

## REGARDING MEASURES ON PREVENTION AND FIGHTING OF HIV/AIDS AND STIS INFECTIONS

### *Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova Nr. 482 of June 18, 2001*

In view of implementation of Laws Nr. 1513 – XII of June 16, 1993 regarding sanitary epidemiological insurance of the population and Nr. 1460 – XII of May 26, 1993 regarding prevention of AIDS infection, the Government of the Republic of Moldova DECIDES:

1. To approve, in accordance with the Annexes, the *National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs for the years of 2001-2005*.
2. To entitle judet councils, the municipal council of Chisinau and the executive committee of ATU Gagauzia to:
  - develop, approve and assure implementation of Territorial Programmes on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs for the years 2001-2005;
  - to establish Territorial Committees entitled to organize and exercise control over the implementation of the *National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs for the years of 2001-2005*;
3. Financing of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs for the years of 2001-2005 shall be done from the state budget, from the budgets of administrative territorial units and from contributions of international organizations, donors and grants.
4. The Decision Nr. 692 of October 9, 1995 and the paragraph 5 of the Decision Nr. 843 of July 1998, of the Government of the Republic of Moldova are abrogated.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

Vasile Tarlev

Signed

Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Economy  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Health

Andrei Cucu  
Mihai Manoli  
Andrei Gherman

Annex to the Decision  
of the Government of the Republic of Moldova  
Nr. 482 of June 18, 2001

## **National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs for the years of 2001-2005**

### **Introduction**

The spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs infections in the Republic of Moldova lately acquired an epidemic character. As of 01.04.2001 in the Republic of Moldova there were registered 1271 persons with HIV, 30 persons showed clinical manifestations of AIDS and 23 persons died of AIDS. Within the CIS countries the Republic of Moldova stands as the third, after Ukraine and Belarus as per rate of incidence of HIV/AIDS among population.

Practically, the epidemic spread within all territorial administrative units. The analyses held show that the HIV/AIDS infection spreads among injecting drug users in 83,94% of cases. The sexual way of transmission of HIV/AIDS has been registered in 13,41% of cases. The high rate of STIs registered, especially of syphilis, chlamidia, trihomoniasis as well as the reduced diagnostic capacity of STIs favors the spread of HIV/AIDS through sexual way of transmission.

The draft of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs for the years of 2001-2005 has been developed based on the Situational Analyses, on the activities implemented under the National Programme approved by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in 1995 and other activities implemented in the field. A National Team established under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and UN TG on HIV/AIDS Moldova, with representatives from ministries, departments and NGOs contributed to the development of the Programme. The development of the draft of the Programme has been supported financially and technically by UNAIDS.

The National Programme has as its main goal improvement of the situation, prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs among youth, among vulnerable groups, primarily among injecting drug users, assuring the safety of blood transfusions and medical interventions. The priority strategies identified and included into the National Programme are:

1. determining and developing of national policy in the field of prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs;
2. prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users;
3. prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs among youth;
4. assuring safety of blood transfusions, interventions and medical assistance services;
5. prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs through sexual way of transmission;
6. prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs from mother to child (perinatal);
7. provision of medical assistance and social support to people tested positive to HIV, to AIDS patients and to members of their families,
8. epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

The National Programme is aimed at orienting the multisectoral activity regarding fighting HIV/AIDS and STIs for the period of 2001-2005. The Programme foresees involvement and cooperation between ministries, departments, NGOs and international organizations as partners in the implementation of foreseen activities. The coordination role of the Programme shall be delegated to the Interdepartmental Multisectoral Committee.

Priority strategies	Activities
I. Defining and developing of national policy in the field of prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs;	
II. Prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Combating of illegal trafficking of drugs.</li> <li>2. Assuring the access of general population and of drug users to information regarding the impact on health of drugs and of HIV/AIDS infection and on prevention measures.</li> <li>3. Implementation of programmes among IDUs based on the Harm Reduction Strategy.</li> </ol>
III. Prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs among youth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accessibility to information.</li> <li>2. Introduction in the school programme of the subject "Sexuality, prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs and drugs misuse"</li> </ol>
IV. Assuring safety of blood transfusions, medical interventions and medical assistance services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevention of spread of HIV and other blood transfused infections in medical institutions.</li> <li>2. Assuring sterility of equipment, instruments and materials used when providing medical assistance.</li> </ol>
V. Prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs through sexual way of transmission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education, raising awareness and promoting of safe sex practices among general population;</li> <li>2. Access of patients with STIs to medical assistance;</li> <li>3. Assuring of condoms at accessible prices.</li> </ol>
VI. Prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs from mother to child (perinatal)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access of young women of reproductive age to information regarding the risks of transmitting HIV/AIDS and STIs infections and family planning;</li> <li>2. Education, training and cultivating the concept of a Healthy Child.</li> <li>3. Assuring of condoms at accessible prices;</li> <li>4. Access of HIV positive pregnant women to antiretroviral treatment.</li> </ol>
VII. Provision of medical assistance and social support to people tested positive to HIV, to AIDS patients and to members of their families.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assuring of qualified medical assistance, including with antiretrovirals;</li> <li>2. Social support of PLHA and members of their families.</li> </ol>
VIII. Epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring of HIV/AIDS and STIs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitoring of various groups at national, territorial and population level, including of groups of risk;</li> <li>2. Analyses of epidemiological situation, development of adequate measures, exercising control over implementation of activities and monitoring of efficiency.</li> </ol>

## THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

- REDUCING THE RATES OF SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS INFECTION, OF STIs INCIDENCE AND IMPROVING OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA;
- MINIMIZATION OF CONSEQUENCES OF HIV/AIDS INFECTION AT INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL LEVELS;
- INCREASING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE TOWARDS ACTIVITIES ON PREVENTION, PROVIDING OF MEDICAL, SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND JURIDICAL AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE AND LARGE INVOLVMENT OF NGOs IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

## STRATEGY I

### **DETERMINING AND DEVELOPING OF NATIONAL POLICY IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs**

**PURPOSE** – Defining of HIV/AIDS and STIs infections as priority problem of public health at state level, establishment by the state of a support system, necessary financing of prevention activities.

HIV/AIDS and STIs represent a real danger for the public health. The rate of activities of medical institutions in preventing HIV/AIDS/STI infections represent 10 - 15 % of the total. With the view of complex and operative implementation of activities on prevention the ministries, departments, local self-administration, NGOs, international organizations and individuals should put together their efforts. Recognition of priority of the human rights, including the rights of sexual minorities and other groups at high risk of infection, improvement of legislation, refusing of repressive factors will favor prevention work and improve the situation.

### **ACTIVITIES**

1. Establishment of National Inter-Departmental Multisectoral Committee on prevention of HIV/AIDS/ and STIs assuring involvment of NGOs and donors.
2. Defining of HIV/AIDS/STIs as priority for the public health with a negatively influence over its development. Incorporation of the issue of HIV/AIDS/STIs infections and drug misuse into the national health policy concept.
3. Amendment of the legislation in the filed of sex workers, homosexuals, drug users and other groups at high risk of infection.
4. Training of planning teams in territories (judets, municipal) on the methodology of development of strategic territorial plans. Development of the territorial programs on prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs.
5. Training of members of National Inter-Departmental Multisectoral Committee and of judets committees (municipal).
6. Assuring prioritized financing and provision of political support to activities on prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs.
7. Implementation of the National Program on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs.
8. Greater involvment of all social strctures, including of NGOs in prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

## STRATEGY II

### **PREVENTION OF SPREADING OF HIV/AIDS INFECTION AMONG INJECTING DRUG USERS.**

**PURPOSE** – consolidation of state, community and individual efforts on combating drug use and illicit drugs circulation, ensuring of rhythmic dissemination of information on negative influence of infections and drug misuse on public health. Formation of safe sexual behavior among drug using persons, their sexual partners, with the purpose of prevention of spreading of HIV/AIDS/STIs.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Primary prevention among drug users and general population. Education of population and promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Introducing in educational program of schools and universities of the component on prevention of drugs misuse.
2. Early identification and rehabilitation of persons at high risk of consumption of psychotropic drugs.

3. Implementation of activities to prevent HIV/AIDS among drug users and among individuals predispose to consume it, obtaining their confidence in effectiveness of prevention programs.
4. Development and submission of project proposals based on reduction of harm among drug users strategy as complex, inter-sectoral activities which stipulate:
  - Rapid behavioural assessments of IDUs and sentinel surveillance to HIV;
  - Information, education and communication (IEC) activities for IDUs;
  - Provision of IEC materials, peer education, condoms, bleach, needles and syringes to IDUs;
  - Provision of services for early diagnosis and effective treatment of STDs based on syndrome approach, voluntary HIV counselling and testing, and psychological support to IDUs;
  - Provision of substitute prescribing services to reduce spread of HIV and viral hepatitis;
  - Outreach work for IDUs (street work).
5. Development of the Charter "Youth in XXI century – spiritually healthy and drugs free».
6. Accessibility to treatment, social protection and rehabilitation of drug users.
7. Training of specialists, development of methodological and educational materials in primary and secondary prevention of drug misuse.
8. Implementation of preventive activities among military troops, police units and in penitentiaries.

### **STRATEGY 3**

#### **PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs INFECTION AMONG YOUTH.**

**PURPOSE** – Insurance of continuity in educational activities on sexuality, prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs and drug misuse as an integral part of establishment of a healthy lifestyle.

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Improvement of educational and training programs on sexuality, HIV/AIDS/STI and drug misuse prevention for schools and universities.
2. Establishment for the general population of a priority, free and accessible system on informing, raising awareness and education with the view of promoting of a healthy lifestyle, prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs and drug misuse.
3. Assuring schools and universities with methodological and didactic materials.
4. Introducing of the training program «Sexuality, HIV/AIDS/STIs and drug misuse prevention» in school and university curricular.
5. Training and recycling of didactic personnel.
6. Development, multiplying and implementation of educational programmes for out-of-school youth.
7. Implementation of condom promotion programmes as a mean of prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs for youth. Accessibility of condoms for youth.
8. Conducting of sociologic studies on behavioural patterns among youth.

### **STRATEGY 4**

#### **ASSURING SAFETY OF BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS, MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

**PURPOSE** – prevention of transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STIs through blood when providing medical assistance and in the process of transfusion of blood and of blood components.

1. Improvement of the selection system for blood donors with the purpose of excluding persons from risk groups.
2. Implementation of state system for blood collection further stocking and laboratory control for antibodies to HIV 1, HIV 2 viruses, every 3rd and 6th month after donation for excluding the risk of transmitting of infection through blood transfusion.
3. Re-examining of indications for blood transfusion and blood products, implementation of blood transfusion and administration of blood products only after HIV and other blood transmitted infection control. Prioritization of transfusion of blood substitutes and establishment of a bank of blood for autotransfusions.
4. Implementation of activities focused on health of women of reproductive age (prevention of anemias, infections) which will reduce the number of blood transfusions.

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Development of a National Program on Blood Transfusion, establishment within blood transfusion centres of adequate conditions for blood collecting and formation of permanent stocks of blood and blood born products tested in accordance with WHO guidelines.
2. Development and implementing of a National Standard for blood transfusion.
3. Training of medical specialists in the field of applicative blood transfusion.
4. Promotion of blood donation as a human principle.
5. Improvement of the system of selection of donors of blood, biological liquids, organs and tissues with the purpose of excluding donors from groups at high risk of infection.
6. Insure HIV testing blood testing laboratories with necessary performance equipment, including checking of viral load (PCR), necessary diagnostic kits which will reduce to minimum infection of recipients.
7. Establishment and equipping of AIDS and other blood transmitted infections diagnostic laboratories of Soroca, Tighina, Ungheni and Taraclia districts with the necessary testing equipment.
8. Provision of sanitary institutions with necessary blood substitutes.

**PURPOSE** – Prevention of HIV/AIDS in medical institutions, beauty saloons, barber's saloons.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Enforcement of technical support and accreditation of state sanitary institutions, departmental and private in accordance with the approved regulations.
2. Insurance of sterility and anti-epidemic conditions when providing surgical and medical assistance.
3. Re-evaluation of sterility and disinfecting standards for equipment and medical kits.
4. Priority in financing medical institutions and provision of the minimum necessary equipment, medical kits, disinfectants and detergents.
5. Implementation and permanent monitoring over the usage of sterility equipment, evaluation of sterility of equipment and medical kits. Post-guaranty technical service.
6. Establishment of conditions for utilization of biological materials and instrumentary kits.
7. Ensuring the medical staff with individual protection means and provision of safe working conditions. Automation of technological processes and of working environments at increased risk of infection. In-filed training of the medical staff when employed and periodical trainings on safer working environment.
8. Re-examining of educational, training and recycling programs within high school establishments and medical colleges on the subject of HIV/AIDS/STIs infections.
9. Including in recycling tests of the medium level medical staff the subjects on «Etiology, epidemiology, pathogeneses, clinics, diagnostic and prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs infection».
10. Inventory and provision of license to beauty saloons, barbers saloons, manicure and pedicure saloons regarding working conditions and supplies, as well as establishment of regulations on prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases through provided services.

**STRATEGY V**

**PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs THROUGH SEXUAL WAY OF TRANSMISSION.**

**PURPOSE** – Establishment of a system on sex education, raising awareness on ways of transmission of HIV/AIDS and other infections within risk groups and in society.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Mandatory introduction in school and university educational programs of the subject «Sexuality and prevention of HIV/AIDS and STI including drug misuse». Development of programs and educational materials on the issue.
2. Training of specialists from ministers, departments and chiefs of local public administration on aspects of public education, particularly aimed at youth, promotion of a healthy lifestyle and prevention of HIV/AIDS/STI and drug misuse.
3. Implementation of the National Program for Health Education of the Population and promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Accessibility of the public to information regarding HIV/AIDS and STI and prevention activities.
4. Public information on STIs, education and promotion of safer sex, involvement in prevention activities of non governmental organization, communities and mass-media.
5. Organization and implementing of mass activities (shows, concerts, theater presentations, round tables etc.) and especially of activities dedicated to World AIDS Day.

6. Preparing of thematically symbolized current consummation goods (bags, shirts, badges etc.).
7. Public accessibility to dermatovenerological assistance and its integration with services of primary medical assistance with purpose of early diagnostic, treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.
8. Providing of diagnostic and efficient treatment to STI, including free of charge to patients with STIs and patients from vulnerable groups. Improvement of anonymous testing and treatment for patients with STIs.
9. Education and training, in prevention of HIV/AIDS and STI, of persons with risky behavior (women in sex business, homosexuals, migrants etc.). Training of peer educators from their environment to be involved in the prevention work.
10. Development and promotion of condom use in prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs and unwanted pregnancy. Condoms accessibility for population.
11. Establishment of an adequate system for condom commercialization at prices acceptable for population.
12. Implementation of preventive activities among military troops, police troops and in penitentiaries.
13. Assuring of anonymous treatment and diagnostics for vulnerable groups (MSM, women in sex business etc).
14. Conducting of sociologic and behavioural studies among persons from vulnerable groups and those at high risk of infection.

## **STRATEGY VI**

### **PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS AND STIS FROM MOTHER TO CHILD (MTCT)**

**PURPOSE** – reducing the risk of transmission of HIV to newborns from HIV positive mothers and mothers with AIDS.

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Development of National Principles on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS.
2. Training of men and women of reproductive age on Family Planning, condom use and HIV/AIDS/STIs prevention.
3. Accessibility of women of reproductive age to specialized counseling, voluntary and confidential testing of HIV/AIDS and STIs.
4. Working with HIV positive women and their sexual partners on issues of family planning and risks of giving birth to a HIV positive child.
5. Accessibility of HIV positive persons and their families to condoms.
6. Accessibility of HIV positive pregnant women and of newborns to specific antiretroviral treatment.
7. Training of specialists on the issues of «HIV Infection and pregnancy”. Introducing a specialized course on HIV and pregnancy for obstetricians and family doctors.

## **STRATEGY VII**

### **PROVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL SUPPORT TO PEOPLE TESTED POSITIVE TO HIV, TO AIDS PATIENTS AND TO MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES**

**PURPOSE** – Assure the accessibility of medical assistance to PLHA oriented towards maintaining the health status and prolongation of life expectancy. Assuring psycho-social support to PLHA and their families through accessibility to social services. Protection of human rights of PLHA.

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Realization of PLHA rights to social services, medical assistance, social insurance and protection of other rights stipulated by legislation in force.
2. Establishment of a section for PLHA within the Clinical Hospital of Infectious Diseases Toma Cioba and within Balti judet hospital, assuring hospitalization of PLHA, holding of clinic investigations and provision of specific antiretroviral treatment.
3. Increasing the number of investigations to AIDS opportunistic infections.
4. Development of national standards regarding the volume and methods of treatment of PLHA from opportunistic infections, STIs and AIDS.
5. Approving of a state guaranteed minimum of social assistance to be provided to PLHA and members of their families.
6. Development and provision of practical recommendation for home care of PLHA to family members and NGOs.

7. Establishment of informational systems (trust phones, hot-lines) for promotion of healthy lifestyles, psychological support for HIV/AIDS/STI infected persons and drug users.
8. Development of national standard on palliative care for patients with HIV/AIDS and further implementation of the latter.

## **STRATEGY VIII**

### **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND STATE MONITORING OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs**

**PURPOSE** – Continuous monitoring of the epidemiological situation with HIV/AIDS and STIs. Situational analyses, development of adequate measures for prevention, and exercising control over implementation of the National Program.

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. To assure state monitoring over HIV/AIDS and STIs at national and district level including sentinel surveillance of groups at high risk.
2. Assuring realization of the right of the citizens of the republic to be examined to HIV/AIDS, with an anonymous pre- and post- counseling consultation.
3. Improvement of state control over observance of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova regarding prevention measures on nosocomial transmission in state departmental medical institutions and private ones, as well as in beauty saloons, manicure and pedicure saloons and other institutions at risk of transmitting the infection.
4. Ensure functioning of a continuous system of interventions and implementation of antiepidemic activities in epidemiologic beds with HIV/AIDS.
5. Development of methodological recommendations regarding organization and implementation of the II<sup>nd</sup> generation epidemiological surveillance after HIV/AIDS.
6. Sentinel surveillance of TB among PLHA.

### **MAIN IMPLEMENTERS OF THE PROGRAMME**

Main implementers of the program are: Government of Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Department of Youth and Sports, State Company «Teleradio Moldova», local public administrations, mass – media, non governmental organizations – «AntiSIDA», «Tineri pentru dreptul la viata» (Chisinau, Balti), «InfoSIDA» (Singerei), «Mileniul III», «antiHIV» (Chisinau) etc.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **OF MINISTRIES AND DEPARTAMENTS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs.**

#### **GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS.**

Establishment of National and judet interdepartmental and multisectoral committees on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS/STIs.

Monitoring over implementation of National and judet programs on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS/STIs.

Legislative initiatives regarding groups at high risk.

Allocation from national and judet budgets of financial means with special destination for financing of basic strategies and activities regarding HIV/AIDS/STIs (safety of blood transfusion, diagnostics, treatment, educational programs, development and editing of educational materials, equipment and medical kits etc.).

#### **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

Recycling and training of medical specialists in HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Development of projects, standards and instructions in HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS and STIs, implementation of prevention and antiepidemic activities.

Providing of medical assistance to PLHA and patients with STIs.

Assure safety of blood transfusions, surgical and medical interventions.

Information and education of the population in HIV/AIDS and STIs issues.

Supporting, consulting and cooperating with non governmental organizations that activate in the field of HIV/AIDS/STIs prevention.

Cooperation with international organizations – UNAIDS, WHO, Europeans Center for Epidemiological Surveillance, UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in Republic of Moldova, UNICEF, Soros Foundation, UNESCO etc.



Development and submitting to international organizations of projects for financial and technical support on prevention and education in HIV/AIDS/STIs.

#### **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS.**

Ensure functioning of a continuous system on teaching and education of youth and teenagers in sexuality and prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Including in school and university curricular of training programs on «Sexuality, prevention of HIV, AIDS, STIs and drug misuse».

Organization of sustainable courses, trainings and recycling for specialists.

Development and editing of methodological materials for specialists in education, for pupils and students.

Involvement of students from high schools and colleges in promotion of activities on healthy lifestyle, sexual education, prevention of HIV, AIDS, STIs and drug misuse.

Establishment of safe sex behavior, and establishment of support groups for parents.

#### **MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Combating of illegal drugs trafficking and of narcobusiness.

Education of police staff on HIV/AIDS/STIs. Mandatory introduction of the compartment Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs and drug misuse in the recycling and training programs.

Ensure safety of medical and surgical interventions in departmental clinics.

Implementing preventive activities in general population and in groups at risk.

Observing the laws regarding prohibition of audio-video materials of violent and pornographic character.

#### **MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

Development of a state guaranteed minimum of social assistance to be provided to PLHA and members of their families.

Coordination of a interdepartmental social assistance with assistance from local public administrations and non governmental organizations.

Implementing of social rehabilitation programmes for persons at high risk to HIV/AIDS and STI and of persons with asocial behaviour.

#### **MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

Stipulation and insurance of the National Program with financial support through special financing of Ministry of Health and other ministries for implementing activities stipulated in the National Program on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

#### **MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Information, through embassies, consulates and in the process of visa performance of foreign citizen on legislation regarding HIV/AIDS.

Assure rights and interests of citizens of Moldova working in foreign countries on aspects of prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs.

#### **MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

Providing expertise to legislative acts regarding HIV/AIDS/STIs prevention and control and bringing them to international standards.

Protection of human rights of PLHA.

Establishment of a prevention and control system over HIV/AIDS/STIs in penitentiary institutions.

#### **NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Development and implementing of educational programs, providing assistance and care to PLHA.

Implementing of prevention activities among vulnerable groups and groups at high risk (women of sex business, injecting drug users, homo and bisexuals).

Formation and training of volunteers teams selected from PLHA and injecting drug users, women of sex business with the purpose of implementation of prevention, educational and support activities among vulnerable groups.

Raising of funds for projects and programs.

#### **MASS – MEDIA**

Development and broadcasting of specialized TV, radio and press editions with the purpose to raise awareness of the population on issues of prevention HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Organization of public campaigns against discrimination and stigmatization of PLHA.

### SOURCES OF POTENTIAL FINANCING AND THE BUDGET

1. State Budget;
2. Budgets of the local public administrations;
3. Grants of International organizations;
4. Financial means of non governmental organizations;
5. Individual or institutional donations;
6. Financial means of organization, enterprises and institutions with different forms of property.

### THE BUDGET OF THE PROGRAMME

Strategies and activities	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
Development of the territorial programs (judet, municipal) on prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs.	0,254 mln lei				
Assuring safety of blood transfusions and prevention of transmission of HIV through blood	1,2 mln lei	1,2 mln lei	1,2 mln lei	1,2 mln lei	1,2 mln lei
Implementing of programmes based on the Harm Reduction strategy among IDUs	0,414 mln lei	0,414 mln lei	0,414 mln lei	0,414 mln lei	0,414 mln lei
Prevention of transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STIs through sexual way	0,16 mil lei	0,16 mil lei	0,06 mln lei	0,06 mln lei	0,06 mln lei
Access of persons with STIs to free diagnostics and treatment	0,4 mln lei	0,4 mln lei	0,4 mln lei	0,4 mln lei	0,4 mln lei
Development of educational materials	0,261 mln lei	0,261 mln lei	0,261 mln lei	0,261 mln lei	0,261 mln lei
Assuring of qualified medical assistance including with antiretrovirals (300 persons)	18,396 mln lei	18,396 mln lei	18,396 mln lei	18,396 mln lei	18,396 mln lei
Epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring of HIV/AIDS including sentinel surveillance of groups at high risk	0,55 mln lei	0,55 mln lei	0,55 mln lei	0,55 mln lei	0,55 mln lei
Epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring of STIs including sentinel surveillance of groups at high risk	0,21 mln lei	0,21 mln lei	0,21 mln lei	0,21 mln lei	0,21 mln lei
Assuring of HIV/AIDS diagnostics	0,387 mln lei	0,387 mln lei	0,387 mln lei	0,387 mln lei	0,387 mln lei
Monitoring of treatment of HIV/AIDS	0,381 mln lei	0,381 mln lei	0,381 mln lei	0,381 mln lei	0,381 mln lei
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,613</b>	<b>22,359</b>	<b>22,245</b>	<b>22,245</b>	<b>22,245</b>

Strategies, activities	Total 2001-2005	State budget	Covered from other sources	
			Approved grants	From projects to be submitted
Development of the territorial programs (judet, municipal) on prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs.	0,254 mln lei	-	-	0,254 mln lei
Assuring safety of blood transfusions and prevention of transmission of HIV through blood	6,0 mln lei	6,0 mln lei	-	-
Implementing of programmes based on	2,028 mln lei	0,200	0,828 mln lei	1,0 mln lei

the Harm Reduction strategy among IDUs				
Prevention of transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STIs through sexual way	0,5 mln lei	-	-	0,5 mln lei
Access of persons with STIs to free diagnostics and treatment	2,0 mln lei	2,0 mln lei	-	-
Development of educational materials	1,305 mln lei	0,305 mln lei	-	1,0 mln lei
Assuring of qualified medical assistance including with antiretrovirals (300 persons)	91,98 mln lei	30,66 mln lei	-	61,32 mln lei
Epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring of HIV/AIDS including sentinel surveillance of groups at high risk	2,75 mln lei	2,75 mln lei	-	-
Epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring of STIs including sentinel surveillance of groups at high risk	1,05 mln lei	0,55 mln lei	-	0,50 mln lei
Assuring of HIV/AIDS diagnostics	1,935 mln lei	1,0 mln lei	-	0,935 mln lei
Monitoring of treatment of HIV/AIDS	1,905 mln lei	1,0 mln lei	-	0,905 mln lei
Total	111,707 mln lei	44,465 mln lei	0,828 mln lei	66,414 mln lei

Explanatory note:

1. Development of territorial programs for prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs:

The development of district (judets) programs is foreseen for 2001 with a financing of 0.254 mln. Moldovan lei from projects submitted to international donors.

2. Blood transfusion safety, prevention of spreading of infection through blood transfusion. An estimated number of 126,000 blood donor investigations is planned annually X 0,75US\$ (cost per test) = 94,8 thousand US\$ X 12,67 (exchange rate lei/dollar) = 1,2 billion Moldovan lei.

3. The programs based on Harm Reduction Strategy are foreseen for implementation in Chisinau, Balti, Orhei, Soroca, Falesti with a total financing of 0,4 mln. Moldovan lei from the budgets of the projects financed by Soros Foundation and UNAIDS and co-financed by State budget in the amount of 0,05 billion Moldovan lei.

4. Prevention of HIV/AIDS and STI through sexual way of transmission – development of 3 thematic video spots, equipping of district medical institutions with video and audio technique in sum of 0,16 mln Moldovan lei yearly, from projects submitted to international donors.

5. Diagnostics and treatment for persons with Sexual Transmitted Infections.

Examination to syphilis and gonorrhea for free, according to stipulations in legislative acts of vulnerable groups, 0,1 mln. Moldovan lei, yearly, for procurement of necessary reagents:

Procurement of laboratory reagents diagnostic of syphilis (reaction of precipitate), 0,05 mln. Moldovan lei, the same sum for reaction of complement fixing or TPHA is necessary; Free of charge treatment with specific medicines (to be procured: benzatin-benzil penicillin G, penicillin – 0,210 mln. Moldovan lei, cyprophloxacin – 0,0673 mln. Moldovan lei) in Total – 0.4 mln Moldovan lei.

6. Development and editing of educational materials. Annually over 300 thousand copies shall be developed 1 copy – 0.87 lei X 300,000 = 0,261 mln Moldovan lei.

7. Ensure accessibility to medical assistance, including to specific antiretroviral therapy (300 persons). In conformity with WHO recommendations a specific treatment shall be applied with antiretrovirals with 2-3 specific drugs. The annually treatment with 2 antiretrovirals (Zidovudin and Didanozin) two nucleoside inhibitors of reverstranscriptaze. The cost of annual therapy is – 4840,00 US\$ X 300 persons = 1,452 mln. US\$ X 12.67 = 18,396 mln. Moldovan lei.

8. Epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring of HIV/AIDS, including sentinel surveillance of groups at high risk of infection: testing of 12 thousand injecting drug users, 13 thousand persons with clinical manifestation of STI, 10 thousand blood donators is stipulated, 10 thousand prisoners, 5 thousand anonymous tests, 10 thousand in conformity with epidemiological and clinical indications, 20 thousand persons which left and returned to Moldova. In total – 50 thousand tests X 0,79 US\$ = 43,45 thousand US\$ X 12,67 = 0,55 mln. Moldovan lei.

9. Epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring, including sentinel surveillance of sexually transmitted infections. Annual testing of 50 thousand pregnant women, 2,5 thousand persons travelling abroad, 22 thousand persons with clinical manifestation of STIs is foreseen. The cost of the mentioned activities is –0,211 mln. Moldovan lei.

10. Provision of HIV/AIDS diagnostic:

Confirmation tests (Western Blot): 500 investigations X 35 US\$ = 17,5 thousand US\$ X 12,67 = 0,222 mln. Moldovan lei.

Immune condition tests: 1000 tests X 13 US\$ = 13 thousand US\$ X 12,67 = 0,165 mln Moldovan lei.

11. Monitoring of HIV/AIDS treatment: procurement of equipment to perform the chain polymerize reaction and viral load charge – 30 thousand US\$ X 12,67 = 0,381 mln. Moldovan lei.

#### **BASIC INDICATORS AND CRITERION OF ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAM ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs**

<b>Indexes</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>STRATEGY I</b>		
Defining and developing of national policy in the field of prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs	Establishment of National Inter-Departmental Multisectoral Committee on prevention of HIV/AIDS/ and STIs. Assuring of implementation of multisectoral activities	Second quarter of 2001
	Approving of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs	Second quarter of 2001
Declaration of observing human rights as state priority	Amendment of existing legislation on FSW, MSM and drug misuse	2001-2002
Multisectoral and interdepartmental concept on implementation of planned activities	Ministries, departments and public administrations will have developed and implement activities under the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STIs.	2001
<b>STRATEGY II</b>		
Involvement of IDUs in programmes based on the Harm Reduction Strategy	Implementation of programmes in Chisinau, Faleshti, Balti, Orhei	2001-2002
Efficient treatments applied to IDUs	10% of IDUs covered by efficient treatment	2001
	25% of IDUs subject to efficient treatment	2002
Number of IDUs covered with treatment	At least 95% of total IDUs registered	2001-2002
	At least 50% of total number of IDUs subject to treatment	2002
Primary prevention of drug misuse	Up to 25% of teenagers and young persons from vulnerable groups will have their behaviour changed	2001-2002
	Up to 35% of teenagers and young persons from vulnerable groups will have their behaviour changed	2003-2005
<b>STRATEGY III</b>		
Prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs among youth	Introducing of the training program «Sexuality, HIV/AIDS/STIs and drug misuse prevention» in school and university curricular.	2001-2005
<b>STRATEGY IV</b>		
Assuring safety of blood transfusions, medical interventions and medical assistance services	Mandatory testing of each blood donation and of blood products to HIV, hepatitis and syphilis	2001-2005
	Supplying medical institutions with a minimum	2001-2005

	guaranteed of equipment, bleach and detergents	
	Supplying medical staff with the necessary individual protection means	2001-2005
<b>STRATEGY V</b>		
Efficiency of the educational programmes	Stabilization of indexes of incidence through syphilis	2001-2002
	Reducing the rate of incidence through syphilis by 5-10%	2003-2005
Increase of access of population to STI services	Increase by 30% the number of persons presenting themselves to medical institutions with clinical signs of gonorrhoea and urethritis of nongonorrhoea etiology.	
	Treatment of 10% of patients with STIs in non-specialized medical institutions	2001
	Treatment of 10% of patients with STIs in non-specialized medical institutions	2002-2005
Access of population to condoms	Commercialization of condoms through the network of drugs stores, in hotels, restaurants, commercial units, stations etc.	2001-2005
<b>STRATEGY VI</b>		
Registration and providing counseling services to HIV positive mothers	Providing of counseling services regarding the risk of transmission of HIV from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding to HIV positive mothers to 100%	2001-205
Assuring early diagnosis of HIV in pregnant women	Ultrasound investigation of pregnant women to determine the age of pregnancy	2001-205
Providing condoms to HIV positive women	Distribution of condoms to HIV positive women through family planning institutions	2001-2005
<b>STRATEGY VII</b>		
Provision of medical assistance to people tested positive to HIV and to AIDS patients	Hospitalization of PLHA and ensuring access to antiretrovirals.	2001-2005
<b>STRATEGY VIII</b>		
Epidemiological surveillance and state monitoring of HIV/AIDS and STIs	Epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS and STIs in the country	2001-2005
	Sentinel surveillance in the following groups: - IDUs – 5000 - STI patients – 2000 - Pregnant women – 5000 - Detainees of penitentiaries – 2000 - FSW – 500 - Persons travelling abroad – 2000 - Institutionalized children - 200	2001-2005

***LIST OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES STIPULATED IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs.***

1. National Program on Education for Health and Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle. Decision of the Government of Republic of Moldova N – 1000 of 28.09.1998.
2. National Program on Control of Hepatitis (of B/C/D types). Decision of the Government of Republic of Moldova N – 507 of 02.06.1997.
3. National Program on Combatting Drug Misuse, Illicit Drugs Trafficking and Narcobusiness. Decision of the Government of Republic of Moldova N – 303 of 30.03.2000.
4. National Program on Family Planning and Reproductive Health. Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova N – 527 of 08.06.1999.

5. National Program on Improvement of Perinatal Medical Assistance. Decision of Government of the Republic of Moldova N – 1171 of 18.12.1997.
6. Project MOL/99/001 «Providing Assistance on Strategic Planning in HIV/AIDS/STIs and implementation of preventive and informational activities”.

LIST OF PROJECTS, APPROVED BY THE UN THEME GROUP ON HIV/AIDS MOLDOVA, AND OF THOSE  
SUBMITTED FOR FINANCING.

1. Harm reduction among drug users (Chisinau, Balti, Orhei, Falesti).  
TOTAL COST: - 100.000 US\$
2. Development of National Standards on Palliative Care for PLHA.  
TOTAL COST: - 9,960 US\$
3. Support to development of territorial (judet) programmes on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS/STIs.-  
TOTAL COST \$45.000USD