

Progress towards Universal Access Ukraine

Universal access implies that all people should be able to have access to information and services that are:

Equitable – accessible – affordable – comprehensive – sustainable

In 2006, countries worldwide committed to setting ambitious national targets for scaling up towards Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. The targets focus on what could be achieved if the following obstacles can be addressed:

- **Predictable and sustainable financing**
- **Strengthening human resources and health systems**
- **Access to affordable commodities**
- **Stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights**

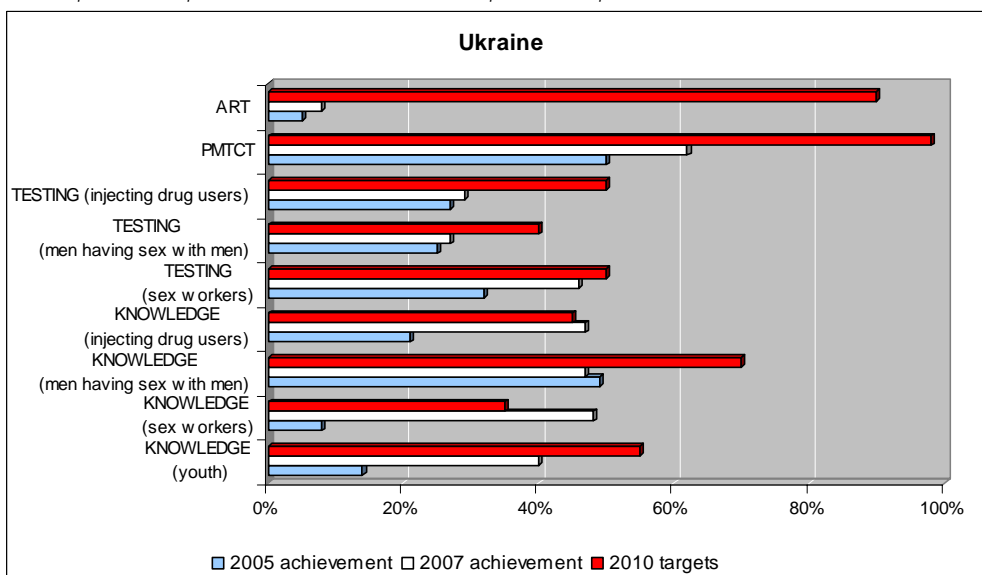
Review of National reports in 2008 demonstrated that Universal Access has catalyzed an accelerated and strengthened national HIV response with more results-based planning and a general overall increase in access to services. National political leadership and coordination were found to be critical to scale up. However more emphasis was needed on addressing the obstacles to scale up which would not support reaching universal access but also the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, there is a need to accelerate progress on HIV-prevention efforts, and to better utilise the resources available within civil society and people living with HIV.

Universal access has generated a continuing engagement with national partners to monitor and review progress towards universal access. This has resulted in a number of countries revising their national targets to ensure a sharper focus on areas in need of additional support.

Progress in Ukraine

As part of Ukraine's commitment to universal access, a number of policies and programmes have been adopted to increase the capacity of the health care system to expand access to diagnostic, treatment, family planning and reproductive health services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Ukraine.

Following the development of a 'roadmap' to universal access in mid-2007, and an historic meeting on the state of the national HIV response, the President of Ukraine issued a Decree to establish a *Council on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Drug Abuse* to act as an advisory body. The Ukrainian President also decreed that the Committee for Drug Control would immediately support the importation of methadone, urgently needed to scale-up substitution maintenance therapy in 2008, thanks largely to massive national efforts led by the All-Ukrainian Network of People, Living with HIV and HIV service NGOs. Prevention programmes for most at risk groups are now being delivered by over 150 non-governmental organizations in almost regions of Ukraine, reaching a large and growing number of individual clients including over 140,000 injecting drug users, over 21,000 female sex workers, over 10,300 men who have sex with men, and 45,000 prisoners.



Nevertheless, in spite of a significant increase in funding for HIV/AIDS in recent years, the overall needs to scale-up prevention, treatment, care and support programmes still exceeds available resources.

Figure 1. The graph presents a snapshot of progress towards universal access based on 2005 and 2007 reported UNGASS achievements and 2010 reported targets, as per data available.

Please note that ARV and PMTCT targets may be subject to change based on revised numbers in need of ART.

"(We) commit ourselves to pursuing all necessary efforts to scale up nationally driven, sustainable and comprehensive responses... towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010."

2006 Political Declaration, (UN General Assembly, 15 June 2006)