



Introduction:

The PLHIV Stigma Index in Moldova was one of 5 tools implemented of the HIV Leadership through Accountability programme. This is a collaboration between the Global Network of people living with HIV (GNP+), the World AIDS Campaign (WAC), national networks of PLHIV and national Civil Society campaign platforms. The programme is funded by UKaid from DfID and combines specific HIV evidence-gathering tools, national AIDS campaigns and targeted advocacy for Universal Access. The programme runs for five years and involves 15 countries in total, including Moldova. For the PLHIV stigma index additional funding was secured for HIV in Europe and UNAIDS

The background in Moldova:

- **Since 2001, the policy and legal framework in the HIV area has progressed.** Significant efforts made to develop harmonized national standards. These include a series of national laws, standards and guidelines related to HIV services (VCT, PMTCT, HIV surveillance, Infection Control, HIV Care and Treatment etc). **However, in practice, the enforcement of these normative documents is still not perfect- and stigma and discrimination is still evident**
- In Moldova, **the exposure to or transmission of HIV is still prosecuted under the Criminal Code** (amended by Law Nr. 985-XV dated 18.04.2002) with specific provisions under articles 211 and 212.;
- According to the general population survey nine out of ten people in Moldova have **low tolerance attitudes towards PLWH**, thus creating a tensed societal environment for this group

The Methodology of the PLHIV stigma index :

i.e sample size, how and who carries out the research and when

Headline results and findings:

- about one fifth of the interviewed respondents (21.1%) perceived the violation of their human rights in last 12 months. Of those who stated the violation of their rights in last 12 months, less than half asked for legal help/support (42.3%);
- **every second respondent (51.7%) has ever heard about the Declaration on HIV commitment and/or the national HIV law (52.3%) that protects the rights of PLWH.** Of the sample 39.1% have ever heard about both documents. Only fifth part of the sample (18.2%) has ever discussed the content of both documents;
- According to the general population survey nine out of ten people in Moldova have **low tolerance attitudes towards PLWH**, thus creating a tensed societal environment for this group;
- findings support the assumptions on the **changes of the behavioural profile of the newly registered HIV cases in last 5 years**, hence, highlighting the decreasing trend in the rate of injecting drug use, rate of lifetime detention and the increasing trend in the rate of migration factor, with signs of ruralisation and feminization of the HIV epidemic;
- **PLWH face stigma and discrimination when accessing mainly health related services.** every fifth interviewed PLWH (18.5%) who looked for medical services in last 12 months were refused due to their HIV status;
- **Every second respondent (50.4%) had experienced disclosure of their HIV status by health care workers without respondents' consent.** As a result, 44.4% of the recruited sample is in no doubt that the medical information is not confidential at all. The share of respondents who faced a break in the confidentiality of their HIV testing and who don't trust in the medical confidentiality at all is decreasing along with the decrease in the length of living with HIV. This suggests an improvement of the confidentiality within the health care settings in last 5 years. In terms of access to services, about half of the interviewed respondents are enrolled in ARV treatment (53.8%) and the access to ARV treatment is highly rated by the recruited sample (90.7%). In terms of those who live with HIV less than 5 years, in 42.7% of cases they were enrolled in ARV treatment

Next Steps

The final versions of the above mentioned reports will be available on GNP + website:

<http://www.gnpplus.net>.

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