

Strengthening the response of non-state actors to growing needs of women who use drugs

Location of the action: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Total duration of the action: 36 months (2012 – 2014).

The project **overall objective** is to build the capacity of non-state actors (NSAs) to engage in advocacy and provide services to women drug users that increase their access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission services.

- **Specific Objective 1:** To improve access to and quality of HIV services for women who use drugs by adapting harm reduction and other services to the needs of women drug users in 14 localities.
- **Specific Objective 2:** To strengthen partnerships, cooperation and sharing of good practices between the project partners and the NSAs of the countries involved in the project.
- **Specific Objective 3:** To improve national policy related to the needs of women drug users by building the capacity of harm reduction and women's non-state agencies to constructively engage in policy dialogue.

Beneficiaries and target groups: Final beneficiaries are women who use drugs in six target countries. The project will be targeted at regional and national networks, local non-state harm reduction services and other local services (both state and non-state).

Estimated results: 4,000 women will be affected directly by improved access to high quality, gender adapted harm reduction services in the 12 (2 per country) local sites targeted. A further 527,990 women who use drugs in the 6 countries will be positively impacted by improved policy and policy dialogue.

Main activities: Training the trainers and technical assistants; strengthening local coalitions and referral services; ongoing technical support to service providers; technical support of national advocacy and policy assessment; facilitating best practice and exchange of lessons learnt; planning advocacy strategies countries involved in the project; promoting networking, information sharing and cooperation; establishment of the project advisory group.

The project will be implemented by **EHRN** and **International Gender Policy Network (IGPN)**. EHRN and IGPN will be responsible for regional level activities, including development of methodology of policy assessments and trainings, providing training and technical support to national partners on harm reduction services for women and advocacy campaigns. EHRN will also organize regional information and advocacy campaigns to move rights and health of women who use drugs higher on the agenda of national and international stakeholders including UN human rights commissions.

Country-level activities will be coordinated by the following **country partners**:

- **UKRAINE:** National Charitable Fund "Coalition of HIV Service Organizations"

- RUSSIA: Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice
- MOLDOVA: Union for HIV/AIDS prevention and Harm Reduction in the Republic of Moldova
- BELARUS: Positive Movement
- GEORGIA: Georgian Harm Reduction Network
- AZERBAIJAN: Legal Development and Democracy

The country partners will be responsible for:

- Completion of the national assessments and their presentation at roundtables,
- Design and completion of on-going advocacy campaigns at the national and/or local level,
- Logistics for trainings in their countries,
- Selecting and supervising advocacy and harm reduction site coordinators,
- Overseeing all aspects of the one-day seminars in their countries,
- Procuring supplies for harm reduction site coordinators to distribute to women clients,
- Organizing final roundtables to publicize results of the projects.

According to the project design, country partners will hire advocacy coordinators and harm reduction site coordinators.

Local partner advocacy coordinators will:

- Lead the national/local assessments
- Organize the writing and printing of the assessment reports and the roundtable to present them
- Conduct on-going advocacy activities using the assessment results
- Conduct advocacy-related trainings in their countries
- Conduct one-day seminars on human rights for women drug users

Harm reduction site coordinators will:

- Develop partnerships with other local providers working with women drug users in their locations
- Provide case management services and outreach for women drug users in their location
- Help their service sites to organize services in a more gender-sensitive way
- Organize and conduct some one-day seminars related to service provision

The kick-off meeting will be held on February 28-29, 2012 in Tbilisi, Georgia.