

Всеукраїнська
Мережа
ЛЖВ



All-Ukrainian
Network of
PLWH

Children affected by HIV in Eastern Europe: out of orphanages and into families

Olga Dudina, "Children Plus" Project, Ukraine
CCABA pre-conference meeting
Vienna, Austria
July 17, 2010



Elton John AIDS
Foundation



Фонд Олени Франчук



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Facts

Types of institutions for children orphans in Ukraine (by age):

- Baby Homes (0-3)
- Children's Homes (3-6)
- Boarding Schools (6-17)
- Institutions for children with special needs (development delay or disorder)



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Facts

- An estimated **11%** children in Ukraine are abandoned at birth by HIV-positive mothers annually (Ministry of Health of Ukraine data)
- Number of children with confirmed HIV status is **2,418** (as of Jan. 1, 2010)
- Currently, an estimated **500** HIV-positive children live in state institutions
- Before **2008** there was no complex system on placement of HIV-positive orphans into family care

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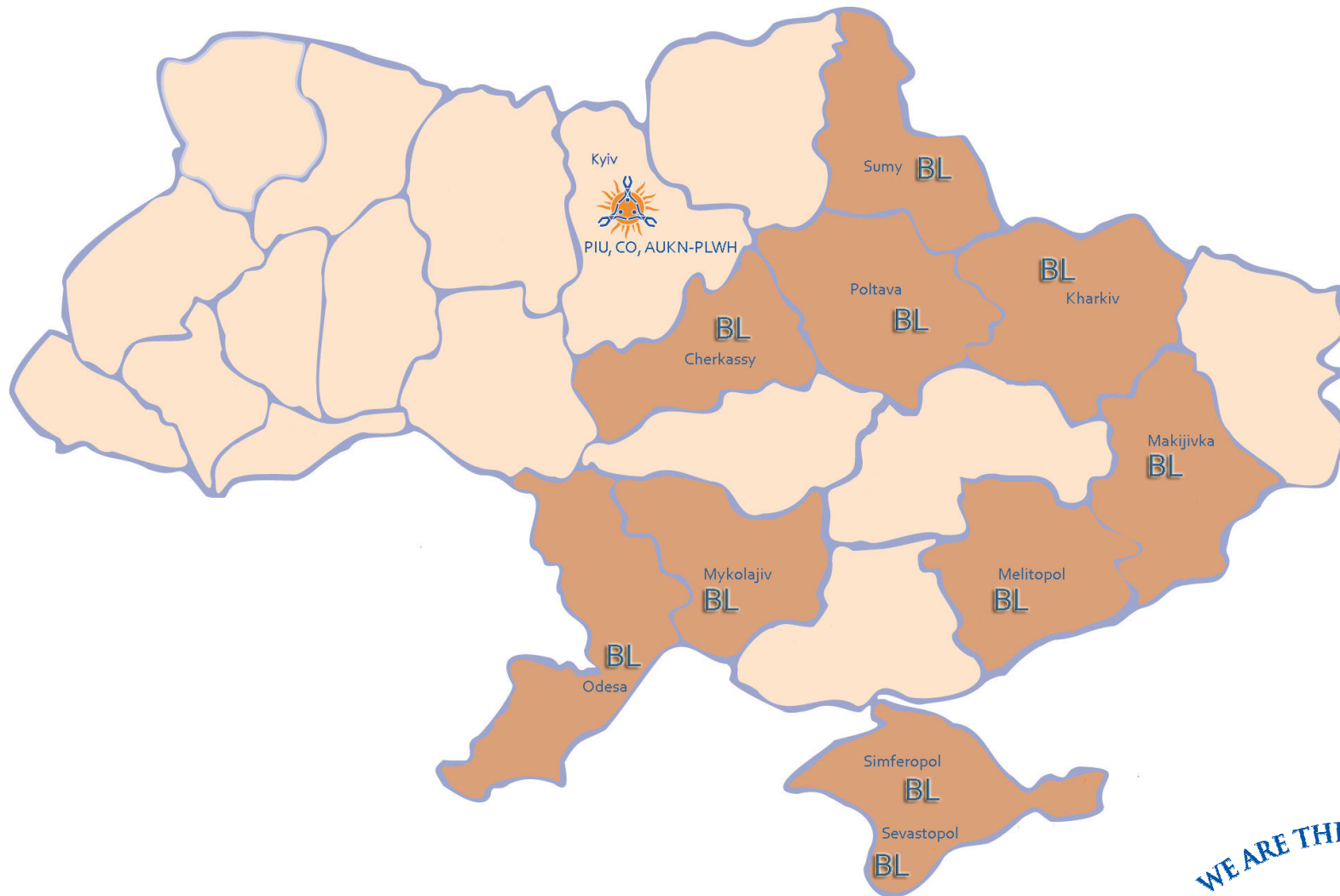


“Children Plus” Project

- Implemented by All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH in a partnership with
 - ✓ Elena Franchuk “ANTIAIDS” Foundation
 - ✓ Elton John AIDS Foundation
 - ✓ Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation
- With financial support of
 - ✓ Elton John AIDS Foundation
 - ✓ The Big Lottery Fund
 - ✓ Elena Franchuk “ANTIAIDS” Foundation
- Implementation term: 2008 -2013



Project Pilot Sites



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One of Four Project Outcomes

To place **96** HIV-positive children-orphans currently living in state institutions into family care
through

- national adoption
- foster care
- guardianship

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System of Placement of HIV-positive Orphans into Family Care

- **Recruitment**

- target groups: relatives of HIV+ orphans; PLHIV and their extended family; potential foster parents; personnel of institutions; personnel and clients of medical facilities; representatives from religious confessions
- methods: distribution of informational materials; individual and family consultations; conducting of trainings; distribution the information in Mass Media

- **Preparation of potential candidates**

- individual and family consultations on care and support of HIV-positive children as well as support during collection of required legal documents

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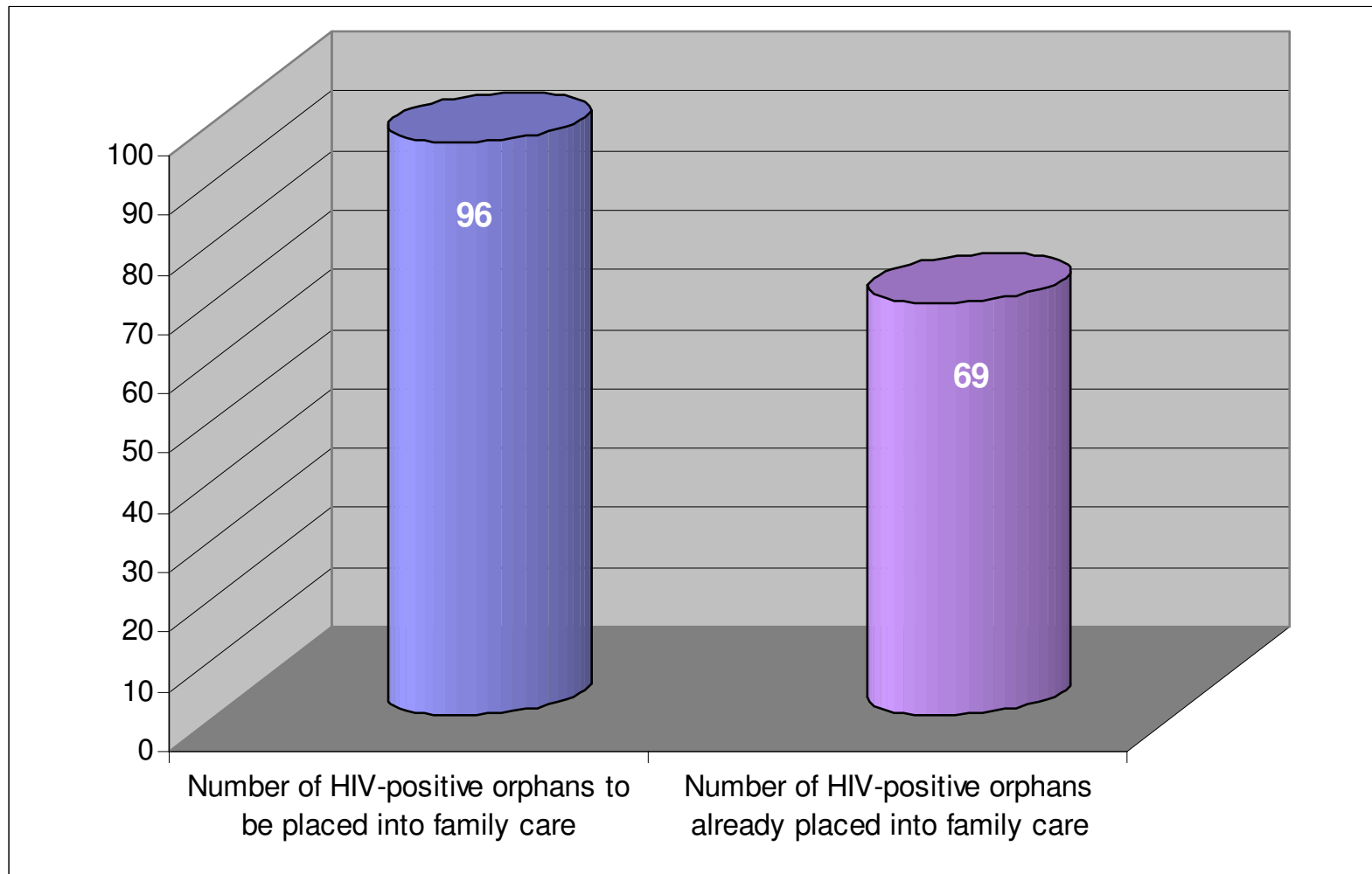
System of Placement of HIV-positive Orphans into Family Care (cont.)

- Preparation of a child to be placed into family
 - with the focus on his understanding what the difference between institution and family is; what is the family, etc.
- Social support of “newly created” families
 - through providing the consultations of psychologist and social worker; conducting of home visits and self-support groups



2 years Success

Number of Orphans Placed into Family Care



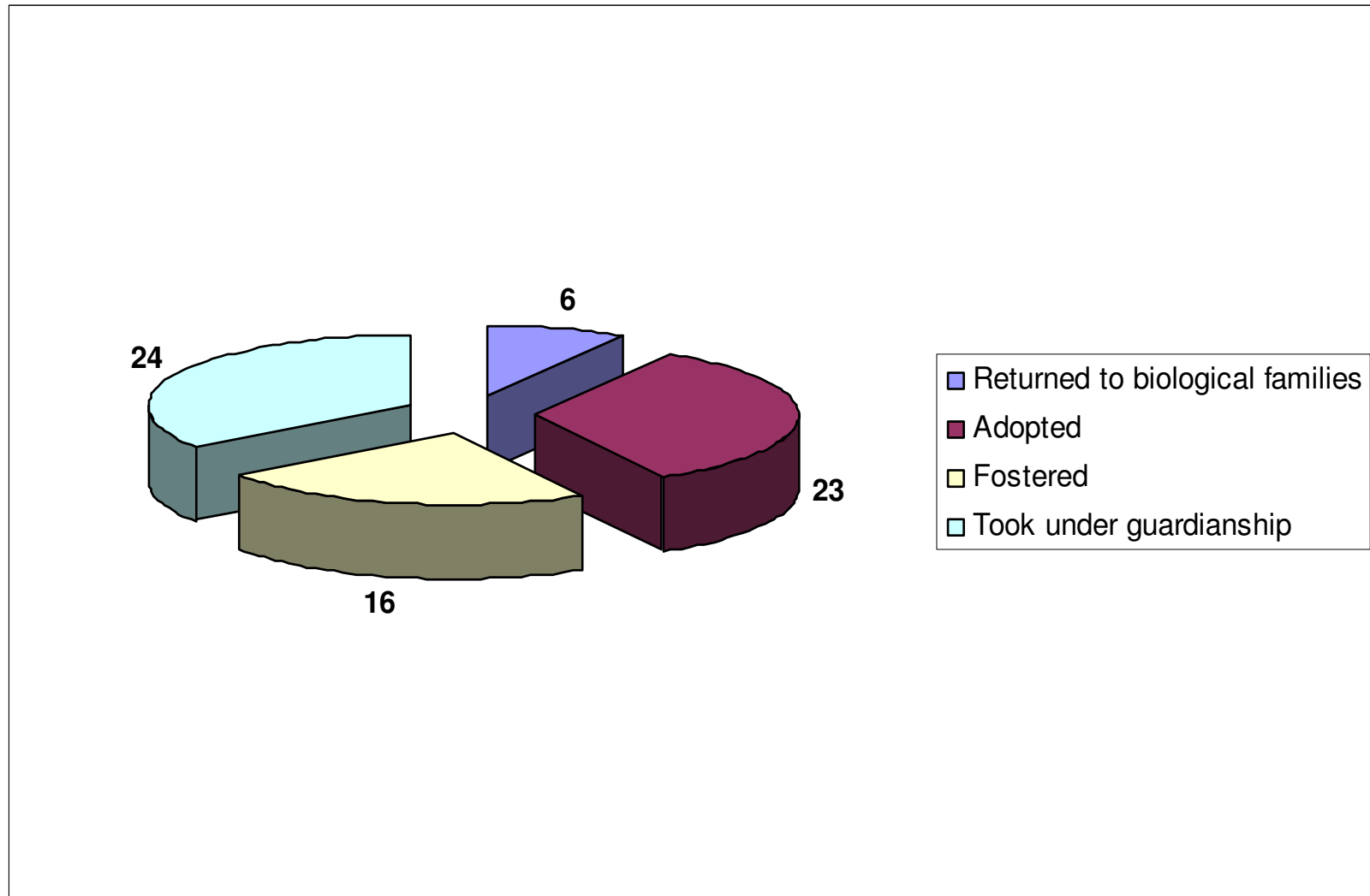
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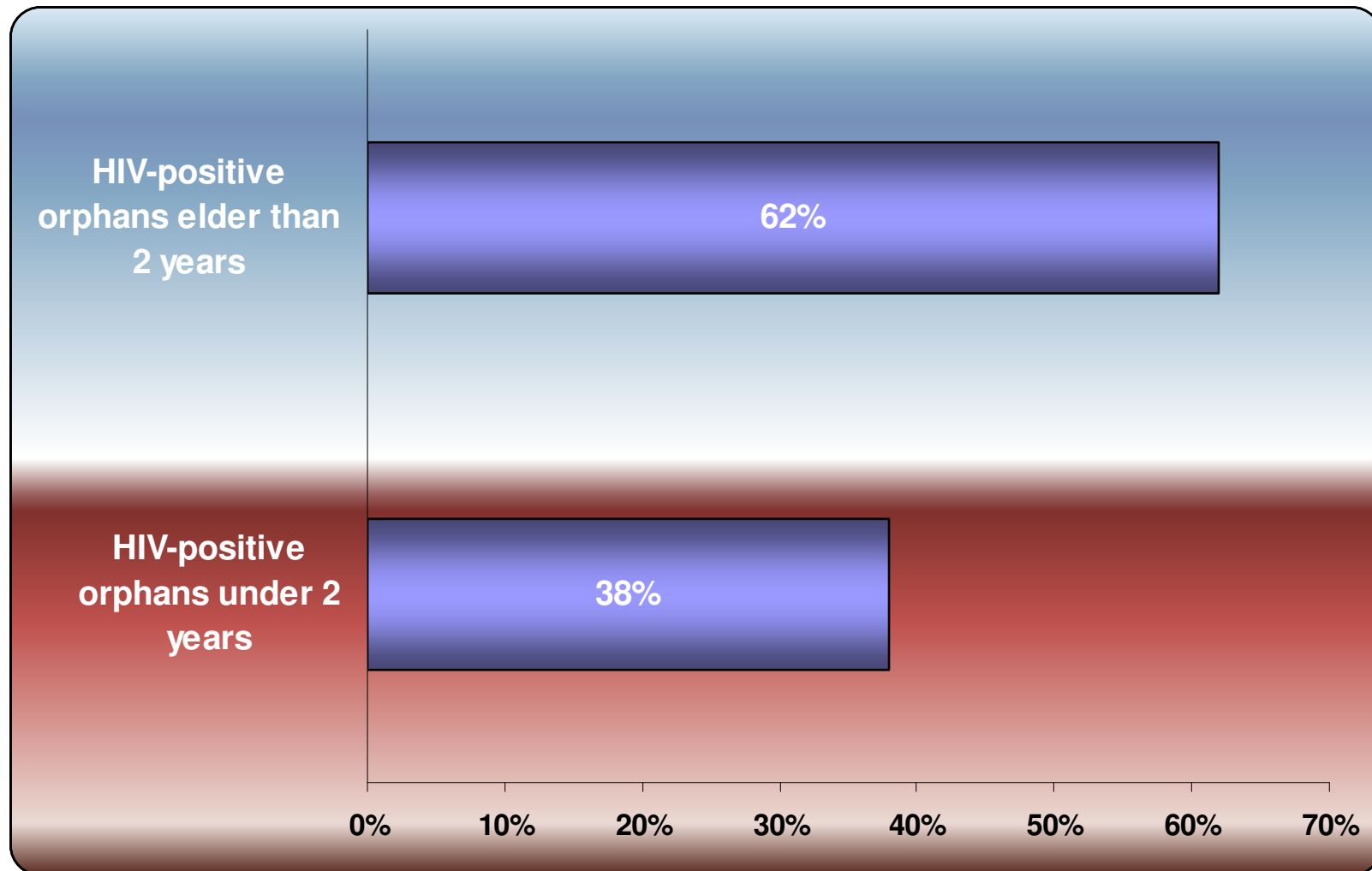
Types of Family Placement



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Age of Orphans Placed



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Challenges

- Recruitment issues (still high level of stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV)
- Administration of state institutions resists deinstitutionalization



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Lessons Learned

- An orphan's status is not legally documented in some cases
- Personal contact with a child frequently could influence on parents' final decision to take HIV-positive child



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

– All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS:

- <http://www.network.org.ua>

– “Children Plus” Project:

- <http://www.prosto-deti.org.ua>



ROMANIAN ANGEL APPEAL

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