

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

E U R A S I A N
M O V E M E N T F O R T H E

R I G H T T O H E A L T H
I N P R I S O N S

PROJECTS

PROMOTING HEALTH RIGHTS IN PRISONS OF EECA COUNTRIES

with the financial support of the Robert Carr Fund



Meeting of representatives of the community



Initiative group, Moldova

- Technical assistance was regularly provided to community representatives in six countries.
- Community-led monitoring was conducted in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and Tajikistan.
- The information campaign "Restriction of Freedom ≠ Restriction of the Right to Health" has been implemented.

- On June 11-12, 2024, the first regional **meeting of representatives of the community** of people with living experience in prisons took place in Istanbul. During the meeting, participants:
 - Analyzed the situation and identified key gaps in each country;
 - Developed a shared vision for the development of the community;**
 - Laid the foundation for advocacy plans;
 - Defined technical assistance needs;
 - Exchanged experiences and expanded their network of contacts.
- Initiative groups** uniting people with living experience in prisons have been established and are actively operating in **Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan**. They have developed and are implementing **country advocacy plans**.
- The regional consultation "**Perspectives of Reforming the Penitentiary Healthcare System in the EECA Region**" was held in Yerevan November 19-20, 2024. The discussion brought together representatives from the Ministries of Health, Ministries of Justice/Interior, penitentiary systems, and community representatives from **Armenia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine**. Participants examined key challenges and reform perspectives, studied Armenia's experience, and strengthened intercountry partnerships.



Regional consultation "Perspectives of Reforming the Penitentiary Healthcare System in the EECA Region"

EXPANDING ACCESS TO HIV SERVICES IN PRISONS OF EECA REGION

with the financial support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the framework of the regional project "Sustainability of services for key populations in EECA region", implemented by a consortium of organizations led by the ICF "Alliance for Public Health" in partnership with the CO 100% Life.

MOLDOVA

- A pilot peer-to-peer counselor training program has been launched for people in prisons.
- 10 training sessions** were conducted for six counselors from six penitentiary institutions.
 - Training topics included Basic skills of a peer consultant, risky behavioral patterns, principles of mentorship and leadership, key aspects of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and STIs, and harm reduction programs.
 - The training program was developed based on the **Peer Counselor's Manual**.
 - Two counselors have started providing counseling services in prisons, and **25 supervision sessions** were conducted to enhance their skills and address complex cases.

GEORGIA

- 27 members of prison staff** from three prisons were trained on interventions to reduce the risk of overdose upon release.
- The training covered topics such as causes of addiction, standards of care for drug addiction, harm reduction strategies, and interventions to **prevent overdoses upon release**.
- A pilot program to support people released from prisons has been launched.

KAZAKHSTAN

- Partnerships with the government sector have been established: **a memorandum of cooperation was signed** with the Department of Organization of Medical Care of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- Participation of community representatives in the processes of reforming the penitentiary health care system was ensured;
- Work is underway to **implement state social contracting** in the probation sector.

KYRGYZSTAN

- Advocacy efforts** were carried out to increase government funding for healthcare services in the penitentiary system.
- As a result, funding was successfully **doubled**.

UKRAINE

- A **draft law** was developed to abolish the 25% tax on prisoners' wages to benefit penitentiary institutions.
- Due to advocacy efforts and cooperation between NGOs and government bodies, the draft law **successfully passed its first reading** in the Ukrainian Parliament.

PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS

JULY

The 25th International AIDS Conference was an important platform for highlighting the right to health in prisons in our region:

- at the IAS session "Client-centered and integrated health services for people living with and affected by HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis in Eastern Europe and Central Asia", we spoke about the successes and challenges of providing healthcare services in prisons;
- at the UNODC event "The impact of gender-based violence on HIV and health in prisons and other closed institutions" we discussed how gender-based violence affects the health of prisoners and what can be done to improve the situation;
- organized a session "Community response to HIV in prisons in the EECA region" at the Global Village, where we discussed how communities can influence change and shape sustainable solutions.

Munich, Germany

DECEMBER

6th European Harm Reduction Conference

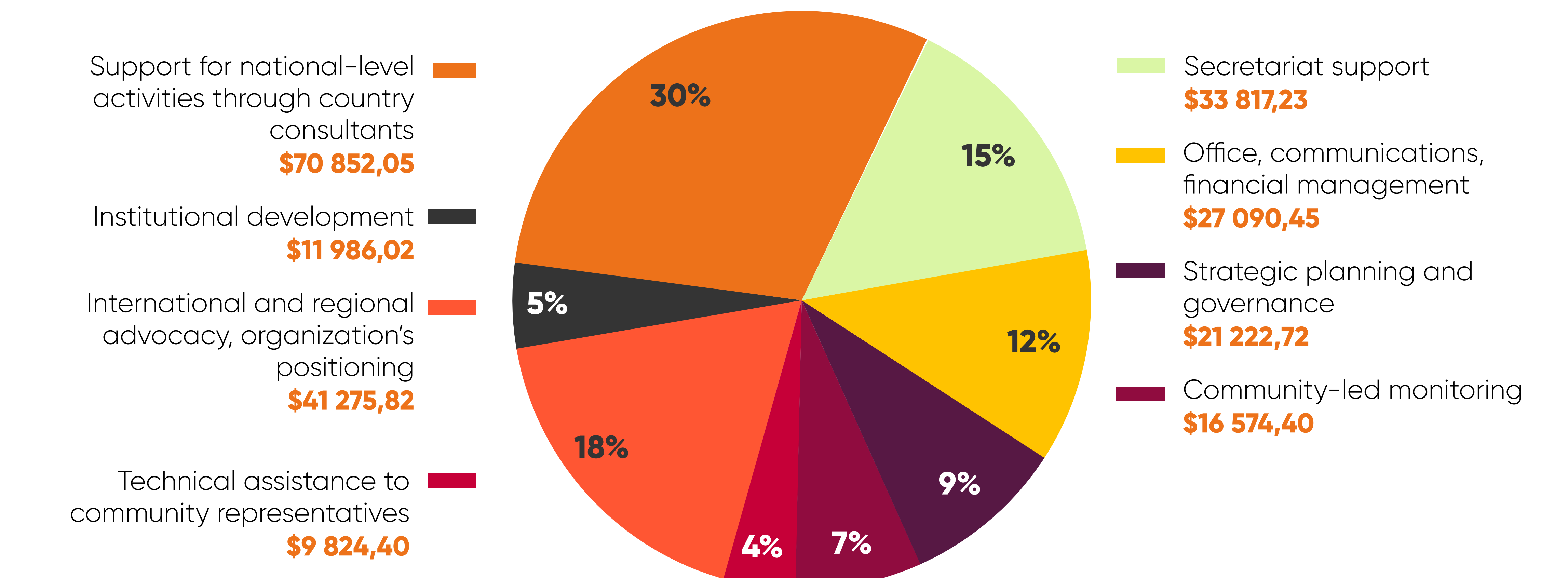
- presented at the UNODC workshop "From Policy to Practice: Implementing Public Health-Oriented Policing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia".

Warsaw, Poland



FINANCIAL REPORT

DONOR SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION ACROSS KEY OPERATIONAL AREAS



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