

Country Situation Analysis

Mrs. Abdullaeva U.A. was appointed to the post of Vice Prime-minister of the Kyrgyz Republic in the middle of January.

Central Asia AIDS Control Project Executive Director Prof. Tilek Meimanaliev and Project National Coordinator met on 20 January with Mrs. Abdullaeva to familiarize her with the Project activity. Mrs. Abdullaeva also became a new member of Regional Steering Committee from the Kyrgyz Republic.

An enlarged meeting of Tajik government on discussing of the country social and economic development results in 2008 and tasks defining for 2009 took place in Tajikistan on January 15-16. During the meeting some structural changes among government members of the Republic of Tajikistan were made. In particular, Mrs. Unusova Z.I., head of healthcare, family and women department under the Presidential Apparatus of the Republic of Tajikistan (who also monitored Central Asia AIDS Control activity in Tajikistan) was dismissed due to her new job.

At present, the position of National Coordination Committee (NCC) Secretary in Tajikistan is vacant due to NCC Secretary on prevention and fight with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria changed his job.

Seconded Project specialists on M&E and work with vulnerable groups work in the national CAAP office in the Republic of Tajikistan because of NCC Secretariat's own premises absence.

The decree of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Additional measures in counteraction effectiveness improving in the field of HIV-infection spread in the Republic of Uzbekistan" was issued on December 26, 2008. The goal of this decree is to establish a united system of AIDS counteraction, increasing of effectiveness and quality of realizing measures in providing of necessary prevention and reliable protection from HIV-infection, strengthening of material and technical basis of AIDS counteraction centers, providing medical specialists working in the field of AIDS counteraction with moneyed assistance. Here are the main regulations:

- Establishment of modern and united system of AIDS counteraction the base of which are Republican and regional centers on AIDS counteraction under the health ministry of Uzbekistan.
- Establishment of Republican committee on coordination of HIV-infection counteraction events and Committee regulation.

Main tasks of the Republican AIDS Center were defined. It was also decided to increase salaries of the specialists working in the institutions and departments on HIV-infection counteraction.

According to the decree of the president of Uzbekistan the plan of practical measures on execution of 07/1 – 1181decree dated from January 6, 2009 and approved by Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Mirziyaev, the was elaborated.

Decree of Cabinet of Ministers on "Measures on improvement of organization structure and activity of AIDS counteraction centers" was issued on the grounds of Uzbek President's decree №1 dated from January 5, 2009.

COMPONENT 1. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Sub-component 1.1. Regional HIV/AIDS Coordination and Policy Development

Within the work with parliamentarians of Central Asian countries the "Manual for legislature representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of HIV-infection, legislature and human rights issues" is to be published in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A number of working technical group meetings on review and additions making in the HIV and AIDS law took place in the Republic of Uzbekistan in January. Representatives of healthcare system, five deputies of legislative chamber Oliy Majilis, CAAP National Coordinator in Uzbekistan are members of the group. Current HIV and AIDS law was analyzed. Recommendations and additions were made.

Conferences, workshops, working meetings, discussions

The RPMU staff started to prepare in January for the meeting of Temporary Health Council Working Group under the EurAsEC Integration Committee on elaboration of concept documents on Regional AIDS Fund (RAF) institutionalization in Central Asia as well as Regional HIV-infection epidemic counteraction strategy in Central Asia.

The meeting is supposed to be held on February, 10-11, 2009 in Bishkek. The RPMU staff is also going to meet there with the members of Temporary Working Group and the World Bank mission representatives in order to elaborate the Plan of CAAP restructuring for 2009 and 2010.

Sub-component 1.2. Surveillance and Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Systems.

Electronic Supervision Program

The work on installation and testing of the computer program on the local level in the pilot sites of Karaganda and Temirtau on laboratory, epidemiology and clinical departments' data input.

The RPMU staff and the representatives of CAAP National office in Kazakhstan took part in the working visit devoted to the discussion of calendar plan on electronic surveillance system introduction in the pilot sites of the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as to detailed working plan for 2009. The meeting took place on January 29.

Sentinel Surveillance (SS)

The drafts of joint detailed working plan on SS and ES with RAF of Health Ministry of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The working plans were approved and signed in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, as to Tajikistan – plans are to be signed.

Tests for the SS serological stage of 2008 were delivered into the pilot sites of Kazakhstan.

Application for 2009 on SS tests for all the Project-participant countries was prepared and submitted to the RPMU.

Work on test systems registration in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is being carried out.

The Project national office staff in Kazakhstan work on SS reports for 2007 publishing in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

National coordinator prepared the document on SS and ES priority directions for the draft of Regional strategy on HIV/AIDS counteraction in Central Asia.

Contract draft on AIDS service trainers involving into the events planned by the Project for 2009 in Kazakhstan was prepared.

SS conducting among IDUs, SW, pregnant women and patients with STDs in Kulyab as well as IDUs and SW in Vakhdat started on January 12. Pilot sites (AIDS centers in Khorog, Kulyab, Vakhdat) were provided with necessary materials for the full SS conducting.

The Project national staff in the Republic of Tajikistan together with the head of RAF laboratory, Mrs. Ashurova estimated and provided the RPMU with a number of necessary test systems to conduct SS in five pilot sites of Tajikistan in 2009.

During the reported month the preparation for SS training was carried out in Uzbekistan. The training is to be held on February 10-13, 2009 in Tashkent. Training participants are: heads of laboratories and laboratory doctors from pilot oblasts (Khorezm, Bukhar, Syrdarya and Fergana oblasts). Training topic is “Data analyzing of quality providing and control applied principles introduction results in the HIV-infection laboratory diagnostics”.

Field stage of sentinel surveillance over HIV-infection among the most vulnerable groups: IDUs, SW, patients with STDs and pregnant women in four regions of Uzbekistan (Khorezm, Bukhara, Syrdarya, Fergana) was finished in January 2009.

The pilot oblasts were provided with test systems for HIV-infection, hepatitis C and syphilis diagnostics. Serological research has been started in the laboratory conditions to test blood samples. The dimension of vulnerable groups selection included into sentinel surveillance for 2009 was defined. It was also submitted to the Republican AIDS Fund and CDC specialists.

Strengthening M&E system

- Promotion of a regional information database (CARISA)

The conducting concept and program for national round tables on CARISA data base promotion in the Project-participant countries were prepared. Official letters on further data base integration into the work of national AIDS centers were prepared and sent among health ministries of the Project-participant countries. The round tables conducting was postponed till March 2009, after data base integration issues were discussed with the national partners.

M&E specialists worked on data collecting and generalizing for the fourth quarter and annual Project report for 2008.

M&E specialist developed a new reporting form for big RAF grants. The form was sent among sub recipients of big grants of the 2nd GR. The new form was also included into the M&E manual.

The working meeting devoted to the discussion of CARISA information data base use issues took place in the Republican AIDS Center of the Republic of Kazakhstan on January 22. Besides the RPMU staff, the representatives of Regional AIDS Center and Capacity Project participated in the meeting.

The information for the Country Coordination Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan web site updating is being collected in Uzbekistan.

- Strengthening of potential of the country in the field of M&E

Project IT specialist Ruslan Tagirov made working visits to a number of Kazakh cities: Karaganda, Shymkent, Kostanai, Pavlodar, Uralsk. The goal of his visits were to train RAF grant recipients to enter data into the MIS client base.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Courses (RTC)

During the reported period, the package of documents on the formation of regional training center on HIV prevention among migrants was prepared together with the International organization on migration (IOM). The work on improvement and bringing into correspondence with the World Bank’s recommendations of documents package on the formation of training centers on treatment, care and support as well as harm reduction center is being conducted.

The preparation is being carried out for round table devoted to the issues of national and international partners’ activity control within the development and support of regional center

on treatment, care and support of PLWH in Central Asian region. The round table is planned to be held on February, 26, 2009 in Tashkent.

The assistance in ToR elaboration for thematic working group in the field of treatment, care and PLWH support improvement in Central Asia was provided.

ToR for HIV – infection prevention and treatment trainers hiring was prepared. The selected trainers will be involved in the HIV prevention and treatment trainings conducting on the regional and national levels in Central Asian countries.

The Project national office in the Republic of Kazakhstan is preparing to publish the Manual on “HIV-infection prevention among youth”.

The report on the evaluation of needs in educational programs is also being prepared.

ToR for hiring the specialists on methodic recommendations related to the gender aspect of HIV-infection in four CA countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) is being elaborated.

Communication Strategy Promotion

During the reported period communication coordinator and strategist’s work was focused on the following directions:

- the RPMU report for the fourth quarter of 2008 was prepared both in Russian and English
- the RPMU annual report for 2008 was prepared.

All reports were sent to the World Bank, members of the Regional Steering Committee and EurAsEC.

The work on working plans correction in the field of cooperation with Mass Media for 2009 was done together with the international partners (UNESCO).

The communication coordinator worked also on information part of the Project web site.

COMPONENT 2. CENTRAL ASIA AIDS FUND

Grant activities

- Grant process harmonization in the region with other Partners
- Administration (disbursement, procurement) of the RAF Grant rounds
- SPPs program monitoring

1st & 2nd Grant Rounds Implementation

During the reported period documents for “TUMAR” project prolongation which is being realized by the Research and & Training Institute (JSI) were prepared and approved. The project will be prolonged for 6 months. The activity planned for the prolonged period will cost 363 272 USD. TUMAR project has been being realized by the JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., and its partners since July 2007. The Agreement was signed for the period till January 2009. During this period the project will be supported by the local administrative authorities and main partners including medical organizations, Department of home affairs and public leaders and what is the most important by the Project beneficiaries in each separate region. This confirms the necessity to continue the project’s activity till July 2009. Total amount of the project with the prolongation period is \$1 647 034 USD. It is expected that since June 2009 the Global Fund will support some model TUMAR sites.

Two large sub-projects financed by the RAF finished their work (project financed by the HIV/AIDS International Alliance was aimed at the PLWH community capacity mobilizing and strengthening; PSI International project was aimed at the formation of more safe

behavior among youth in Central Asia). The evaluation of the projects' effectiveness is planned for the second quarter of 2009.

SPPs implementation in the Republic of Kazakhstan:

The World Bank approved the SPPs financing of the third grant round on January 23. National coordinator prepared and sent to all grant recipients of the third grant round letters with the information about SPP realization launching. Consultations on pay-sheet filling for the first trench getting were conducted. Within the second GR realization the work was done on finances reorientation for finances saving reasons with "Credo", "Umit" organizations (Karaganda), "Gerlita" (Pavlodar).

The report on 2nd GR realization for the fourth quarter of 2008 was prepared.

Harm reduction among IDUs SPPs financing summary table was prepared throughout all RAF grant rounds by World Bank's request.

In regard of monthly payments lack from UNDP (from 20.11.08 to 26.01.09) six grant recipients of the second RAF grant round signed additional agreements on SPPs realization terms till 01.03.09.

SPPs implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic:

During the reported period 8 sub-projects completed their work according to the calendar working plan of program events implementation. Final reports were prepared and submitted to the CAAP National office in Kyrgyzstan.

In order to close subprojects of 2nd RAF GR, final monitoring visits were made by the specialists of the CAAP National office according to the approved schedule. During the monitoring visits the evaluation of subprojects program and financial documentation and its systematization was made; the attention was paid to the availability and condition of the purchased equipment. Interviews and final questionnaires of beneficiaries were made. Detailed information on subprojects monitoring will be presented in a separate report.

Within the third grant round realization the work was carried out with the heads/coordinators of 8 subprojects in order to bring in correspondence compulsory annexes to the Agreement on small grant providing (detailed budget, procurement plan, subprojects' implementation indicators, staff etc.). Frame agreements with the necessary package of documents were prepared and signed. In late January the World Bank approved the small grants financing of the third grant round in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Correspondent documents were signed between grant recipients, UNDP and CAAP National office in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Preparatory work on documents for the first trench getting by the grants recipients is in process.

SPPs implementation in the Republic of Tajikistan:

National office specialists conducted individual work with grant recipients of the third grant round on the correction of goals, tasks, project activity, indicators and budget as well as necessary annexes of the submitted SPPs.

Frame agreements were prepared and manifold as well as correspondent annexes with further signing by the 3rd GR recipients.

The following tables were filled and submitted to the RPMU by the demand of M&E regional specialist: "Information about 2nd RAF GR implementation", "Monitoring table of the 2nd GR SPPs' activity", "Summary table on 2nd GR financial resources development" as well the report on Project indicators for 2008.

The information on 3rd GR SPPs was submitted to the Regional AIDS Center in order to enter them into CARISA information system.

SPPs implementation in the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Monitoring visits to grant recipients of the second grant round implementing sub-projects in Tashkent were made in January. The following sub-projects successfully finished the realization of planned events: the Republican AIDS Center of Health Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Formation of psychological help system for PLWH and their relatives within AIDS service organizations in Tashkent and Tashkent oblasts); Medicine service of the Uzbek State Railway Company “Uzbekiston temir yullari (Methods development, prevention events conducting and HIV and AIDS prevention monitoring among the Uzbek State Railway Company staff); Tashkent institute of medical postgraduate education, infection diseases department (ARV adherence increase and psychological support of PLWHA and their relatives); Republican AIDS Center “PARC-2” and Scientific and research institute of epidemiology, microbiology, infection diseases of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Problem of intestinal parasites negative influence on PLWH health).

One of the grant recipients of the second grant round, law firm “Aziya Evropa Konsult” sent a request to the Project National office to stop the realization and financing of the sub-project by its own initiative.

In January the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan preliminarily approved 14 subprojects from 39 selected by the Country Coordination Committee within the third grant round.

During the reported period Component working plan for 2009 was prepared as well as its restructuring plan. In the frame of RAF activity improvement it is planned to centralize the Project monitoring and evaluation functions on the regional level through the attraction of additional technical assistance. ToR for the hiring of M&E additional specialist was elaborated and submitted to the World Bank.

Third RAF Grand Round

For January 31, 2009 small grants were approved in three Central Asian republics – Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. In total 34 subprojects were approved (total amount is 1 million 167 240 USD).

Kazakhstan – 16 projects in sum of 713 611 USD.

Kyrgyzstan – 8 projects in sum of 200 147 USD.

Tajikistan – 10 projects in sum of 253 482 USD.

Working meetings, training tours and business trips

25-28.01.09 – Component 1 Coordinator took part in the second National Forum of AIDS-service NGOs in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic

22.01.09 – Component 1 Coordinator and National Coordinator in the Republic of Kazakhstan met with Mrs. Irina Savchenko, Coordinator of UNAIDS programs in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan.

National Coordinator in Kazakhstan took part in the following meetings:

23.01.09 – Working meeting in the Regional AIDS Center on “Spectrum” program filling. Theme of discussion: to define the evaluation number of PLWH in Kazakhstan. Regional AIDS Center specialists as well as UNAIDS M&E regional specialist, Mr. A.B. Ilnitsky

12.01.09 – Working meeting in the Regional AIDS Center on the forecasting of HIV epidemic development in the Republic of Kazakhstan and its regions for 2009-2010.

21.01.09 – National coordinator and regional specialist on SS and ES promotion took part in the work of Round table organized by the expert center “Mental health and HIV/AIDS” in Kazakhstan. Agenda: presentation and discussion of different target groups’ mental health (PLW, IDUs, prisoners) as well as the estimation of doctors’ awareness and their role in the stigmatization process. The research was conducted in the frame of “Global initiatives in psychiatry “Mental health and HIV/AIDS”.

20.01.09 – CAAP National Coordinator in Tajikistan met with Health Minister of Tajikistan, Mr. Salimov. Topic of the meeting: discussion of those issues concerning 3rd RAF GR realization and information about the reasons of SS conducting delay in the pilot sites of the Republic.

Juridical, Financial and Technical Issues of RPMU

Due to Tajik National office moving to the new building the work on communications installation was carried out. In particular, Internet and telephone lines were installed.

Project site www.caap.info