



**MINISTERUL SĂNĂTĂȚII AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA**

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**On behalf of  
The Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova  
Mrs. Ruxanda Glavan**

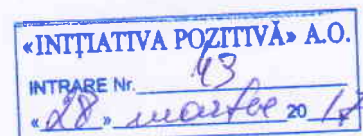
**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

To Public Association «Positive Initiative»

Herewith I would like to express the support and openness on behalf of the Ministry of Health from Moldova for the initiative of implementing the Project with main aim to scale-up community HIV self-testing among high-risk population groups in three low-middle income countries (Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Ukraine) (Project). We support the proposal led by UNICEF and planned to be implemented together with partner organizations from Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.

Ministry of Health support innovative approach of HIVST and plans to pilot, integrate and institutionalize HIV self testing in frames of Project proposal that was worked out for «Expediting access to HIV self-testing in low and middle-income countries» call for proposals launched by UNITAID.

Republic of Moldova is streamlining its HIV response being adhered to global UNAIDS Fast Track strategy and its 90-90-90 targets by 2020. Moldova continues to experience concentrated HIV epidemic within key affected population (IDUs, sex workers and MSM) with the latest epidemiological trends of spreading out the key groups through their sexual partners to general population. The legal framework and health policies demonstrate country's political commitment in responding to the HIV epidemic, including those related to general health policy and HIV/AIDS issues. HIV prevention is an integral part of the National Strategy for Health System Development for 2008 – 2017. National AIDS Program represents well developed and strategically focused evidence based strategy with the activities built upon latest data and most sound activities to ensure the successful implementation of so called HIV treatment cascade providing access to qualitative prevention, treatment, care and support services. It is focused on key epidemic drivers, is aligned to global strategies on most efficient evidence-based interventions (90-90-90 strategy), international recommendations and cost efficiency analyses towards ending the epidemics. HIV testing and counseling is a critical component of programs for key populations at all levels of spending as an entry point for ART. About 50% of new diagnosed cases are AIDS stage. One of the important steps to expand access to testing was the approval of the testing standard within NGOs using rapid tests on saliva. In line with 90-90-90, the national clinical protocols will be revised to provide test and treat strategy. The country is currently revising its testing guidelines in line with latest WHO recommendations to maximize testing with rapid tests on capillary blood in medical and non-



medical network and to simplify the confirmation algorithm, including community based and self-testing.

The Ministry of Health will continue to play leading and coordinating role in successful national HIV response in Moldova in line with global targets and high-level commitments. I consider the opportunity to launch the initiative to pilot, integrate and institutionalise HIV self testing approach under «Expediting access to HIV self-testing in low and middle-income countries» UNITAID call as brilliant opportunity to strengthen and improve the all partners efforts in country towards ending the HIV epidemic in Moldova.

**Deputy minister**



**Aliona SERBULENCO**