

**SUSTAINING  
FAST-TRACK  
RESPONSE TO HIV  
DURING  
COVID-19**

**KYIV  
UKRAINE  
2020**

*As Mayor of Ukraine's capital city, I am proud of Kyiv being the first city in eastern Europe to join the Fast-Track Cities Initiative in early 2016. Health and lives of people are our main priority. To strengthen our commitment, I also signed the Zero TB Declaration last year.*

*But the fifth year of FTCP implementation has presented unprecedented challenges related to COVID-19 for all us: the municipal administration, the health care system, and the local community.*

*Every day I provide residents of Kyiv with updates on the COVID-19, informing them about recommended prevention measures and how the municipal health system provides all necessary services.*

*It is reassuring to see that our joint efforts, along with those by civil society organizations, have enabled us to sustain progress towards 90-90-90 targets while coping with the COVID-19 epidemic.*

**Vitali Klitschko,**  
Head of the Kyiv City State Administration



**DAILY PRESS BRIEFING  
OF THE MAYOR ON  
COVID -19 SITUATION**



# Patients with COVID-19 in Kyiv

1 SEPTEMBER 2020



**13,546**

Cumulative number  
of COVID-19  
cases since the  
beginning of epidemic

**4,328**

Recovered

**8,951**

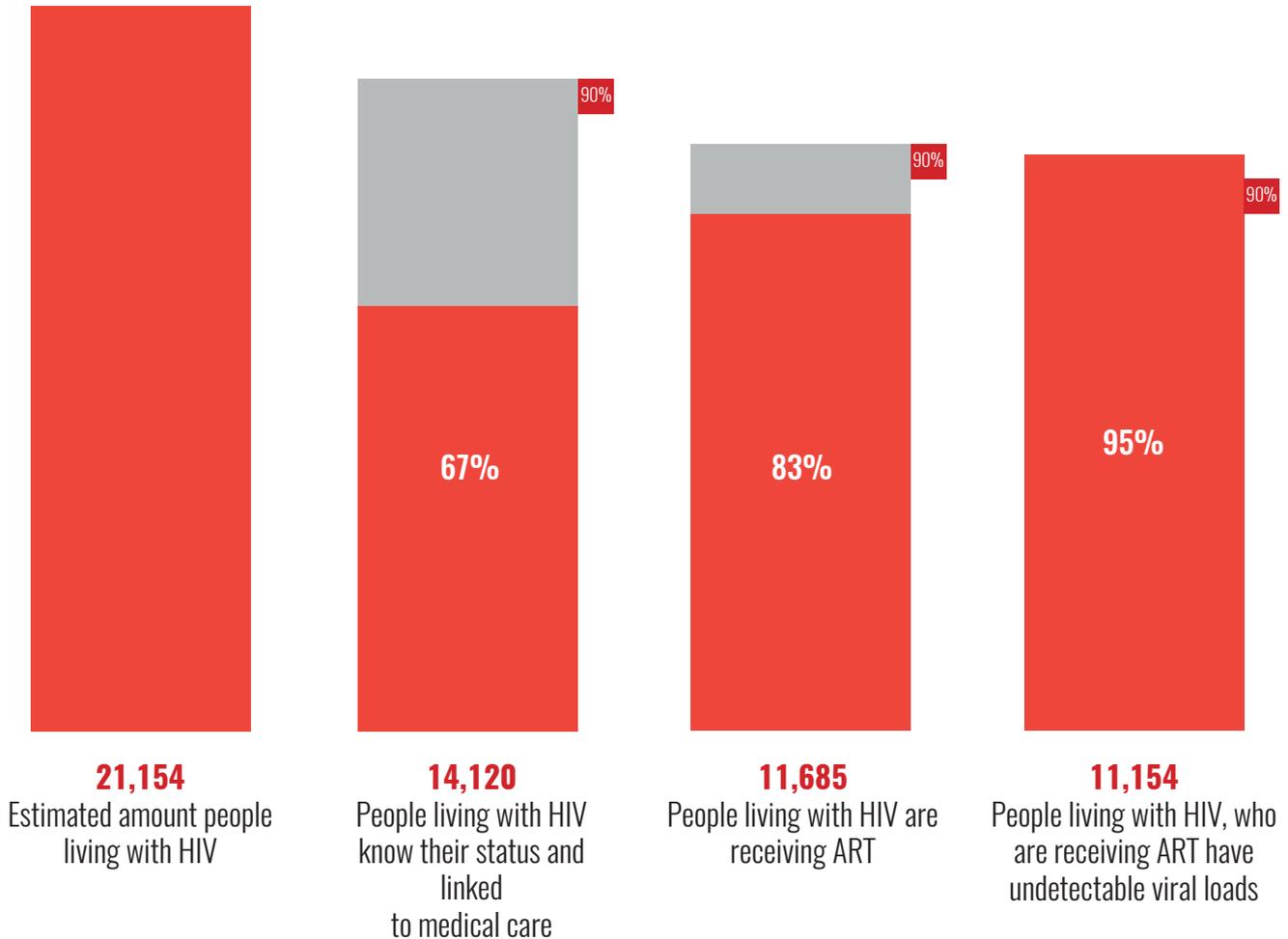
Number actual COVID-19  
cases

**213**

Died

# Cascade 90 90 90

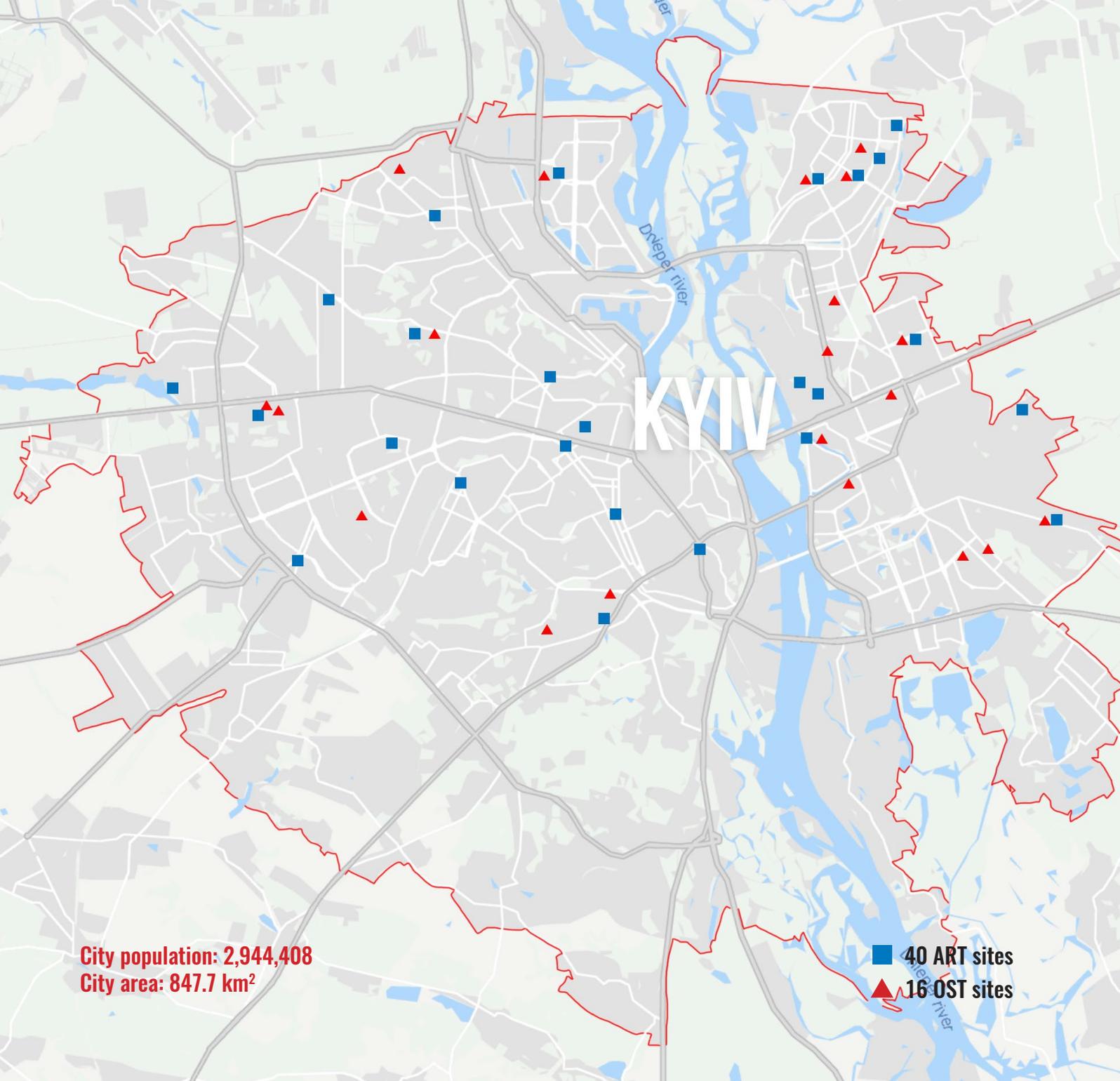
## 2019





***The municipal health care system has managed to sustain HIV response during the COVID-19 epidemic and to continue progress towards the Fast-Track Targets. No single patient interrupted the ART or was lost to follow-up during the lockdown. Municipal providers of HIV prevention and OST promptly adapted their activities to new operational realities. It would have not been possible without strong partnership between the municipal government and civil society organizations, including the community of people living with HIV. Kyiv increasingly follows the test & start approach: in 2019, 84% of patients, that were prescribed the ART, started it within 14 days. To maintain the Fast-Track HIV response we did not engaged HIV laboratories in COVID-19 diagnostics and continued the decentralization of HIV-testing to primary level health care facilities.***

**Valentina Ginzburg,**  
Head of the Municipal Health Care Department



# KYIV

**City population: 2,944,408**  
**City area: 847.7 km<sup>2</sup>**

**■ 40 ART sites**  
**▲ 16 OST sites**



**Estimated number of people, living with HIV**

**21,154**

**Number of people, living with HIV on ART**

**11,685**



**Estimated number of people, who use injection drugs** **39,505**

**Number of people, who use injection drugs  
reached with HIV prevention services**

**36,747**



**Estimated number of sex workers**

**14,600**

**Number of sex workers,  
reached with HIV prevention services**

**6,656**



**Estimated number of men having sex with men**

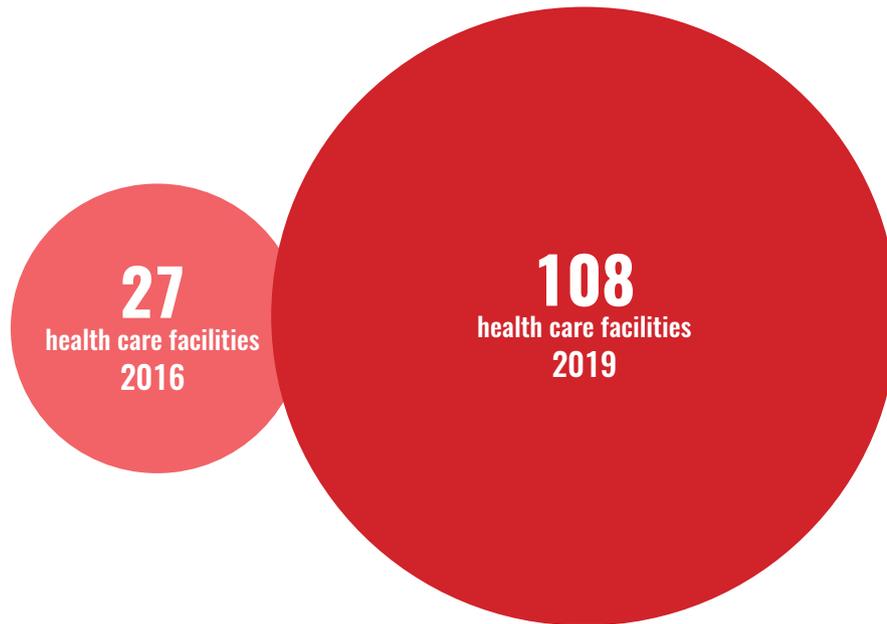
**32,200**

**Number of men having sex with men  
reached with HIV prevention services**

**13,843**

# FOCUS ON HIV DIAGNOSTICS

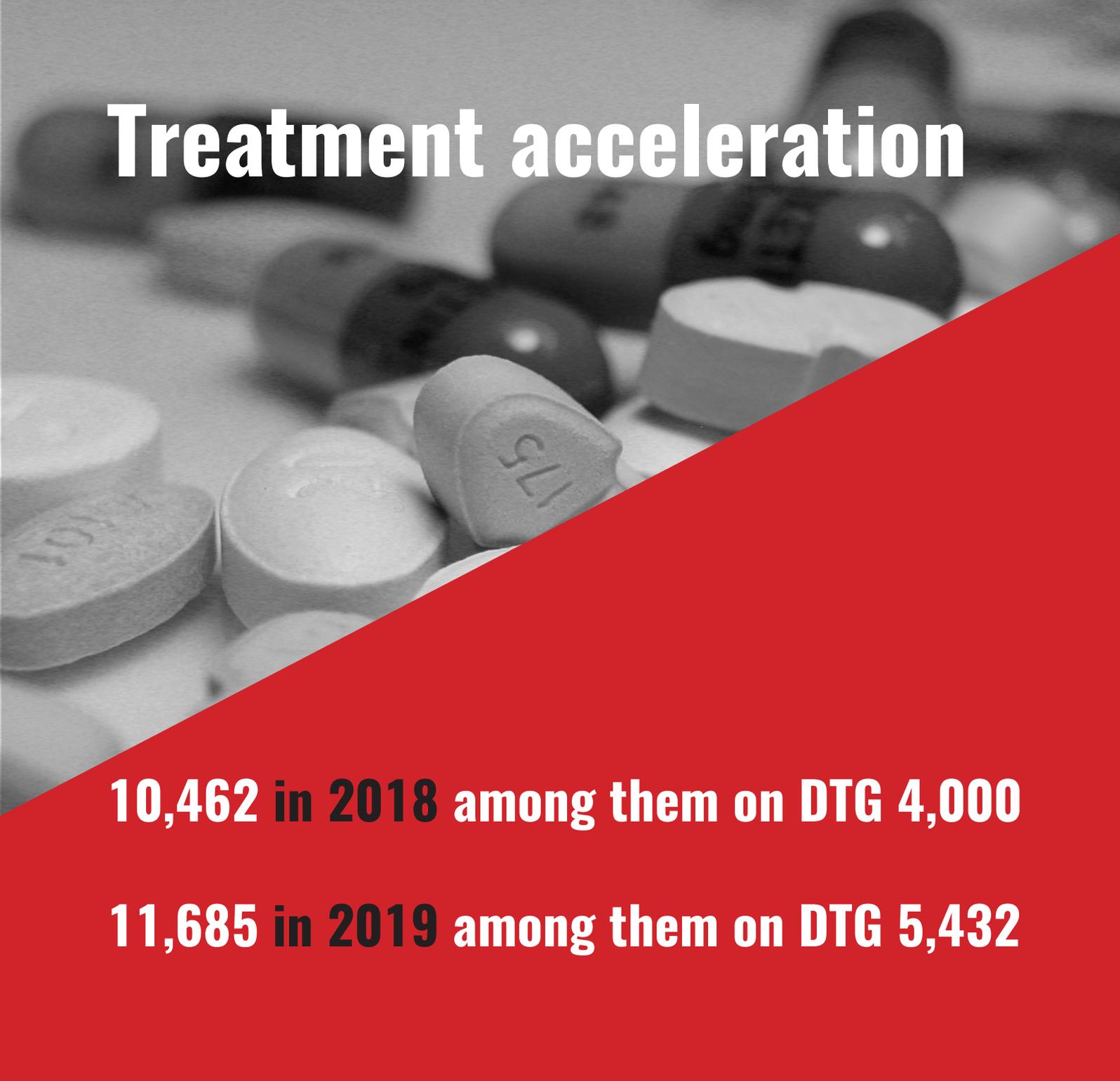
Increased number of HIV testing sites as a result of decentralization and engagement of the primary health care institutions into HIV screening.



Testing coverage in health care facilities in 2019:

308,752 persons were tested, among them 52.3% with rapid tests (162,920).

2,075 were detected as HIV positive (0,67%).



# Treatment acceleration

**10,462 in 2018** among them on DTG 4,000

**11,685 in 2019** among them on DTG 5,432

# INNOVATIONS

## INDEX TESTING

Index testing is introduced at **14** municipal hospitals.  
Out of **74** persons tested **28** were tested HIV positive. Yield – **38%**.

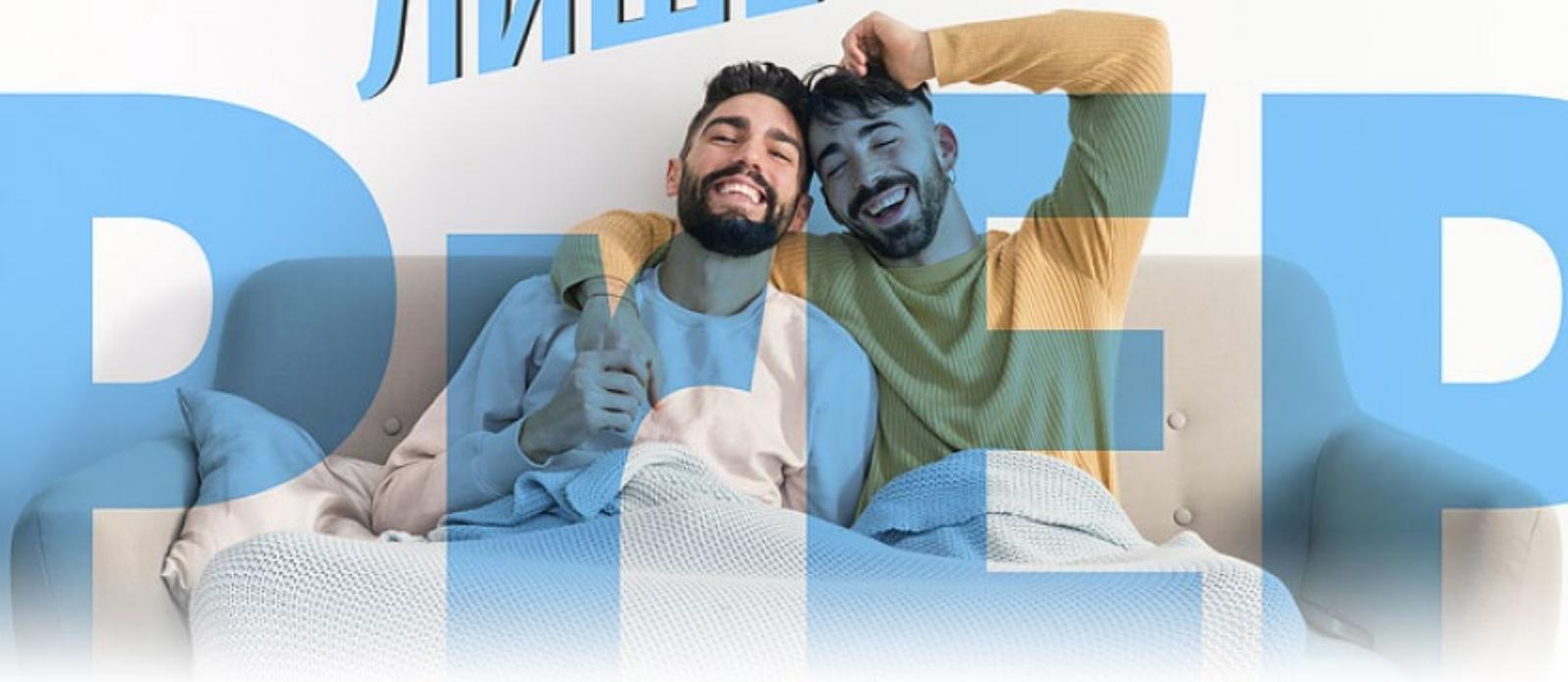
## PrEP

During the year PrEP developed from the pilot project to a routine preventive measure.  
Number of people on PrEP increased from **125** people in 2018 to **511** people in 2019.  
PrEP can be received at the level of community organization.

## EMTCT

Toward elimination of mother to child HIV transmission **33,115** pregnant women in Kyiv were reached with HIV testing, which is **100%** coverage.  
All HIV-positive women were enrolled into care and started ART to prevent mother to child HIV transmission.  
All children born to HIV-positive women aged under 12 months receive milk formula procured at the municipal budget.  
Transmission rate dropped from **4.96%** in 2016 to **1.14%** in 2017.

З 5 СЕРПНЯ  
ЛИШЕ ЗА 10 ХВ



Poster of the NGO “100%LIFE Kyiv Region” promoting PrEP

# HIV AND COVID-19 RESPONSES

## BEST PRACTICES

### ARVs DELIVERY

**“100%LIFE KYIV REGION”**



Because of the COVID-19 quarantine restrictive measures the regular HIV monitoring and diagnostics were not carried out, except for the newly detected HIV cases and emergency care. The main reason for PLHIV to visit the doctor was receiving ARV medicines, but municipal transport did not operate. That is why the Kyiv municipal network of PLHIV (100%LIFE Kyiv region) identified ARVs delivery to the patients as its ultimate priority.

Each social worker of the 100%LIFE weekly delivered 50-70 postal ARVs parcels to those patients, who have no possibility to visit a doctor. Since the beginning of the quarantine the total number of the parcels reached 2,720.

To reduce the cost of the postal services, 100%LIFE made an agreement with two biggest post operators in the country ‘Ukrposhta’ and ‘Nova Poshta’ with 20% discount, which allowed to reduce the price and ensure ARVs supply for more PLHIV.

## ONLINE CONSULTATIONS

**“100%LIFE KYIV REGION”**



During the quarantine, the majority of the individual consultations within the “School of the patient” were moved to online format (Zoom, Skype, Viber, WhatsApp). When the case of the patient requires face to face consultation, social workers were provided with transport or received reimbursement for the taxi.

## PALLIATIVE CARE

**“100%LIFE KYIV REGION”**

100%LIFE provides palliative care for 156 PLHIV. During the quarantine these people were supported with basic food supply and free food certificates.



# GREEN CORRIDOR FOR CONTINUUM OF HIV SERVICES FOR KEY POPULATIONS

**“CONVICTUS”**

Every month about 70 HIV positive cases are detected, and about 60 out of them are new HIV cases. All people with HIV-infection diagnosis are linked to care and start ART.

During the COVID-19 quarantine, commuting of the key population’s representatives from one to another point of care was significantly limited. To ensure Test&Start, social workers organized transportation of the clients tested as HIV-positive from outreach HIV prevention points to the community centre, where all necessary follow-up services were provided in one place. In collaboration with municipal AIDS Centre confirmatory HIV testing, registration of the new patients in electronic system, enrolment to health care, and

ARV prescription were organized. If needed clients of the community centre were provided with additional legal and medical consultations.



During five months of the COVID-19 quarantine 546 new HIV-infection cases were detected, 107 out of them – by HIV prevention programmes performed by NGO Convictus. Every second person receiving ART and representing people, who inject drugs, starts it as a result of the trust to social

workers of the NGO Convictus, who were their primary contacts and supporters.

Poverty in key populations become another barrier for seeking health and social services, as vulnerable groups lost their jobs and income sources. To support these people, Convictus organized basic food supply, for those in extreme need and support them in screening for other potential HIV related diseases and HIV treatment adherence.

**In addition, and together with Kyiv municipal AIDS centre, Covictus has been promoting HIV self-testing and organized distribution of the HIV oral test system to those, who are not able to visit outreach sites personally.**

## **SMART MANAGERIAL ACTIONS**

### **“DROP IN CENTRE”**

**CBO “Drop In Centre” is providing HIV prevention basic package for PWID within government funded Public Health programme. To serve client during lockdown organization repositioned the outreach point of service and opened new to made them accessible on foot. In communication with municipality social workers**



**received the pass to use a public transport to get the outreach point. The most remote outreach point but with substantial number of clients were served with mobile outreach. This smart managerial actions allowed to save the scale of prevention and linkage services provided at government cost.**

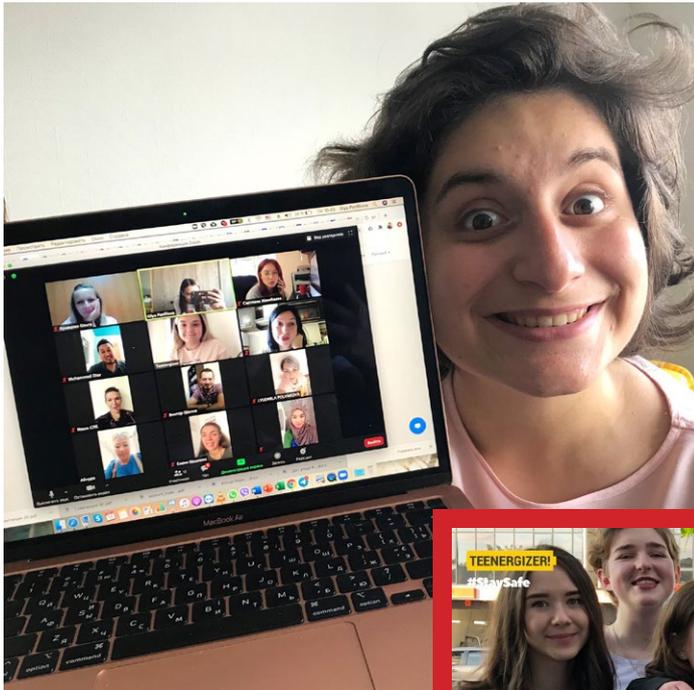
**Communication on HIV prevention was supplemented with COVID-19 precautions information.**

**Due to the support from the Global Fund project Drop in Centre staff and client received facial masks and disinfectants to ensure service continuation.**

# SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

“TEENERGIZER”

To support young people during the quarantine, the NGO Teenergizer conducted regular online meetings and individual consultations to support school students studying at home.





Monthly life broadcasting sessions with celebrities were organized to talk with young people on sexuality, reproductive health, STIs prevention and HIV. For those adolescent who live with HIV and receive ARVs, the Teenergizer continued to offer personal online consultations on treatment adherence.

# EQUALITY MARCH





# FAST TRACK IMPLEMENTATION TEAM



**Mykola Povoroznyk**

Deputy Head of the Kyiv City State Administration

Co-Chair of the Municipal Council on HIV/TB



**Olena Svyatyuk**

Head of the CO 100%LIFE Kyiv region

Co-Chair of the Municipal Council on HIV/TB



**Valentyna Ginzburg**

Head of the Kyiv Municipal Department of Health



**Vitalii Kazeka**

Chief Doctor of the Kyiv Municipal AIDS Centre



**Olena Lukashevych**

Director of the Kyiv Public Health Centre



**Volodymyr Yaryi**

Chief Doctor of the Kyiv Municipal Drug  
Treatment Clinical Hospital Sociotherapy



**Yuliya Zaguta**

Director of the Kyiv TMU Phthisiatry



This report was developed with an assistance of the **UNAIDS** in Ukraine.