

Strategic Training Partnership to End AIDS in Georgia Project Launch

**National Center for Disease Control and Public
Health (NCDC)
– HIV Programs and Research Opportunities**

**Ketevan (Keti) Stvilia
Manager of GF HIV Program/NCDC**



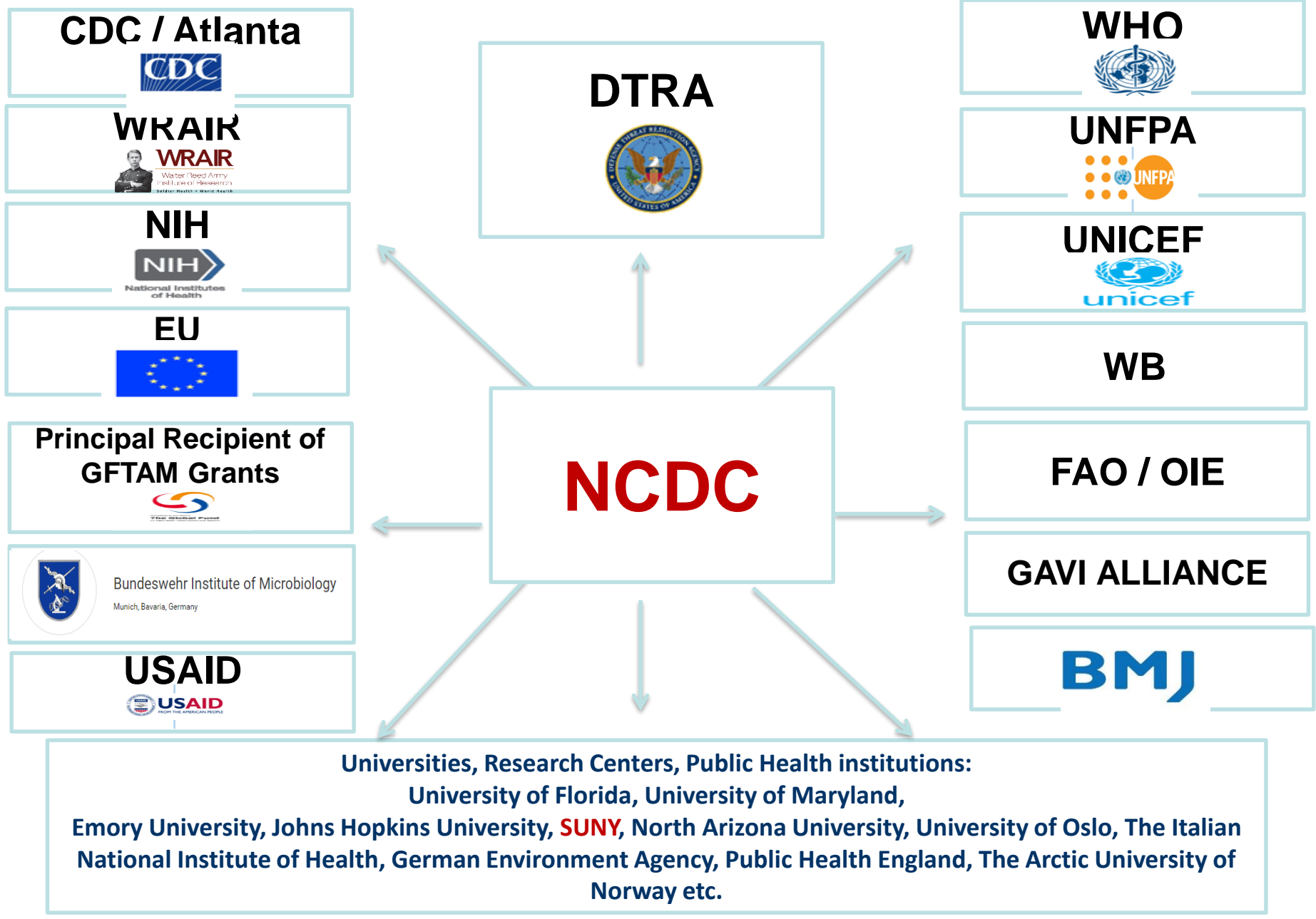
Strategic Priorities

Vision: Our Knowledge for Better Public Health

Mission: Protection and improvement of the health of Georgia's population through scientific evidence-based prevention of diseases, preparing for and timely responding to threats of public health

1. **Decrease Mortality of Morbidity, Disability and Diseases; caused by Communicable**
2. **Decrease Mortality of Morbidity, Disability and Diseases; caused by Non-Communicable**
3. **Assessment and correction of environmental hazards and behavioral risk-factors for improvement of health in population;**
4. **Development of applied and fundamental bio-medical and bio-technological scientific research potential;**
5. **Strengthen preparedness capacities for rapid and effective response to the public health threats;**
6. **Develop electronic information systems;**
7. **Promote development of public health care system management;**







Strategic units of NCDC

State Public Health Programs:

- Immunization
- Blood Safety
- TB
- HIV/AIDS
- Screening
- Surveillance
- MCH
- Occupational diseases
- Health promotion
- HCV Screening

Epid-surveillance of Infectious Diseases:

- VPD
- Diarrheal
- Vector borne
- Respiratory
- Zoonotic
- Parasitic
- Hepatitis /STI/HIV/ TB

Surveillance of NCD:

- CVD
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- CRD
- Risk- factors
- Health promotion
- Tobacco Control
- Strengthening

GF Programs Recipient

Environmental Health

Public Health Preparedness and Response

Medical Statistics

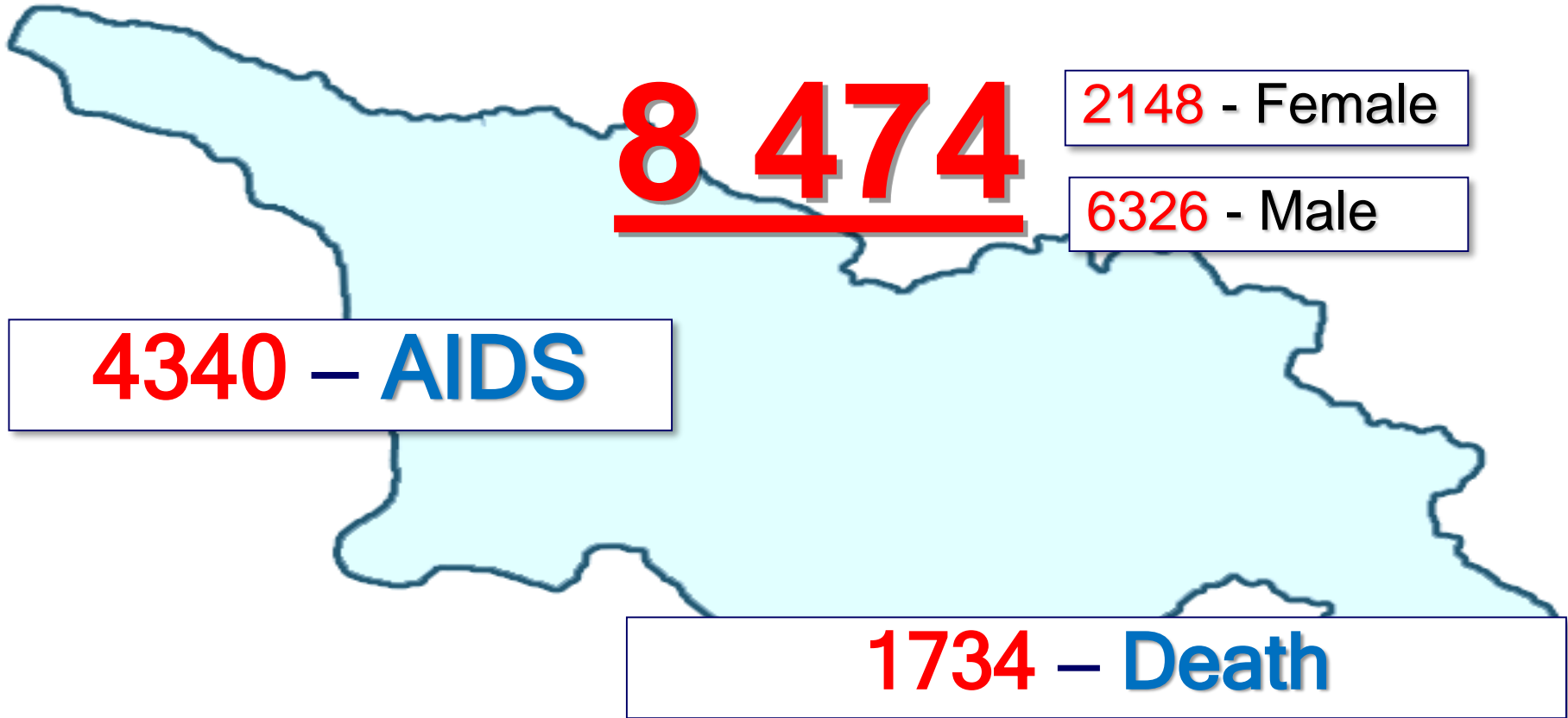
Quality Control

International Collaboration

Training Center

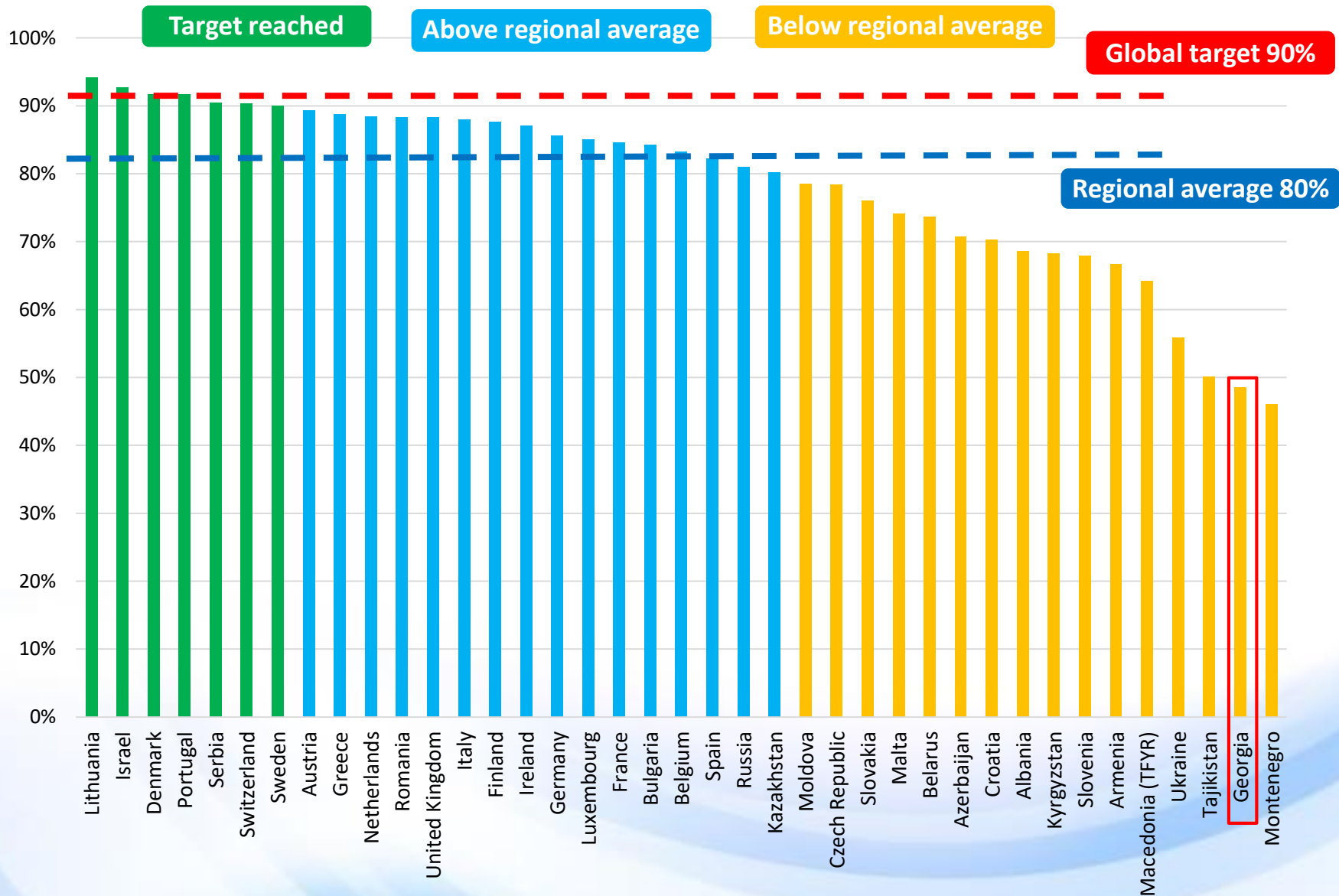


HIV Statistics for Georgia

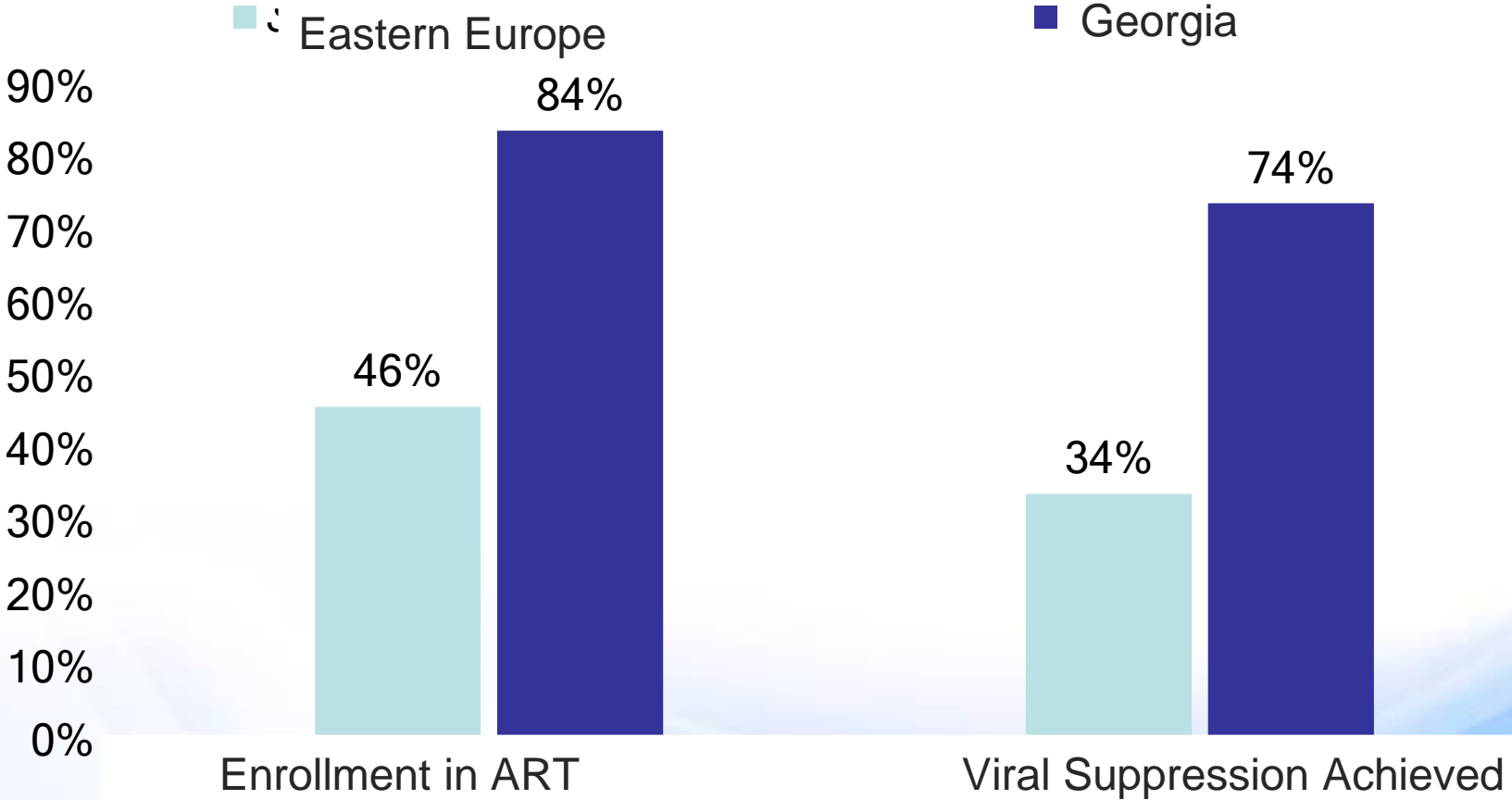


Estimated Number \approx 9 100

HIV Detection Rates, ECDC, 2018



Enrolment in ART and Viral Suppression Rates



State Programs of Potential Interest of the Project

- Safe Blood Program - (centralized NAT testing on 3 blood born infections, including HIV)
- Pregnant Women Screening Program on HIV, viral hepatitis and syphilis – on the road to elimination of MTCT - Data can be derived from Birth Registry
- HIV Screening Program – provider initiated screening at 15 medical facilities (AIDS Center and other medical facilities countrywide)
- Transition of GF supported HIV prevention services to the State Funding – Phase 1: transition of PWID services from 2021
- PHC integrated screening on three diseases - HIV, TB and HCV
- HIV and STI screening and STI treatment for HIV Key Populations
- Research related to HIV, TB and HCV co-infections



GF supported HIV Prevention Interventions

- **Comprehensive HIV prevention programs for PWIDs**
 - Distribution of syringes and needles, harm reduction counseling;
 - Distribution of condoms;
 - Distribution of naloxone for overdose prevention
 - Screening on HIV, HBV, HCV and syphilis (through mobile units (9), peer outreach interventions and screening at service centers (16))
 - Verbal screening on TB (questionnaire based)
 - medical consultations, case management, patients' schools, peer support interventions
 - referral for confirmation testing and treatment on HIV, TB, HCV and STIs
 - Sigma project: distribution of HIV prevention commodities through dispersing automats (project is implemented in partnership with Alternative Georgia)
 - FIND's harm reduction integrated HCV confirmation testing

- **Integrated behavior and biomarker surveillance survey and population size estimation study among PWIDs in 2021**



GF supported HIV Prevention Interventions

- **Comprehensive HIV prevention programs for MSM and TG people**
 - Distribution of condoms and lubricants; risk reduction counseling
 - Screening on HIV, HBV, HCV and syphilis (through mobile units (3), peer outreach interventions and screening at service centers (7))
 - HIV self-testing intervention (online platform + mobile delivery)
 - Verbal screening on TB (questionnaire based)
 - Case management
 - psychological support
 - community events and peer support interventions
 - referral for confirmation testing and treatment on HIV, TB, HCV and STIs
- **PrEP – Daily PrEP with aim to start on demand PrEP**

Program is available at the community centers in 3 large cities



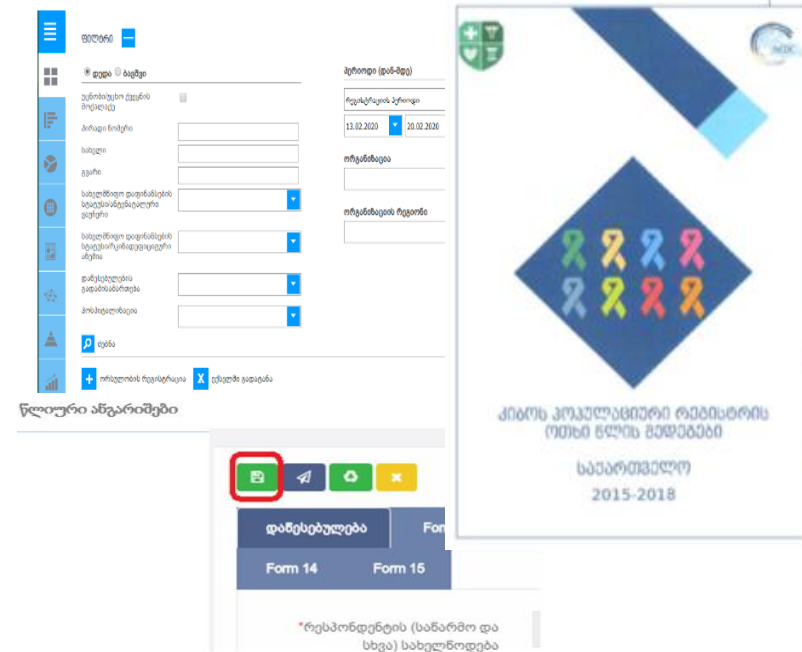
GF supported HIV Prevention Interventions

- **Comprehensive HIV prevention programs for FSWs**
 - Distribution of condoms; risk reduction counseling
 - Screening on HIV and syphilis (through mobile units (2), peer interventions and screening at service centers (5))
 - Verbal screening on TB (questionnaire based)
 - referral for confirmation testing and treatment on HIV, TB, HCV and STIs
- **TG people**
Assessment of needs
- **PWHA – psycho-social support intervention** – platform for various qualitative and operational research related to stigma and human rights, quality and access to HIV prevention and treatment services
- **COVID-19 impact on delivery of HIV prevention and treatment services** – development, testing and assessment of alternative service delivery models
- **Research related to HIV, TB and HCV co-infections**



Development of PH Informational Systems

- Significantly improved immunization informational system
- E-reporting of statistics
- Creation and functioning of cancer unified information system
- Decrease of non-identified causes of mortality by 14,9%
- Audit of the quality of birth registry data
- HIV Prevention Database (in the process of development)



Administration of Public Health State Programs

- Conversion to NAT testing of safe blood; piloting in Tbilisi
- Obtaining the EU Twinning project for safe blood system strengthening
- Expansion of integrated screening on HIV/AIDS, TB and HCV in regions; launching of integrated screening in Tbilisi
- Establishment of Hepatitis B and C surveillance systems
- Establishment of e-modules for cancer screening and safe blood surveillance



R. Lugar Center for Public Health Research

Accreditation & Certification – NCDC / Lugar Center



3 Labs accredited by WHO

- Polio
- Influenza
- Measles/Rubella

5 Labs Connected to WHO Lab Network with EQA

- Rota
- Invasive Meningitis
- Malaria
- Salmonellosis
- AMR



Virology, Molecular Biology and Genomic Department

Molecular Epidemiology / Genomics

Influenza and Respiratory Viruses Lab

Polio and other Enteroviruses lab

Cell Culture Lab

Serology Lab – HCV Research Subunit

Bio-safety and EDP Department

Bio-Safety Division

National Repository

EDP Lab

Zoo-Entomology Lab

General Bacteriology Lab

Vivarium

Sample Receiving group



Development of Applied and Fundamental Biomedical and Biotechnological Research Potential

- Successful ISO15189 accreditation of the serological and bacteriological labs at the Lugar Center
- **Establishment of NAT technologies**
- Training of personnel for creation of material-technical base for TB sequencing
- Successful piloting of clinical applications at the Genomic Center
- **Implementation of 66 research and public health grant projects**
- **Strong Partnership with CDC and US academic centers**
 - 14 articles were published in scientific journals
 - 31 employees attended 16 various international scientific conferences
 - 28 abstracts were published in conference materials



Thank you for your attention!

