HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Moldova:

Trends,
Actions,
Strategy
Challenges

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Area - 33,844 km²
Population - 4.2/3.6 mln.
Trends of the number of performed HIV tests and of the new detected cases of HIV
HIV/AIDS: a public health priority in Moldova

History (1987-2007)
- Detected cases - 4996
- Prevalence rate/ 100,000 – 121.6

High risk areas:
- Balti municipality – 752.9 / 100,000
- Eastern territories (transnistria) - 285.8 /100000
- Chisinau municipality – 124.4 /100000

In 2008:
- 795 new case of HIV (19.3 /100,000
- 343 of them in Eastern territories - 63.9 / 100000
HIV/AIDS stages in Moldova

1987 - 1995: Isolate cases,
   Main Risk groups: Foreign students
   Main route of transmission: Sexual

1996 – 2001 – Geographical expansion
   Main Risk groups: IDUs, SW, MSM
   Main route of transmission: IDU

2002 – so far – All administrative areas affected
   Main Risk groups: General population
   Main route of transmission: Heterosexual
Percentage distribution of new HIV cases by the route of transmission
Republic of Moldova, 1995 - 2008
HIV testing and HIV cases among pregnant women
Detection rate of new HIV cases among blood donors, Republica Moldova, 1998 - 2008

Per 100,000 donations
AIDS burden

During 1989 – 2008 there were registered
- 610 AIDS cases (12,2% of HIV cases)
- 170 AIDS deaths

Most frequent conditions:
- HIV/TB co-infection - 54,1%
- Esofagian candidosis – 38,03%
- Exhausting sindrom – 24%.
ARV treatment: Drugs procurement and treatment application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Cost (US$)</th>
<th>Initiated ARVt</th>
<th>Drop-out</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Continue treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>99432</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>181754</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>289294</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>81</td>
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<td>391014</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>398712</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>360847</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>163</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1.360209</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10.3% of PLHA in Moldova receive ARVt
ARV preventive treatment of HIV positive pregnant women and their newborns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Pregnant women receiving ARVpt</th>
<th>No. of newborns receiving ARVpt</th>
<th>No. of newborns detected HIV+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIV/AIDS Leadership

• The National Conseil for Coordination of national programs on HIV/AIDS and TB prevention and control established and functioning
  – State institutions
  – International institutions,
  – NGOs
  – PLWHS
  – 5 Committees on HIV/AIDS/STDs
  – 1 Committee on HIV/TB.

• Local comissions in each district

• The HIV/AIDS programme monitoring system involves all actors
HIV/AIDS policy development

- Law No. 23-XVI from February 16, 2007 concerning HIV/AIDS prevention
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS for 2006-2010 (Government Decision no. 948 from September 05, 2005)
HIV/AIDS policy development

- The Standart „Epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS” (2007),
- The Standart „Palliative care of patients with HIV/AIDS” (2008),
- National Protocols on health care provision for HIV/AIDS infection (2005),
- Provision of the ARV treatment of patients with HIV/AIDS and active drug users (2005),
- Guidelines on medical examinations for detecting the HIV infection (2007),
- The Concept on Services for Concealment and voluntary testing (2007)
- Guidelines on preventing nosocomial transmission of HIV and organization of post-exposure profilaxis,
- The Ghuide „Infection Control” (2008),
HIV/AIDS Programme support


• Strengthen capacity on:
  – Prevention (incl. high risk groups)
  – ARV treatment
  – Concealing
  – Communication
  – Education
  – Diagnostics
  – Surveillance
  – Supportive treatment and health monitoring of PLHA
HIV/AIDS Programme support:


• Strengthen capacity on:
  – Communication
  – Infection control
  – Training
  – Laboratory diagnostics of HIV and viral hepatitis B and C
HIV/AIDS Programme support:

**UNICEF:**
- Educational programs among youth

**UNAIDS:**
- Strengthening managerial capacity of the National HIV/AIDS program and NGOs
HIV/AIDS control actions

- **Strategic communication** framework established and functioning (NGOs, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, Foundation SIDA EST/VEST)
- **43 harm reduction projects** (injecting drug users, commercial sex workers, men having sex with men, migrants, prisons, truck drivers)
- **47 Conselment and Testing Centers** established and personell trained, assesment of services established
- **Free HIV tests** provided by 16 laboratories, HIV rapid tests available
- **Laboratory capacity for monitoring ARVt** established at the national level
- **HIV/AIDS cases reported** to EuroCDC
- **Sentinel & behavioral studies** implemented among vulnerable groups (IDU, CSW, MSM, people in prisons, Truck drivers)
HIV/AIDS control actions

- **Substitution therapy** promoted (390 persons receiving Methadon)
- **Communication campaigns** conducted targeting general population and vulnerable groups (in Octobre 2008 joined the international „AUTO-RALLY STOP SIDA”)
- **Health Care and assistance provision**
  - HIV cases covered with health insurance by the Govt
  - Specialized in&outpatient departments organized at the national level, in Eastern rayons and in Balti municipality
HIV/AIDS Startegy (2005-2010)

- **Inter-sectorial** public-private coordination
- **Strengthening communication** activities to reach general public, youths, vulnerable groups,
- **Strengthening surveillance** of HIV/AIDS with focus on 2nd generation surveillance
- **Joint state and NGOs** prevention efforts toward reaching vulnerable groups
- **Develop accessible and sustainable services** for vulnerable groups and PLHA
- **Strengthening Conselment and Testing services** toward reaching universal access to those in need
- Extending the capacity for prevention of the **HIV transmission from the mother to child**
- Ensuring **blood safety**
- Establishing and extending care and services for people with **mixt HIV infection**
HIV/AIDS challenges

• Achieve adequate Knowledge & Behavior change to prevent HIV transmission in BOTH Vulnerable Groups & General Population

• **Strengthen the surveillance system** to MATCH the demand for appropriate information to plan, monitor and assess the Needs, Action and the Outcome

• **Reduce stigma** in BOTH professional environment and the society

• **Prioritization of actions** in the deteriorating economical environment, as well as addressing competing priorities

• **Integrate** efforts rather than establish vertical programs