



# Canadian Society for International Health A Canadian Voice for Global Health

La Société Canadienne de Santé Internationale

## POSITIVE CHILDREN PROJECT—UKRAINE 2005—2008

Canada is committed to participating in the global response to HIV/AIDS. As part of this response the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is helping Canadian organizations respond to this global epidemic by funding projects that:



- increase Canada's contribution of policy guidance and technical support,
- share health sector experience and knowledge,
- promote learning between domestic and international responses, and ensure policy coherence of Canada's international HIV/AIDS activities.

With the help of CIDA, the Canadian Society for International Health is taking action to help prevent and manage HIV/AIDS - locally, nationally and globally. CSIH began the Positive Children Project in Ukraine on July 1, 2006. The project brings together a team of experienced Canadian experts to do long-term training and mentoring to teams of Ukrainian professionals from Donetsk, Kyiv, Sevastopol and Zaporizhia. The goal of the project is to address an existing gap in the care and treatment of HIV+ children at the local, regional and national levels in Ukraine. Canadian expertise along with long-term commitment has been recognized by stakeholders in Ukraine as a very important contribution in helping to improve the care and treatment of HIV+ children.

### **The Positive Children Project : Four main components**

1. **Interprofessional Training Program and Internships** - Four five-day training workshops are planned between January 2007 and March 2008. The focus will be on in-depth training to establish trained expertise in the field of pediatric HIV/AIDS in Ukraine for over 85 participants. The training will ensure a multi-disciplinary approach in the management of pediatric HIV/AIDS patients including incorporating both a strong laboratory component and psychosocial component for patients and their families. These training workshops will be complemented by professional internship opportunities to Canada for a select group of project participants.

2. **Demonstration Project** - The demonstration project aims to support Ukrainian interprofessional teams in providing improved health services to children living with HIV and AIDS. It will also serve as a case-study for the iterative training workshops and may inform other aspects of the project, including professional internships. It will focus on improved adherence counseling for HIV-positive children and will allow Canadian and Ukrainian partners

to document treatment and care outcomes over the course of one year. These outcomes may then be used as evidence for policy-making decisions.

**3. Capacity-Building Grants for AIDS Service Organizations** - Acknowledging the important role that AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine, the project will offer capacity-building grants to the organizations participating in the project. These grants will provide an opportunity for Ukrainian partners to put into practice the skills and learning obtained in the four training workshops, provide case study examples to use in those workshops and strengthen the capacity of participants to seek out and obtain sustainable project funding in the future.



**4. Communication of Results** - Information and results pertaining to project activities will be disseminated in Ukraine, Canada and to other international stakeholders. This will involve, *inter alia*, supporting Ukrainian professionals in sharing the results obtained from the demonstration project in the form of scientific papers or presentations at scientific conferences.

### Successes to date

The Positive Children Project in Ukraine has already helped draw attention to the situation of HIV+ children in Ukraine. In January 2006, CSIH co-hosted a multi-stakeholder meeting, attended by all major donors as well as the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, to discuss a national strategy for pediatric HIV/AIDS and coordinate donor activity. As a result of support from the Positive Children Project and other key stakeholders in the field of pediatric HIV/AIDS in Ukraine a National Centre for Children with HIV at the National Children's Hospital OHMATDYT in Kyiv was established. As of February 1, 2007 the clinic has been treating patients from all over Ukraine. The Positive Children Project continues to work closely with OHMATDYT to identify and respond to training needs and provide regular advice on structure and management.

For additional information see <http://www.csih.org/en/projects/Ukraine/index.asp>



*In October 2006, the Canadian Society for International Health has been awarded the Canadian International Cooperation Award for improvement of social infrastructure for their Public Health Strengthening in Guyana Project.*

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