

No. 75/ November 19, 2016

To: Dafina Gercheva,
UN Resident Coordinator and
UNDP Resident Representative in the
Republic of Moldova

Re: Cooperation proposal on HIV related issues

Dear Ms. Gercheva,

On behalf of the NGO “Positive Initiative”, an organization of patients living with or affected by HIV, I would like to use this opportunity to express our greatest appreciation to the United Nations agencies active in the Republic of Moldova. UN contribution to build a democratic society, where the absolute value is the human life, where everyone has equal rights and opportunities is of a great value for the whole country and for us in particular.

The NGO “Positive Initiative” is going through the strategic development and reorganization, aiming to respond to the needs of those whom we serve, taking into consideration the new challenges related to what HIV, TB and Hepatitis is causing, as well as basing our philosophy on the results achieved and value of the services built with the support of various international organizations. This strategy is focused on the following components:

1. The optimization of existing resources through the implementation of integrated approaches according to the principle of “one-stop-shop”;
2. Revision and improvement of drugs procurement mechanisms to enable and ensure accessible and affordable prices (including the possibility of procurement through international organizations);
3. Broadening of access to alternative sources of funding through collaboration with the business sector for the development of social responsibility, as well as the development of sustainable social businesses on the basis of NGOs;
4. Scaling-up access to testing through NGOs using rapid tests (including multi-tests) and access to self-testing.

To reach the first outcome, the NGO “Positive Initiative”, will continue cooperating with relevant ministries and subordinated institutions for the promotion of integrated approaches on the principle “one-stop-shop”. This approach is built on the recognition of expediency, rights, dignity and patient’s interests, as well as of economic benefits as a whole. As a solution of this problem it is planned to create a medical-social center with a full package of services for key populations (medical consultations, blood collection, issuance of ARV drugs, detoxification for people with chemical dependency, pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence, rehabilitation, care, support and palliative care). This kind of medical-social center has already been opened in Poltava city, Ukraine, by an organization providing HIV services. This step was welcomed by

the international donors in Ukraine due to its uniqueness, focus on the needs of the key vulnerable groups and the prospect of high efficiency and sustainability.

Under the second component, we will continue to defend the interests of patients and to insist on reviewing and improving the existing procurement mechanisms in the Republic of Moldova. This work is based on the analyzes of the experience of countries that have implemented the needed reforms of the procurement system and achieving a significant optimization of the resources used and, as a result, expanding access to treatment.

Within the third direction of work, to increase access to alternative sources of funding for HIV-service programs, NGO "Positive Initiative", based on the experience acquired in the mobilization of the business sector in the framework of the campaign "Good things are colored", we will continue our efforts to increase the number of partnerships with business companies. NGO "Positive Initiative" intends multiplying this experience to other regions of the Republic of Moldova, through capacity building for NGOs active in the field. In order to achieve this goal, it is also planned to develop a social business based on Therapeutic Community, which has a rehabilitation program for people who abused psychoactive substances. The main idea of this social business is to develop an eco-farm and ecotourism, which will be based on the protection of the environment and use of new technologies and alternative sources of energy. It is aimed also at creating jobs for key vulnerable groups, as well as to partially cover the costs associated with the program activities of the organization, thus ensuring its sustainability. On a medium term, this will serve as a social business platform for the creation of a resource center.

As part of the fourth direction of work, taking into account the existing high level of discrimination in society, as well as difficult HIV testing algorithm, we will continue implementing communication campaigns aimed at raising awareness and reducing discrimination in the society. We will work with business companies, to increase their interest in creating the conditions that allow their employees to have both the motivation and the opportunity to undergo an HIV test. We will continue lobbying for the use of blood rapid tests in order to optimize and rationalize the use of resources and to expand the coverage of testing by HIV service organizations.

To realize all those objectives and plans, we are looking for programmatic cooperation, resource mobilization and implementation based on the advanced international experience and expertise.

Given the United Nations wisdom, capacities, possibilities we would like to kindly request to look for the opportunities to cooperate and work together with us within the existing or eventual new projects in order to achieve the proposed goals and objectives, which will definitely improve the quality of life of those most vulnerable and left behind.

Yours faithfully,

Ruslan Poverga
Chairman of the Board

