

INSIGHT



USAID MARKS 20 YEARS OF AID IN UKRAINE

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Since USAID opened its doors in Kyiv in 1992, just after Ukraine achieved its independence, it has been committed to working in full partnership with the Ukrainian people as they sought to transform their country into a vibrant democracy, with a robust free market economy. While the path forward has not been easy or always smooth, the Ukrainian people have much to be proud of, and Ukraine today is a vastly different place than the Ukraine that existed when the Soviet Union dissolved.

The pillars of our development strategy – economic reform, democratization, and social protection – are anchored in the fundamental principle that Ukraine's most precious resource is its people. USAID's many assistance programs are tailored to meet the needs and aspirations of ordinary people – men and women – throughout Ukraine.

[Read more](#)

BUDGETING FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

"Not a single kopek of the city budget will be stolen from Kyiv citizens," wrote Oleksander Popov, head of the Kyiv City State Administration, on the city's website. "[With the new budget system] we are going to put our financial system in order and eliminate any chance for budget abuse."

The new budgeting system, known as Performance Program Budgeting (PPB), represents a new, more effective way of doing municipal business, according to Popov, who describes Ukraine's current system, a vestige from the Soviet Union, as one that "focuses on cultivating bureaucracy, rather than on improving services to Kyiv residents."

For Kyiv, as well as 117 other municipalities where PPB has been piloted since 2008, the status quo is changing. [Read more](#)

USAID MUNICIPAL HEATING REFORM PROJECT:

"SAVE HEAT, SAVE UKRAINE"



As a humanitarian aid volunteer in Ukraine in the 1990s, Erin Concors, USAID Senior Communications Advisor, discovered many ways to stay warm during the long Ukrainian winters. She experimented with local methods of heating the small apartment that she rented on Kyiv's left bank,

since she had no control over my apartment's temperature.

"To cope with the cold, I would light my antiquated gas oven, turn it to 'high' and leave the oven door open," she said. I also bought Styrofoam insulation, stuffed it into the spaces between the window panes, and used tape to seal the gaps." [Read more](#)

USAID PROMOTES TRANSPARENCY OF THE INVESTMENT PROCESS IN UKRAINE

In the globally integrated world of finance, most regulatory authorities mandate that information be filed by public companies in an electronic format.

This provides for a timely and routine flow of data to capital markets. While these systems vary widely, electronic submission facilitates information to investors, the key element in any vibrant capital market.

Ukraine launched the Electronic System of Comprehensive Information Disclosure, ESCRIN, in 2010 as the result of collaboration between USAID, the Ukrainian Securities Commission (USC) and financial market participants. ESCRIN was developed with support from USAID's Capital Markets Project following a comprehensive analysis of disclosure systems implemented by securities market regulators in the United States, the European Union, Canada and Russia.

ESCRIN allows Ukrainian public companies to file financial reports in real time on a publicly accessible web site, an essential step to improve transparency and fight corruption. [Read more](#)

USAID PROMOTES THE RULE OF LAW IN UKRAINE



The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has played a leading role in promoting and strengthening the rule of law during Ukraine's 20 years of independence. From 2006 to 2011, the USAID *Ukraine Rule of Law Project* (UROL) worked to increase the transparency and accountability of the judicial system, assisted in the adoption of policy and legislative reform in rule of law and anti-corruption, and supported the Ukrainian government and civil society in carrying out key reform ac-

tivities to improve Ukraine's legal framework.

During last five years, the USAID UROL project achieved significant progress, most notably, effective cooperation with a wide variety of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, successful legislative initiatives that realigned Ukrainian laws with international and European judicial standards, improved public education on the judiciary, and enhanced professional training programs led by Ukraine's own judges. [Read more](#)

USAID BUILDS SUSTAINABLE MEDIA SUPPORT INSTITUTIONS



USAID/Ukraine's flagship media support program, *Strengthening Independent Media in Ukraine* (U-Media) was implemented during 8 years of unprecedented political, economic, and social transition. Five elections (two presidential, two parliamentary, one local), the consolidation of media outlets, and the 2008 economic crisis provided a dynamic backdrop to *U-Media's* development efforts.

Despite hopes that a vibrant, independent Ukrainian media sector would emerge following the Orange Revolution, the sector continued to face significant challenges. Paid content pervaded broadcasts and publications, and editors and journalists were subjected to direct and self-censorship. The quality of media content suffered as basic journalism skills in newsgathering and reporting declined.

Since launching in 2003, *U-Media* has developed a cadre of 12 professional, independent, sustainable media support NGOs capable of addressing these challenges. Over this period, *U-Media* employed a long-term, holistic approach to improve the quality of services delivered by these media sector NGOs and develop the institutional capacity necessary for them to flourish. [Read more](#)

USAID HELPS REBUILD LIVES

Victoria is a successful entrepreneur who runs a hairdressing salon in Kirovohrad. Victoria is also a caring wife and mother for her son Dmytro. But life hasn't always been so kind.

Two years ago, struggling to make ends meet, Victoria and her husband Oleksandr responded to an advertisement that promised employment in Russia. The promise of decent work was far from real. The couple would ultimately go through a dramatic experience, including having their documents taken away, being forced to work in unsafe conditions and harmful environments, and being brutally beaten when speaking up. When finally released, the couple returned home with no money, traumatized, and in total distress.



Victoria and Oleksandr heard about an NGO that offered support to victims of trafficking. Through the NGO, the couple was included into the USAID Reintegration Program for victims of trafficking run by IOM, and began rebuilding their lives. With training and grants from USAID, Victoria and Oleksandr's started a new business. The stable income gave the family confidence in their future and the strength to leave their unfortunate experience in the past. [Read more](#)

USAID PROJECT HELPS STEM THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS



On January 31, 2012, SUNRISE, the seven-year USAID HIV/AIDS project in Ukraine, officially ended. The \$13 million project, implemented by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine and its partners, has helped stem the spread of HIV/AIDS.

According to data from the Ukraine National AIDS Center, the annual growth rate of new HIV cases in Ukraine dropped from 24.7 percent in 2004 to 3.5 percent in 2011. The Ukraine Minister of Health, Oleksandr Anishchenko, acknowledged USAID's contribution toward this achievement. In a letter included in the SUNRISE final report, Minister Anishchenko wrote: "In the regions covered by the SUNRISE Project, there has been minimal registered growth in new HIV cases, which has had a positive effect on the epidemic situation in the country."

One of the keys to the project's success has been the introduction of innovative services in regions most affected by the epidemic. "The SUNRISE project came at a critical time for Ukraine," recalls Dr. Gundo Weiler, HIV/AIDS Coordinator from the World Health Organization. "I think it was important that the U.S. Government was a major partner." The prevention projects implemented under SUNRISE by 65 civil society organizations resulted in behavioral changes in 200,000 injecting drug users, 34,000 sex workers, 25,000 men having sex with men, and 3,500 street children. Over 44,000 people living with HIV/AIDS accessed care and support programs co-funded through SUNRISE. According to Dr. Oleksandr Tolstanov, the Ukraine Deputy Minister of Health, "this seven-year project, unique for Ukraine, laid the foundation for innovative activities assisting the most vulnerable populations with health-care services and also ensuring the sustainability of these services." Activities include HIV prevention via pharmacy networks, medication-assisted treatment for injecting drug users, social and prevention programs for street children, prevention of violence against sex workers, and mentorship programs for men having sex with men. [Read more](#)

HEALTHY BABIES, CONFIDENT PARENTS



Life with twins is busy for any new parents, but for Irina and Oleg, life with "preemies" is especially a handful. Born two and a half months early, both Dmitriy and Alexandra each weighed less than four pounds.

After spending several days in a nearby neonatal intensive care unit, Irina and Oleg were referred to the Kyiv National Children's Okhmatdet Hospital. At this particular hospital, USAID introduced the Kangaroo Mother Care method (also known as kangaroo care) via its Maternal and Infant Health Project. The project helps healthy, but vulnerable preterm infants gain weight and become stronger through continuous skin-to-skin contact with their parents. [Read more](#)

RURAL HEALTH CARE UNIT GAINS ACCESS TO SAFE WATER

Uriye Harkchi, a nurse practitioner for 17 years at the Dubki rural health outpost, expresses her delight every time she turns on the water faucet and fills her cup. When she sees the surprised faces on her patients, she smiles and tells them about how USAID helped bring potable water to the Dubki health unit.

Constructed in 1957, in the Simferopol district of Crimea, the Dubki health outpost's water supply system slowly fell into disrepair. For over 30 years, the health outpost had not undergone any significant water system renovations. When the village water supply system stopped functioning completely in 1999, the health outpost was suddenly without water. Therefore, in addition to responding to the medical needs of 2,000 patients, Ms. Harkchi was also burdened with another responsibility. [Read more](#)



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