mandate: 90% of the estimated number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) should know their HIV status; 90% of PLHIV who know their status should be on anti-retroviral treatment (ART); and in 90% of those on ART the treatment should be effective and result in undetectable viral load.

In doing so, RESPOND capitalized on its experiential learning from small-scale Quality Improvement (QI) projects and established a large-scale cross-regional QI Collaborative. This collaborative included government and NGO HIV service providers across 8 regions (Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Kirovograd, Kyiv, Mykolayiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhya oblasts, and the city of Kyiv) who work closely together to improve the continuum of HIV services for key populations and close the gaps in the HIV service cascade towards UNAIDS' 90-90-90 targets.

RESPOND worked in partnership with Ukrainian service providers, program planners and decision makers to reach its goals. The project supported activities to achieve the following intermediate results:

- Enhanced and documented continuum of client-centered HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services in eight priority regions.
- Strengthened utilization of strategic information for decision making along the continuum of HIV services.
- Improved organizational and technical capacity of NGOs and the public sector to strengthen the HIV service continuum.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

as of October 1, 2017

Enhanced and documented continuum of clientcentered HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services

- The QI Collaborative involves 139 health care facilities and 20 NGOs across eight regions with high and medium HIV burden.
- Over 21 months, 12,537 newly identified PLHIV received confirmatory HIV testing, of them 92% (11,553) were linked to services, and 73% (8,452) enrolled on ART.
- International evidence-based and local promising interventions implemented through 51 subgrants to local NGOs contributed to strengthening the continuum of HIV services by:
 - providing HIV prevention services to 561 men who have sex with men (MSM), 1,039 most-at-risk-adolescents, and 235 recently released prisoners;
 - offering HIV testing and linkage to care services to 3,535 MSM, 7,328 sexual partners of PLHIV, and 5,907 sexual partners of people who inject drugs (PWID);
 - helping build and improve adherence to ART in 2,074 patients;
 - providing economic empowerment to 266 women living with HIV with young children through an integrated health and livelihood intervention;
 - helping enroll 2,023 PWID to medical services;
 - demonstrating a 12% HIV detection rate among sexual partners of PLHIV; 7% among MSM, and 6% among sexual partners of PWID;
 - reaching a total of 5,147 clients with continuum of care services across eight RESPOND focus regions; of them 4,651 (90%) received full package of services within at least one of the intervention: Partner Health, Steps towards Health, or Patient School.

- All intervention descriptions and implementation manuals are available at the National Strategic Information Portal on HIV <u>hiv.phc.org.ua</u>
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- The interventions aimed at HIV testing and linkage to care of sexual partners of key populations (Partner's Health) and building adherence to treatment (Patient School) have been handed over to the PLHIV Network to be further supported under the Global Fund.

Strengthened utilization of strategic information for decision making along the continuum of HIV services

- RESPOND provided 633 person-training courses for service providers and decision makers on Data Demand and Use for Decision Making, and participants have been receiving technical assistance on data collection, cascade analysis, interpretation of strategic information for decision-making, and data quality assurance.
- A National Strategic Information Portal (NSIP) was developed and launched at hiv.phc.org.ua in collaboration with the Ukrainian Center for Public Health. The NSIP combines several interactive online resources related to monitoring and evaluation and strategic information on HIV/AIDS interventions, such as regional profiles, service mapping, a registry of donors and HIV-service organizations, and a compendium of interventions.
- RESPOND developed a manual and training curriculum on the Use of Strategic Information for HIV Program Planning, published and disseminated it to Monitoring and Evaluation Units of the Regional AIDS Centers.



Improved organizational and technical capacity of NGOs and the public sector to strengthen the HIV service continuum

- RESPOND provided 5,698 person-training courses for clinical and psychosocial service providers on HIV testing services, ART, HIV/TB coinfection management, motivational counseling, HIV status disclosure, sexual partner counseling, reducing stigma and discrimination, and other related topics related.
- Trained 281 health service providers on QI methodology and built leadership skills of 43 local and regional health managers and decision-makers through tailored change management and quality improvement trainings.
- RESPOND has provided technical assistance to 35 local NGOs using an Integrated Technical and Organizational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) followed by the development of Individual Strengthening Plans (ISPs). Organizations receive ongoing support through participation in trainings and community of practice meetings. Of 28 organizations monitored over time through the Organizational Performance Index (OPI), 21 demonstrated improvements (see sidebar). In 2014, RESPOND provided access to all local partners to online Capacity Solutions Platform developed by Pact (http://www.capacitysolutionsplatform. com/). This dedicated website allows organizations to submit and analyze their OPI, ITOCA, and other organizational development data. The platform is easy to use and makes data more accessible through data visualization showing performance improvements over time. These graphics are used by participating NGOs as part of the grant applications, annual reports, web pages, and other materials to demonstrate their organizational capacity.



RESPOND supported select NGOs in developing concepts, business plans and start-ups of Social Enterprise ventures to enhance their future sustainability (http://respond.org.ua/eng/resource/626).

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The Four Domains of Pact's Organizational Performance Index (OPI)

The OPI is a tool for monitoring organizational performance over time according to four domains:

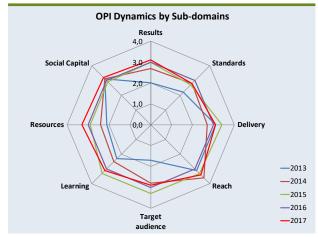
Effectiveness - the ability of an organization to carry out high-quality programs in accordance with its mission and goals.

Efficiency - the ability of an organization to plan and budget for its activities in a consistently successful manner

Relevance – the ability of an organization to respond to the actual needs of its beneficiaries, to stay alert to any change that influences this ability, and to alter its course of action based on learning.

Sustainability – the ability of an organization to ensure that its services are supported by a diverse base of local and international resources that may include funding, people, trust, and other types of support.

A report on the RESPOND
OPI findings can be accessed at:
http://respond.org.ua/eng/resource/289.



- A vibrant community of practice provided another important avenue for support and knowledge sharing. Between October 2013 and July 2017, 29 Community of Practice meetings were held for service providers to discuss common challenges, share individual experiences, and find collaborative solutions to improve the quality of services. The community of practice also covered organizational development challenges and engaged RESPOND partners in discussions and trainings on human resources management and knowledge management.
- Atotal of 61 unique HIV service organizations accessed services through Marketplace.