2022

Access to HIV treatment and related services for Ukrainian refugees in receiving countries

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Abbreviation and acronyms

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ART (ARVT)	Antiretroviral treatment
CD4	CD4 cell count
GP	General practitioner
GF	The Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HepC	Hepatitis C Virus
MoH	Ministry of health
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OST	Opioid substitution therapy
PLHIV	People living with HIV
TB	Tuberculosis
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive summary

Based on the results of the research, the approximate total number of Ukrainian refugees living with HIV who approached regarding receiving antiretroviral treatment in 32 countries doesn't exceed 3000 people (as of the beginning of May). According to the information provided by the activists assisting in accessing ARVT, many Ukrainian refugees brought their treatment from Ukraine (for up to 6 months) – therefore, the number of treatment requests might sufficiently increase with time. At the same time, it is problematic to track the situation in countries with the federal structure as the services are not centralized and there's a poor information exchenge between lands/regions, so aggregated data per country on the number of Ukrainian refugees in need of ARVT is not available. Unfortunately, self-stigmatization also remains an issue as people are afraid of having their HIV-positive status being disclosed which, as they assume, might create problems for their legal status in the receiving country.

On the positive side, in most countries the community is highly mobilized to face challenges and ensure needs of Ukrainian patients supporting them in accessing necessary services. Mostly, all kinds of treatment are ensured by governments and can be accessed free of charge and only a few countries have reported concerns regarding possible shortages of medicines or other critical issues in ensuring access to HIV or OST for Ukrainian refugees.

The main problems in regard to access to HIV treatment were reported in Turkey, where free-of-charge treatment form the state is not available for Ukrainian refugees, as they are not provided with the temporary protection or any other similar legal status in the country. For those who are staying and Turkey, free-of-charge treatment is available only through one of the local NGOs, but it is provided only for 3 months. In Georgia, despite ARVT is provided free of charge, preliminary testing (without which a person cannot get an ARVT prescription) is carried out on the paid basis.

Also, in the number of countries (e.g. Bulgaria, France) – people who arrived before 24 of February, don't have temporary protection status and, therefore, need to pay for treatment out of pocket. In addition, due to quite problematic situation with ARVT in Bulgaria even when it comes to covering the local need, there are concerns related to the possibility of stock-outs – therefore, advocacy actions might be needed there. Besides, even those countries who are not reporting about any current barriers have concerns in regard to the price of treatment and possible burden on state's budgets in case the number of refugees in need of ARVT increases, as they cannot procure generic versions of medicines and the prices for original drugs, which Ukrainians living with HIV have been using are high. Therefore, some countries set the cap number of people who can receive ARVT free of charge. Yes, in Armenia the government can provide only the limited number of refugees who with free-of-charge treatment — 15 persons, however, as of May 2022 there hasn't been any issues as no refugees have approached community organizations regarding ARVT.

Another concern is related to the fact that in some western European countries, patients are being advised to change the treatment scheme, Netherlands have also reported cases when refugees were offered to use innovative drugs (which are currently in trial) which might lead to issues with continuation of their treatment in case they come back to Ukraine, however, patients are being warned about all risks in this regard before making their choice.

More issues have been reported in regard to access to OST. In Armenia OST is available only on the paid basis. Also, there are issues with access to buprenorphine in a number of countries: it is not available at all in Bulgaria, Egypt, Romania and can be received only on the paid basis in Estonia, Latvia, Hungary. Also, there some technical barriers that complicate access to OST in some countries. In Germany there's a limited number of OST patients, and it is necessary to get an approval from the Medical Officers Union to increase this number for new patients (however, this is possible to do). In Poland, despite OST is provided free of charge (both: methadone and buprenorphine), some programs (in Poznan, Zielona Gora and Kostrzyn) have a limited number of places and a long queue, which takes several months to wait for treatment. Also, there is a requirement of having a Pesel number to get OST, which makes access more complicated and time-consuming.

And yet, one of the main obstacles in accessing healthcare services remains the language barrier – in many countries there are no centralized translation/ interpretation services Ukrainian refugees may use when they come to the facilities. Also, lack of information in Ukrainian, Russian or sometimes even English languages on internet about HIV treatment in some countries sufficiently complicates situation.

Methodology and purpose of the study

According to UNHCR data 6,595,675 Ukrainians fled Ukraine as of May 23, 2022 due to the full-scale war waged by russian federation[1]. Based on WHO's estimations, approximately 1% of those refugees might have HIV-positive status and are in need of antiretroviral treatment. This number is significant and may create a serious burden for the countries receiving Ukrainian war refugees. Simultaneously, failure to provide people living with HIV, who left Ukraine, with antiretroviral treatment might lead to appalling crisis in health care field.

Therefore, Health Advocacy Coalition with the support of UNAIDS has launched a study aimed at identifying existing and expected issues in access to HIV treatment and related services for Ukrainian refugees in 32 receiving countries: Austria, Armenia, Belgium, Cyprus, Croatia, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Serbia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland.

The study has been conducted in accordance with the best community led monitoring practices to definine countries' capacity to provide refugees with antiretroviral treatment and medical services, existing or potential barriers to receiving treatment and medical care, identify current demand from Ukrainian refugees for HIV treatment, as well as insure mapping of organizations and institutions who provide services or support in receiving HIV treatment, opioid substitution treatment, harm reduction and social care services.

The questionnaire was elaborated and disseminated among different organizations and health care institutions in 32 countries specified above. The information was collected from community organizations and public institutions (over 50 information providers altogether), as well as the information available in open access (AIDSmap, European Harm Reduction Association, Euroguidelines in Central and Eastern Europe resources) was analyzed and systematized.

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1%

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1 https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine

AUSTRIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Once a person is registered by the State (gets temporary protection), they get an insurance card by the Austrian Federal level and have free access to the Austrian Health system. Then they can get a prescription either at a clinic or a general practitioner (clinics are more likely to have translation). Clinics/doctor decide which information they need for such prescription on case-by-case basis (whether it's enough to provide the medical documentation with prescription from Ukrainian doctor or if the person should pass respective tests). Then, the ART is provided at the pharmacies.
If the person is unregistered or has to wait for the insurance card (which means uninsured), the Aids Hilfen (community organizations, (https://www.aidshilfen.at/die-aidshilfen/) provide support to get a prescription without insurance as well as any other assistance.
Insured people can easily access monitoring services (CD4, viral load testing) at clinics. Those who don't have their insurance yet can get support from Aids Hilfen.

Translation services may be available at clinics. Also, Aids Hilfen have telephone translators for Ukrainian and Russian Language for help.

Current demand and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the end of March more than 20 persons have approached Aids Hilfen regarding ART treatment (however, only in Vienna). Some of them have also communicated their need for phycological support (Aids Hilfen can assist on this matter as well).

At the moment, there is no cap number of refugees that the country can cover with ART. Treatment is provided on both levels: from the state (procured at the expense of the state budget funds), and from community organizations (this part is covered by donors).

If the person has medical insurance all healthcare services are provided free of charge.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

No foreseeable issues have been communicated. The only complication Ukrainian refugees might face is the lack of insurance card (if they are not registered by the state) — however, community organizations are providing support in this case.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Wien/Vienna (supporting also Niederösterreich/Lower Austria and Burgenland): Aids Hilfe Wien, Vienna, Mariahilfer Gürtel 4, 1060 Wien https://aids.at/

Oberöstereich, Upper Austria: Aidshilfe Oberösterreich, Blütenstraße 15/2, 4040 Linz https://www.aidshilfe-ooe.at/, Clinic: https://www.kepleruniklinikum.at/versorgung/kliniken/dermatologie-und-venerologie/ambulanzen/

Salzburg: Aidshilfe Salzburg Innsbrucker Bundesstraße 47, 5020 Salzburg https://www.aidshilfe-salzburg.at/ Clinic: Landeskrankenanstalten Salzburg 3. Medizin, Kontaktperson: Priv.-Doz. Dr. Alexander Egle, Müllner Hauptstraße 48, 5020 Salzburg

Tirol/Tyrol: Aidshilfe Tirol, Kaiser-Josef-Straße 13, 6020 Innsbruck, https://www.aidshilfe-tirol.at Clinic in Tyrol: https://dermatologie.tirol-kliniken.at/page.cfm?vpath=angebot-der-klinik/ambulanzen

Vorarlberg: Aidshilfe Vorarlberg, Kaspar-Hagen-Straße 5, 6900 Bregenz, https://aidshilfe-vorarlberg.at/ Clinic: Landeskrankenhaus Feldkirch, Innere Medizin II: Onkologie, Hämatologie, Gastroenterologie, Infektiologie, Carinagasse 47, 6807 Feldkirch Tel: 05522 – 303 2694, www.landeskrankenhaus.at

Kärnten/Carinthia: Aidshilfe Kärnten, Bahnhofstraße 22, 9020 Klagenfurt, https://hiv.at/ Clinic: Klinikum Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, Abteilung für innere Medizin und Onkologie Feschingstraße 11, 9026 Klagenfurt

Steiermark/Styria: Aidshilfe Steiermark, Hans-Sachs-Gasse 3 8010 Graz Clinic: LKH Graz Süd-West, Standort West, Abteilung für Innere Medizin, Spezialambulanz, Göstingerstraße 228020 Graz

CLINICS SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH HIV CAN BE FOUND HERE:

https://aids.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/HIV-Behandlungszentren-_-deutsch-englisch-ukrainisch.pdf

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Suchthilfe Wien gGmbH (https://www.suchthilfe.wien/1/2022/03/21/infos-fuer-gefluechtete/)

SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Caritas (https://www.caritas.at/)
Diakonie (https://www.diakonie.at/)
Volkshilfe (https://www.volkshilfe.at/)
Aids Hilfen (https://www.aidshilfen.at/die-aidshilfen/)

ARMENIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment and related services

HIV-related services in Armenia are centralized in Yerevan. Everyone, regardless of his/her citizenship, must pass HIV testing, be diagnosed in National Center of Infectious Diseases (NCID), then can receive ARV treatment prescription. In order to get the prescription a person should visit NCID 2-3 times.

If a person has a foreign citizenship, he/she must submit a request letter to the Ministry of Health, presenting a document confirming the presence of HIV infection, an identity document/passport, to get access to treatment. He/she may write the letter himself/herself or organizations providing care and support may provide assistance. The Ministry of health provides a reply within 3-5 working days. Usually, they accept the request and the patient goes to NCID and can get their prescription and treatment free of charge.

Once a patient disregarding his/her citizenship is linked to the treatment, monitoring of treatment is conducted due to protocol: CD4, viral load testing once a year.

Real World Real People NGO is providing care and support to PLHIV. The main office is located in Yerevan, but organization provides services all over Armenia. Organization is also delivering ARV all over the Armenia and abroad.

In general, Armenians speak Russian and especially in health care institutions there is no need of Russian interpreters. However, they do not speak Ukrainian and Ukrainian interpreters are not available at the facilities.

Current demand and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By 01.05.2022 no Ukrainian refugees living with HIV approached Armenian community organizations in regard to receiving HIV treatment.

According to the discussions which were held with NCID and MOH at the end of February, free of charge ARV treatment is available for 10-15 people.

HEP C treatment is available. For international citizens it is available on paid basis. TB treatment is available for everybody free of charge. OST is available on paid basis.

OST programme on paid basis is available only in three regions for everyone disregarding citizenship: Yerevan, Lori, Shirak. It is also available in penitentiary institution. The cost for a month treatment is 50 000 AMD in Yerevan and Shirak, 55000 AMD in Lori (1 USD=480 AMD).

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

As no Ukrainian refugees have approached regarding receiving treatment it is difficult to analyze existing barriers. The problem is that the process of submitting an application to the Ministry of Health to get registered as a patient might be not clear. Also, unavailability of free of charge hepatitis treatment and OST might be a barrier.

Contacts:

NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES (ARV TREATMENT)

Webpage: https://ncid.am/
Facebook profile: https://www.facebook.com/avaninfectionnew

SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Positive People Armenian Network
WEB page: https://www.aidsactioneurope.org/en/organisation/positive-people-armenian-network
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PositivePeopleArmenianNetwork

Real World, Real People NGO
WEB page: www.realwrp.org
Link to social network profiles:
https://www.facebook.com/realwrp
https://www.instagram.com/realworld_realpeople/

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT:

In Yerevan: National Center for Addiction Treatment
Website: https://ncat.am/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Addictions.Treatment.Arm

In Lori: MARZ PSYCHONEUROLOGIC DISPENSARY
Reception:+374-322-24163

In Gyumri: GYUMRI MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
Address: Armenia, Shirak Marz, Gyumri, Gharsi Highway, 2a Building
Director:
+374-312-50428
Psychiatric Department:
+374-312-56830

BELGIUM

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

To get free medical care a person should get a temporary protection certificate and then register with a sickness fund (the list of sickness funds is available by the link: https://www.riziv.fgov.be/nl/professionals/andere-professionals/ziekenfonds/Paginas/contacteer-ziekenfondsen.aspx).
ARVT is provided by HIV reference centers. Once a person is registered with a sickness fund, they can consult a general practitioner, or go straight to one of the HIV referrence centers. It is better to have a medical record from Ukraine, otherwise a person needs to get tested again to get their ARVT prescription (viral load, CD4 levels and the immune system checkup). An HIV reference center is often a department in a hospital. Doctors work together with (social) nurses, social workers, therapy counselors, psychologists, sexologists, nutritionists.
Interpreters aren't available at all sites.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

The reported number of Ukrainian refugees who have approached for HIV treatment is insufficient – 8 people by the end of April. However, due to federal structure it is difficult to estimate exact demand for such services — people are contacting NGOs, reference centers directly or are being redirected to the sites by Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers.
At the moment no issues in state's capacity to provide refugees by treatment have been identified.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

The main barrier is lack of interpreters at the sites (and in NGOs) as well as insufficient amount of information on the internet available even in English — mostly all clinics' and NGO's websites are available only in French or Dutch which makes navigation really complicated.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN ACCESSING HIV TREATMENT:

AIDS Prevention Platform (Brussels)
Website: www.preventionsida.org
E-mail: info@preventionsida.org
Phone number: 02 733 72 99
Address: Place de la Vieille Halle aux Blés, 29, 1000, Bruxelles

Exaequo asbl (Brussels, Wallonia)
Website: www.exaequo.be
E-mail: info@exaequo.be, prep@exaequo.be
Phone number: +32 2 736 28 61
Address: Rue des Pierres, 29, 1000, Bruxelles

Sensoa vzw (Dutch speaking part of Belgium)
Website: https://www.sensoa.be
E-mail: info@sensoa.be
Phone number: 03 238 68 68
Address: F. Rooseveltplaats 12 bus 7 / 2060, Antwerpen

HIV REFERENCE CENTERS BY CITIES:

Polyclinique de Louvain-la-Neuve:
Jean-Christophe Marot: jean-christophe.marot@cspo.be

Charleroi (CHU Marie Curie):
Elodie Goudeseune: elodie.goudeseune@chu-charleroi.be
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Antwerp:
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Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp
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ZNA Campus Stuivenberg
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Wilrijk University Hospital Antwerp
Phone: 23 3 821 51 59; 32 3 821 34 66;
32 3 821 51 10 or 32 3 821 30 00

Ghent University Hospital Ghent
Phone: 09 332 21 11 or 09 332 91 11

ZNA Campus Middelheim
Phone: 03 280 30 03 or 03 280 31 11

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Modus Vivendi
Website: https://www.modusvivendi-be.org
E-mail: modus@modusvivendi-be.org
Phone number: +32 2 644 22 00
Address: Rue Jourdan, 151 - 1060 Saint-Gilles

Brussels:
Francois PONCIN francois.poncin@stpierre-bru.be
Lise MEUNIER lise.meunier@stpierre-bru.be

BULGARIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

People, who have temporary protection in Bulgaria qualify for HIV treatment on free of charge basis under the conditions and by the order for the Bulgarian citizens.
A person needs to pass blood tests (CD4) at the National reference confirmatory laboratory of HIV (in Sophia), or in other testing centers or labs — but it takes longer to get the test results in the regions (around 2 weeks). After the confirmation, the lab issues a certificate to the patient, according to which the patient can go to one of five clinics that provide HIV treatment (infectious disease clinics with HIV units). They need to provide the certificate and proof of their legal status. At that appointment the patient goes through additional blood testing – on bacteria, parasites, hepatitis, tuberculosis, biochemistry, hematology etc. When those results come out, the patient receives their prescription and can get their treatment.

A person needs to go to the clinic every month to get prescription and medicines. NGOs provide ART delivery services on the paid basis – in this case a person will need to visit a clinic only each 4-6 months for testing.

Interpreters aren't available at the sites. In some clinics there might be Russian-speaking doctors, however, people in NGOs mostly do not speak nor Ukrainian, nor Russian – however, services in Russian language are available in Checkpoint Sofia (NGO).

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

30 Ukrainians have requested HIV treatment in Bulgaria as at the end of March.
There are supplies of medications available from producers but due to the quarterly planning of ART supply there is a risk of stock outs. It is necessary to ensure a buffer in order to avoid stockouts. HIV treatment is procured only by state under the state budget and NGO cannot assist here.
TB and HepC treatment is available and provided free of charge.
As for opioid substitution therapy, only methadone is available in Bulgaria.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

People who arrived to Bulgaria before 24 of February don't have temporary protection status and, therefore, don't have access to free treatment, and need to pay for it.
There is insufficient number of medicines to cover additional patients, clinics have applied for a donation from producers, however, they are not in the place to ask for the donation – it should be government who takes the lead in this process. NGO cannot cover this need as they are not allowed to procure or provide medicines.
There were cases when the pills were borrowed from local patients in order not to let people drop out of treatment.
Also, in regard to opioid substitution treatment, buprenorphine isn't available in the country.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING IN ACCESSING HIV TREATMENT:

Single Step Foundation
e-mails: info@singlestep.bg; momchil@singlestep.bg

CheckPoint Sofia
info@checkpointsofia.info

HIV TESTING LABS:

National reference confirmatory laboratory of HIV
Address: Stoletov Blvd. 44A, Sofia 1233
e-mail: hiv.lab@ncipd.org
Phone: 029 313 818; 029 313 817

Regional Health Inspection Blagoevgrad
Phone: 073/ 887 690
Address: ul. "Bratya Miladinovi" 22700 Blagoevgrad Center, Blagoevgrad

Regional Health Inspection Burgas
Phone: 056/ 807 102
Address:ul. "Aleksandrovska" 120, floor 1. 8000 Burgas Center, Burgas

Regional Health Inspection Varna
Phone: 052/ 665 271; 052/ 665 225; 052/ 665 228; 052/ 665 252
Address: ul. "Bregalnitsa" 3, floor 5, room 501

Regional Health Inspection Veliko Tarnovo
Phone: 062/ 614 342; 062/ 614358; 062/ 614305
Address: bul. "Nikola Gabrovski" 23, room 504

Regional Health Inspection Vratsa
Phone: 0879 144 799
Address: ul. "Cherni Drin" 2

Regional Health Inspection Dobrich
Phone: 058/ 604 613; 0879 498 680; 0876 481 298; 0888 755 069
Address: ul. "Sveti Sveti Kiril I Metodiy" 57

Regional Health Inspection Pleven
Phone: 064/ 82 37 59; 0879 398 004
Address: ul. "Knyaz Alexander Batenberg" 7

Regional Health Inspection Plovdiv
Phone:032/64 34 36; 0882 02 18 67
Address: ul. "Perushtitsa" 1, South wing, floor 1

Regional Health Inspection Ruse
Phone: 0882 609 376
Address: bul. "Pridunavski" 68

Regional Health Inspection Stara Zagora
Phone: 0882 553 567; 0884 900 649; 0899 028 501
Address: ul. "Stefan Karadzha" 10, floor. I, room 116

Regional Health Inspection Sofia
Phone: 02/ 813 04 81
Address: ul. "Vranya" 20, floor 5, room 520

Regional Health Inspection Haskovo
Phone: 038/ 603 237; 0879 140 265
Address: pl. "Obshtinski" 2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CLINICS WITH HIV DEPARTMENTS:

Specialised Hospital "Professor Ivan Kirov"
Address: Boulevard "Akademik Ivan Evstratiev Geshov " 17, 1431 Sofia Center, **Sofia**

University Hospital "St George" JSC
Address: bulevard "Peshtersko Shose" 66, 4001 Western Industrial Zone, **Plovdiv**

University Hospital “St. Marina”
Address: bul. “Hristo Smirnenski” 1,
9010 **Varna**

University Hospital “Dr. Georgi Stranski “
Address: bul. Georgi Kochev 8A, 5809
Pleven Center, **Pleven**

Hospital “Professor Doctor Stoyan Kirkovich”
Address:ul. “General Stoletov”Stara Zagora Centre, **Stara Zagora**

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY:

Mental Health and Addiction Prevention Directorate
Telephone: 3592 8056 257
e-mails: raicheva@ncpha.government.bg; tzv.raicheva@ncpha.government.bg

SOCIAL CARE SERVICES:

СУОБ «Мати Україна»
Website: https://www.motherukraine-bg.org/request-help

CROATIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Ukrainian refugees get free access to all health services in Croatia. They can choose a GP (or be assigned one) and receive any necessary treatment, including OST.

HIV treatment is centralised in Croatia. It is only provided at the University Hospital for Infectious Diseases "Dr. Fran Mihaljević" (Zagreb). Patients receive ARVT at the hospital's pharmacy and all treatment regarding HIV is provided at outpatient clinic at the hospital.

As for ARVT prescription, most of Ukrainian refugees don't have their medical records, so always a rapid test and further blood testing is done on the day when they come for ARVT. After this, they get their prescription and receive the treatment for 30 days and need to undergo monthly check-ups.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the end of April only about 10 Ukrainian refugees have approached regarding receiving ARVT, while officially there are 16.050 refugees from Ukraine in Croatia – so the number of treatment requests is expected to increase in future. Most of the people, who came for ARVT, had pills with them when they came to Croatia (some had their medications up for 12 months).
Most of Ukrainian refugees use treatment regimens which are not available in Croatia, so they are switched to similar combination. Currently the state covers the need in ARVT, but the situation needs to be tracked while the number of people who request treatment will be increasing.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

The main issue is lack of interpreters at the healthcare facilities. Doctors manage to communicate with patients, either by using google translate or other creative means. If the number of Ukrainian refugees seeking for HIV treatment keeps increasing, assistance with translation would be helpful to increase quality of care.

Contacts:

University Hospital for Infectious Diseases "Dr. Fran Mihaljević" (ARVT site):
Website: https://bfm.hr/referentni-centar-za-dijagnostiku-i-lijecenje-zaraze-hiv-om/
Address: Mirogojska cesta 8, 10000, Zagreb
Phone numbers: +385 1 2826 222; +385 1 4678-235
e-mail: bfm@bfm.hr

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT:

ISKORAK
e-mail: info@iskorak.hr
Phone number: +385 91 2444 666

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES: NATIONAL OFFICE FOR DRUGS

Website: https://drogeiovisnosti.gov.hr
Address: Sv. Preobraženja 4/II, 10 000 **Zagreb**
Phone number: 01 4878 122
E-mail: szd@hzjz.hr

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN ACCESSING OST:

LET/FLIGHT (Zagreb)
Website: https://udruga-let.hr
Phone number: +385 (0)1 5803726
E-mail: let@udruga-let.hr
Address: Ratarska 7, Zagreb

Association Terra (Rijeka)
Website: https://www.udrugaterra.hr/en/
Phone number: +385 51 337 400
E-mail: info@udrugaterra.hr
Address: Krešimirova 12, 51000 Rijeka

DROP IN & NEEDLE EXCHANGE CENTER
Address: Uski prolaz 11, 51000 Rijeka
E-mail: dropin@udrugaterra.hr

THE COUNSELING CENTER GEA
Address: Krešimirova 12, 51000 Rijeka

Udruga Institut Pula
Website: http://www.udruga-institut.hr
Phone number: 052 222502
E-mail: institut.lungomare@gmail.com
Address: Dobricheva 32, 52100 Pula

Help Association (Split)
Website: https://helponline.hr
Phone number: 021 346 664
Address: Šetalište Bačvice 10, Split

SOCIAL CARE SERVICES:

Croatian Red Cross
Website: https://www.hck.hr
Phone number: +385 1 4655 814
E-mail: redcross@hck.hr
Address: Ulica Crvenog križa 14, P. P. 93, 10 001 Zagreb
Savska cesta 89d, Jelkovec, 10 360 Sesvete

CYPRUS

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Ukrainian refugees can receive antiretroviral treatment as well as other healthcare services free of charge once they obtained temporary protection. There is only one HIV clinic in Larnaka, ARVT is provided at its pharmacy. In order to get access to HIV treatment, a person needs to get registered at the hospital in Nicosia (NGOs can accompany them), where they go through testing and receive a code, and after that they can go to the clinic in Larnaka to pick up the medication. ARVT is provided for two months. If a person doesn't want or has no opportunity to go to Larnaka and doesn't need a routine checkup, local NGOs can assist with the delivery of medicines.

There are Ukrainian speaking volunteers who assist local NGOs in dealing with Ukrainian patients.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the end of April only one Ukrainian refugee has contacted community organizations in Cyprus regarding treatment – however it was hepatitis, no patients with HIV have approached regarding ARVT by that date. Also, one person has contacted a local NGO through social media asking regarding the access to HIV treatment, however, hasn't come back to them to receive it.

HIV treatment procurement is covered solely by state budget funds. There is no official cap number of people, healthcare facilities are open to provide services and ready to accept refugees as they don't expect a high number of refugees with HIV. In case the number sufficiently increases, some advocacy on access to medicines will be needed.

As for OST, there are five programs in Cyprus — one in every district. The main substance is suboxone. OST is supervised by the Cyprus national addiction authority. Information in more details is available by the link: https://pxlfy.me/0RbBea.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

No serious issues have been reported so far. There are some complications in the Northern part of Cyprus, however, NGOs are coordinating their activities.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT AND OST:

AIDS Solidarity Movement
Website: http://asmcyprus.org/asm/AIDS_Solidarity_Movement_en.html
Facebook : https://web.facebook.com/asmcyprus, https://web.facebook.com/cycheckpoint

E-mails: christos@asmCyprus.org, zoe@asmCyprus.org
Phone number: +357 9943 6188

HIV CLINICS:

Nicosia General Hospital (the first to approach for testing and receiving the code)
Website: https://shso.org.cy/en/hospital/geniko-nosokomeio-lefkosias/
Phone number: 22603000
Address: Nicosia-Limassol Old Road 215, 2029 Strovolos, **Nicosia**, Cyprus

Gregorios Clinic, Larnaca General Hospital, 6th floor
Phone number: +357 2480 0466
Address: Pandoras, **Larnaca** 6301

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Full information with contacts and about inclusion criteria is available by the link: https://pxlfy.me/0RbBea.

CZECH REPUBLIC

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

All Ukrainians who received temporary protection in Czech Republic are automatically covered by national health insurance and have access to all medical services free of charge, including ARVT and OST. ART is available only via HIV centers (8 in the whole country). All new patients undergo an initial full blood testing like Czech patients. If the patient has a medical record from Ukraine, it helps to give them an ARVT prescription. Otherwise, they are suggested to show at least the box of ART the patient is on to the doctor.

Treatment is totally covered by the government under the national health insurance system.
For those who do not have access to national health insurance (people who came prior to the beginning of the war), Czech AIDS Help (local NGO) in cooperation with pharma companies provides access to ARVT (also free of charge).

HIV centers have enough capacity to admit new patients, even on a short notice. Translation is available: HIV centers can call central government hotline that provides free of charge translation or AIDS Help can arrange identical service upon a refugee's request (they make a reservation at HIV center on his/her behalf, accompany the patient to the center and arrange for translation (either in person or on the phone).

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the beginning of April there have been approximately 100 Ukrainian refugees in care (HIV treatment). Patients have also communicated their need regarding TB treatment (2 people), and OST (3 people). All types of TB treatment and OST are available.

According to the results of the working groups discussions on the access to treatment for Ukrainian refugees, the state can completely cover extra need and no issues in this regard are foreseen.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

No reported issues or barriers so far. However, most native PLHIV in Czech Republic are men who have sex with men, while Ukrainian refugees living with HIV are mostly women – therefore it might be needed to reorder service infrastructure to adapt it to women's needs – e.g. additional gynecologists etc.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT (AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES FOR PLHIV):

The Czech AIDS Help Society
Website: https://www.aids-pomoc.cz/52-.html
Phone number: 00420 724 032 678 (Robert)
E-mail: robert.hejzak@aids-pomoc.cz
Address: Malého 282/3, 186 00 Praha 8 - Karlín

HIV CENTERS:

Clinic of infectious diseases, University Hospital Bulovka
Phone number: +420 266 082 629, +420 266 082 772,
E-mail: hiv@bulovka.cz
Address: Budínova 2, (building 7, 2nd floor), Praha 8

Infectious clinic Military Hospital (Střešovice),
Phone number +420 973 208 255
E-mail: hiv@uvn.cz
Address: U Vojenské nemocnice 1200, Praha 6

Hospital České Budějovice
Phone number: +420 387 874 656
E-mail: infekcni@nemcb.cz
Address: B. Němcové 54, České Budějovice

University hospital Pilsen (Infectious clinic)
Phone number: +420 377 402 546
E-mail: polivkovad@fnplzen.cz
Address: Dr. E. Beneše 13, Plzeň - Bory

Infectious Clinic Masarykova nemocnice Ústí nad Labem,
Phone number: +420 477 112 609, +420 477 112 621
Address: Na Kabátě 285, Ústí nad Labem

Infectious clinic Faculty Hospital Hradec Králové
Phone number: +420 495 832 329, +420 495 832 220, +420 495 833 773
Address: Sokolská 581, Hradec Králové

Clinic of Infectious Diseases Faculty Hospital Brno
Phone number: +420 532 233 879, +420 532 232 017, +420 532 232 267, +420 532 232 032
Address: Jihlavská 20, Brno

Clinic of Infectious Diseases Faculty Hospital Ostrava
Phone number: +420 597 374 272, +420 597 374 281
Address: 17. listopadu 1790, Ostrava-Poruba

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

SANANIM
Website: http://www.sananim.cz/o-nas-1/kontaktni-centrum-kc.html
Phone number: 605 240 501
E-mail: kacko@sananim.cz
Address: Na Skalce 819/15, 150 00 - Praha 5

Drop IN
Website: https://www.dropin.cz/nizkoprahove-stredisko-drop-in-o-p-s/
Phone number: +420 222 221 124
E-mail: stredisko@dropin.cz
Address: Karolíny Světlé 286/18, 110 00 Praha - 1 Staré Město

Společnost Podané ruce
Website: https://podaneruce.cz/centra-sluzby/terenni-programy-v-brne/
Phone number: +420 545 247 535
E-mail: info@podaneruce.cz
Address: Hilleho 1842/5, Černá Pole, 602 00 Brno

MAP OF AID

(contacts and addresses of facilities providing services, counselling and prevention activities)

Website: https://www.drogy-info.cz/en/map-of-aid/
Phone number: 800 35 00 00
E-mail: poradte@chciodvykat.cz

DENMARK

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

There is informational material on accessing health care services in Denmark developed by Danish Health Authorities services in Denmark. The PDF version of the brochure regarding access to HIV treatment can be found here: https://www.sst.dk/-/media/Udgivelser/2022/Beredskab/Pjece_Dig-og-din-sundhed_EN.ashx.

When a person has a residence permit and a place of residence in Denmark, they are entitled to free treatment in most of the healthcare system. When one is granted a residence permit in Denmark, they receive a health insurance card from the municipality and get a doctor. The health insurance card contains the contact details of the doctor. If the person needs a prescription for ARVT, they should book an appointment with their doctor – there they will get a referral to go through necessary medical checkup, and can get their prescription.

Translation is available – a person should inform the doctor while booking the meeting and the doctor will arrange an interpreter.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

The Capital Region of Denmark has partnered up with the General Practitioners' Organisation (PLO) to establish four advanced medical clinics that will focus solely on treating Ukrainian refugees. These clinics are staffed with general practitioners, doctors from Bispebjerg Hospital, and nurses from the Capital Region of Denmark's vaccine organisation. There, refugees can benefit from various healthcare services, such as the renewal of prescription drugs for chronic illnesses, wound care, and treatment of pregnant women. Moreover, medical staff can also administer vaccines, including the COVID jab.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

Until 13 of April, Ukrainian refugees did not have access to most healthcare services, as they could only receive emergency medical care. On 13 April, the Ministry of Health issued a new order, making it possible for those who have fled Ukraine to be treated by a GP while their application is being processed.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES:

Aidsfondet
Website: https://www.aidsfondet.dk/ (scroll the page for information in Ukrainian)
Phone: +45 33 91 11 19 (Monday – Friday, 10am – 2pm), only English
E-mail: INFO@AIDSFONDET.DK

Danish Red Cross
Website: https://en.rodekors.dk
Phone number: 3529 9660
(Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm)

EGYPT

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

HIV treatment is available to Ukrainians through the governmental facilities/care centers of the Ministry of Health. There are care centers in all the 27 governorates supported by National Aids Program (NAP), infectious disease hospitals in addition to some Drug rehabilitation centers under the Ministry of Health.

A new patient should get registered at the NAP (the official governmental body responsible for HIV/AIDS prevention). In order to get a prescription, it is enough to provide information from the old medical records (Ukrainian prescription) – even by phone or email. Additional testing to confirm HIV is available if requested.

Almost all clinics have providers able to speak English, in case of necessity they use translation applications.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

A few people have already asked for ARVT and are linked to facilities in the country. Egypt has the capacity to deal with different key groups among refugees and migrants.

There is no limit to the number of people that can get necessary care.

By the end of May, Egypt is about to receive the first shipment of methadone - the provision of OST will be organized through mental health addiction hospitals. Harm reduction services are also available through civil society organizations working in HIV field, as well as through governmental centers and facilities.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

Due to complexity of finding ARVT sites and being linked to healthcare facilities due to unavailability of information in English or Ukrainian, it is better to contact civil organizations assisting in access to treatment.

As for OST, only methadone will be available.

Contacts:

UNAIDS Egypt — responsible for coordination of treatment for foreigners
Phone number: +2-02-2526-4710
E-mail: ibrahimw@unaids.org

ESTONIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

All Ukrainian refugees can receive ARVT in Estonia free of charge regardless of whether they have health insurance or not. HIV treatment services are available at specialized clinic's departments. In order to get a prescription, a person should undergo testing. It is helpful if a person has their medical records and home prescription – it will be considered by the doctor.

Mostly all doctors speak Russian and/or English – therefore there are no language barriers at the sites.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the mid-April 6 persons have applied for antiretroviral treatment. There is no cap number of refugees that can be covered by state. Clinics have enough capacity to work with new clients.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

There are no barriers in regards to ARVT, however, when it comes to opioid substitution therapy, only methadone is available on the free of charge basis, while buprenorphine-based substitution therapy (*Subutex, Suboxone)* must be paid for.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT AND OST:

Estonian Network of People Living with HIV (also social care services)
Website: https://ehpv.ee/?lang=en
Phone number: +372 5870 6070
E-mail: ehpv@ehpv.ee

Addresses:
Tallinn, Rävala pst 8-1014
Jõhvi, — Jõhvi, Rakvere tn 4
Narva, Linda 4 (endine „Baltijets“), 6th floor

HIV CLINICS:

West Tallinn Central Hospital
Phone number: (+372) 659 8594
Address: Paldiski mnt. 62, Tallinn
Working hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-15:00

University of Tartu Clinic
Phone number: (+372) 731 8608
Address: Puusepa 8a, Tartu
Working hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00

Narva Hospital
Phone number: (+372) 354 2039
Address: Haigla 1, Narva
Working hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00

Pärnu Hospital
Phone number: (+372) 447 3300
Address: Ristiku 1, Pärnu
Working hours: Monday-Friday 7:30-18:00

Ida-Viru Central Hospital
Phone number: (+372) 5681 9343
Address: Ravi 10C, Kohtla-Järve
Working hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Full information and list of contacts is provided here: https://www.narko.ee/ru/zdes-mozhno-najti-pomoshh/lechenie-ot-zavisimosti-v-t-ch-zamestitelnaya-terapiya-pri-opioidnoj-zavisimosti/

FINLAND

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

HIV, as well as hepatitis treatment, and OST, are available to Ukrainian refugees free of charge on the same basis as for nationals once they receive temporary protection status. People who came before the 24th of February can also get the temporary protection in Finland and will have access to free-of-charge treatment. Some other health-related issues might not be covered by government and require some small fee to be paid.
In order to get the prescription, it is enough to provide medical documentation (with test results) from Ukraine, otherwise, HIV testing will be conducted.
ARVT is provided in pharmacies (in big cities), in small cities – by nurses at the hospital. Depending on the location (if it is far from the city) – delivery is possible. The therapy is provided for 3 months. Every 6 months a patient goes through the checkup, where their viral load is being tested. CD4 is mostly not checked in Finland.

There is a Russian speaking colleague in the NGO Positiiviset ry HivFinland, who is assisting patients at the hospital in Helsinki. However, there is no centralized interpreter services, so the issues might occur in other cities. However, mostly all doctors speak English.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

4 people have contacted NGOs. State covers the treatment and local clinics have enough capacity to provide services to refuges. There might be stockouts, but in order to prevent it ARVT is provided only for 3 months, so the possibility is low.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

No serious issues have been reported so far.
The only problem is the language barrier.

Contacts:

HIV TREATMENT

Positiiviset ry HivFinland — they can provide a referral to the HIV clinic
www.positiiviset.fi
Phone number: +358 9 6925441

E-mail: positiiviset@positiiviset.fi
tapani@positiiviset.fi (in Russian)
Address: Malminkatu 24 C 33, 00100 Helsinki

FOR SOCIAL SERVICES:

Phone number: +358 9 310 5015
Address: Toinen linja 4 A00530 Helsinki

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Full information and contacts are available by the link: https://www.hel.fi/helsinki/en/socia-health/mental/psychiatric-substance-centres/?fbclid=IwAR2cJQtF3MasHYTEoQScxgNFpZXOzwatRXdD8VQDW505kQu2CgMTb47Zq6w

FRANCE

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Ukrainian refugees have access to free-of-charge HIV treatment once they received the temporary protection status and a certificate of the right to health insurance. Treatment is covered by the government. In order to get prescription, a person should get an appointment with an infectious disease doctor and pass the blood test. After this, they can get their ARVT at the city or hospital pharmacies. It is better to contact a local NGO to get a referral to the clinic as there is no information available in English or Russian on the internet.

There are also no interpreters available at the sites, however, the **Rennes University Hospital** has designed a simple tool allowing quick access to **key terms** and **common phrases in a medical context,** in French and in Ukrainian, which can be accessed by the link: https://www.tralelho.fr/ukraine.html.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the end of April, around 15 people have reached out to community organizations regarding HIV treatment. At the moment, there is enough capacity to work with refugees.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

All persons who arrived to France before 24th of February are excluded from the benefit of temporary protection and don't have access to free-of-charge medical services.

Unavailability of information in English and Ukrainian is a serious obstacle.

French doctors are facing issues in the field of TB treatment – especially when it comes to Ukrainian patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN LINK TO HIV SITES:

Médecins du Monde France
Phone number: +330143148179
E-mail: mie.idf@medecinsdumonde.net
Address: 15 Bd de Picpus, 75012 Paris, France

Coalition PLUS
E-mail: rstranz@coalitionplus.org; vleclercq@coaltionplus.org

AIDES
E-mail: svernhes@aides.org

THE FULL LIST OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS CAN BE FOUND HERE:

https://www.fast-trackcities.org/hiv-services/paris

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Paris
E-mail: elisabeth.avril@gaia-paris.fr

Marseille
E-mail: maelalebrun@gmail.com

GEORGIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Treatment is centralized. The treatment and care of HIV-infected patients is carried out in Georgia with the support of the Global Fund and state healthcare programme, by Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center. After determining the HIV status, the patient is transferred from the epidemiological department of the center to the dispensary department, where she/he is met by the center's doctor under the supervision of an infectious disease specialist. There, a clinical and laboratory examination of the patient's health is carried out, the immune system (CD4, CD4 / CD8) and viral load are checked. Based on the final results, treatment decision is taken by center's doctor. If patient's condition does not require hospitalization, then the patient is treated on an outpatient basis. In this case, the patient is prescribed ARV therapy by his/her doctor and he/she comes to the center every month to take ARV drugs. At each visit, the patient receives ARV medication for one month.

Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center has four sites: one in Tbilisi and three regional centers in Kutaisi, Batumi and Zugdidi. Most of the doctors in all 4 sights can communicate either in Russian or English, so the consultancy can be easily managed. While there are local NGOs who can also support with the translation in case of need.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the end of April, there has been up to 10 cases of enrolment of the Ukrainian refugees in the ARVT. There is no cap number of refugees that can be covered by treatment specified at the moment.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

The main issue that has been reported so far is the out-of-pocket payments for the preliminary diagnostics and testing – the patient should pay a fee varying from 70 to 300 GEL.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN ACCESSING HIV TREATMENT AND OST:

AHF Georgia (HIV)
Phone number: +995 599 929 889
E-mails: Nino.Khetaguri@ahf.org, Bagrat.Kobaladze@ahf.org
Address: 37d Chavchavadze Ave, 0162 Tbilisi, Georgia

Real People — Real Vision (HIV)
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/RealPeopleRealVision/
Phone number: +995 790 96 55 80
E-mail: realpeoplerealvision@yahoo.com

Georgian Harm Reduction Network
Website: https://ghrn.ge/news.php?lang=eng
Phone number: +995 032 2 37 21 60
E-mail: info@hrn.ge
Address: 24 Shartava str., 3rd floor, 6 Apt., Tbilisi

HIV CLINICS:

Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center
Tbilisi. Georgia, 16 Kazbegi av,
Tel.: (+995 32) 2 39 80 18
E-mail: aids@gol.ge
URL: http://www.aidscenter.ge

Batumi Infectious Disease, AIDS and Tuberculosis Regional Center
Jemal Katamadze Street 11, Batumi, Georgia
Tel: 0 42 2 29 45 72
E-mail: info.infeqciuri@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/batumiinfect/

Zugdidi Infectious Diseases Hospital
Address: Onoria, Zugdidi
Tel: (0415) 22-93-79
E-mail: info@zic.ge
http://www.zic.ge/

Kutaisi - Medical City
Address: Poti Street 40, Kutaisi, Georgia
Tel: +995 568 14 49 49
E-mail: info@medicalcity.ge
https://medicalcity.ge/

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT:

Kostava st. 46/50, Tel: 2 91 17 01 (New Way)

Chubinashvili St. # 75, Tel 2 96 48 78 (HEPA +)

Tsinamdzgvrishvili 110, Tel: 2 18 12 21 (New Vector)

Vazha-Pshavela 4th quarter, 19th building, apartment 33. (Akeso)

Sative Street 10, Tel.: 593573712 (Mandala)

HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Rustavi
Kostava St. 8, flat # 2, Tel: 03 41 25 73 27 (New Vector)

Kutaisi
Pushkini st. №10, Tel: 04 31 25 13 71 (New Way)

Samtredia
Chavchavadze st. 52, Tel: 0411 22 90 45 (New Way)

Zugdidi
Petre Uberi st. №1, Tel: 0415 25 40 10 (Xenon)

Poti
B. Kokaia №39, Tel: 0493 25 09 69; 0493 27 23 63. (Ordu)

Batumi
Gorgiladze №66, flat №51 Tel: 0422 27 18 91 (Imedi)

Ozurgeti
26 May St. # 11 (Phoenix)

Gori
Besiki Street №3 / 6, Tel: 0370 27 01 72 (Step to the Future)

Telavi
Ninoshvili Street №39, Tel: 0350 23 24 87 (Step to the Future)

FOR SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

call 555 255580

GERMANY

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Conditions of receiving ARVT may differ in federal lands. As a general rule, when receiving temporary protection status, a person is granted with a social insurance, which provides a free-of-charge access to ARVT, OST, TB and HepC treatment. At the same time, in 6 federal states ARVT is available even without social insurance – it is enough to provide the passport (that's how people who haven't received temporary protection status can get their treatment).
HIV cervices are decentralized and provided by different clinics (infectious disease physician's rooms) all over Germany. In order to get prescription, a person should go to the nearest clinic which can be found using the website https://www.dagnae.de (when the person enters their address or postcode, he/she is provided with the contacts of the nearest clinic) or ask NGO Aidshilfe for assistance. If the person can prove they have HIV (provide Ukrainian medical documentation), HIV status isn't checked by the doctor. Otherwise, a person should pass the blood test and after that doctor issues a prescription.
Once a patient has their prescription, they can receive ARVT at the pharmacy (there are 5000 pharmacies dispensing ARVT in the country).

Some clinics have Russian-speaking nurses, however, in most cases digital translation means are being used.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

As of the beginning of May, over 800 refugees have already applied for HIV treatment (with approximately 175 people only in Berlin). There is an assumption by local NGOs that the total number of refugees living with HIV in Germany will reach 6000 people. However, issues with access to treatment (e.g. stockouts) are not expected. Currently, doctors are trying to leave patients from Ukraine on the same treatments regimens they used to take in Ukraine, however, it is expected that they will be switched from dolutegravir-based combinations.
There have been also a lot of inquiries regarding OST and a few regarding multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

There are no issues with access to ARVT, except for geographical remoteness of HIV sites – some people haven't informed about their HIV-positive status and have been placed in remote regions.
There are some issues with OST treatment – there's a limited number of OST patients in Germany, and it is necessary to get an approval from the Medical Officers Union to increase this number (however, this is possible to do).

Contacts:

DEUTSCHE AIDSHILFE — COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION THAT CAN LINK TO HIV TREATMENT

Website: https://en.aidshilfe.de
Phone number: 0180 33 19411
Councelling via e-mail or chat: https://aidshilfe-beratung.de/home.html?L=2

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

BerLUN
Website: http://www.berlun2017.org/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/berlun2017
Phone number: +49 176 69121881

KEINE MACHT DEN DROGEN
Website: https://www.kmdd.de/infopool-und-hilfe/hilfe-und-beratung
Phone number: 0800-111 0 111 or 0800-111 0 222

OSTDEUTSCHE ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT SUCHTMEDIZIN e.V.
Website: https://www.suchtmed-ost.de/contact
Phone number: +49 (0)345 77 48 218
Email: info@suchtmed-ost.de

MOLDOVA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

ARVT is available for Ukrainian refugees free of charge. The person should get registered in the electronic system of patients tracking, and get a medical card. Then a person should go to one of the five ARVT therapy offices: on the right bank (Chisinau, Ungheni, Causeni, Cahul, Balti) and 2 on the left bank (Rybnitsa, Tiraspol). A refugee should:

- provide internal passport of a citizen of Ukraine, or a residence permit;
- pass the counseling algorithm, with specific questions to find out if a person is HIV positive;
- their stock of pills, if available;
- communication with the attending physician from Ukraine, if possible.

The testing is not carried out because there is a good algorithm which eliminates need to carry out other procedures.

ARVT is provided only by ARVT offices. Refugees receive medicines for one month, and can also undergo diagnostics. The patient can receive both pre-exposure, post-exposure prophylaxis and treatment.

Almost everyone in Moldova speaks Russian. Also, all refugees who have applied for services speak Russian. Therefore, translators are not involved.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

As of 04/28/2022, 160 Ukrainian refugees applied for help in obtaining ARV in Moldova, including refugees from other countries, who do not know how to get these services. All cases were resolved positively. The number of applications on certain issues can be tracked in real time by the link https://positivepeople.md/pomoschi-bezhencam/.

As of April 28, 2022, 101 refugees applied for harm reduction services, 56 refugees for OST, 7 people for hepatitis treatment, 5 people for TB, and 3 refugees for hormone therapy.

At the beginning of the war, a technical working group was assembled in Moldova to implement the National Programs on HIV and TB, and it was decided to provide treatment for HIV-vulnerable refugees from the country's funds. This decision is a regulatory mechanism and there are absolutely no barriers to receiving treatment, as well as harm reduction programs.

ARVT sites work in cooperation with civil society organizations supporting people living with HIV. Organizations provide consulting and support services.

Currently there is a stock of HIV medicines available for 300 refugees. If the demand increases, the country will additionally purchase medicines.

Also, refugees have access to OST – both methadone and buprenorphine, which they can get at 8 dispensing sites.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

No barriers have been reported.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT:

Positive Initiative, Chisinau (also social care, OST and harm reduction support)
Website: https://positivepeople.md
022 66 38 50; 022 00 99 74
Independenyii street, 6/2

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

National narcology center
Phone number:+373 (76) 032200
E-mail: info@med-zahid.md
Address: str. Mihail Sadoveanu 14, ap 104, Chisinau

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING WITH OST:

Pas cu Pas, Cahul
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pascupasrsud/

Trinity, Rybnitsa
Website: https://triniticentr.ru

Health Alliance, Tiraspol
Website: https://www.hivjustice.net/organisation/альянс-общественного-здоровья-public-health-alliance/

Милосердие, Benders
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Miloserdie.1989/

Medical-Social Programs, Benders
Website: https://pmr.md/92495261687c9b7ea5b88e91d5adf6fb/mediko_sotsialnie_programmi_np.html

Adolescentul, Orhei
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ao.adolescentul/

Pentru Prezent si Viitor, Chisinau
Website: http://ppv.md

SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Genderdoc, Chisinau
Phone number: +373 22 288 861

Trinity, Rybnitsa
Website: https://triniticentr.ru

Health Alliance, Tiraspol
Website: https://www.hivjustice.net/organisation/альянс-общественного-здоровья-public-health-alliance/

Милосердие, Benders
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Miloserdie.1989/

Afi, Chisinau
Website: http://afi.md

Pas cu Pas, Cahul
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pascupasrsud/

ITALY

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

All people with HIV in Italy have the right to get ARVT – even those who have no residence permit. Ukrainian refugees who have a temporary protection, have a simplified access as Italian nationals. OST is also provided for free. Once a refugee is registered at one of local Prefettura, they can book an appointment with the infectious disease specialist at the local treatment centre (there are around 50 clinics, a refugee can search the closest one searching by region on the website: https://www.uniticontrolaids.it/aids-ist/in-caso-di-infezione/centri.aspx).

If the person can provide information on the treatment regimen they were on, the doctor will make the same prescription, if the drug is available in the country. If not, the doctor will provide the prescription based on the results of testing, which will be conducted even if the medical records from Ukraine are available. HIV testing labs are located at the hospitals.

There is no centralized interpreter services in Italy – maybe there are interpreters in some regions, but this is rather an exception.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

Insufficient amount of people has approached community organizations regarding receiving ARVT – there is no database and lack of communication between regions on this issue. Approximately there have been not more than 10 refugees with HIV in the country.
State has capacity to provide refugees with free-of-charge treatment: both ARVT and OST. As for OST, methadone and buprenorphine are available and easily accessible and free of charge.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

The main issue is the language barrier – no interpreters at the sites and lack of information in English or Ukrainian/Russian on the internet.

Contacts:

THE SEARCH ENGINE FOR HIV CLINICS IS AVAILABLE BY THE LINK:

https://www.uniticontrolaids.it/aids-ist/in-caso-di-infezione/centri.aspx

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT:

Fondazione LILA Milano
Website: www.lilamilano.it; www.lila.it
E-mail: l.cosmaro@lilamilano.it

Asa Milano onlus associazione solidarietà aids
Website: Www.asamilano30.org
E-mail: Asa@asamilano.org

NADIR, Roma, Pescara, Modena, Forlì
Website: www.nadironlus.org
E-mail: direttivo@nadironlus.org

Check Point — Bergamo Fast Track City
Website: https://www.friendlytest.it/
E-mail: bergamofasttrack@gmail.com

Unità di Strada — Open Group
E-mail: unitadistradabo@opengroup.eu

THE LIST OF INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES BY REGION IS AVAILABLE BY THE LINK:

https://www.politicheantidroga.gov.it/it/servizi-e-contatti-utili/serd/i-serd-in-italia/

IRELAND

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Ukrainian refuges have the same rights to ARVT as Irish nationals. It is necessary to get a medical card – in order to do this a person has to submit an application (available by the link: https://www2.hse.ie/services/healthcare-in-ireland/ukr-medical-card-application-form.pdf) to the National Medical Card Unit, PO Box 11745, Dublin 11, D11 XKF3 or email the completed form to PCRS.Applications@HSE.ie. In order to be able to fill the form, a person should firstly get a Personal Public Service (PPS) number – for this they need to contact a local Intreo Centre or Branch Office (contact details are available here: https://www.gov.ie/en/directory/category/e1f4b5-intreo-offices/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/en/service/40cf48-find-your-local-intreo-office/).

In order to get ARVT a person needs to contact a HIV clinic in Ireland. NGO HIV Ireland can assist on the referral to the clinic. HIV medication and clinic care (such as clinic appointments) are available free of charge in Ireland. There is also no need to receive HIV diagnosis in Ireland to access HIV medication. It is enough to bring certification of person's HIV status and records of any recent HIV blood tests. If a person doesn't have any official medical documents, they will need to pass blood tests which are available free of charge.
If the person does not speak English, they can tell the medical staff and ask if they can arrange an interpreter. In some cases, the hospital or health clinic can provide an interpreter.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

Only a few people have asked for ARVT by the middle of April. The state has capacity to work with Ukrainian refugees and provides all necessary treatment and services.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

No barriers or issues have been reported yet.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT:

HIV Ireland
E-mail: communitysupport@hivireland.ie
Phone number: 01 873 3799

HIV CLINICS IN IRELAND

Dublin (South)
St. James's Hospital
The GUIDE Clinic – Hospital 5
www.guideclinic.ie
Tel: (0)1 416 2315 or (0)1 416 2316
Address: James's Street, Dublin 8

St. Vincent's University Hospital
Department of Infectious Diseases,
1st Floor, Clinical Services Building
Tel: (0)1 221 3363
Email: idnursereferrals@svuh.ie
Address: Elm Park, Dublin 4

Dublin (North)
The Mater Hospital
Infectious Diseases,
Clinic 6, Level 1, Whitty Wing
Tel: (0)1 803 2063
Address: Eccles Street, Dublin 7

Beaumont Hospital
Infectious Diseases Clinic, Ground Floor, St. John's Ward
Tel: (0)1 809 3006 or (0)1 809 2211
Address: Beaumont Road, Dublin 9

Galway
Galway University Hospital
Infectious Diseases Clinic
Tel: (0)91 525 200

Cork
Cork University Hospital
Infectious Diseases Clinic
Tel: (0)21 492 2795

Limerick
University Hospital Limerick
Department of Infectious Diseases
Tel: (0)61 482 382

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Search by the link: http://www.services.drugs.ie

HUNGARY

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

According to the decree of the Minister of Health of 11 March 2022, all Ukrainian refugees receive the same benefits as Hungarian citizens and can receive ARVT free of charge, if they applied for temporary protection at the Immigration Office. Temporary protection is available to Ukrainian citizens and their family members who left the country after 24 February 2022. In order to get the ARVT, a person should go to one of four HIV clinics. Access to the service (such as the ART prescription) requires the presentation of an Ukrainian passport (or photocopy) and a document certifying the right to asylum. Also, in order to get prescription a person goes through medical examination and blood testing. Refugees and people with protection status will receive 1 pack of pills for 30 days.

Those without temporary protection status should still contact HIV treatment centres to discuss treatment options, and the National Health Fund is discussing plans to make ART freely available.

There are volunteer Russian-Hungarian interpreters available by telephone at the care points.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

The demand is not high – up to 10 people as reported by community organizations in April.

The state is implementing all measures to insure access to treatment.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

There's a problematic situation with OST in Hungary: only methadone is available free of charge, while suboxone is not covered by health insurance but can be purchased in pharmacies.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT:

Háttér Society
Website: https://en.hatter.hu/what-we-do/hivaids-program/hiv-peer-support-service
E-mail: hivsegito@hatter.hu

HIV CLINICS

South Pest Central Hospital Szent László Hospital site Budapest, District IX. Albert Flórián út 5-7

Gyula Kenézy Hospital and Clinic, Debrecen, Bartók Béla út 2-26

MISEK Semmelweis Hospital Miskolc, Csabai Gate 9-11

University of Pécs I. no. Department of Internal Medicine Pécs, Rákóczi út 2.

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

INDIT
Dr. János Szemelyácz
Tel.: +36309590720

Gyula Nyírő Hospital (Budapest) – only liquid methadone.
Tünde Szabó
Tel.: +36303040112

For Suboxone (Budapest):
Dr. József Csorba
E-mail: drcsojoko@gmail.com

LATVIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

People fleeing Ukraine are eligible for the same free-of-charge health services that are available to Latvian residents, including antiretroviral therapy. There are two HIV clinics located in Riga. The patient should get registered at the state registry. When having appointment with a doctor, they conduct HIV testing – medical documentation from Ukraine is not enough, but would be helpful. ARVT is being dispensed by the pharmacies.

All doctors in Latvia speak Russian or English – there is no need in translation services.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the end of April 8 Ukrainian refugees have approached local NGOs regarding ARVT treatment. State can cover the extra need in medications, there is no cap number of refugees to be covered with treatment defined.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

The issue exists with OST – only methadone is provided free of charge, while buprenorphine is available only on the paid basis.

Contacts:

Rīgā, Linezera ielā 3

HIV CLINIC

Infectology center of Latvia
Website: https://aslimnica.lv/stacionari/latvijas-infektologijas-centrs/
Phon number: (+371) 67014552

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PROVIDING OST AND SUPPORT IN ACCESSING ARVT SERVICES:

Dia+logs
Website: http://www.diacentrs.lv/pakalpojumi/
Phone number: +371 67 243 101
or +371 27 004 493
E-mail: dialogs@diacentrs.lv

LITHUANIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Since 2019 ART for national inhabitants, who are insured (people who receive national insurance: working and paying taxes, non-working: students, pensioners - who are registered in national employment service) is free of charge. If the person does not belong to any of these groups, it is possible to receive ART free of charge according to HIV positive code. There are two ways how to get to the infectologist: 1. through the general practitioner, who gives the referral. The route is longer, but free of charge. 2. Straightly to the infectologist. The route is shorter, but costs 20Eur. Only infectious disease doctors are allowed to prescribe ART. It is possible to receive ART only in pharmacies.

First of all refugees shall apply to the Migration department or the nearest registration center (migracija.lrv.lt). There refugees will receive a unique ESI code. ESI code is like the temporary allowance to stay, live and receive all the health services in Lithuania. With this code, refugees will receive non - compensatory medication with prescribtion of the doctor. In order to receive medication and other health services free of charge (including ARV), the person shall register at employment service (https://www.ldb.lt/LDBPortal/Pages/ServicesForEmployees.aspx?pageId=78a5d68c-ca64-4139-9a4a-e43c58fb6ac9).

Then a refugee can go to one of HIV medical centers. In order to get the prescription, a patient will be tested:

1. HIV confirmatory test which, according to the standart, is made for everyone the same method and in one place - national laboratory (https://nvspl.lt/kontaktai/geliu-g-9-vilnius);
2. CD4 number;
3. virus RNA copies;
4. STD tests;
5. liver enzymes;
6. kidney function.

New patients will be included in statistics by National AIDS centre (http://www.ulac.lt/), the information is confidential and used only to measure statistics and predict further actions connected with communicable diseases.

The majority of doctors and other staff speak whether Russian, whether English, whether both – therefore translation is not required.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

5 Ukrainian refugees have approached local NGOs regarding ARVT by the middle of April. The state has the capacity to cover the extra need in treatment. Such treatment programs are covered by state sickness funds (https://ligoniukasa.lrv.lt/). No cap number of refugees to be covered by free-of-charge treatment has been specified.
OST (both methadone and buprenorphine) is available and is compensated by the state.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

Not reported yet.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Association of HIV affected women and their families (Association Demetra)
Address: Kauno str. 6, Vilnius
Tel: +3705233 25 33, +37068710655,
working hours: Mon-Thu 9-17, Fri 9-16
https://www.demetra.lt
demetra@demetra.lt
Svetlana Kulsis

Lithuanian Red Cross
Address: A. Juozapaviciaus str. 10A, Vilnius
Tel: +37052628037, working hours: 8.30-17.30
https://www.redcross.lt/
info@redcross.lt

Checkpoint HIV prevention center (Association Demetra)
Kauno str. 3-102 Tel: +370 608 80 534, working hours: Mon 16-19:30, Wed 16-19:30
F: facebook.com/Checkpoint.demetra/
https://www.Demetra.lt
Aleksandr Lapsinov

HIV MEDICAL CENTRES

Vilnius
Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos
Infectious Diseases Centre
Address: Santariskiu str. 14, Vilnius
Reception tel: +37052752790, working hours: Mon-Thu 8-17, Fri 8-14
Infectious diseases specialists:
Elzbieta Matulyte
Tel: +37069779006
Raimonda Matulionyte
Tel: +3705732185

Kaunas
Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Kaunas Hospital
Consulting Polyclinic
Address: Josvainiu str. 2, Kaunas
Reception tel: +37037306045, working hours: Mon-Fri 8-18
Infectious diseases specialists:
Daiva Velyvyte
Violeta Kanisauskiene Tel: +37037362174

Klaipeda
Klaipeda University Hospital
AIDS centre
Address: Liepojos str. 39, Klaipeda
Reception tel: +37046410000, working hours: Mon-Fri 8-16
Internal medicine specialist :
Zavinta Kancauskiene
Tel: +37046396608

Siauliai
Republican Siauliai County Hospital
Clinic of Conservative Medicine Adult Infectious Diseases Unit
Address: V. Kudirkos str. 99, Siauliai
Reception tel: +37041500111, working hours: Mon-Fri 7.30-19.30
Infectious diseases specialist:
Aidas Kausas
Tel: +37041524272

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT:

The Centre for Addictive Disorders
ausra.sirvinskiene@rplc
emilis.subata@rplc.lt; +370 52137274

Social support centre
https://www.spcentras.lt/

NETHERLANDS

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

People who have officially registered as a refugee in the Netherlands will receive health insurance, which provides them with a free-of-charge access to medical services, including HIV treatment. Emergency care is always provided free of charge, even if you are not yet registered. In order to get HIV treatment, a person should obtain a BCN number (which takes approximately a week).

In order to get a prescription, a person should go to one of 24 HIV clinics (the list is available by the link: https://www.hiv-monitoring.nl/en/contact/hiv-treatment-centres). There they will pass blood testing; however, the prescription is provided even prior to all blood test results.
The ARVT is dispensed by pharmacies.

In case a person needs any assistance in receiving HIV treatment, they can contact The aware.hiv Ukraine initiative or Dutch HIV Patient Federation (Hiv Vereniging). There they can also get support with translation services by filling in the contact form on the aware.hiv website in order to be linked to Ukrainian and English speaking HIV medical specialists.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the end of April, 10 Ukrainian refugees have received HIV treatment in Erasmus medical center in Rotterdam. Also, NGOs report on approximately 10 more refugees who have contacted them regarding ARVT.
A few persons have also applied for TB treatment.
State and medical institutions have enough capacity to work with Ukrainian refugees.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

There no reported issues or barriers so far. However, there are cases when Ukrainian refugees were offered to switch to innovative trial HIV medicines, which might be an issue if they come back to Ukraine.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ASSISTING IN ACCESSING TO ARVT:

Dutch HIV Patient Federation (Hiv Vereniging)
Website: https://www.hivvereniging.nl/en/
Phone number: 020 - 689 25 77

The aware.hiv Ukraine initiative
Website: https://awarehiv.com/en/
Contact form is available at: https://awarehiv.com/ua/Dare-to-Share-Care/Ukraine

OST AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

AMOC / De Regenboog Groep
Website: www.deregenboog.org
Stadhouderskade 159, Amsterdam;
Phone: +31 20 6721192

Drugs infoline/ Trimbos Institute
Phone: 0900-1995;
E-mail: vraagbaak@drugsinfo.nl

Harm Reduction Network / Trimbos Institute
Website: https://www.trimbos.nl/kennis/harm-reduction-bij-drugsgebruik/
E-mails: hrn@trimbos.nl or dgouwe@trimbos.nl

NORWAY

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Any person physically present in Norway has the right to testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS, free of charge. The patient must be referred to a hospital clinic for infectious diseases at a major hospital where necessary tests will be made before a prescription for ART will be granted. Any physician may refer a patient to a hospital clinic for infectious diseases. In major cities there are STD clinics and other clinics that may also refer the patients. Several major hospitals have clinics for infectious diseases, but the clinic at Oslo University Hospital Ullevål is by far the most important, with around half of all HIV patients in Norway.

Patients are requested to bring prescription or packing for the medication they have been using. It is not an absolute requirement, but the hospital will prefer that blood tests are made to confirm the diagnosis and check for any contraindications for the medication prescribed. They also prefer that the patient has a passport or other ID document.

Persons who need advice may contact HivNorway, the patient organization for persons living with HIV.

If necessary, interpretation will be provided. Health care providers have the duty to use interpreters when necessary. There are many Russian language interpreters, and also some Ukrainian. Interpretation will usually be done via telephone or video call. The national register of interpreters have 15 Ukrainian interpreters language, but only one has authorization. There are 130 Russian language interpreters in the register, several has authorization. Pharmacies usually do not have interpreters.

The patient will then go to a pharmacy to get medication. Any pharmacy may provide medication, but most will need a few days to provide medication. Apotek1 Storgata in central Oslo and always have the largest stock of ART.

All persons diagnosed with HIVwill be reported to the National register for infectious diseases, MSIS, for research and statistical purposes. The register is compulsory by law, and contains the possibility for backwards identification, for research purposes. This will only be given if ethical approval is given and GDPR requirements are met.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the middle of April approximately 7 Ukrainian refugees living with HIV have started receiving health care at the Oslo University Hospital Ullevål.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

No barriers or issues have been reported so far, but the situation is being monitored.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ASSISTING IN ACCESSING ARVT

HivNorway
Website: https://www.hivnorge.no/kontakt-oss/ (information is available also in Ukrainian)

SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

HivNorge, Oslo
Organization provides nationawide legal aid and social care and support
Website: www.hivnorge.no

Kirkens bymisjon
The Church City mission, is present in most major and medium sized cities and provides social care and support services to PLHIV
Website: https://kirkensbymisjon.no

POLAND

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

HIV treatment, as well as other medical services are available to Ukrainian refugees on the free-of-charge basis. Anyone who needs ARVT can visit an HIV clinic — the full list of clinics is available by the link: https://aids.gov.pl/na-strone-glowna/ett2020-2-2-2-3-2-3-2-2-2-2-2-2-2/?cn-reloaded=1&cn-reloaded=1

Polish clinicians, with the consent of the National AIDS Center, can do a rapid HIV test if the patient does not have any documents regarding the history of the disease. In case a patient can provide some medical records from Ukraine, the test is not carried out.

The treatment is provided for 3 months, only in case a refugee travels to another country through Poland, they get it for one month.

New patients are reported to the National AIDS Center, which oversees the ARV treatment program. If they have legal residence, there are no problems, if not — they should regulate their status, but in the first visit they should have access for treatment.

There are no serious issues with language barrier - some doctors speak Russian; a lot of Ukrainian refuges know or understand Polish well. There are no free funds for interpreters at the sites.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the middle of April around 400 Ukrainian refugees have applied for ARVT in Poland. Each day approximately a dozen of refugees is approaching NGOs regarding ARVT. Also, people ask about access to OST and obtaining a Pesel number, which is required to include the person in the substitution treatment.

There is a huge load on local NGOs and medical stuff as the number of new patients is really high. Therefore, there is a need in additional staff.
Unavailability of generic versions of drugs Ukrainian people used to use in Ukraine for ARVT has been reported as the greatest issue and burden for the state.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

Poland is trying to ensure access to treatment; however, it is problematic due to the lack of human and financial resources.
There is a barrier in access to OST treatment – despite it is also provided free of charge (both: methadone and buprenorphine), some programs (in Poznan, Zielona Gora and Kostrzyn) have a limited number of places and a long queue, which takes several months to wait for treatment. Also, there is a requirement of having a Pesel number, which makes access more complicated.

Contacts:

ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING WITH ACCESSING ARVT:

Foundation for Social Education
Website: www.fes.edu.pl
Facebook: FundacjaEdukacjiSpołecznej
Phone: +48 692 478 229
e-mail: fes.ukraina@gmail.com
Address: Sewerynow 4/100, 00-331, Warsaw

Youth Organisations for Drug Action
Website: https://euro-yoda.org/aboutyoda/
Phone: +48 692475768

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY:

List of OST programs can be found here: https://www.kbpn.gov.pl/portal?id=107094

HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

Warsaw:
http://jump93.pl/
https://www.facebook.com/fundacjaprekursor/

Kraków:
http://drop-in.krakow.pl/

Lublin:
poradnia.monar.lublin@wp.pl
monarlublin.pl

Wrocław:
http://fundacjasalida.pl/?page_id=54

Gdańsk:
https://www.facebook.com/fundacjaprekursor/

PORTUGAL

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Obtaining temporary protection status automatically provides a person with an insurance number. Ukrainian refugees obtain, in a few days, social security number, Health System number, fiscal number, therefore, in theory, they have the same rights as Portuguese.
The refugee has free access to healthcare services – same as a Portuguese national.

As for ART prescription, when the person reaches a doctor from one of the HIV hospitals. If he/she can provide their medical certificate/prescription from Ukraine or show the bottle of the medicines they have been using – they will get the treatment accordingly. If the person cannot provide this information, they need to take a rapid test which will take no longer than 1-2 hours, and the doctor will make the prescription. Also, local NGOs may support with providing ART (before the person reaches the hospital) using donations provided by pharmaceutical companies – however, the legislation doesn't authorize NGO to do so, therefore this is only a temporary emergency activity.

Antiretroviral treatment is provided by hospitals (infectious disease departments). There are 25 hospitals in the country. Sometimes, depending on the hospital and the area of the country, this dispensation can also be done in pharmacies.

The number of available interpreters is insufficient. Ukrainian refugees, who don't know English, might be having difficulties in communication at the sites.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

14 Ukrainians and 3 Russian nationals, who lived in Ukraine, have reached out for support in getting ART as of middle of April. There were also requests concerning hepatitis C and methadone supply.

Hospitals have the necessary resources to work with any kind of number of people in need of any kind of treatments and state can cover the need so far. OST is also available – both methadone an buprenorphine.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

The medications Ukrainian refugees are taking are costly, which might be a burden for state budget if the number of refugees living with HIV increases. There might be stockouts in small HIV hospitals, but it doesn't seem to be a case in the next few months.
The greatest issue so far is the language barrier.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING WITH ARVT:

Associação Existências
Website: www.existencias.net
Phone number: 351 239 838 033/ +351 965 592 651;
E-mail: a.existencias@gmail.com
Address: Avenida Emídio Navarro, nº81, 2º A, 3000-151 Coimbra

GAT — Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamento
Website: https://www.gatportugal.org/
Phone.: +351 210 967 826
Mobile: +351 913 606 295
E-mail: geral@gatportugal.org
Address: Avenida Paris, 4 - 1º direito, 1000-228 Lisboa

HIV CLINICS:

NAME	Address	Website	Contacts
Centro Hospitalar Universitário de S. João, EPE		https://portal-chsj.min-saude.pt/	geral@chsj.min-saude.pt
Centro Hospitalar Universitário do Porto, EPE	Largo Professor Abel Salazar 4099-001 Porto	https://www.chporto.pt/	ca@chporto.min-saude.pt 222077500
Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, EPE	Praceta Prof. Mota Pinto 3000-075 COIMBRA PORTUGAL	https://www.chuc.min-saude.pt/	Telefone: [+351] 239 400 400 correio@chuc.min-saude.pt
Centro Hospitalar de Vila Nova de Gaia/ Espinho, EPE	Rua Conceição Fernandes 4434-502 Vila Nova de Gaia	https://www.chvng.min-saude.pt/	
Hospital de Braga	Sete Fontes – São Victor 4710-243 Braga	https://www.hospitaldebraga.pt/	253 027 201 hbraga@hospitaldebraga.pt
Hospital de Santarém	Av. Bernardo Santareno 2005-177 Santarém|	https://www.hds.min-saude.pt/	243 300 200 hdsgeral@hds.min-saude.pt
Centro Hospitalar do Oeste, EPE	Rua Diário de Notícias 2500-176 Caldas da Rainha	https://www.choeste.min-saude.pt/	262830300
Centro Hospitalar Universitário Cova da Beira, EPE	Alameda Pêro da Covilhã, 6200-251 Covilhã	https://www.chcbeira.min-saude.pt/	Telf.: 275 330 000 Fax: 275 330 001 E-mail: info@chcbeira.min-saude.pt
Centro Hospitalar Tâmega e Sousa, EPE		https://www.chts.min-saude.pt/	
Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Lisboa Norte, E.P.E		https://www.chln.min-saude.pt/	

NAME	Address	Website	Contacts
Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Lisboa Central, E.P.E.		https://www.chlc.min-saude.pt/	
Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental E.P.E.		https://www.chlo.min-saude.pt/	
Hospital de Cascais - Dr. José de Almeida	Av. Brigadeiro Victor Novais Gonçalves, 2755-009 Alcabideche	https://www.hospitaldecascais.pt/	
Hospital Professor Doutor Fernando da Fonseca, E.P.E	IC 19, 2720-276 Amadora	https://hff.min-saude.pt/	
Hospital Beatriz Angelo		https://www.hbeatrizangelo.pt/pt/	
Hospital Vila Franca de Xira	Estrada Carlos Lima Costa Nº2, Povos 2600-009 - Vila Franca de Xira	https://www.hospitalvila francadexira.pt/	hvfxira@hvfx.pt 263 006 500
Hospital Garcia de Orta, E.P.E.	Av. Torrado da Silva, 2805-267 Almada	https://www.hgo.min-saude.pt/	
Centro Hospitalar do Barreiro-Montijo, E.P.E	Avenida Movimento das Forças Armadas 2834-003 Barreiro	http://www.chbm.min-saude.pt/	Telefone: 21 214 73 00 E-mail: admin@chbm.min-saude.pt
Hospital de Cascais - Dr. José de Almeida		https://www.hospitaldecascais.pt/	
Centro Hopitalar Universitário do Algarve		https://www.chualgarve.min-saude.pt/	

HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Associação Existências
in the following cities: Coimbra; Viseu; Guarda
www.existencias.net

Associação Abraço
in the following cities: Lisboa; Porto; Aveiro; Funchal (Madeira Region)
https://abraco.pt/

GAT— Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos
in the following cities: Lisboa; Almada; Setubal;

Acompanha, CRL
Av. Porto de Pesca, Lote 1B, Fração E, 2520-208, Peniche
936 027 603 ou 262 781 706
sidadealerta@acompanha.pt
https://www.facebook.com/Acompanha/

AJPAS
Estrada Militar da Damaia, 23 A (loja), 2720-373, Damaia
925 370 181
riscoseduvidas@gmail.com
http://www.ajpas.org.pt

APDES
Alameda Jean Piaget, 100, 4411-801 Gaia
227 531 106 ou 910 197 297
info@apdes.pt
https://apdes.pt/

APF Alentejo
Av. D. Leonor de Oliveira Fernandes, 91 R/C, 7005-144
266 785 018
apfalentejo@sapo.pt
http://www.apf.pt/quem-somos/delegacoes/apf-alentejo

APF Algarve
Rua Monsenhor Henrique Ferreira da Silva, 9, 8005-137 Faro
289 863 300
apfalgarve@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/apfalgarve

APF Norte - Projeto ECOS
Rua Júlio Dinis, 764, 6º Esq FRT, 4050-012 Porto
222 008 377
ecos.apf@gmail.com, http://www.apf.pt/

Centro Social de Paramos
Travessa da Junta, 44, 4500-541 Paramos
227 330 870
geral@centrosocialparamos.org
https://www.centrosocialparamos.org/site/

Fundação Portuguesa a Comunidade Contra a SIDA - Delegação Norte
Rua da Frábrica Social, 17, 1º Andar, 4000-201 Porto, 222 088 646
caojporto@gmail.com
http://www.fpccsida.org.pt

GAF — Gabinete de Apoio à Família
Rua da Bandeira, 342, 4900-561, Viana do Castelo, 258 829 138 (geral)
geral@gaf.pt, http://www.gaf.pt/

Médicos do Mundo / GAT — Programa de Consumo Vigiado Móvel (PCVM)
Avenida de Ceuta (Sul), Lote 4 – Loja 1,1300-125 Lisboa
933 937 185 E 960 173 230 OU 933 937 178
diana.gautier@medicosdomundo.pt
E adriana.curado@gatportugal.org

InPulsar
Rua Dr. Luís Silveira Charters Azevedo, L3, 2º andar (Q. S. Bartolomeu), 2410-022, Leiria
244 028 052 ou 910 829 160
geral@inpulsar.pt, http://www.inpulsar.pt/

MAPS
Av. Cidade de Hayward, Bl. C1-D2, Caves, Vale de Carneiros, 8000-074
289 887 190
maps@mapsalgarve.com
http://www.mapsalgarve.org/site/teste-rapido/

Médicos do Mundo - Lisboa
Av. de Ceuta (Sul), lote 4, loja 1, 1300-125, Lisboa
964 444 261
joana.tavares@medicosdomundo.pt
http://www.medicosdomundo.pt

Médicos do Mundo - Porto
Rua dos Mercadores, 140, 1º e 3º, 4050-374 Porto, 229 039 064 / 939 509 680
mdmp-porto@medicosdomundo.pt
http://www.medicosdomundo.pt/

Novo Olhar II
Av. 1º de Maio, 108, 2430-210, Marinha Grande
244 567 117 ou 926 582 880
novoolhar2@hotmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/novoolhar2

Norte Vida
Rua de Vila Nova S/N (traseiras H. Magalhães de Lemos), 4100-501, Porto
226 160 750 ou 961 133 157
nortevida@sapo.pt, http://www.nortevida.org/

Positivo
Rua de São Paulo, nº216, 1º A/B, 1200-429, Lisboa
213 422 976
info@positivo.org.pt OU andreia.lameiras@positivo.org.pt, http://www.positivo.org.pt/

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT

The list of institutions can be found by the link: https://www.sicad.pt/PT/Cidadao/Estruturas/Paginas/default.aspx

ROMANIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Ukrainian refugees can receive ARVT in Romania free of charge. It is enough to present an ID card or passport. It is good if the person can present their medical records from Ukraine, but this is not necessary. HIV treatment is available only at infectious disease clinics (the list is available here: https://cnlas.ro/index.php/date-de-contact). Once the person gets the appointment with an infectious disease specialist, they get tested (rapid test, CD4 count). However, the ARVT prescription is based on the information that the refugee provides regarding the treatment regimen they used to take in Ukraine - refugees receive the same treatment they used to take. Treatment is provided for one month.

There is no translation available, however, NGOs can accompany refuges during their visit to the clinics.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

As of the middle of April approximately 40 Ukrainian refugees living with HIV have applied for support in receiving ARVT. They have been successfully referred to the clinics. Even though there are some stockouts in the country sometimes (even for covering local needs), currently the government manages to cover the need. There are 10 focal points to work with refugees in the country. Also, in case of risk of stockouts, NGO Sens Positiv provides some ART as donations.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

There are no serious issues in regard to HIV treatment so far, but stockouts are possible. There is an issue with OST – only methadone is available in the country and the stock of medicines is not sufficient.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING WITH ACCESSING ARVT:

Romanian Association against AIDS (ARAS)
Website: https://arasnet.ro
E-mail: aras@arasnet.ro
Phone number: 021 319 07 71

National Union of Organizations of People Affected by HIV/AIDS
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/FederatiaUNOPA
Website: http://www.unopa.ro/
E-mail: unopa@unopa.ro
Phone number: +40 735 853 569

Sens Pozitiv
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/sens.pozitiv/
E-mail: informathiv@gmail.com
Phone number: +40744682225

AIDS CENTERS:

The list is available by the link:
https://cnlas.ro/index.php/date-de-contact

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Romanian Association against AIDS (ARAS)
Cristina Fierbinteanu
Phone number: +40741636940

SLOVENIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Ukrainian refugees are entitled to free of charge medical services, including HIV, HepC, TB and opioid substitution treatment once they submit an application for a temporary protection status on the free of charge basis. There's only one HIV center in Slovenia, where a person can get a prescription. It is recommended to have some medical documentation from Ukraine, if it is not available, the doctor will make a prescription based on the testing results (it will take a day or two to get a result). Once they get a prescription, they can get ARVT the pharmacy in any part of the country (sometimes it is necessary to pre-order medicines, approximately one day in advance).

NGO Slovenska Filantropija provides Ukrainian speaking interpreters who can accompany patients in the clinic, however, not all refugees are aware of this possibility.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

By the beginning of April 2 people have asked for ARVT.

The therapy is available for the non-defined number of refugees. In order to detect refugees with HIV positive status and guide them community organizations have been set: NGOs in the sphere of HIV have communicated the necessity to Slovenska Filantropija (NGO dealing with refugees) to provide people with information on access to HIV and related treatment and HIV clinics have developed special questionnaire aimed at screening out people who might have HIV but are not aware of their status yet.

According to the Decree issued by the Ministry of Health, the state is responsible to provide all refugees with treatment, there is no cap number of refugees to be covered by treatment.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

No issues have been reported so far.

Contacts:

LJUBLJANA INFECTIOUS DISEASE CLINIC

Website: https://www.kclj.si/index.php?dir=/pacienti_in_obiskovalci/klinike_in_oddelki/klinika_za_infekcijske_bolezni_in_vrocinska_stanja
Phone: 522 37 10
Address: Japljeva 2, 1000, Ljubljana

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ASSISTING WITH ACCESSING TO ARVT AND OST:

LEGEBITRA
Website: https://kajisces.si/#
E-mail: info@kajisces.si

Društvo SKUC
magnus@skuc.org

HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

STIGMA
E-mail: drustvo.stigma@gmail.com
Address of drop-in centers: Hacquetova ulica 9 and Petkovškovo nabrežje 29

SERBIA

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

In Serbia ART is prescribed exclusively in health institutions - clinics for infectious diseases - departments for HIV / AIDS in 4 cities in Serbia (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kragujevac). Patients from other cities come for check-ups in these 4 centers. ARV medicines are available in pharmacies upon prescription by infectionist. Clinics for infectious disease can provide free care and ART just for patients who have health insurance. Refugees from Ukraine can apply for temporary health insurance in Serbia (and that procedure is fast), however the information on whether this temporary health insurance covers costs of ART too is still expected from government officials. Community organizations are not authorized to provide HIV treatment services.

There are no interpreters in Ukrainian and Russian language at the clinics, but refugee organizations in Serbia can provide interpreters to assist Ukrainians with translation.

HIV testing in Serbia is free at voluntary confidential counselling and testing centers in health institutions and civil society organizations. Other tests for STIs (hepatitis B and C and syphilis) and dermato-venerological consultation can be done in civil society organizations - such as Asocijacija DUGA/Association RAINBOW.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

As of the end of April there were no requests from Ukrainian refugees regarding ARVT, as well as OST, Tb or hepatitis treatment. The situation with state's capacity to cover ARVT remains unclear.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

Currently the lack of information as well as practice on referring Ukrainian refugees to ARVT sites is the main issue.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING WITH ACCESSING TO ARVT:

Asocijacija DUGA/Association RAINBOW
Address: 7. oktobra br.1, Jevremovac
15000 Šabac
Tel: 015 386 297
Mob: 064 25 29 181
E-mail: asocijacijaduga@mts.rs

Timoc Youth Centre
Address: Generala Gambete No. 44, VIII floor, 19000, Zajecar
Phone: +381 069 444 10 91
E-mail: office@toc.rs

HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

Association Prevent
Jovana Subotića 19, 21000 Novi Sad
Phone: +381 60 688 90 90
E-mail: udruzenjeprevent@gmail.com

SPAIN

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

According to Spanish legislation, refugees and asylum seekers have access to *healthcare under the same conditions as Spanish nationals. Therefore,* ARVT as well as other health services, is available to Ukrainian refugees free-of-charge once they are granted temporary protection status.

In order to access care and treatment of HIV a refugee should get a registration with a city council (municipality) in Spain and apply for the individual health card at a healthcare center. A person needs to have a Social Security number (also called Social Security membership number) in order to apply for this. A person can obtain their Social Security number as follows:

1. Ask for an appointment at the Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social (INSS): Search for the closest "INSS" office and request an appointment through the website or by phone.
2. Apply for the Social Security number: Once there, they should complete and present their application for "recognition of the right to healthcare assistance". They will be provided with a document which declares the right to healthcare assistance and assigned a Social Security membership number.

Then a person can ask for an appointment with the primary healthcare doctor assigned and the doctor will provide them with a referral to an HIV specialist in the corresponding hospital. Also, a person can ask various NGOs in the field of HIV for an assistance.

If the person doesn't speak Spanish, they can ask the medical centre whether they have a free interpreting service for the visit to the doctor. The availability of this service varies according to the autonomous community. In some medical centres and hospitals there are permanent mediation and translation services through entities such as Salud Entreculturas (Hospital Ramón y Cajal), Cruz Roja , etc. In addition, some autonomous communities have a free telephone interpreting service which should be requested when making an advance appointment. Other communities don't have this service and they rely on the support of volunteers from social entities (e.g. Cruz Roja, Permondo, etc.).

Also, there is a 24/4 help line for Ukrainian refugees: +34 91 047 44 44 (available in Ukrainian and Spanish).

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

Current demand for ARVT is low – a few persons in each region, however, it is difficult to get real data, as there is no unified data from the whole country.

State covers the antiretroviral treatment and hospitals have capacity to deal with new patients.

Opioid substitution therapy is also available – both methadone and buprenorphine.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

The main barrier is complexity of the healthcare system and the lengthy process of obtaining all documents which provide access to medical services.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING WITH ACCESSING ARVT:

AVACOS (Valencia)
Website: https://web.avacos-h.org
Address: C/ Gabriel y Galán, 24, 46017 – Valencia
Phone number: 963342027
E-mail: avacos-h@avacos-h.org

Apoyo Positivo (Madrid & Malaga)
Website: https://apoyopositivo.org
Address: Avda. Llano Castellano, 26 28034 Madrid
Phone number: 91 358 14 44
E-mail: hola@apoyopositivo.org

SOMOS LGBT+ (Aragon)
Website: https://somoslgtb.com
Address: Punto Vihsible, C/ San Pablo, 131, local izquierdo; 50003, Zaragoza
Phone number: 976925843
E-mail: organizacion@somoslgtb.com

Asociación Concordia Marbella (Marbella)
Website: http://www.concordiamarbella.com
Address: C/ Carlota Navarrete, 21 - ground floor, 29670 San Pedro Alcántara - Marbella Málaga – Spain
Phone number: +34 - 952 78 59 97
E-mail: info@concordiamarbella.com

Balearics Islands Association for the Fight Against AIDS (Mallorca and Ibiza)
Website: https://alas-baleares.com
Address:
C/ Volta de la Mercè, 3, Entlo A., 07003, Palma
C/ Madrid, 52, 07800, Eivissa
Phone number:
+34 680730303 (Palma)
+34 620119972 (Eivissa)

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT:

National Plan on Drugs (Plan Nacional sobre Drogas)
Website: https://pnsd.sanidad.gob.es/home.htm
E-mail: sdgpnsd@sanidad.gob.es
or uapoyodgpnsd@sanidad.gob.es
Phone number: +34 918226135
or +34 918226185

SWEDEN

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Everyone, regardless of legal status, have the right to HIV treatment and testing in Sweden free of charge. Other medical services might come with a cost – the situation in different regions in Sweden may vary. Stockholm region is providing care for Ukrainian refugees for the same cost and on the same basis as for Swedish citizens.

In order to get ARVT, a person needs to visit a clinic (there are 24 HIV clinics in different regions) to meet a doctor who would provide them with a prescription. If the person has their Ukrainian medical documentation with their old prescription, the Swedish clinic usually can provide a prescription right away. If a person does not have such documentation, the clinic takes a few tests to issue a new prescription.

When a person has the prescription, thy can collect their treatment at the pharmacy. Since most of the people from Ukraine will not have Swedish "personal number" (social security number), the medication can only be collected at the pharmacy specified in the prescription (therefore it is necessary to ask the doctor which pharmacy is assigned to them).

HIV monitoring is carried out free of charge. Once a person is undetectable, they usually visit the clinic once every sixth months to measure viral load and to renew their prescription. CD4 is usually only measured if the person is not undetectable.

If there is any problem with finding an HIV clinic or with access to care, refuges can contact the NGO Posithiva Gruppen._If a person needs an interpreter when visiting a public clinic, they have the right to ask for such. If the visitor is comfortable with speaking English most of health care staff will do that.

A new patient will get a medical journal at their clinic and other care providers will see that a person has a blood infection, but the information on the type of disease won't be available. There are other rules and regulations concerning people living with HIV, such as rules about disclosure (information can be removed by doctor once a person is undetectable).

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

The current demand for ARVT from Ukrainian refugees is not high, however, starting from the middle of March Swedish community organizations are being contacted by Ukrainians and are guiding them to the clinics. It is difficult to calculate the exact amount of people who have approached regarding ARVT – as some of them go directly to clinics, others ask for NGO's assistance, but it is impossible to provide some aggregated data on the number of HIV treatment requests as the information is not being exchanged among counties. It is estimated that the number doesn't exceed 20 people in total by the end of April.

Swedish society has been scaling up to receive Ukrainian refugees. As the actual number of Ukrainian refugees, who arrived to Sweden, is lower than it was expected, there should not be any serious issues.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

Different rules in access to care in different regions of Sweden might be confusing.
The situation with access to OST may be more complicated than in case of ARVT. OST is provided at specialized psychiatric treatment facilities. Both methadone and buprenorphine are available in the country. It is best to contact the nearest emergency centre for people who use drugs (Beroendeakuten) and they will refer to the right clinic.

Contacts:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING WITH ACCESSING TO ARVT:

Posithiva Gruppen
Website: https://posithivagruppen.se
Stockholm: info@posithivagruppen.se, +46 8 720 1960
Gothenburg: kontoret@pgvast.se
Malmö, whole southern Sweden: info@pgsyd.se

SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Posithiva Gruppen
Website: https://posithivagruppen.se
Stockholm: info@posithivagruppen.se, +46 8 720 1960
Gothenburg: kontoret@pgvast.se

Noaks Ark
Website: https://noaksark.org/
E-mail: namn.efternamn(at)noaksark.org
Phone number: +46 (0)8-700 46 00

SWITZERLAND

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

Swiss temporary protection status (S protection status) means that the person is medically insured in Switzerland and has access to free-of-charge medical services, including HIV, hepatitis and TB, and opioid substitution treatment. As soon as a person in need of protection registers with a federal asylum centre and submits an application for S protection status, after being assigned to a canton, the latter will register them retroactively for compulsory health insurance from the date they submitted their application. If a person in need requires immediate medical assistance before applying for S protection status and they do not have health insurance, the costs will be borne by the public authorities.

HIV care in Switzerland is provided in the infectology departments of hospitals or in specialised medical practices. A person can consult a medical practitioner directly and receive treatment. The simplest way is to contact a Swiss AIDS Federation sexual health clinic, which will refer a refugee to a specialist.

At the site a patient will go through the necessary blood testing and get their prescription. In some cases, it is useful to provide Ukrainian medical records, however, not necessary – in most cases there will be issues with translation.

Regarding translation services, Ukrainian refugees may contact Swiss Refugee Council (https://www.refugeecouncil.ch). Also, The IUED Institute of Translation and Interpreting has created two guides that cover the language combinations Ukrainian–German and Ukrainian–French, and provide guidance as to which tools are suitable for this purpose (check their website: https://www.zhaw.ch/en/about-us/news/news-releases/news-detail/event-news/which-translation-tools-are-suitable-for-emergency-communication-with-refugees-from-ukraine-two-guides-provide-the-answer/).

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

There's no register of refugee with HIV in the country – therefore the number of new patients isn't tracked. The government provides the cantons with a global lump sum to subsidise the costs for premiums and contributions to costs (franchise and patient's contributions). At the moment there's no defined cap number of new patients that can be covered by treatment or any other risks of unavailability of medical services to refugees.

Switzerland offers low-threshold access to substitution treatment. Methadone, buprenorphine and diacetylmorphine are available in the country. Treatment is administered by specialist doctors, hospitals, psychiatric services and specialised institutions.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

The only issue reported so far is the language barrier.

Contacts:

SWISS AIDS FEDERATION (ASSISTANCE IN ACCESSING ARVT)

Website: https://aids.ch/en/
Phone number: +41 (0)44 447 11 11
E-mail: aids@aids.ch

TESTING AND COUNSELLING CENTERS

Website: https://aids.ch/en/what-we-do/advice/consulting-and-test-centres/

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

Infodrog
Website: https://suchtindex.infodrog.ch/de

TURKEY

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

In Turkey, ARVT is provided free of charge for Turkish citizens and for those who are granted "International Protection" status by the Republic of Turkey within the scope of social security system, however, Ukrainians or other nationalities who have a residence permit in Turkey and do not have social security can only obtain the medication from pharmacies by paying **the full price of the medication.**

There is no specific organization/clinic in Turkey that provides medical services for PLHIV. Instead, the Infection Units of the state-owned Training and Research Hospitals, in almost every province, provide prescriptions for HIV medication and these drugs are dispensed from pharmacies.

While the specialists working in the clinic can communicate in English **relatively**, people who do not speak English may experience communication problems. If possible, they can visit the clinics with someone who speaks Turkish or English and facilitate the process of getting treatment and service.
The Positive Living Association, as part of the individual protection services provided within the scope of the Key Refugee Groups Project, provides a short-term medication support up to 3 months, to foreigners living with HIV, who have financial difficulties in accessing medication. However, this support is provided one-time and up to 3 months and it only covers the fee of the medication – therefore, this is not a sustainable solution in most cases.

In the provision of services, Positive Living Association requests a prescription, or a document showing their HIV treatment regimen, or test results from their beneficiaries, only if needed. Or sometimes the patient is simply asked to bring pharmaceutical packages or a photo of the medicines they have been using to the appointment.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

So far, Positive Living Association has provided services to approximately 150-200 people who have been affected by the recent developments.
State cannot cover treatment for Ukrainian refugees so far.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

Currently, the biggest barrier is the lack of clarity on whether Ukrainians will receive International Protection status in Turkey. Therefore, Ukrainians are mostly able to stay in Turkey on a tourist visa or residence permit, which results in them not being able to access free medication.

The short-term treatment support the Positive Living Association is providing through donors only covers the cost of the medications, but not the fees for hospital costs and/or examination fees, etc. Foreigners living with HIV in Turkey can have these tests done at university hospitals or private laboratories in every city on a paid basis. Refugees without social security and/or international protection status are considered as tourists, and are charged twice the standard of the fee for these tests at university hospitals.

Contacts:

In order to apply for a short-term HIV medication support and for other services that Positive Living Association provides (facilitation of access to HIV treatment process), foreigners living with HIV can send a message in the desired language (including Ukrainian or Russian) to **@RefugeeSupportPage** page on Instagram, or call **Refugee Support Line 0850 888 0 539** in English, Turkish, Arabic or Persian.

UNITED KINGDOM

How and where Ukrainian refugees can get antiretroviral treatment

HIV and STI treatment and care is free to all people in the UK, including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers etc. All medication is prescribed within HIV clinical services, largely in hospital settings. ART is dispensed within the hospital itself, or in many cases delivered to the residential address of the individual. People have to attend or be registered with an HIV clinical service to access ART.

In order to get prescription, people will need an HIV viral load test, and tests for resistance. More information can be found in the British HIV Association guidelines: https://www.bhiva.org/monitoring-guidelines. Most people test in sexual health services, but GPs in the UK are being advised to test people arriving from Ukraine when registering them as new patients in primary care settings.

HIV and sexual health data is kept separate from medical records if diagnosis occurs in a HIV/sexual health clinic. These databases are held by the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England). People with HIV are encouraged to share their status with GPs etc. which means there is a chance it will appear on standard NHS record, held by NHS Digital.

For HIV treatment monitoring, appointments are typically being held every six months in stable people. CD4 monitored annually, viral load six monthly.

Interpreter services are available, individual clinics usually have access to national services, but these are usually telephone based.

Current demand for services and state's capacity to provide refugees with treatment

Terrence Higgins Trust (largest HIV NGO in the UK) has received a small number of calls (max. 8) via it's helpline service, THT Direct since the start of the war. It is expected that this is due to the low numbers of people to arrive in the UK, because of the complex process to enter the UK compared to mainland Europe. All of the calls were before April.

There is no concern about capacity to provide care to people living with HIV from Ukraine.

Opioid substitution therapy is also available free-of-charge – both methadone and buprenorphine.

Barriers or potential issues in access to treatment

There should be no issues legally or within the health system. However, language barriers, unfamiliarity with our health system and stigma are barriers of concern.

Contacts:

Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) — support in access to ARVT and OST
Phone number: 0808 802 1221
Email: info@tht.org.uk

British HIV Association (BHIVA) — for adults living with HIV
Email: bhiva@bhiva.org.

Children's HIV Association (CHIVA) — for pregnant women living with HIV or families with children or young people living with HIV
Phone number: 07484 830329
Email: amanda.ely@chiva.org.uk

OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

FRANK
Website: https://www.talktofrank.com
Phone number: 0300 1236600

PRAY FOR

UKRAINE