

NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs 2006-2010

INTRODUCTION

HIV/AIDS infection continues to remain a major problem of public health. In 2004, 224 new cases were registered (6,2 per 100,000), compared to 2001 – 210 cases (5,81 per 100,000).

Until 01.01.2005, 1915 persons were diagnosed with HIV in the Republic of Moldova, including 56 foreign citizens, the prevalence being 51,46 per 100,000. The epidemic process has spread in all the administrative regions of the Republic of Moldova. According to incomplete data, in the eastern part of the country 390 persons were diagnosed and confirmed HIV positive by the reference laboratory of the AIDS Centre, with a prevalence of 62, 03 per 100,000 populations. According to current data, in the eastern part of the Republic of Moldova, 513 blood samples were tested positive in the immunoferment screening reaction without being confirmed. 145 persons developed AIDS, and 82 people died.

Until the year 2000 the epidemic process of HIV/AIDS was mostly determined by the spread of the infection among injecting drug users. In the past few years there is a decrease in the rate of injecting drug users from 78,1 % in 2001 to 42,41% in 2004 and a growth in the rate of people infected through heterosexual contacts from 18,57 % in 2001 to 55,36% in 2004. The proportion of women among HIV positive persons has increased from 25,24 % in 2001 to 49,11 % in 2004. 7 cases of HIV infection were registered among pregnant women in 2003 and 38 in 2004. Also, 4 cases of MTCT were registered in 2003 and 5 in 2004. The incidence of HIV positive persons in the age category 15-24 remains stable (10,9 in 2001 and 9,67 in 2004). Compared to 2003, the number of people infected with syphilis in 2004 has decreased by 11,3%.

The Evaluation of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs for 2001-2005, approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova no. 482 of June 18, 2001, confirmed its viability, contributing to the mobilization of internal forces in the implementation of key prevention strategies and activities, surveillance and control of HIV/AIDS infection and STI, informational and educational activities, work with vulnerable groups, initiation of ARV treatment, provision of medical assistance, help and support for HIV positive individuals and people living with HIV/AIDS.

State activities in the implementation of Programme strategies are supported technically and financially by international organizations, as well as grants from the Global Fund to fight AIDS/TB/Malaria, the World Bank and others. These organizations have contributed to the implementation of commitments undertaken through the Declaration signed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova at the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on HIV/AIDS from June 2001.

Monitoring and epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS infection is

constantly developed. Access of the general population to HIV/AIDS testing has increased (in 2001, 116374 were tested, in 2004 – 216762 persons).

Epidemiological surveillance activities, specific ARV treatment, treatment of opportunistic infections, as well as palliative care are standardized with the development of national protocols.

Educational, communication, training and prevention programmes are implemented among the general population, youth and risk groups. A curriculum was developed for the subject „Life Skills”, teachers were trained, guides were developed and starting with 2005 this subject is introduced as mandatory in schools.

Medical assistance was expanded to persons infected with HIV/AIDS, including specific antiretroviral treatment and treatment of opportunistic diseases. With the support of non-governmental organizations harm reduction projects have been implemented, including projects in penitentiaries, among sexual minorities, persons with high risk of infection, training of trainers and volunteers in life skills and peer education (adolescents, youth, army personnel, carabinieri, border guards), social and psychological support, hotline counseling, journalists training.

The draft of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs was developed based on an analysis of the epidemic situation, the implementation results of the previous National Programme, identifying opportunities, difficulties and positive aspects.

The National Programme is oriented towards promoting a healthy lifestyle in society, in parallel with the expansion of activities and prevention interventions, early diagnosis and treatment of people infected with HIV/AIDS/STIs. All of these will contribute to a decrease in the number of new cases of infection, while the full coverage with ARV treatment will improve the length and quality of life, and will reduce the risk of MTCT transmission of the infection.

Major objectives of the Programme

- succession and sustainability in planning and implementation of activities and interventions;
- joining efforts, involvement, interaction and coordination of the activities of state institutions, local public authorities, individual persons, including people living with HIV/AIDS, NGOs and international organizations as partners in the implementation of activities to fight HIV/AIDS/STIs in the Republic of Moldova;
- attracting and making rational use of budgetary financial resources, from grants, communication projects, raising awareness and behavioral change; prevention work among the general population and target groups, expansion and provision of medical assistance, treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- improving the epidemiological situation, prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs, reducing the incidence of HIV among youth and the negative consequences on the individual, community and society, creating favorable conditions for the improvement of the quality of life, according to Objective 6 of the Millennium Development Goals;
- development of a guaranteed social protection system and provision of access to medical services of people living with HIV.

Major strategies:

- 1) Development, consolidation and ensuring the functioning of a unique national interdepartmental, multi-sectoral system to coordinate activities of state and non-governmental institutions in control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs.
- 2) Capacity building and expanding of IEC activities for the general public, youth and vulnerable groups in HIV/AIDS/STI prevention.
- 3) Capacity consolidation and development of an epidemiological surveillance system of HIV/AIDS/STI infection with second generation elements (behavioral surveillance).
- 4) Expansion of HIV/AIDS/STI prevention activities among vulnerable groups which aim at consolidating NGO and state efforts.
- 5) Infrastructure development and development of medical assistance capacities, social and palliative care of people living with HIV/AIDS, members of their families and children affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 6) Extending coverage activities for voluntary counseling and testing services in state medical institutions and their development within the framework of friendly youth health services.
- 7) Capacity building of prevention of HIV/AIDS and STI transmission from mother to child.
- 8) Integrating the provision of blood transfusions, medical interventions and other kinds and prevention of nosocomial spread on HIV/AIDS infection and syphilis.
- 9) Complementing and expanding activities of prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for people with mixed HIV/TB infection, including penitentiaries.

The implementation of strategies, objectives and activities of the National Programme will reduce the size of HIV/AIDS/STI spread, and minimize the negative consequences. By 2010 the following indicators are expected to be accomplished:

Provision of access to educational and informational programs for the general population.

In schools and Universities starting with 2007 a mandatory „Life skills” course will be introduced, which will train annually over 560 thousand children, adolescents and youth.

The Development of a Strategic Framework for Communication on HIV/AIDS/STI

for 2005-2010 will contribute to a coordinated launch of activities and communication, education and information campaigns among the general population, youth and vulnerable groups to encourage behavior change.

High risk groups will have access to educational programs and prevention services based on harm reduction strategy, which will allow maintaining the level of HIV spread at 40%.

Provision of access to free counseling and voluntary and confidential testing on HIV and STIs for the general population.

100% of solicitants will benefit from these services, especially pregnant women and persons in the age category 15-24.

Provision of specific ARV treatment and treatment of opportunistic diseases according to clinical and immunological indications based on WHO/UNAIDS recommendations at a rate of 100%; provision of prevention treatment of HIV positive pregnant women and newborns at a rate of 100% and provision of free artificial nutrition of children born from HIV positive mothers.

Capacity consolidation and access to palliative care of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Provision of free specific treatment of people infected with syphilis in 100% of cases.

Decrease the incidence of HIV/AIDS by the year 2010 to 3,5 per 100,00 population, and among the age group 15-24 to 4,2. Reduce the incidence of syphilis by 2010 to 70 cases per 100,000 population.

STRATEGY I

Development, consolidation and ensuring the functioning of a unique national interdepartmental, multi-sectoral system to coordinate activities of state and non-governmental institutions in control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

SCOPE – Uniting the efforts and coordinating the activities of governmental institutions, private sector, NGOs and international organizations as social partners in the implementation of activities aimed at combating the HIV/AIDS/STI epidemic in the Republic of Moldova and reducing the negative consequences on society.

HIV/AIDS/STI infection represents a major threat to public health and society. The activities (measures) of the public health system in prevention constitute 10-15%. The implementation of complex and efficient measures of prevention, communication, and social awareness, provision of social and medical assistance, respect for human rights, including the rights of sexual minorities and other groups with a high risk of infection behavior requires a joint and coordinated effort of governmental institutions, local public authorities, NGOs, international organizations and the private sector.

The continuous monitoring of the implementation of the National Programme, Global Fund grants, World Bank and other donors.

ACTIVITIES

1. Ensure the political commitment at central and regional level and the financing of activities of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STIs.
2. Development of capacities of the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) in the implementation and monitoring of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STIs.
3. Development, consolidation and ensuring the functionality of technical working groups of the CCM – epidemiological and sentinel surveillance of HIV/AIDS and STI infection; education, information and communication (IEC); decreasing, minimizing the risks and negative consequences among vulnerable groups (with high risk of infection); support, specific ARV treatment, medical and social assistance; monitoring and evaluation (M&E).
4. Development and approval of work plans of the CCM and technical working groups.
5. Development of action plans for regions, ministries, departments and agencies in the implementation of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STIs.
6. Consolidation of the network of NGOs which are working in the field of HIV/AIDS/STIs and people living with HIV/AIDS, encourage the dissemination of best practices in HIV/AIDS prevention and provide support to people living with HIV/AIDS.
7. Set up the framework for the development of HIV/AIDS/STI prevention policies in the workplace.

STRATEGY II

Capacity building and expanding of IEC activities for the general public, youth and vulnerable groups in HIV/AIDS/STI prevention.

SCOPE – Improving the knowledge, increasing the level of awareness of the problem by the population, adopting inoffensive behaviors, changing the attitude vis-a-vis the problem of HIV/AIDS/STI, creating a tolerant environment for persons affected by HIV/AIDS, prevention of stigmatization and discrimination.

Cultivate a sense of individual responsibility for one's health, creating an environment enabling behavior change, and maintaining inoffensive behavior, and encouraging people to access prevention services (including counseling and testing), treatment, care and support.

Development of capacities for the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of activities and communication campaigns.

Communication has a pragmatic approach based on practices and proofs and is directed towards increasing the level of awareness through the implementation of activities and educational programmes among organized contingents (schools, lyciums, middle-schools, and universities), general population and vulnerable groups.

ACTIVITIES

1. Establishing and ensuring the functionality of a unique system of developing life skills of youth in middle and high schools, professional environment and Universities based on the Curricula, and the development of life skills among youth who are not enrolled in the educational process based on out-of-school programmes, including peer to peer education and outreach activities.

1.1 Development and publishing of educational materials for youth:

- publishing of a manual for students from colleges and trade schools – year 2006;
- Curricula and student manual for the course „Life skills from universities” – year 2007;

1.2 Development of training materials for teachers:

- the manual of professors for colleges and trade schools – year 2006;
- university professor guide in „Life skills” – year 2007;

1.3. Re-publishing of the student and professor manual for middle and high school level – year 2009;

1.4. Training of teachers from :

- Colleges and trade schools, 4000 pers. – year 2006 - 2007;
- Universities, 4000 pers. – year 2006 - 2007;
- Primary school, 3000 teachers - additional – year 2006 ;
- annual training of school teachers, 5000 pers. – year 2006 - 2009;

1.5 Development of materials for parents – year 2007;

1.6 Implementation of advertising activities – 2006 – 2010;

1.7 Implementation of a study regarding the impact of the program „Life skills” among youth – 2008.

1.8 Development and publishing of a special periodic edition for medical workers on HIV/AIDS/STI.

2. Development of Strategic Framework for Communication in HIV/AIDS/STIs.

2.1. Development of communication model and structure of communication – year 2006;

2.2. Development of a matrix and network of partner institutions in the implementation of communication activities – 2006;

2.3. Consolidation and development of capacities, continuity of communication for the general population and target groups – mass-media, peer educators, outreach workers, counselors and community workers, support groups, etc. – permanent;

2.4. Development and implementation of the action plan, which will include information regarding available funds in the field of HIV/AIDS/STI communication;

2.5. Development of instruments for the monitoring and evaluation of the efficiency of the action plan in the field of communication for HIV/AIDS/STI –year 2006-2007.

3. Implementation of communication campaigns for youth and the general population; strengthening of information, education and communication capacities.

4. Development and maintenance of the green line (hotline) at the national level 0800 to be accessed by the population, including people living with HIV/AIDS.

STRATEGY III

Capacity consolidation and development of an epidemiological surveillance system of HIV/AIDS/STI infection with second generation elements (behavioral surveillance).

SCOPE – Continuous monitoring of the epidemic situation, situational evaluation, development and adjustment of activities and prevention interventions.

ACTIVITIES

1. Ensure the functioning of the integrated national system of monitoring of the epidemic situation, medical assistance, treatment, including specific ARV of people infected with AIDS and syphilis, adjusting prevention activities based on monitoring and evaluation.
2. Ensure the epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS/STI infection at the state and regional level through screening of different contingents, including groups with high risk of infection based on the annual plan.
3. Counseling and testing activities of 280 thousand persons annually: screening of blood donations 70 - 80 thousand annually; epidemiological surveillance of high risk contingents - 70 thousand, pregnant women - 40 thousand twice during the pregnancy period; anonymous testing - 10 thousand persons; people with clinical symptoms of sexually transmitted infections - 10 thousand; testing according to clinical indications - 10 thousand; biologic sentinel surveillance - 20 thousand. Undertake screening to syphilis and blood donations - 1,1 million persons.
4. Development of diagnosis services in Chlamydia and Human Pappilommavirus.
5. Development and publishing of the guide „Second generation epidemiological surveillance and anti-epidemic and prevention measures” – 2006 - 2007.
6. Undertaking a behavioral study within the framework of second generation epidemiological surveillance among vulnerable groups (2 studies) – year 2006 and 2008.
7. Ensure the surveillance system and implementation of anti-epidemic and prevention measures in the centers of HIV/AIDS/STI infection according to the respective guide.
8. Early diagnosis of persons with HIV/AIDS/STI through the development and expansion of counseling and voluntary testing, including anonymous.

STRATEGY IV

Expansion of HIV/AIDS/STI prevention activities among vulnerable groups which aim at consolidating NGO and state efforts.

SCOPE – Ensure the access of persons from vulnerable groups to health and social assistance services, counselling and voluntary testing to HIV/AIDS/STIs, to information, prevention activities, individual measures of protection and treatment. Groups with high risk of infection include young people, most of them being unemployed, with limited access to medical and social assistance services and they present a high potential in the development of the epidemic process of HIV/AIDS and

STIs. Drug addiction represents a dangerous phenomenon through its multifactoral, dynamic and changing character, which predominantly affects the age group 14-35 years of age and constitutes a major problem for public health, favouring mortality as a result of overdose, suicides, HIV/AIDS transmission, viral hepatitis and TB. The rate of drug users involved in the epidemic process of HIV/AIDS infection remains high.

ACTIVITIES

1. Accomplishing through joint efforts of state institutions (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Youth) and NGOs, the implementation of prevention projects, including projects based on „Harm Reduction” strategy, among contingents and vulnerable groups: injecting drug users; detainees in penitentiary institutions; commercial female sex workers; sexual minorities; unschooled and unemployed youth; migrants, including repatriates; Roma; children and youth with mental disabilities, etc.
2. Development and consolidation of rehabilitation services for people living with HIV/AIDS, including HIV positive injecting drug users. Creation of medical and social rehabilitation Centres in big urban centres - 2006-2007.
3. Extending the methadone substitution programme, increasing access of IDUs to substitution therapy in specialized institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Health and in penitentiaries.
4. Development, printing and distribution of methodical and educational materials in primary and secondary prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs.
5. Ensure access to condoms.
6. Development of a framework to involve students from the State Medical University, medical colleges and pedagogical institutions with departments focusing on training of social workers, in voluntary outreach activities in the IDU environment, other vulnerable groups and people living with HIV/AIDS.
7. Fight illegal drug trafficking.

STRATEGY V

Infrastructure development and development of medical assistance capacities, social and palliative care of people living with HIV/AIDS, members of their families and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

SCOPE – Provide free treatment and maintain adherence to ARV therapy of people living with HIV/AIDS, according to WHO/UNAIDS recommendations, with preventive treatment of pregnant HIV positive women and newborns – 100%.

Strengthening medical assistance and palliative care and social assistance of people living with HIV/AIDS, with opportunistic diseases and members of their families. Full free coverage of people infected with syphilis.

ACTIVITIES

1. Expansion and consolidation of institutions providing medical assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS. Provision of necessary specific drugs for ARV treatment, opportunistic diseases and syphilis.
2. Establishment of two centres for the treatment of people living with AIDS in areas with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection. Integrating palliative services, including „hospice” type, based on medical and sanitary public and private institutions, and non-governmental organizations.
3. Development and expansion of palliative care services and psycho-social support of people living with HIV/AIDS at home with the participation of public medical and sanitary institutions and non-governmental organizations.
4. Ensure laboratory monitoring of the evolution of HIV/AIDS infection and the efficacy of antiretroviral treatment and opportunistic diseases. Development of capacities to determine viral resistance to ARV drugs.
5. Training of medical personnel involved in treatment, diagnosis and surveillance of persons infected with HIV.
6. Development of regulations regarding the organization and functioning of palliative care services for people with HIV/AIDS.
7. Training of medical personnel, members of their families with HIV/AIDS and volunteers in palliative care.
8. Adjusting national treatment and HIV/AIDS/STI palliative care protocols in accordance to WHO recommendations.
9. Ensure social assistance and protection of people living with HIV/AIDS, members of their families and children affected with HIV/AIDS.
10. Updating and re-publishing the palliative care guide of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

STRATEGY VI

Extending coverage activities for voluntary counseling and testing services in state medical institutions and their development within the framework of friendly youth health services.

SCOPE – Ensure access to counseling and voluntary testing services to 100% of the population which solicits such services, especially persons in the age category 15 – 24. Ensuring access and promoting the use of quality condoms.

ACTIVITIES

1. Development of the institutional framework on the basis of a network of counseling centers in public medical and sanitary institutions (centers and offices of family doctors, health centers, consultation clinics), furnishing of buildings, training of medical personnel in pre and post testing counseling, development, photocopying and ensuring the necessary medical documentation.
2. Expansion of counseling and voluntary and confidential testing services in public medical and sanitary institutions and in the network of friendly youth health services.

3. Development, approval and publishing of the National Guide on Counseling and Voluntary Testing.
4. Extending access to counseling, anonymous and confidential testing, especially in communities with high HIV/STI incidence or prevalence, through the consolidation of capacities and increasing the number of providers capable of offering these services.
5. Increase access to counseling and free voluntary testing in medical emergency centers, IDU treatment and rehabilitation centers, family planning clinics and other programmes of prevention and educational interventions for persons with high risk of infection.
6. Training of national and local trainers in counseling and voluntary testing.
7. Continuous training regarding pre and post test counseling of staff from counseling and testing centers, heads of Family Doctors' Centers and youth friendly health clinics.
8. Development, publishing and provision of VCT centers with informative and educational materials.
9. Expanding educational activities and promotion of counseling and testing in penitentiary institutions and in short term detention centers.
10. Creation of a strategic framework in promoting the accessibility of the population and ensure condom quality control.

STRATEGY VII

Capacity building of prevention of HIV/AIDS and STI transmission from mother to child.

SCOPE – Reduce the risk of MTCT transmission of HIV, syphilis and gonorrhoea through ensuring access to counseling and confidential voluntary testing of 100% of pregnant women, full coverage of HIV positive pregnant women, infected with syphilis and children born from mothers infected with prevention treatment.

ACTIVITIES

1. Development of social competences of sexually active persons, also in the context of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS/STI prevention.
2. Ensure access to health and social services, pre and post test counseling of young people, including before marriage, young families with the participation of health services and non-governmental organizations.
3. Continuous training of medical staff regarding the complex measures of prevention of nominated MTCT transmission.
4. Informing the population regarding prevention measures of HIV/AIDS/STI and the importance of testing.
5. Full coverage of pregnant women with 2 free and voluntary tests for HIV/AIDS/syphilis/gonorrhoea.
6. Development of a prevention programme of unwanted pregnancies among females of fertile age infected with HIV and syphilis.

7. Ensure access of pregnant HIV positive women to counseling services regarding the nutrition of the child.
8. Provision of quality artificial nutrition for children born from HIV positive mothers.
9. Development of a legislative framework regarding the provision of social assistance to children affected by HIV/AIDS and the development of social services for them.

STRATEGY VIII

Integrating the provision of blood transfusions, medical interventions and other kinds and prevention of nosocomial spread on HIV/AIDS infection and syphilis.

SCOPE – Minimizing the risk of post-transfusion, nosocomial and professional infection.

ACTIVITIES

1. Development and maintenance of a blood service, determining the policies and strategies of applying blood transfusions in curative practice in order to ensure their inoffensive nature, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other blood transmitted infections.
2. Implementation in the blood service of the state system of creating reserves of donated blood and blood eradicators with the retesting of the donor after 6 months from donation to HIV1/2 markers, to exclude virus transmission as a result of blood transfusions.
3. Improving the system of selecting donors of blood, biologic liquids, organs and tissue (clinical, epidemiologic and lab exam) for the exclusion of persons from high risk groups.
4. Provision of medical and sanitary institutions with the necessary array of blood substitutes. Ensure labs for testing of HIV and other blood transmitted diseases are equipped with modern equipment and excellent consumables, which will reduce to a minimum the possibility of infecting the recipients.
5. Ensure the adequate hygienic and anti-epidemic conditions, sterility of equipment, instruments, materials used in the process of providing assistance, undertaking of manual labor and medical interventions, in public, departmental and private medical and sanitary institutions. The permanent functioning of the system for monitoring and evaluation of the work regime of sterilization equipment, the quality of processing and sterilization of medical instruments.
6. Creating inoffensive work conditions, compliance with anti-epidemic regime in public, departmental and private medical and sanitary institutions. Continuous training of medical personnel regarding the security of blood transfusions, inoffensive measures of work for staff and patients. Providing the medical personnel with

individual protection measures.

7. Creating and ensuring inoffensive conditions in facilities providing cosmetics services, manicure/pedicure, piercing, tattooing and other services which imply contact with biologic liquids.

STRATEGY IX

Complementing and expanding activities of prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for people with mixed HIV/TB infection, including penitentiaries.

SCOPE – Prevention of infection spread through TB among HIV infected persons, implementation of early diagnosis measures of HIV/AIDS infection in people with TB and TB in people with HIV/AIDS. Coverage with ARV and anti-TB treatment of persons co-infected with TB/HIV.

ACTIVITIES

1. Coordination and improved efficacy of the activities of phthysiopneumology, HIV/AIDS, primary and specialized medicine services in the prevention of development of mixed TB/HIV infection. Ensure complex medical assistance of persons co-infected with TB/AIDS.
2. Development of the protocol on prevention measures, diagnosis and treatment and care of co-infection with TB/HIV.
3. Perfecting the surveillance system of co-infection with HIV/TB.
4. Training of medical personnel in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cases of co-infection with TB/HIV.

MAIN EXECUTORS OF THE PROGRAMME

The main executors of the programme are: Government of the Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Youth, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Justice, Public Company «Teleradio-Moldova», local public administration authorities, mass-media, Network of organizations working in the field of HIV/AIDS and TB.

PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

International organizations which provide technical and financial assistance in the field

TASKS OF MINISTRIES, AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS IN THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS AND STIs

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Development of the capacities of the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) in the implementation and monitoring of the National Programme on prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STI. Development, consolidation and ensuring the functionality of technical working groups of the CCM – epidemiological and sentinel surveillance of HIV/AIDS and STIs; education, information and communication (IEC); decrease, minimization of risks and negative consequences in vulnerable groups (with high risk of infection); support, specific ARV treatment, medical and social assistance; monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Consolidation of NGO networks which are working in the field of HIV/AIDS/STI and people living with HIV/AIDS, encourage the dissemination of best practices in HIV/AIDS prevention and provide support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Ensure priority financing, political support of HIV/AIDS activities and earmarking in the state budget of allocations with special destination for the financing of major strategies and activities stipulated in the National Programme and regional plans.

Monitoring of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITIES

Establishment of regional interdepartmental, multi-sectoral committees for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Earmarking in local budgets of allocations with special destination for priority financing of major strategies and activities foreseen in regional plans.

Consolidate the activities of state and non-governmental institutions in the implementation of regional programmes.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Implementation and development of the Strategic Framework for Communication on HIV/AIDS/STIs.

Ensure the functioning of an integrated national system of monitoring the epidemic situation, medical assistance, treatment, including specific ARV treatment, of people living with AIDS and syphilis, execution of prevention activities based on soft generated reports.

Ensure the state epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS/STIs and the implementation of anti-epidemic and prevention measures.

Continuous training of medical personnel in aspects of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Development of standards and protocols with regard to the problems of HIV/AIDS/STI infection „Epidemiological surveillance of second generation HIV infection and anti-epidemic measures”, „Universal precautions and prevention of professional HIV/AIDS among medical workers”, „Care and palliative treatment”, „Diagnosis protocol, treatment and support in co-infection HIV/TB” and pre and post

counseling guide.

Provision of medical assistance to people infected with HIV and people living with AIDS and STIs.

Ensure the safety of blood transfusions, interventions and medical manual labour.

Support, consultation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations working in the field of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Coordination of interdepartmental social support, with the local public administration and non-governmental organizations.

Collaboration with international organizations – World Bank, Global Fund to fight AIDS/TB/Malaria, WHO, SIDA, European Centre for epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS, UN Theme Group in Moldova, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, Soros Foundation Moldova, Peace Corps, USAID, DFID, AIHA etc.

Development and promotion in international organizations of projects for the financial and technical support of activities in the field of HIV/AIDS/STIs.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Establishing and ensuring the functioning of a unique system of life skills training among youth in middle and high schools, professional environment and universities on the basis of Curricula, as well as the development of life skills of youth not enrolled in academic studies on the basis of extracurricular programmes, including peer education and outreach activities.

Organize continuous courses to train teachers on this issue.

Development and publishing of methodical materials for professors, students and parents.

Development of a framework to involve students from the Medical University „Nicolae Testemitanu”, medical colleges and pedagogical universities with faculties that train social workers in voluntary outreach activities among injecting drug users, other vulnerable groups and people living with HIV/AIDS.

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Combat illegal drug trafficking and narco-business.

Train the staff in HIV/AIDS and STIs problems. Introduce this aspect as mandatory in training and hiring programmes of staff under the compartment «Prevention of AIDS, STI and drug addiction ».

Ensure the inoffensive nature of interventions and manual labour in departmental medical institutions.

Undertake prevention work among the general population, including groups with risky behavior.

Ensure control over the compliance with regulations regarding fight against pornography, violence and drug consumption.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Budgeting and provision of financial support of the Programme through allocations with special destination to the Ministry of Health and other ministries for the implementation of activities stipulated in the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STIs.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Informing by means of embassies and consulates, foreign citizens requesting visas for Moldova, regarding basic regulations stipulated in the legislative acts of the Republic of Moldova on HIV/AIDS infection.

Protect the rights and interests of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova which are outside of their home country in aspects of prevention of HIV/AIDS infection.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Expertise of the existing legal framework and bringing it in compliance with international norms in order to guarantee and protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, including those that are deprived of their liberty.

Ensure the development of activities and measures to prevent and control HIV/AIDS and STIs in penitentiary institutions through extending harm reduction programmes and substitution treatment.

Provision of specific treatment, social assistance and palliative care of people with HIV/AIDS deprived of their liberty.

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Development and implementation of educational programmes, provision of support and assistance services for people with HIV/AIDS.

Undertake prevention work in groups with high risk of infection (commercial sex workers, drug users, sexual minorities, etc.).

Organization and training of volunteer groups from among persons infected with HIV/AIDS, drug users and commercial sex workers for undertaking prevention, educational and support work among these vulnerable groups.

Attracting financial resources in the implementation of projects and programmes.

MASS-MEDIA

Development and implementation of programmes and special TV and radio

shows and the publishing of materials in the press to better address HIV/AIDS/STI and drug consumption.

Organize campaigns against discrimination and stigmatization of people with HIV/AIDS.

Promote and make use of non-discriminatory language in HIV/AIDS/STIs.

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FINANCING OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE BUDGET:

1. State (national) budget.
2. Regional level budgets.
3. Financial resources of international organizations: World Bank, Global Fund to Fight AIDS/TB/Malaria, Swedish Agency for International Development, etc.
4. Financial resources of non-governmental organizations.
5. Donations of organizations, institutions and private individuals.
6. Financial resources of organizations, enterprises, various institutions.