SCIENCE, COMMUNITY AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE HIV RESPONSE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

IAS 2019 POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Kazakhstan, 19-20 November 2019
HIV Self-Testing in Central Asia
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USAID Central Asia HIV Flagship Activity
Barriers to HIV testing: structural, personal, programmatic
How Flagship has addressed them:
• Community-based testing
• Set of case finding strategies
• Shifted focus of testing
Why HIV self-testing?

- Reach more people
- Enhance partner testing
- Enter risky networks
- Give people a choice
STAR came to the rescue

3,611,221 HIVST kits distributed in 2016-2019

- HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) is highly acceptable
- Reaches priority populations
- Reaches first time testers
- Enhances partner testing and index testing
- Enhances linkages to care and treatment and prevention
- No major social harms observed with HIVST (self-harm, intimate partner violence)
Cascade of index testing using HIVST (oral fluid), Vietnam, Aug-Dec 2018

100% of partners opted to HIVST at CSO

Average 2.3 partners listed per index client

Index cases

Partners elicited and tested

First positive

Confirmed

Started ART
National HIVST policy and implementation 2018, by region

40% (77/194) reporting countries have HIVST policies, of these only 49% (38) are implementing.
Influencing local policies

Launch in Central Asia

http://hivst.org/evidence
Find a hidden

• Identifying priority populations
• Moving forward to reach more people
• Distribution and Follow up channels
• Different testing options: assisted / non-assisted
Smart Start
12,750 self-test kits for Central Asia
People say:
I rejoice when innovations really make life easier. Today I tried it myself - #SELFTEST for HIV. I was thinking about it but always afraid. Finally, I got a chance to do the test by myself. Easy, quick and safe.
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