

Headline	HIV Elton John offers support to homeless women in Ukraine		
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SUPPORT FOR PROJECT: Elton John (left), founder of the Elton John AIDS Foundation, speaks during a briefing beside Ukrainian philanthropist Olena Pinchuk in Kiev on Wednesday. John and Pinchuk, who runs her own AIDS charity, are launching their second joint project seeking to help homeless young women affected by AIDS. — Reuters photo

HIV: Elton John offers support to homeless women in Ukraine

KIEV: British pop star Elton John announced plans in Kiev on Wednesday to support a project in Ukraine to provide young homeless women with access to HIV testing as well as social support and medical care.

The singer's Elton John AIDS Foundation will give technical and expert support to the project, its Ukrainian partner, the ANTI AIDS Foundation, said in a statement.

"It's crucial for victory over

HIV/AIDS all over the world - to protect young girls and women who are living on the streets," Elton John was quoted as saying in a statement by the ANTI AIDS Foundation.

"They are highly vulnerable to HIV, and the goal of our project is to find new ways to help them."

The Ukrainian foundation is headed by Olena Pinchuk, wife of Ukrainian tycoon Viktor Pinchuk and daughter of former President Leonid Kuchma.

It said it would donate US\$450,000 to the project.

Up to 100,000 children and young people are living on the streets in Ukraine, most of them in big cities, the ANTI AIDS Foundation said.

The singer played a concert in Kiev on Tuesday as part of a tour of Eastern Europe.

In 2009, he tried to adopt a young Ukrainian boy with HIV from an orphanage but was turned down by the authorities. — AFP