

APPROVED
by the decision of the National TB and HIV Council
from December 28, 2023

CRG Action Plan 2024-2026 PR

Preamble

CRG Action Plan 2024-2026 PR in Ukraine (hereinafter - CRG Plan 2024-26) was elaborated to create long-term instruments of impact aimed to fulfill the objectives and achieve the targets set by the national TB and HIV policy. In particular, CRG Plan 2024-26 consolidates activities and is designed in line with the objectives of the National Strategy to Counter HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis for the period up to 2030, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on November 27, 2019. No. 1415-p, the Strategy of a comprehensive response to human rights-related barriers to access to HIV and tuberculosis prevention and treatment services up to 2030 and the Strategic Plan for a comprehensive response to human rights-related barriers to access to HIV and tuberculosis prevention and care services for 2024-2026, adopted at a meeting of the National TB and HIV/AIDS Council on December 28, 2023. The development of CRG Plan 2024-26 takes into consideration the trends of the Plan for recovery of the health care system of Ukraine from the aftermath of war for 2022-2032. In particular, the approaches and recommendations of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (hereinafter - the GF) are taken into consideration. (<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/throughout-the-cycle/community-rights-gender/>).

The assessment of human rights-related barriers to HIV and TB services, supported by the GF Ukraine Breaking Down Barriers Progress Assessment - Programs to Remove Human Rights-related Barriers to Access HIV and TB Services, also revealed a number of important factors. While Ukraine's programs to reduce human rights-related barriers to HIV and TB services are generally resilient, the progress assessment identified a number of key challenges to be addressed. Numerous human rights programs are not yet adequately integrated with service provision programs, which would increase their effectiveness and sustainability. Ukraine has achieved certain progress in institutionalizing human rights training, such as for healthcare professionals and penitentiary staff, yet full institutionalization is still underway and should be a priority for the next grant cycle. While a few gender-oriented organizations such as Positive Women, Vona, Cohorta implement excellent gender-sensitive programs, general human rights programs often lack gender-sensitive interventions. Effective coordination and cooperation among human rights program implementers remains a challenge, as competition and mistrust remain significant barriers to integrating and aligning programs to maximize their impact. Finally, as mentioned above, Ukraine has yet to put in place effective monitoring and evaluation systems that would allow for a comprehensive analysis of the impact of human rights programs; much of the routinely collected data remains process data and output data which confirm that activities have been implemented but shed little light on how effective they have been. The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia, as expected, significantly interrupted the implementation of programs to address human rights-related barriers to HIV and TB treatment services. Since February 24, 2022, implementers of these programs have faced numerous challenges, ranging from issues related to the safety of their staff, volunteers and clients and massive forced displacement to the emerging significant humanitarian needs of their communities. In the first weeks of the invasion, most organizations shifted their focus to saving lives in their communities and ensuring assistance to people who were in safety. Notably, the progress assessment demonstrated that human rights program implementers have played

a critical role in Ukraine's efforts to continue to provide HIV and TB prevention and treatment services to key, vulnerable populations, including criminalized populations, and likely contributed to ensuring that a significant number of clients were able to continue to receive lifelong treatment and essential prevention services. Being deeply rooted in vulnerable communities, these organizations were often the first point of contact for community members who were afraid of losing access to OST, ART or medicines to treat TB and HCV, and became an important channel of communication between community members at risk of service disruption and health care providers.

Over the last few years, the issue of overcoming legal barriers and the need to strengthen gender sensitization of HIV and TB programs has been significantly strengthened by a number of key changes in the context of implementation of such programs, in particular:

- russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has far-reaching legal, social and economic effects, in particular, related to forced internal displacement and emigration of a large number of people, physical damage to buildings and infrastructure, as well as an increased number of civilian casualties; constitutional restrictions on certain human rights and freedoms as a result of the second year of official martial law;
- The agreement was signed for the period 2024-26 to provide Ukraine with the GF funding for the implementation of the project "Ukraine's resilience and recovery against HIV/TB due to the war" (hereinafter - the GF Project), where human rights programs are one of the key areas;
- Ukraine Breaking Down Barriers Progress Assessment - Programs to Remove Human Rights-related Barriers to Access HIV and TB Services - the assessment of human rights-related barriers to HIV and TB services was carried out with the support of the GF, and Ukraine was provided with substantial recommendations for their elimination;
- Adoption on 12.01.2023 of the new version of the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Diseases Caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Legal and Social Protection of People Living with HIV" resulted in a significant revision of the regulatory framework in terms of regulating legal relations in the area of HIV/AIDS and the application of modern approaches to HIV prevention, testing and treatment in line with the World Health Organization's guidelines;
- In 2023, the Law of Ukraine "On Ending Tuberculosis in Ukraine" was adopted, where the approach was conceptually changed from counteracting to eliminating tuberculosis, the provisions of the WHO Global TB Strategy were implemented, state guarantees of treatment for people with TB were strengthened, destigmatizing terminology based on human rights was used, conditions for education of students, including children with TB, were created, etc.
- In June 2022 Ukraine ratified the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;
- Adoption on 16.12.2022 of the new Government Strategy for reforming the penitentiary system for the period up to 2026 and the operational plan for its implementation in 2022-2024 with the strategic goal of ensuring the rights of convicts and detainees to health care and medical care in compliance with national and international standards, including the provision of adequate conditions to prevent increased incidence of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or other severe diseases;
- Significant changes in the state system of mobilization of persons liable for conscription, as a result of simplification of conscription of persons having certain chronic diseases, including HIV, TB, HCV, etc;
- In 2020, Ukraine supported the activities of the Global Partnership Convention, which aims to eliminate all forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and continues to develop this area in a sustainable manner.

Goal

The goal of CRG Plan 2024-26 is to contribute to the achievement of the Global Targets in the context of TB and HIV elimination in the country, the implementation of the main objectives of the GF Project in Ukraine and the objectives of the Strategy for a comprehensive response to human rights-related barriers to access to HIV and TB prevention and treatment services by 2030 through consolidation of efforts of the GF PRs, an integrated approach and strengthening of quality, efficiency, communication, proposals drafting, application of both public and non-governmental sector instruments.

Program areas

I. Intersectoral cooperation (HIV/TB) program area

1. Monitor and revise TB and related laws, regulations and policies, ensuring civil equality and equity for key and vulnerable populations, including decriminalization;
2. Support and develop a comprehensive response to remove human rights-related barriers to access to HIV and TB prevention and treatment services;
3. Reduce TB and HIV-related gender discrimination, harmful gender norms and gender-based violence, and ensure gender sensitivity of TB and HIV services;
4. Ensure cooperation between the PR and stakeholders on the implementation of the recommendations of the Ukraine Breaking Down Barriers Progress Assessment - Programs to Remove Human Rights-related Barriers to Access HIV and TB Services.

II. HIV program area

1. Eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination;
2. Improve legal literacy ("know your rights") and increase the competence of HIV service providers on human rights, medical ethics, and sensitive data management;
3. Provide HIV-related legal services and enhance access to justice;
4. Advocacy, communication, social mobilization of communities, community-led and community-managed monitoring, community capacity building with a focus on expertise;
5. Ensure access to HIV services for people in detention settings.

III. TB program area

1. Eliminate TB-related stigma and discrimination;
2. Improve legal literacy ("know your rights") and increase the competence of TB service providers on human rights, medical ethics, and sensitive data management;
3. Provide TB-related legal services and enhance access to justice;
4. Advocacy, communication, social mobilization of communities, community-led and community-managed monitoring, community capacity building with a focus on expertise;
5. Ensure access to TB services for people in detention settings.

Target audience

Non-governmental sector

- Key populations;
- PLHIV;
- People Living with TB;
- HIV and TB services providers;
- Mass media;
- Religious organizations.

Public sector

- The Ministry of Health of Ukraine;
- The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine;

- The State Criminal Executive Service of Ukraine;
- The State and municipal HIV and TB service providers;
- The Armed Forces of Ukraine;
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine;
- The National Police of Ukraine;
- Entities of the free legal aid system.

Major implementers

- The State Enterprise “Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”;
- The Charitable Organization “100 PERCENT LIFE”;
- The International Charitable Foundation “Alliance for Public Health”.

Coordination, monitoring and evaluation

One of the key instruments of coordination of the CRG Plan 2024-26 implementation is the activities of the Working Group on Coordination of the Strategy of comprehensive response to human rights-related barriers to access to HIV and TB prevention and treatment services up to 2030, which was created by the State Enterprise “Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine” (Order 21-ард as of 10.08. 2023) (hereinafter - the Working Group), a Theme-specific Subgroup - Implementation of advocacy, communication and social mobilization activities aimed at removing legal barriers - was set up for coordination as well as monitoring and evaluation (hereinafter - M&E); the Subgroup introduced the M&E mechanism on a quarterly basis with further adjustment of activities (if necessary) and their approval in the updated annual plans for implementation of CRG Plan 2024-26 as well as ensuring oversight of implementation. The mechanism envisages development of a detailed action plan in case there is a risk of failure to implement the activity within the specified period. Moreover, the indicators in the CRG Plan 2024-26 Work Plan will be described on an annual basis. An annual assessment of the implementation of the CRG Plan 2024-26 followed by a report to the Working Group and the GF is also envisaged.

The monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the CRG Plan 2024-26 envisages a quarterly assessment of the effectiveness of the Plan's activities implementation, followed by, if necessary, adjustment of activities and their approval in the updated annual implementation plans of the CRG Plan 2024-26. Based on the evaluation outcomes, and if the context of implementation of the planned interventions has changed, the Plan is expected to be updated on an annual basis.

Following the M&E process, the evaluation indicators for the activities included in the CRG Plan 2024-26 will be synchronized and, if necessary, harmonized with:

- (1) the framework indicators for assessing progress of the GF human rights programs implementation (KPI E1);
- (2) the broader framework of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the GF grant for the respective period.

The Strategy comprises several documents (a narrative preamble and a work plan). Further, the Strategy will be based on common Training Plans, which will be approved by each PR with the GF on an individual basis. The Work Plan of the CRG Plan 2024-26 (hereinafter - WP_CRG Plan 2024-26) is a three-year plan that will be updated in the course of the GF Project implementation at least once a year.

Besides, it should be noted that Ukraine has established baseline values for each program area of the GF Project's human rights programs in the course of the dialogue with the country to ensure the feasibility of reporting in compliance with KPI E1 (that measures the percentage of countries receiving counterpart funding to ensure human rights, with the expansion of programs to reduce human rights-related barriers), the baseline values (specified in Tables 1 and 2) are included in the GF Project funding request, whereas the country undertakes to conduct an annual review (assessment) of the progress to ensure that reporting under KPI E1 can be continued.

Table 1

HIV Program Area	Baseline	Mid-term	Progress Assessment	National baseline KPI E1
Eliminate stigma and discrimination in all settings	2.5	3.6	4.0	3.7
Ensure non-discriminatory provision of health care	3.0	4.0	4.4	4.1
Ensure rights-based law enforcement practices	3.0	4.0	4.2	4.0
Legal literacy ('know your rights')	2.0	3.2	4.0	3.9
Improve access to justice	2.7	3.6	4.5	4.2
Monitoring and reforming laws and policies	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.9
Reduce HIV-related gender discrimination	1.5	2.5	3.5	3.0
Support community mobilization and human rights advocacy	-	-	4.5	4.3
Average Score	2.8	3.7	4.3	4.0

Table 2

TB Program Area	Baseline	Mid-term	Progress Assessment	National baseline KPI E1
Eliminate stigma and discrimination in all settings	1.0	2.1	2.4	2.1
Ensure people-centered and rights-based provision of health care	1.0	3.0	3.6	3.3
Ensure people centered and rights-based law enforcement practices	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.7
Legal literacy ('know your rights')	1.0	2.0	4.0	3.8
Improve access to justice	2.0	3.0	4.0	3.8
Monitoring and reforming laws and policies	1.0	2.0	3.8	3.5
Reduce TB-related gender discrimination	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.9
Support community mobilization and engagement	2.0	3.0	4.0	3.7
Addressing the need of people in prisons and other closed settings	2.0	3.0	3.8	3.5
Average Score	1.5	2.8	3.8	3.1

In particular, Ukraine is planning to adopt the National M&E Plan in 2024, which will take into consideration the indicators of human rights programs and CLM, and will draw on these indicators for coordination and M&E of the WP_CRG Plan 2024-26.

Expected impact

It should be noted that the quantitative and operational qualitative indicators are detailed in the Work Plan of the CRG Plan 2024-26 and broken down by years (2024-2026). The expected impact regulates the strategic focus that should be followed in the implementation of the Work Plan, M&E and modification of activities.

- Optimal and effective consolidation of the efforts of the GF Principal Recipients in Ukraine in the area of human rights, both among themselves and with authorities;
- Projects, programs, services and interventions are built on human rights-based, patient-centered and gender-sensitive approaches;

- Key populations enjoy legal protection and significantly reduced stigma from the general public and professional groups;
- Strengthened leadership and increased opportunities for participation of key populations in the implementation of GF grant human rights programs;
- Interaction with key populations is at the core of policy development and government decision-making in the area of TB/HIV response (intersectoral principle in action);
- Community-led and community-managed monitoring is standardized (via unified processes) and included in the national planning cascade;
- Monitoring and evaluation programs at the national and regional levels are tailored to the current challenges and are based on community-led and community-managed monitoring;
- Institutional (i.e., legal) discrimination based on the grounds of various signs of being a member of key populations is being consistently eliminated. Strengthening coordination between partners towards decriminalization and humanization of Ukrainian legislation on criminalization of HIV transmission, psychoactive substance use, sex work, implementation of the rights of LGBTI community members, pathologizing the fact of being transgender and other provisions of Ukrainian legislation that criminalize and limit the rights of key populations and people living with/affected by HIV/TB;
- Strengthened capacities to measure and monitor the implementation of the GF's human rights programs, with increased attention to tracking and measuring progress made by gender-related programs and assessments;
- Offenses against people belonging to key populations are addressed promptly and effectively;
- Access to justice programs for all key populations and people living with/affected by HIV and TB are expanded and adequately supported in both the civil and penitentiary sectors;
- Stigma index for PLHIV, TB and key populations, including in the gender perspective, is significantly reduced;
- Ensuring proper implementation of measures to eliminate stigma and discrimination against representatives of all key populations and people living with/affected by HIV/TB in line with the provisions of the The Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate all Forms of HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination, as well as other documents endorsed by Ukraine;
- Professional communities and service providers are aware of human rights and adhere to communication ethics.
- Legislators and government officials are aware of TB/HIV agenda and key populations.
- People belonging to key populations feel confident and equal in society and know their rights.
- Legal services in the context of TB/HIV can be easily accessed by any person belonging to key populations.
- Laws, regulations, and policies on TB/HIV are reviewed and improved on a regular basis, including from a gender perspective;
- Strengthened coordination and adequate timing of processes to review and update TB/HIV laws, regulations, and policies on a regular basis;
- Strengthening the focus of grant support to increase the level of implementation support provided at the regional and national levels throughout the grant life cycle;
- Strengthened leadership and engagement of key populations in program areas in the context of removing legal barriers;
- Enhanced, targeted partnership approach to engage current and new global and local partners in the implementation of strategic priorities related to gender equality and gender-based issues in cooperation and coordination with other stakeholders.
- Strengthened measurement and monitoring capacities with an increased focus on tracking and measuring progress achieved by programs and assessments on barriers and gender issues.
- Increased coverage, access and scope of TB/HIV legal services for all key populations;
- Improved inter-secretariat cooperation and capacity building on critical gender equality issues to ensure better consistency across the GF grant implementation;

- Recommendations of Ukraine Breaking Down Barriers Progress Assessment – Programs to Remove Human Rights-related Barriers to Access HIV and TB Services are being implemented.




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