

Improving Blood Safety in Moldova

Working closely with Emerging Markets Group, prime contractor of the USAID-funded Preventing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C in Moldova/Technical Assistance Support Contract (PHH/TASC II), AIHA is spearheading efforts to improve the safety of blood and blood products in this East European nation of 4.5 million.

Moldova's rising incidence of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B (HVB), and hepatitis C (HVC) is largely driven by declining economic and social conditions, unsafe sex, inadequate hospital infection control, and increasing numbers of vulnerable and high-risk groups.

In support of Moldova's national program and blood safety improvements already funded by the Council of Europe Bank for Development, AIHA is providing technical assistance in the form of targeted training for key practitioners and institutions involved in blood banking and testing.

Additionally, AIHA will help establish national blood safety standards and regulations consistent with international practices and assist with the design of a management information system to better ensure the safe collection and distribution of blood and blood products.

Chronic hepatitis is the fifth leading cause of death in Moldova and the number one cause of death from an infectious disease.