



Central Asia Cooperation Organization (CACO)
Организация Центрально-Азиатского Сотрудничества (ОЦАС)

Central Asia AIDS Control Project
Проект по контролю СПИД в Центральной Азии

Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU)
Региональная Группа Управления Проектом (РГУП)

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To: Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan
Chairperson of Regional Steering Committee of Central-Asian AIDS
Project
Ms. Mavlonova H.Yu.

Members of Regional Steering Committee of Central-Asian AIDS Project

Vice-Prime-Minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
Mr. Tabyldiev T.T

Deputy Prime-Minister of the Uzbekistan Republic
Mr. Kasymov R.S.

Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Mr. Dernovoy A.G.

UNAIDS Coordinator in the countries of Central Asia
Ms. Savchenko I.G.

Regional Project Management Unit of Central Asia AIDS Control Project expresses its deep respect and informs you about the activities implemented during December, 2006 in a framework of the Project realization Activities.

Attachment is in 4 pages

**Best regards,
Executive Director**

T.S. Meimanaliev

Copies to: Ministers of Health of the beneficiary countries
Directors of Republican AIDS Centers of beneficiary countries
Permanent WB Representation in KZ, KG, TJ, UZ
Regional WB Representation in Almaty
Regional DFID Office in Bishkek



CENTRAL ASIA AIDS CONTROL PROJECT

ПРОЕКТ ПО КОНТРОЛЮ СПИД В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ

Regional Project Management Unit's Report Central Asia AIDS Control Project

DECEMBER, 2006

RPMU, Almaty

COMPONENT 1

Sub-component 1.1. Regional coordination of HIV/AIDS counteraction activities

Seminars, conferences conduction

1. On December, 4th, 2006 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan the Regional Round table «Humanism of Islam as mean of counteract against HIV/AIDS epidemic development in Central Asian countries and inter-regional cooperation priorities» with religious leaders of Central Asian countries and with participation of representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was held.

Representatives of Muslim clergy, experts of Committees and Agencies on religious affairs, Ministries of Health, scientists who are carrying out research in the field of theology, representatives of criminal executive system of abovementioned countries have taken part in work of this event.

The international advisers from Iran and Russia also took part in the Round Table. Necessity of carrying out such event has been dictated by the fact that within Central Asian countries territory Islam has the primary distribution and in the few last years in these countries more and more young people follow traditions of Islam and visit mosques. Religious leaders thus, gain the increasing authority among the population, especially among young people, take an active part in political and social life of the society.

Within the framework of the Central Asia AIDS control Project realization it is planned to actively involve Muslim religious leaders in work with population concerning HIV/AIDS prevention. The Round Table was the first step in realization of this initiative.

In the course of work of the Round Table participants have been familiarized with the situation on distribution of HIV epidemic in the Central Asian countries. They also have exchanged existing experience of religious leaders participation in counteraction against HIV, discussed an opportunity to use this experience in the participating countries. The further steps of participation of religious leaders from Central Asian countries covered by the project in HIV epidemic counteraction have been determined at the meeting. This event has begun the annual discussion of the given subjects in all countries-participants of the Project on a rotational basis.

II. The First Central Asian Forum of the Partners working in the field of HIV epidemic counteraction, has been organized by RPMU in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and took place in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan on December, 11-12th, 2006.

The issues of coordination and harmonization of international organizations, projects and national partners activities on more effective use of resources for HIV epidemic counteraction were in the centre of attention of the participants of this event. Within two days the participants of the Forum had an opportunity to exchange information about the actions planned in Central Asia countries for 2007 with the purpose to coordinate the efforts in the field of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, and also to discuss regional initiatives.

During the Forum participants could discuss the questions of communications strengthening, coordination of international, state and nongovernmental organizations of the region grant process unification, monitoring systems harmonization and projects estimation in thematic working groups. Considering the importance of all actions coordination in the scope of work of HIV counteraction in the region, participants of the Forum have decided to hold similar meetings once a year.

Sub-component 1.2. Regional surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems.

Electronic Surveillance program

After regional meeting "HIV/AIDS cases Electronic Surveillance system in Central Asian countries ", which was held on November, 21-22 in Almaty (Kazakhstan), National coordinators have begun an active work in CA countries on preparation of AIDS control centers for promotion of Electronic Surveillance system implementation: the letters from Ministries of Health of the countries about the readiness of the countries to conduct the works and the full willingness of the state services to assist in Electronic Surveillance system implementation have been received by RPMU and CDC.

Sentinel Surveillance

According to the plan, RPMU and CDC experts are carrying out the site-trainings on Sentinel Surveillance arrangement and conduction in Uzbekistan, in 4 pilot sites: Syr-Darya, Fergana, Bukhara and Khorezm regions.

Kazakhstan National Coordinator, jointly with experts of AIDS National Center executed the evaluation trip in Atyrau (one of Sentinel Surveillance pilot sites). As the results of this visit, the report was prepared for AIDS National Center with recommendations on maintenance of full readiness of the regional laboratory for Sentinel Surveillance conduction in the demanded full volume.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Educational Centers

The preparations on the organization of visit of the "Open institute of health" and "AIDSinfoShare" technical advisers from Russian Federation to the project countries-participants have been continued. This visit is planned to be held in January, 2007. Together with National Coordinators of the countries the preliminary visit schedule has been reconsidered, the budget calculated, WB approval received. The coordination of working meetings in the countries is being done.

COMPONENT 2

Grants activities

Frame agreements on small grants signing have been completed. On results of RTEC meeting which was held on November, 23-2 in Almaty, the Component II Coordinator have prepared and sent out the letters to all applicants of 21 SPP on large grants. The meeting of Regional Steering Committee took place on December, 10th, 2006 in a Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan where one of the issues was consideration and approval of large grants SPP.

At the meeting of RSC the following decisions were made:

1. To approve the Protocol accepted at Regional Technical Evaluation Committee on November, 24th, 2006 in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan "About consideration and approval of sub-project Proposals on large grants (over 20 thousand US dollars)".
2. To award to the below-mentioned organizations grants for a total sum of 4 million 035 thousand 560 US dollars:

- NGO, Central-Asian Branch of International Noncommercial Organization "Population Services International (PSI)" (the Sub-project: Program of use of drugs and HIV spread prevention among 15-24 years old young people in four Central Asian Republics) - 664 741 US dollars
 - International Organization "JSI Research and Training institute, Inc. (JSI)" (the Sub-project: Achievement of a high level coverage of 7 modeling sites in Central Asia by preventive actions: rendering the basic complete set of services on HIV prevention to vulnerable population groups in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) - 1 284 403 US dollars. With RPMU condition to coordinate all necessary procedures with the World Bank regarding the issue of this organization selection acceptability in connection with already existing partnership in realizations of the project.
 - NGO "The International HIV/AIDS Alliance" (the Sub-project: partnership Strengthening and involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS and reached by the epidemic in the Central Asia as a key to universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support) - 520 152 US dollars
 - The National Center on development of healthy lifestyle problems of the Republic of Kazakhstan (the Sub-project: Formation of positive behavior in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention among youth of the Central Asian countries) - 1 508 184 US dollars
 - NGO National Public Association "Youth of 21 century" (the Subproject: Youth and HIV/AIDS), Republic of Tajikistan " - 58080 US dollars
3. RPMU together with purchasing specialists from WB to finish SPP presented by JSI Research and Training institute, Inc. Representation office. The active work with the receivers of the grants is being carried out.

RPMU

Working meetings, business trips

On December, 1, the Executive Director of RPMU took part in the 2006 rewarding ceremony for the best journalists writing about HIV/AIDS in Kyrgyzstan. Ceremony was organized during Republican conference devoted to the World AIDS Day and was held at the Opera and Ballet Theatre in Bishkek.

Within December Executive Director and RPMU experts had a number of working meetings :

- with UNDP experts;
- with UNAIDS experts I.Savchenko and A.Ilnitskim;
- with administration of the "Potential" Project;
- with Heads of the state and nongovernmental organizations which have gained large grants within the limits of CAAP First grant round;
- with CDC experts.

Executive Director RPMU has taken part in the Kyrgyz Republic Country Multisector Coordinating Committee on December, 20th In Bishkek.

Component I Coordinator had a number of working meetings in Bishkek:

- with SMKK members concerning the further cooperation on involving religious leaders in work with the population regarding HIV prevention. At the meeting the joint plan of action, 2007 schedule of actions, offers of the Kyrgyz Republic state commission on affairs of religions on submission of large grant application jointly with all Project countries-participants has been discussed
- With RPMU national specialist of Kyrgyzstan office concerning the organization of the Regional Training Center on harm reduction.

From December, 11 till December, 14 IT specialist and Chief accountant of RPMU have been on business trip in Bishkek with the purpose of participation in training on finance management system on the basis of 1C. The use of 1C system is planned in RPMU office for grants monitoring. During training has been discussed the technical assignment for advisers in order to implement this system. During stay in Bishkek the arrangement with representation office of the "Virtual silk way" NATO Project concerning connection of RPMU Kyrgyzstan office to this association under reduced rates

has been reached. The given connection also will be used during videoconferences, which considerably reduce cost of operational charges.

The preliminary version of a video clip is prepared for information campaign on the Second grant round of Regional AIDS Fund (PΦC).

RPMU Legal, financial and technical issues

RPMU Status. After the end of inter parliamentary procedures, on December, 8th, 2006 the President of Republic of Kazakhstan signed the Law on Ratification of the Guest Agreement "About conditions of stay of Central Asian AIDS Control Regional Project Management in the Republic of Kazakhstan". In this connection, RPMU has applied for the conduction of our organization accreditation process of in the hosting country, on the basis of the Law of Republic of Kazakhstan # 196-III 3PK "About Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Republic of Kazakhstan and Central Asian AIDS Control Regional Project Management in Republic Kazakhstan". Now the further steps regarding the legal status of RPMU as international organization are being undertaken

Within the limits of Agreements between CAAP and UNDP signed in November, 2006 concerning rendering fiduciary services, the active work is being carried out. At the regional UNDP office the Regional coordinator and the assistant have been employed for realization of the signed agreement. Procedures of selection of financial issues national assistants in the countries-participants of the project are being conducted. RPMU has carried out the first trenches in UNDP. The coordination of questions of internal interaction comes to an end.

In December the Financial expert of the World Bank John Ogala and Nurbolat Daniyarov from Almaty WB office visited RPMU office within the limits of the scheduled evaluation trip. As the results of visit the estimation and recommendations on improving of CAAP financial issues realization were given.

RPMU November monthly report have been prepared and sent to all interested parties. RPMU weekly Reports are prepared every week and sent to Washington WB office.

The project web-site information support and updating work is conducted on a regular basis.

National Coordinators, jointly with RPMU purchasing specialist continue procedures of office and computer equipment purchase for RPMU offices in all CA countries.

Considering existing sharp necessity, the full reinstallation of existing power cables have been done.

For more information, please refer to www.caap.info