

# Sustainability of Community-Based Social Services for Key Populations in Russia:

## Problems and Prospects of National Investment Programs

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### Background:

According to the Governmental Analytical Center of the Russian Federation, a small share of spending on HIV prevention in total spending on HIV prevention activities is one of the key characteristics of contemporary HIV funding in Russia. According to the data of the last decade, the largest number of new HIV cases in Russia is among key populations. NGOs play a crucial role in HIV prevention among key populations. It is important to support the sustainable work of NGOs, which is driven by well-developed funding mechanisms at different government levels. One such mechanism is the public procurement system. The aim of the study was to assess the structure of public spending on HIV prevention programs among key populations by community-based NGOs.

### Methods:

- We analyzed open data on public procurement aimed at HIV prevention in the most affected regions.
- Then, expert interviews and focus groups were conducted with community-based NGOs heads and staff to interpret the quantitative data.

### Results:

- 641,143,397 rubles (approximately \$8,699,367) were allocated for the prevention of HIV infection in Russia through the public procurement system.
- NGOs from 14 regions of Russia received only 79,975,459 rubles (approximately \$1,085,148) for the preventive programs implementation.
- In the volume of prevention goods and services for key populations, more funds are invested in people who use drugs.
- Some NGOs are not always ready to use this funding mechanism because of the bureaucratic system of state organizations that announce auctions for the procurement of goods and services.

### Conclusions:

It is necessary to develop national funding mechanisms that will contribute to the sustainability of community-based NGOs providing preventive services to key populations. NGOs and the scientific community need to continue working with opinion leaders to develop the most effective methods of HIV prevention among key populations.

**Only 21.1% of the funds were allocated to HIV prevention programs among key populations under the public procurement mechanism of financing, while key populations are a driver of the HIV epidemic in Russia**

Region	Amount of public procurements carried out by NGOs, \$	Share of funds for prevention among key populations in the total amount of NGOs contracts, %
Moscow city	\$ 343 013,78	0%
Saint Petersburg	\$ 273 305,50	33%
Krasnoyarsk region	\$ 134 864,30	4%
Leningrad region	\$ 75 400,10	18%
Republic of Bashkortostan	\$ 67 900,20	58%
Omsk region	\$ 60 445,60	71%
Perm region	\$ 51 668,00	70%
Tomsk region	\$ 33 989,20	0%
Sverdlovsk region	\$ 15 603,80	78%
Republic of Crimea	\$ 9 656,30	0%
Ulyanovsk region	\$ 8 659,30	100%
Samara region	\$ 6 485,10	100%
Irkutsk region	\$ 2 963,40	0%
Tyumen region	\$ 1 194,00	0%

### Methods

- Monitoring of public procurements for HIV prevention programs in 2019 and 2020 in the most affected HIV-infection regions of the Russian Federation (N = 24). Information on 403 public procurements for HIV prevention programs was analyzed
- Expert interviews (N = 5) with the heads of community-based NGOs in 5 regions of the Russian Federation.
- Focus groups with specialists (N = 16) of community-based NGOs in 5 regions of the Russian Federation

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