

AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)

Annual Report 2014



EAST & WEST TOGETHER



Contents



3	Foreword
4	Who we are
5	Client management Country profiles
6	The Netherlands
9	Russian Federation
12	Kyrgyz Republic
16	Republic of Tajikistan
22	Republic of Kazakhstan
26	Ukraine
32	Georgia
35	Balance sheet
36	Statement of Income and Expenditure
37	Donate to AFEW
38	List of abbreviations and acronyms
39	Credits

Foreword

Frank de Wolf

Chairman of the Board
AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)

Anke van Dam

Executive Director
AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)



Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) continue to feature prominently in the news. News filling us with grief and concerns, but also with a strong determination to continue our work.

Headlines included flight MH17's crash in Ukraine, which took the lives of five of our Amsterdam colleagues who worked on HIV and AIDS. This news left us speechless and saddened. In addition, the crisis in Eastern Ukraine that began in spring 2014 wages on, a conflict that continues to leave many people without essential medications to treat their illnesses.

Data released by the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) in November 2014 highlight the worsening situation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia regarding HIV and tuberculosis (TB). The number of infections continues to rise, with the increase in multi-drug-resistant TB threatening the health of the region. Yet, access to treatment for both HIV and TB remains low.

The expanding HIV and TB epidemics and the geopolitical situation in the region, compounded by legal and social barriers to accessing treatment and care for key populations, demand continuous advocacy to uphold the human rights and the right to health for those most at risk. Therefore, *AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)* continues advocating for harm reduction for people who use drugs, access to information and care for young people who use drugs and young offenders alike, access to treatment among prisoners and care for women living with HIV and other key populations.

Further improvements to HIV services and the integration of HIV and TB service provision are still needed. One of AFEW's core activities is strengthening the capacity and updating the knowledge of service providers. AFEW continues to improve the quality of services provided by public and non-governmental organisations through the provision of training, e-learning, online knowledge platforms and resource centres.

This year – 2014 – represented the first year of AFEW's new organisational structure as a network of civil society organisations in EECA. During this past year, AFEW Network members succeeded in securing funding to continue activities for people who use drugs and prisoners; to expand work for young people, young people who use drugs and young offenders and women; and together with community-based organisations and, other partners, to explore and implement new strategies to curb the HIV, TB and Hepatitis C epidemics. In countries such as the Russian Federation, Belarus and Moldova, mobilising resources for such projects was no easy task. The AFEW Network will continue supporting its partners in finding opportunities to continue their work. AFEW is determined to ensure health for all in EECA!



'Eastern Europe witnesses a continuing fast-growing HIV epidemic; access to prevention is challenged by political, legislative and societal obstacles; access to treatment remains below that in the rest of the world; civil society and community-based organisations struggle to survive and implement programmes; the middle-income status of most countries in the region results in a significant decrease in the level of international funding. At this moment, the work of AFEW is more critical than ever.'

— **Michel Kazatchkine**, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Who we are

AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW) is an international network of civil society organisations working in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia dedicated to improving the lives of key populations.

The *AFEW* Network promotes health and increased access to prevention, treatment and care for public health issues such as HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The focus and objectives of the *AFEW* Network members reflect local conditions and the needs of local communities, and include:

- capacity strengthening of local non-governmental and governmental organisations;
- advocacy;
- serving as an effective liaison and partner with community-based and governmental structures; and
- piloting and expanding innovative approaches to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

We work in six countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia – the only region in the world where the HIV and TB epidemics continue to grow with the highest rate of injecting drug use. Equipped with an average of 65 devoted professionals, in 2014, the *AFEW* Network implemented a total of 16 projects in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

AFEW's strengths lie in its focus on key populations most at-risk for public health issues such as HIV, TB and viral hepatitis, particularly people who inject drugs, people in prisons and detention centres, sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM) and street children, whether living with HIV or not. Within this area, our work in prisons sets us apart. Therefore, *AFEW* will always pay particular attention to the role of prisons in public health regarding the issues outlined above.

Our focus on Eastern Europe and Central Asia and our experience in the region remain unique because of the scope of countries and services in which we work. We will continue our commitment to the region and expand where opportunities and needs exist.



Client management: now and in the future

More than 10 years ago, *AFEW* introduced the client management system to non-governmental and governmental organisations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This client-centred approach was new to the region and ensured that tailored services offered at 'social bureaus' met the needs of clients.

By building a solid referral network of HIV, TB, drug use, mental health and SRHR specialists, clients receive guidance towards the prevention tools, treatment and care they need. In this way, *AFEW* contributes to improving the quality of life of key populations at risk for HIV, TB and viral hepatitis. In most countries, *AFEW*'s client management approach was adopted and incorporated into the national healthcare system.

Our next step is to sustain and, where necessary, to improve the quality of care of the client management system. In the coming years, *AFEW* will advocate for national standards related to social work, harm reduction and health services, assist in developing these standards, offer training and monitor the quality of care. Through client management, *AFEW* continues strengthening healthcare systems in the countries where it works.



Country profiles

The Netherlands

AFEW Network International Secretariat



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(Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Summary

The International Secretariat of the AFEW Network plays a pivotal role in the coordination of the network. In addition to connecting the network to international donors and ensuring that all policies, procedures and reports meet international expectations and international donor standards, the International Secretariat provides overall management and communication for the AFEW Network's largest multi-country project, 'Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for Key Populations', and two other projects.

By providing independent oversight of the network, the International Secretariat aims to maintain a clear and transparent method of working that meets international standards and donor expectations. As the main link internally between network members and externally between policy makers, donors and other stakeholders, the International Secretariat promotes AFEW as an international network of organisations in both the West and the East. As a member of various platforms, the International Secretariat conducts activities and fosters relationships to advocate for key populations and to work with international partners ensuring that their needs remain at the forefront of both national and international policy. Additionally, the International Secretariat coordinates opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and the promotion of partnerships within and beyond the network. Through study tours, conferences, meetings and roundtables, AFEW facilitates the sharing of best practices, experiences and ideas.

Key results in 2014

- On 16 January, AFEW hosted representatives from eight Dutch organisations in Amsterdam that support women living with HIV to share their expertise and expand partnerships. The original introductions between AFEW and these organisations took place in October 2013 during a study tour planned for HIV-positive women in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine
- On 8 to 10 April, AFEW, together with Mainline, hosted a meeting with partner organisations from eight countries implementing the 'People Who Use Drugs' component of the 'Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights of Key Populations' programme. This meeting aimed to present the achievements of the programme, discuss existing challenges and find solutions to problems based on the experiences of other organisations

- On 3 to 4 November, we hosted the 3rd International City Health Conference dedicated to engaging diverse communities in urban health and wellbeing. Nearly 200 healthcare specialists, prison experts, policy makers, civil servants, community representatives, researchers and academics from a number of countries outlined opportunities for innovative interventions.



Number of staff:
5 + 1 intern

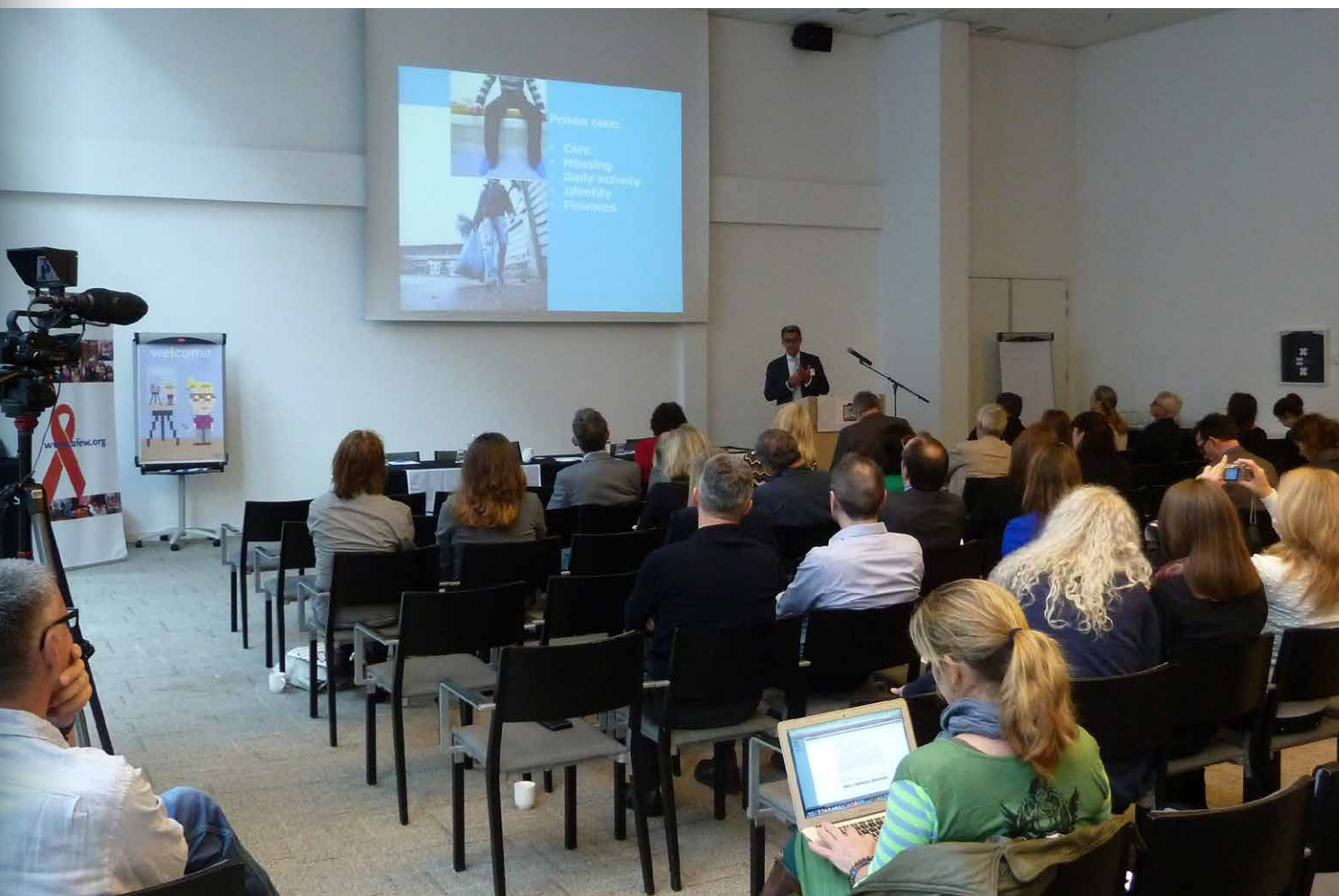
'Building healthy cities is a major challenge for the 21st century. I was truly pleased to participate in the Amsterdam conference that discussed these issues placing public health and human rights at the starting point.'

— Michel Kazatchkine

Information on spending Projects/Administration

The Executive Director's annual gross salary stood at €72 765, working at an FTE of 80%. In accordance with AFEW policy, Board members do not receive remuneration for their time. The annual gross salary of the Director of Finance and Administration stood at €103 867, working at an FTE of 100%. On 15 August, the position of Director of Finance and Administration was eliminated due to structural changes within AFEW.





Country profiles

Russian Federation



HIV in Russia

85 252 new cases registered in 2014*
(76 219 cases in 2013)

907 607 total registered HIV cases

*Russian Federal AIDS Centre, www.hivrussia.ru

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Summary

In 2014, HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs in Russia reached 57.3%, one of the highest rates in the world. In addition, heterosexual contact accounted for 40.3% of newly registered HIV cases. Simultaneously, the Russian government continued to reject evidence-based interventions, such as opioid substitution therapy, going as far as outlawing its distribution and use in Crimea after the region's annexation in 2014. This move left around 800 patients without access to opioid substitution therapy, resulting in the death of a reported 100 individuals from overdose or suicide.

Due to a shortage of funds and changes in management, AFEW's activities in Russia in 2014 were limited to training prisoners on HIV prevention and adherence to treatment and training journalists and bloggers on how to correctly cover human rights issues among prisoners.

Key results in 2014

- 2645 prisoners reached with informational sessions and mini-training seminars
- 54 representatives from 14 non-governmental and governmental organisations took part in various training sessions
- 14 journalists and bloggers trained on how to correctly cover prison issues, including a visit to a women's labour camp in Mozhaik for article research
- Developed guidelines on how to write about the human rights of prisoners, and the printing and distribution of 500 copies to journalists

Russian Federation

Indicator type	2014
Number of people in key populations at risk participating in informational sessions and/or mini trainings	2645
Number of people in key populations at risk enrolled in the client management programme	-
Number of people in key populations who received client management services*:	
• People who use drugs	-
• Sex workers	-
• MSM	-
• Prisoners	-
• Street children	-
Number of representatives of governmental agencies and/or NGOs who participated in trainings	54
Number of governmental agencies and NGOs reached through trainings	14
Number of people reached through awareness-raising events	2645

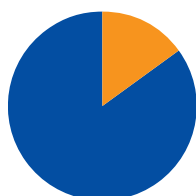
Financial information:

Projects

1. **GLOBUS HIV/AIDS Prevention Project among Key Populations**
Budget €68 951
Donor Open Health Institute
2. **Civic Journalists on Guard of Human Rights in Russian Penal System**
Budget €40 726
Donor Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Russia (MATRA project)

2014 Budget

€109 677 *



Project expenses

● **€93 225 (85%)**

Administration costs:

● **€16 452 (15%)**

* Note that original budgets were granted in Russian rubles (RUB). Due to the significant devaluation of the ruble during 2014, an average rate of RUB50 to €1 was used for this calculation.



Number of staff: **4**



First HIV prevention webinar held for prisoners

AFEW in Russia held the first distance-learning webinar on HIV prevention for nearly 150 prisoners of Correctional Colony No.10 (Tver region). The webinar, which took place in June, fell within the framework of the 'HIV Prevention in the Penal System' programme designed to provide inmates and prison staff with access to accurate information and quality HIV prevention services. This programme is financed through the GLOBUS Project.

A video conference was set up in the colony's club to allow for the attendance of a large number of inmates without requiring them to leave the prison. Participants included prisoners living with HIV and those wanting more information about HIV. A one-hour lecture on HIV including its prevention was followed by interactive sessions during which participants could ask questions and receive answers. Questions primarily focused on the availability of antiretroviral therapy in prison settings and HIV and hepatitis prevention among sero-discordant couples.

'At a normal seminar, there are usually 15 to 20 individuals participating. But, here we had 150 prisoner participants. We employed all of the standard principles of webinars: a general lecture and interactive communication,' said Roman Ledkov, AFEW's programme specialist in Russia.

In future, AFEW in Russia plans to create more dynamic webinars by including videos and presentations. We also hope to organise distance learning for multiple penal colonies simultaneously, including those situated in Kazan and Nizhniy Novgorod.



Photo: Mikhail Putin

Roundtable discussion on the health and human rights of prisoners

Russian decision makers, media and civil society representatives met at a roundtable in October to discuss preserving the human rights of those incarcerated, as well as to consider the possibility of civic journalists contributing to improving the situation for prisoners. This roundtable was held within the framework of AFEW's 'Civic Journalists on Guard of Human Rights in the Russian Penal System' Project.

After the presentation of data on the status of health-care among prisoners, journalists, bloggers and representatives from non-governmental organisations summarised their long-term projects aimed at protecting the health and human rights of prisoners.

Participants reached the conclusion that Russian penitentiary facilities must be more transparent and open to public scrutiny and control. Furthermore, the role of civic journalists in protecting the rights of prisoners is extremely important. Numerous examples exist demonstrating how the intervention of journalists alone protected the rights of prisoners.

Country profiles

Kyrgyz Republic



HIV in Kyrgyzstan

612 new cases registered in 2014*
(504 cases in 2013)

5505 total registered HIV cases

* Republican AIDS Centre, www.aidscenter.kg

Public Foundation

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Summary

Today, the majority of HIV infections in Kyrgyzstan occur through injecting drug use (54.3%), followed by unprotected sexual contact (nearly 35.8%). Given that Kyrgyzstan is situated along the primary regional drug trafficking route, in addition to high rates of unemployment, migration and poverty, high-risk behaviours related to HIV transmission remain common.

Kyrgyz state policy relies on a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach aimed at ensuring gender equality and the observance of human rights, particularly as they relate to key populations and people living with HIV. The planning and implementation of HIV-related activities are carried out in accordance with World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNAIDS recommendations. As such, the government implements measures outlined in the state programme to overcome the HIV epidemic for 2012 to 2016 aimed at stabilising and subsequently reducing HIV incidence in Kyrgyzstan.

Key results in 2014

- 165 Kyrgyz anti-narcotics officers from across the country trained on HIV prevention, harm reduction and client management programmes for key populations, which resulted in a 30% increase in their knowledge
- 12 police academy instructors trained to lecture on 'The Role of Law Enforcement Authorities in Programmes on HIV Prevention and Harm Reduction'
- 5044 people who use drugs received quality health, legal, social and information services
- 898 clients tested for HIV; 2216 questions related to key populations were answered through www.hivplatform.kg
- 150 prison officers were trained on HIV prevention and harm reduction
- 800 prisoners were reached with group mini-sessions on HIV, TB and drug use
- 19 000 food parcels distributed to TB patients throughout Kyrgyzstan as an incentive to continue directly observed treatment, short-course (DOTS). Parcels included grain, sugar, tea, powdered milk, cooking oil and pasta.

Kyrgyzstan

Indicator type	2014
Number of people in key populations at risk participating in informational sessions and/or mini trainings	800
Number of people in key populations at risk enrolled in the client management programme	2403
Number of people in key populations who received client management services*:	
• People who use drugs	2211
• Sex workers	2
• MSM	-
• Prisoners	181
• Street children	-
Number of representatives of governmental agencies and/or NGOs who participated in trainings	984
Number of governmental agencies and NGOs reached through trainings	105
Number of people reached through awareness-raising events	3070

Financial information

Projects in 2014

- Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for Key Populations**
Budget €614 674 (US\$743 756)
Donor Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short-Course) through the Provision of Access to Diagnosis of and the Treatment of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis**
Budget €118 950 (US\$143 930)
Donor The People-to-People Health Foundation (Project Hope)

3. HIV React Project

Budget €92 405 (US\$111 810)

Donor United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

4. Technical Support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the implementation of the departmental plan for police personnel training on HIV prevention and harm reduction

Budget €44 731 (US\$54 124)

Donor Soros Foundation and Open Society Foundation

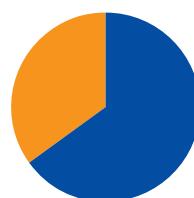
5. Project PUHLSE-Kyr: Prisoners in Kyrgyzstan Health Survey and Evaluation

Budget €21 406 (US\$25 901)

Donor National Institute on Drug Abuse

2014 Budget

€892 166* (US\$1 079 521)



● Project expenses

€582 915 (US\$705 327) (65%)

● Administration costs:

€309 253 (US\$374 196) (35%)

* Figures in US dollars were converted into € based on the exchange rate as of 31 December 2014.



Number of staff:
27

Kyrgyzstan

Centres for women in crisis reduce risky behaviours, improve reproductive health

Two unique centres, in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek (NGO 'Asteria') and in the second largest city of Osh (NGO 'Podruga'), became home to dozens of women in crisis. Due to the high level of stigma and discrimination associated with their HIV status or drug use, these women often face the denial of medical care at state hospitals. These centres help such women realise their rights to access healthcare by providing integrated client management services.

'At "Asteria", I received clear information about my pregnancy and learned that despite my 22-year history of drug use, I have a right to proper medical diagnosis and pregnancy registration, care and support at the maternity home. Social workers escorted me to all labs for the necessary tests and secured a place at the maternity home, which I was initially denied. After delivery, I received a child support package from "Asteria" that included a baby bathtub, towels, pacifiers, diapers, milk formula and toys. My husband and I love our baby girl.'

— **Svetlana**, 40 years old

These centres signed collaborative agreements with a few medical institutions in Bishkek and Osh, and can now refer women who use drugs to see a gynaecologist, narcologist and psychologist. Every week at 'Asteria' and 'Podruga', women gather to participate in individual and peer-to-peer sessions to help one another through crisis situations. They discuss issues related to HIV and hepatitis C prevention, harm reduction and risky behaviours. Together with a lawyer that comes each week, women describe their legal issues, such as replacing personal identification cards lost during imprisonment and placing children in kindergartens and schools. At the same time, both centres together with AFEW in

Kyrgyzstan work with local police officers to ensure that women who use drugs and sex workers are treated with respect and dignity.



'At our meetings with women, we try to develop and maintain their internal capacity so that they may make conscious decisions about their lives.'

— **Nadezhda Sharonova**, chairperson of non-governmental organisation 'Podruga'

Women consulting the centres come from various backgrounds. For those who cannot meet even their basic needs, 'Asteria' and 'Podruga' offer various low-threshold services including temporary shelter, a shower, personal hygiene products, laundry facilities and hot meals. Many women receive help finding employment. In addition, women who may not need assistance visit the centres to chat with their friends. They do so because these centres represent one of the only places where they may be heard and understood.

Key cumulative results in 2014

- 760** women welcomed
- 269** women enjoyed low-threshold services
- 70** mothers received food & support packages
- 5420** medical & social services enjoyed
- 145** women tested for HIV
- 72** women screened for TB
- 169** tested for STI's



Country profiles

Republic of Tajikistan



HIV in Tajikistan

1008 new cases registered in 2014*
(876 cases in 2013)

6558 total registered HIV cases

* Republican AIDS Centre, <http://www.nc-aids.tj>

Republican Public Organisation

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Summary

Today, the majority of HIV infections in Tajikistan are transmitted through unprotected sexual contact and the sharing of injecting equipment. According to UNAIDS, 80% of new HIV infections among women result from unprotected sex. Since 2009, the percentage of cases transmitted from mother-to-child doubled, reaching 5.5% of all newly registered HIV cases.

The government of Tajikistan adheres to its political commitments to respond to HIV and continues to support programmes run by international organisations and donor agencies. Local non-governmental and grassroots organisations of people who use drugs and people living with HIV are represented in the national coordination and implementation of projects on HIV and TB, including prevention and treatment activities. While the country continues to rely heavily on

international donors, the Tajik government is slowly increasing its share of HIV-related spending, from 14.77% in 2011 to 23.89% in 2013.

AFEW's efforts in Tajikistan focus on amending and updating existing laws and procedures, standards and policies on HIV and health promotion. As such, in 2014, AFEW achieved its goals, and the Government of Tajikistan approved new HIV laws and procedures.

- The HIV laws in Tajikistan were amended and approved in March 2014, with a focus on stigma and discrimination. For the first time, people who inject drugs, sex workers and men who have sex with men were referenced in the HIV-related law and identified as those most vulnerable to HIV.

AFEW's informational and educational (IEC) materials served as effective instruments to promote access to legal information, support and services among people who use drugs. The brochure 'The rights of detainees' represented the most in-demand material, and was reviewed again by the Police Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan, and printed and disseminated among key populations for a second time. Police officers working in the field used this brochure to familiarise themselves with the rule of law governing the rights of detained persons. Likewise, people who use drugs relied on this brochure to defend their rights during police raids and daily interactions with law enforcement officials.



Key results in 2014

- Through direct involvement from AFEW in Tajikistan towards the revision of existing policies on HIV, the Tajik law on HIV was amended and approved with a specific focus on stigma and discrimination. The law now identifies people who use drugs, sex workers and men who have sex with men as the most vulnerable to HIV
- 16 local non-government organisations and 36 state health service centres, such as HIV, TB and narcological centres, adopted AFEW's system of referral to healthcare providers and legal and social support services
- UNAIDS endorsed AFEW's client management approach, referral system and unique client identification codes, encouraging its application in the practices of the Tajik Ministry of Health and all international and national partners
- The Tajik Ministry of Health approved AFEW's training manual for use by non-governmental organisations, civil and penitentiary health service providers in the delivery of mini-training seminars on HIV, TB, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and hepatitis
- 'The Rights of Detainees' brochure was reprinted and widely used both by law enforcement officials and people who use drugs
- 143 non-medical staff from six prisons took part in a series of informational sessions on HIV and its prevention and the unacceptability of stigma and discrimination directed towards HIV-positive detainees. AIDS centre physicians held individual consultations with prisoners
- Assistance provided to 503 people living with HIV on initiating antiretroviral treatment and 732 individuals referred for CD4 testing
- 31 people who use drugs received detoxification assistance and initiated opioid substitution therapy

Tajikistan

Indicator type	2014
Number of people in key populations at risk participating in informational sessions and/or mini trainings	7111
Number of people in key populations at risk enrolled in the client management programme	6103
Number of people in key populations who received client management services:	
• People who use drugs	2475
• People living with HIV	1443
• Sex workers	647
• MSM	-
• Prisoners	-
• Former prisoners	626
• Youth-at-risk	311
• Women-at-risk	601
Number of representatives of governmental agencies and/or NGOs who participated in trainings	251
• Government organisations	154
• NGOs	97
Number of governmental agencies and NGOs reached through trainings	43
• Government organisations	11
• NGOs	32
Number of people reached through awareness-raising events	53749

Financial information

Projects in 2014

1. Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for Key Populations

Budget €444 851

Donor Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

2. USAID TB Control Programme

Budget US\$61 388

Donor USAID

3. Get Informed, Get Tested!

Budget €15 600

Donor Gilead Sciences Europe

4. HIV React Project

Budget US\$181 960

Donor USAID

5. Dialogue on HIV and TB (Phase II)

Budget US\$116 838

Donor USAID

6. Building capacity of civil society and strengthening partnerships with healthcare providers to enlarge access to integrated HIV prevention, care and treatment services (Phase II)

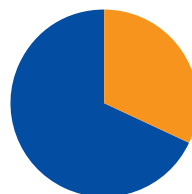
Budget US\$107 115

Donor Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

2014 Budget

€807 418 *

* Figures in US dollars (US\$) were converted into € based on the exchange rate on the date the contract with a particular donor was signed.



Project expenses

● **€549 044 (68%)**

Administration costs:

● **€258 374 (32%)**



Number of staff: **21**



'Using drugs, reducing risks' new video released in Tajikistan



Yarali works as an outreach worker for our partner SPIN+, where he provides peer support for people who use drugs in Tajikistan. Yarali clearly remembers his first experience with drugs. Like many youngsters, he started using heroin after the fall of the Soviet Union as a way to escape the social instability. Yarali's experience with drug use helps him support other people who use drugs, despite not always knowing how to answer their questions. When he does not know the answer, he consults the online platform www.afew.tj.

In Tajikistan, an estimated 25 000 people use drugs. Around 60% of people who inject drugs are living with HIV. However, a significant information gap exists regarding drug use and HIV treatment even within the healthcare sector. Healthcare workers are not trained on such topics, often resulting in stigma and rejection.

In order to address this knowledge gap, *AIDS Foundation East-West* developed an online learning platform as part of the Bridging the Gaps programme. The platform provides information and professional consultations with healthcare experts on topics related to HIV, TB, viral hepatitis, STIs, substance dependence and harm reduction. This is particularly useful for medical professionals in rural areas who have limited access to information, as well as for outreach workers like Yarali. (Film available at <https://youtu.be/z-hTfH6klXo>.)



Tajikistan

new AFEW office in Khatlon to scale-up access to client management services

Aiming to scale-up access to quality client management and HIV prevention services for key populations, in June 2014 AFEW in Tajikistan opened a branch office in the country's largest and most densely populated region – Khatlon. According to official data, this region is home to the highest incidence of HIV among people who use drugs.

The new AFEW office is staffed by nine experienced medical, social, outreach and legal professionals who provide client management services to people who use drugs, sex workers, former prisoners, vulnerable women and men who have sex with men. Additionally, the office cooperates with local and state agencies and runs HIV and TB prevention projects for current prisoners. Finally, the office plays a pivotal role in providing technical assistance and organisational help to local non-governmental organisations and building partnerships among

local non-governmental organisations, state agencies and law enforcement agencies and officials.

At the request of the Penitentiary System of Tajikistan, AFEW's social workers together with specialists from Khatlon's Regional AIDS Centre organised HIV counselling and testing services for prisoners housed in the region's two colonies prior to the 2014 prisoner amnesty.

Of key importance, HIV testing and counselling services were offered to prisoners on a voluntary basis. As a result, 831 prisoners, including 100% of all released female prisoners, were tested for HIV, among which six cases were newly identified.

Additionally, 93 people who use drugs, 14 people living with HIV and six men who have sex with men received client management and legal services provided by AFEW's Khatlon office.

Country profiles

Republic of Kazakhstan



HIV in Kazakhstan

2208 new cases registered in 2014*
(1974 cases in 2013)

16 318 total registered HIV cases

* Republican AIDS Centre, <http://www.rcaids.kz/>

Public Foundation

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f www.facebook.com/afew.kz

Summary

Today, the majority of HIV infections in Kazakhstan are transmitted through injecting drug use (58.3%) followed by heterosexual contact (36.3%) and same-sex contact (0.9%). Due to the shortage of donor funds for HIV programmes in Kazakhstan, AFEW only worked on two active projects in the country in 2014: the 'HIV React Project' that started in July with the aim of reducing HIV transmission among key populations in detention and post-detention settings in two regions, and a UN Women project aimed at increasing the leadership capacity of women living with HIV.

Kazakhstan

Indicator type	2014
Number of people in key populations at risk participating in informational sessions and/or mini trainings	490
Number of people in key populations at risk enrolled in the client management programme	20
Number of people in key populations who received client management services*:	
• People who use drugs	-
• Sex workers	-
• MSM	-
• Prisoners	20
• Street children	-
Number of representatives of governmental agencies and/or NGOs who participated in trainings	90
Number of governmental agencies and NGOs reached through trainings	12
Number of people reached through awareness-raising events	156

Key results in 2014

- Training of 20 district police officers in Ust-Kamenogorsk to work with key populations, including reducing stigma and discrimination
- Training seminar for representatives from non-governmental organisations on START Plus transitional client management for prisoners
- Two training sessions in Almaty and Ust-Kamenogorsk, respectively, for prison narcolo-gists and psychologists on developing motiva-tional interview skills
- Training for prison physicians and psychologists on developing antiretroviral therapy adherence among inmates living with HIV
- 463 prisoners trained on HIV prevention
- 22 transitional prisoners joined the client management programme
- 156 prisoners reached during World AIDS Day events and received motivational packages
- 15 members of the Network of Women Living with HIV trained on public speaking
- Training for non-medical prison staff on HIV pre-vention and reducing stigma and discrimination

Within the 'HIV React Project', AFEW in Kazakhstan worked with public organisations 'Doverie Plus' (Almaty) and 'Answer' (Ust-Kamenogorsk). Both organisations provide consultations to former prisoners and offer client management services, including:

- referring them to free medical, psychological and social services;
- providing low-threshold services such as a shower, laundry facilities and food;
- assisting them with re-socialisation and adapta-tion back into society;
- helping them to find employment; and
- replacing identification documents.

In addition, the non-governmental organisation 'Answer' provides temporary housing for newly released prisoners who have no place to live.

Financial information

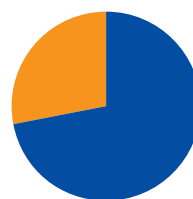
Projects in 2014

1. **HIV React Project**
Budget US\$138 948
Donor USAID
2. **Capacity Building among Women Living with HIV**
Budget US\$13 435
Donor UN Women in Kazakhstan

Total Budget

€119 266 *

* Figures in US dollars (US\$) were converted into € based on the exchange rate on the date the contract with the donor was signed.



Project expenses

● **€85 872 (72%)**

Administrative costs

● **€33 394 (28%)**



Number of staff: **10**

Kazakhstan

HIV-positive women improve their public speaking skills



In total, 18 activists from the Kazakh Network of Women Living with HIV – a young but fast-growing non-governmental organisation – took part in AFEW's training on public speaking within the framework of the 'Capacity Building among Women Living with HIV' project supported by UN Women.

Two professional trainers, from Almaty and Moscow, delivered various interactive sessions and practical exercises to help each participant overcome her internal fear and develop confidence when speaking publically.

As one participant summarised, 'We learned how to express ourselves before various audiences. These skills will help me and my colleagues to defend our health and human rights, promote the interests of women like us and work to end stigma and discrimination'.



Country profiles

Ukraine



HIV in Ukraine

19 441 new cases registered in 2014*
(21 631 cases in 2013)

264 489 total registered HIV cases**

* Ukrainian Centre for Socially Dangerous Disease Control,
<http://ucdc.gov.ua/>

** Figures do not include statistics from the regions of Crimea (since April), Donetsk and Luhansk (figures missing from some months).

International Charitable Foundation 'AIDS Foundation East-West' (AFEW-Ukraine)

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UCZU6cfhFA9mi9oHn9a7muHQ

Summary

Ukraine remains Europe's leader in HIV prevalence, and is home to one of the fastest growing HIV epidemics in the world. Each year, the nature of transmission shifts further from the sharing of injecting equipment to unprotected sexual contact. In 2005, only 33% of new infections resulted from unprotected sex, while in 2012 this figure reached 51% increasing further in 2014 to 57%. New HIV infections resulting from the sharing of injecting equipment fell to 24% in 2014. The majority of newly registered HIV cases in Ukraine occur among young people between the ages of 15 and 30. Despite these figures, the number and scope of HIV programmes across Ukraine has

dropped. In 2015, the country's primary donor, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, will cease financing HIV prevention programmes among youth.

AFEW-Ukraine works with most-at-risk adolescents (including young people who use drugs and street children) in four regions, providing them with medical, psychological and social services through a network of social bureaus. In addition, *AFEW-Ukraine* works with law enforcement officials to increase knowledge among police officers regarding the human rights of key populations. Training sessions for police officers, site visits and study tours serve to improve cooperation between law enforcement officials and civil society organisations.

Additionally, *AFEW-Ukraine* works with HIV-positive women and the State Drug Control Service, for which *AFEW-Ukraine* helped develop prevention clips.

Key results in 2014

- 7152 most-at-risk adolescents reached through 20 333 medical, social, psychological, legal and educational service providers
- 297 representatives of governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations and law enforcement institutions participated in 19 training seminars on counselling issues, programme management, harm reduction, HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support, communications-related issues, and stigma and discrimination
- Developed and launched an online course on TB for non-medical specialists from governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations. In total, *AFEW-Ukraine* conducted four online seminars for more than 60 participants



Number of staff:
9 + 1 consultant

- Launched an online platform, the Knowledge Centre (knowledge.org.ua), for specialists to provide assistance to most-at-risk adolescents as well as their parents
- Opened new facilities including a rehabilitation centre for young people who use drugs in Chernivtsi and a drop-in centre for most-at-risk adolescents (including young people who use drugs and street children) in Kharkiv
- Initiated a pilot project in Kyiv aimed at empowering HIV-positive women and improving the quality of their lives in cooperation with the Kyiv City Branch of All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV and Positive Women of the World (Netherlands)

Ukraine

Indicator type	2014
Number of people in key populations at risk participating in informational sessions and/or mini trainings	5583
Number of people in key populations at risk enrolled in the client management programme	994
Number of people in key populations who received client management services*:	
• People who use drugs	319
• Sex workers	-
• MSM	-
• Prisoners	169
• Street children/MARA	478
• PLWHA (women)	28
Number of representatives of governmental agencies and/or NGOs who participated in trainings	397
Number of governmental agencies and NGOs reached through trainings	57
Number of people reached through awareness-raising events	800

Financial information

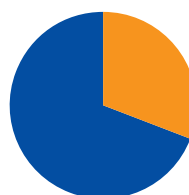
Projects in 2014

1. **Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for Key Populations**
Budget €365 390
Donor Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands
2. **Incorporating HIV Prevention and Human Rights Issues among Vulnerable Groups into the Training System for Law Enforcement Officers in Kyiv and Kharkiv**
Budget €29 091
(original amount: UAH320 000)
Donor International Renaissance Foundation
3. **Immediate Intervention to Improve the Health of HIV-Positive Women in Kyiv**
Budget €15 040
Donor Gilead Sciences Ltd.
4. **Prevention Clip for Ukraine Television**
Budget €14 580
Donor Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe

Total Budget

€539 694 *

* Figures in US dollars (US\$) were converted into € based on the exchange rate on the date the contract with the donor was signed.



Project expenses

● **€372 389 (69%)**

Administrative costs

● **€167 305 (31%)**



Ukraine

NGOs learn about the Polish model of working with most-at-risk adolescents



In November, representatives from Ukrainian non-governmental organisations visited Poland on a study tour to meet with several state and public-sector agencies working with young people at risk for demoralisation. Demoralisation, in this sense, is understood as a complex concept that involves violation of social and legal norms, communication problems with others or risky behaviours including substance use among teenagers. The Polish system of child guardianship represents an alternative to the Ukrainian system. In Ukraine, this system is based on punishment for any misdeeds rather than the re-socialisation of a child, the preferred model applied in Poland. Thus, no incarceration facilities for minors exist in Poland. Instead, they rely on educational and correctional centres that work with young people.

Participants learned about the role of police officers in preventing demoralisation and models of collaboration between law enforcement agencies, schools and non-governmental agencies. Shelters and crisis centres for adolescents in Poland are overseen by non-governmental organisations in an integrated system of support for this key population.





'Our attention is the best prevention'

Video aimed at prevention of risky behaviours and negative phenomena among young people

Three short video clips, a series entitled 'Our Attention is the Best Prevention', produced by AFEW-Ukraine, are aimed at prevention of risky behaviours and negative phenomena among young people, such as drug and alcohol consumption, domestic violence, child homelessness, etc. They highlight problems in the family and provide alternative, successful methods to solve them. The videos show different situations when a lack of attention from parents pushes children to seek alternatives on the streets. The first two clips end with a reminder to parents to spend more time with their children.

'Daddy, spend some time with me', says a teenager to his father offering him money he saved to pay for a day from his father's busy work schedule.

The third video shows children mimicking their parents when parents smoke and drink alcohol and when a father abuses his wife. 'Children see and act alike', appears at the end of the clip.

The video clips were created in collaboration with the State Service of Ukraine on Drugs Control and AFEW-Ukraine, with support of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and the The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The videos can be found on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/nbe0OC02Baw>

Our Attention Is the Best Prevention! (45 sec)

<https://youtu.be/dOZav094T0o>

Our Attention Is the Best Prevention! (6 min)

<https://youtu.be/L8clvfUcvjA>

Children see! (32 sec)

Country profiles

Georgia



HIV in Georgia

566 new cases registered in 2014*
(490 cases in 2013)

4803 total registered HIV cases**

* Georgian AIDS Centre, <http://aidscenter.ge/>

AFEW-Ukraine implements project activities in Georgia

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epidemic. Since 2004, the country has received two major grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, crucial for scaling-up the national response to HIV. Significant progress has been made in treatment provision; however, progression of disease rates to AIDS remain high, which may be attributed to harsh drug policies that criminalise drug use and hinder access to services for those who need it.

AFEW-Ukraine's work in Georgia is mostly targeted at improving access to services for people who use drugs, including those currently incarcerated or recently released from prisons. To do so, *AFEW-Ukraine* established a network of social bureaus in different regions of the country and referral systems in communities allowing for the creation of a comprehensive continuum of care for people who use drugs. Advocacy and awareness-raising aimed at decreasing stigma and discrimination towards people who use drugs and people living with HIV are also important components of the work of *AFEW-Ukraine* and its local partners within the country. Finally, *AFEW-Ukraine* works with the media and key decision makers as a component of all its project activities in Georgia.

Summary

Today, almost half of all HIV cases in Georgia (49.1%) occur through the sharing of injecting equipment, followed by heterosexual contact (41.6%) and same-sex contact (6.2%). One-third (1582 cases) of all reported HIV cases (4803) are registered in the country's capital city of Tbilisi.

Despite the relatively low prevalence of HIV in Georgia, widespread drug use and mass population movements between high prevalence countries (such as the Russia and Ukraine) put Georgians at high risk for an accelerating

Key results in 2014

- 2992 people reached with information on HIV including prevention and client management services offered by non-governmental organisations and state healthcare service providers
- 4835 medical, social, psychological and legal services provided for people who use drugs
- 50 staff members and representatives from partner organisations participated in five training seminars on counselling, programme management, harm reduction, HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support and communications

- 33 Georgian organisations now included in AFEW-Ukraine's partner network
- Three additional social bureaus established in Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Batumi by Tanadgoma – Centre for Information and Counselling on Reproductive Health, with technical support from AFEW-Ukraine and its 'Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for Key Populations' project

Financial information

Projects in 2014

1. **Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for Key Populations**

Budget €106 415

Donor Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Georgia

Indicator type	2014
Number of people in key populations at risk participating in informational sessions and/or mini trainings	2992
Number of people in key populations at risk enrolled in the client management programme	557
Number of people in key populations who received client management services:	
• People who use drugs	543
• People living with HIV	-
• Sex workers	-
• MSM	14
• Prisoners	-
• Street children	-
Number of representatives of governmental agencies and/or NGOs who participated in trainings	50
Number of governmental agencies and NGOs reached through trainings	14
Number of people reached through awareness-raising events	2300

Georgia

No more calling police for an overdose

On 26 June, non-governmental organisation 'Bemoni' in Tbilisi held a large public event dedicated to the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The city's major national theatre hosted a performance aimed at increasing awareness about drug use and the rights of people who use drugs. Twenty-four actors and singers from six countries (France, Georgia, Italy, Romania, Russia and Ukraine) took part in the concert, attended by nearly 600 people. Event attendees included representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Georgia, the European Union delegation, Tbilisi City Hall, the Ministry of Sports and Youth and local mass media representatives.

Several performances during the event focused on overdose. In September, thanks to various advocacy events held by AFEW-Ukraine's partners in Georgia with the participation of national authorities and the media, legislation on overdose changed. Previously, the urgent care treating nurse or physician was required to immediately inform police of an overdose. As of 1 September, this regulation was removed.

Another AFEW-Ukraine partner in Georgia, the Centre for Information and Counselling on Reproductive Health 'Tanadgoma', distributed leaflets on drug use, drug legislation and programmes available to people who use drugs in Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi and Zugdidi. In total, nearly 6000 copies of the leaflets were distributed during various events.



Balance Sheet

as of 31 December 2014

	2014 EUR	2014 EUR	2014 EUR	2013 EUR	2013 EUR
Tangible fixed assets	1	0		0	
Inventory			0		0
For immediate and full use in the context of the objectives			0		0
Accounts receivable and deferred assets					
Donors	2	1.833.168		3.206.207	
Other	3	262.288		207.302	
			2.095.455		3.413.572
Cash and cash equivalents	4		475.820		840.290
TOTAL ASSETS			2.571.276		4.253.862
Reserves and Funds	5				
Reserves					
Continuity reserve		8777		12.258	
Restructuring reserve		80327		150.100	
Restructuring reserve Central Asia		3624		13,320	
			92.728		175.678
Funds					
Special purpose funds	6		28.494		16.424
Long-term debts					
Subsidy commitments	7			1.999.896	
Short-term debts					
Subsidy commitments	7	2443191		2.042.152	
Other liabilities	8	6862		19.711	
TOTAL LIABILITIES			2.450.052		4.061.759

Statement of Income and Expenditure as of 31 December 2014

	Actual 2014 EUR	Actual 2014 EUR	Budget 2014 EUR	Budget 2014 EUR	Actual 2013 EUR	Actual 2013 EUR
INCOME						
Income from own fundraising:						
Grants from international foundations/NGOs	12.214				221.871	
Grants from businesses	8.271				124.547	
Other: donations/collections	26.514		16.000		26.816	
		46.999		16.000		373.234
Income from joint activities		0				121.827
Income from third parties' activities		0				5.361
Subsidies from governments		1.680.924		1.952.000		2.155.237
Other income/ loss		4.023				(7.984)
TOTAL INCOME		1.731.946		1.968.000	-	2.647.675
EXPENDITURES						
Spent on objectives						
Capacity Strengthening	757.562		871.017		1.721.290	
Mass media campaigns	0				7.876	
Advocacy	742.411		869.237		649.440	
Other (research, provision of product sets, milk formula, condoms and other materials)	15.151		15.923		94.167	
		1.515.124		1.756.177		2.472.773
Costs of raising income						
Cost of own fundraising	16.653		9.924		11.406	
Cost of joint activities	0		16.549		17.939	
Cost of third party activities						
Costs of obtaining governmental grants	38.121		28.725		44.787	
		54.774		55.198		74.132
Management and administration	232.928		156.625			224.346
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1.802.826		1.968.000		2.771.251
Balance of income and expenditure		(70.880)		-	-	(123.576)
Allocation of year-end result						
Continuity reserve			(3.481)			(78.392)
Continuation reserve, RF 2012						
Restructuring reserve, additions			-			19.189
Restructuring reserve, expenditures			(69.773)			(10.000)
Restructuring reserve Central Asia			(9.695)			(31.681)
Special purpose funds, additions			(12.068)			5.361
Special purpose funds, expenditures						(28.053)
TOTAL ALLOCATION OF YEAR-END RESULT			(70.880)			(123.576)

Donate to AFEW



In this annual report, we aim to present a glimpse into the many important ways that we at AFEW work to halt the spread of the HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. We ask you to support our staff and partners in their work among the most neglected and stigmatised individuals in their respective countries. This work changes lives for the better.

Your contribution is vital, because the groups we represent are so often overlooked among lists of good causes, corporate charity budgets and national development programmes. AFEW's commitment to financial transparency and accountability is demonstrated by its long-term relationships with many international and national donors.

Donations can be made online at www.afew.org, via bank transfer in the Netherlands to NL43ABNA0594015952 or by contacting our International Secretariat.

Abbreviations & Acronyms

AFEW	<i>AIDS Foundation East-West</i>
DOTS	Directly observed treatment, short-course
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Control
EECA	Eastern Europe and Central Asia
FTE	Full-time equivalent
IEC	Informational, educational and communications
MSM	Men who have sex with men
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TB	Tuberculosis
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation

Credits

Production

AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)

English text

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Vanessa Fuller

Russian translation

Ruslan Myatiev

Graphic design

Bas van Vuurde

Cover photography (+ country profiles; The Netherlands)

Stefano Ruffini

All photos appearing in this annual report belong to *AFEW* unless otherwise specified.

AFEW thanks its staff, Board members and partner organisations who contributed their time and expertise to the development of this report.

