

CA COUNTRIES' SITUATION ANALYSIS

For the last month, in the countries of the region, except Kyrgyzstan, nothing changed seriously, that could be affected to the Project's implementation.

Due to political instability in Bishkek and other Kyrgyzstan's regions, the Ministry of health had to suspend all training activities in the health sector. Therefore, the planning Republican conference "On HIV state in Kyrgyz Republic by results of SS data for 2006" was postponed.

There were some reshuffles in the Kyrgyz government: Mr. Abdraimov T. was appointed as a minister of health of Kyrgyz Republic by the Presidential decree.

In Uzbekistan, the Parliament interim commission has finalized its work on analyses of implementation of the Law on HIV/AIDS prevention in Uzbekistan. During the month, members of the commission monitored all sectors' activities related to the implementation of the law and finalized SWAT analyses. Results of this work will be presented to the Parliament in the second decade of May

COMPONENT 1. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

Conferences, workshops, working meetings, discussions

On April 19-20, the Regional Interconfessional conference on HIV/AIDS issues took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The main aim of this conference was to attract the attention and to join efforts of representatives of various religious confessions on HIV epidemic prevention in Central Asian region.

The representatives of Russian Orthodox church in Central Asian countries, Muslim leaders, representatives of Judaic and Buddhist communities, the largest Christian denominations (Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists, Adventist) as well as the employees of governmental structure on religious affairs, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations took part in the conference. The main result of the conference became the adoption of resolution. CAAP was represented by Executive Director, Component 1 Coordinator and national coordinators of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The Resolution was adopted as the result of the conference.

Parliament hearings in Tajikistan

On April 27, 2007 the enlarged meeting on the discussion of HIV/AIDS prevention aspects in Republic of Tajikistan took place in the Committee of social issues, family, public health and ecology of Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli (Tajik Parliament chamber of representatives) in Dushanbe. Deputies attended the enlarged meeting listened to the report of healthcare vice-minister, chief state sanitary inspector of Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Mirzoev A.S.; CAAP national coordinator in Tajikistan Mr. Latipov A.L.; Deputy of Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli, Mr. Sanginov D. The speech of the latter was devoted to the analysis of CAAP remarks and additions to the Law of Republic of Tajikistan "On HIV/AIDS counteraction". All the deputies took positively the idea of National and Regional AIDS Funds establishment and are ready to make all the necessary amendments to the law on

conditions that the heads of the states approve at the meeting of Inter-Governmental Council of EurazES states the Project initiative to establish National and Regional AIDS Funds. The organizational work on the Second International parliament conference “HIV epidemic in countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe” was begun in April. The conference will be conducted on June 9-10, 2007 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

RPMU national office in RK prepared the letter on Kazakh healthcare minister’s inquiry to establish the resident secretariat under the National Coordination Council on healthcare of the Government of RK; the regulation on Secretariat and specialists functional responsibilities (legislation, monitoring and evaluation and informational technologies specialists).

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

Electronic supervision program and Sentinel Surveillance (SS)

A number of site trainings, educational workshops on enlargement and country SS data analysis and introduction into the program “Epi-Info” were conducted in April. On their basis the presentations on 6 surveillance groups were prepared for the republican conferences.

Training on psychosocial consultation and testing in the frame of SS introduction in the pilot Kyrgyz districts was prepared and conducted on April 5-7, 2007 in Bishkek.

On April 9-10, Republican conference “HIV infection epidemic situation in Republic of Kazakhstan according to SS data for 2006” was conducted in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It was conducted together with CDC and specialists from Republican AIDS Center.

Report on Republican conference conducting in Kazakhstan and adopted Secretariat Recommendations are placed on the Project web site.

According to the recommendations of the Republican conference secretariat in RK, the letter on necessity of “harm reduction” programs introduction in the institutions of criminal and executive system of Ministry of Justice of RK to Speaker of Parliament Majlis of Kazakhstan Mr. Mukhamedjanov U.B. was prepared. Also, technical and financial reports on the conducted trainings were sent to UNDP country offices.

In Uzbekistan: Training on “Dry drop” blood test techniques was organized for all lab specialists from the HIV-SS sites. Trainings took place in Tashkent from 20 March – 6 April, 9-20 April at Tashkent city and Tashkent region centers for HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

Further steps in the sphere of SS tests purchasing were defined together with CDC epidemiologist on HIV/AIDS issues and RPMU procurement specialists.

Section on SS and ES was developed to include it into the Training Plan in the frame of MoU realization signed between CAAP and CDC (budget details, participants of future educational workshops and so on).

Draft program and budget for the planning Republican conference “HIV infection epidemic situation in Republic of Tajikistan according to SS data for 2006” was designed and sent to Tajikistan. Also the preparatory work for the educational workshop on the voluntary consulting and testing is being realized.

The letter of motivation on hiring skilled interpreter of the SS questionnaires from Russian into the state languages (Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek) was prepared, signed and sent to UNDP.

The contract on qualified specialists providing for the realization of the SS and ES events in Kyrgyzstan was prepared and signed with "AIDS" Republican association. As to the other countries the contract is in the signing process.

The table on SS introduction in Project member countries was also prepared.

Strengthening M&E system

- Promotion of a regional information database (CARISA)

Project M&E specialist worked at terms of reference for the hiring of consultant on the informational technologies in the sphere of program product "Regional informational system on HIV/AIDS - CARISA" creation.

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

Section "Monitoring and Evaluation" was reviewed and developed as well as the changes in the section "Project indicators" were made.

The work on the terms of reference on classifier of the providing services to the vulnerable population groups was completed.

The work on the project indicators among the vulnerable population groups according to the SS data with the CDC staff and data base is in progress.

Report on the regional educational M&E workshop in the sphere of HIV/AIDS is being prepared.

All the targets on project indicators have been defined and the tables of project activity monitoring results have also been filled. The final variant of project indicators is sent to the World Bank for the further adoption.

The budget for all the planned events in 2007 was developed.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training courses (RTC)

National specialists prepared detailed analytical reports on the results of business trips to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan devoted to the question of regional training courses development.

RPMU specialists on public healthcare have prepared the general analysis of country potential in the field of HIV/AIDS education issues. This general analysis was sent to the national offices as well as the World Bank office. The information is also placed on the Project web site.

Terms of reference on the services providing in educational materials development, which will be used for the trainers training on the basis of regional educational courses in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were worked out. The World Bank approved designed ToR.

In this connection, on April,27 the advertisement on the opening of competition with the aim to select specialists for the staff of regional working groups on educational materials development for the regional training courses was placed on the Project web site.

In view of the fact that RTC in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan need the international technical assistance, terms of reference for the selection of international organizations to design

educational modules for RTC in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was revised. At present time this question is in the agreement process with WB.

Projects of cooperation memorandums in the sphere of RTC promotion with the UNIFEM and IOM were forward for consideration of RPMU Executive Director.

National specialists responsible for the RTC fulfilled the following activity volume:

RTC specialists work with the partners on educational modules development in accordance with their kinds of activity, conduct working meetings with the interested specialists;

Situational analysis on educational programs in the frame of the becoming RTC subjects for all the member countries was prepared presented;

RTC specialist from Kyrgyzstan Deputy Head of the Department on reformation of the penitentiary system of Kyrgyzstan prepared the presentation on the questions of damage reduction, which will be presented at the international conference in Warsaw.

Educational programs coordination specialists finish their work on the establishment of the unique country educational calendar; together with the RPMU specialists carry out all the necessary logistic procedures for trip to Warsaw conference (paper work, visa getting, etc.)

Communications promotion

External communications

During the month communication coordinator and strategist's work was focused on the informational support (press announces and press releases writing, their distribution among regional mass media). CA mass media paid great attention to the HIV/AIDS Interconfessional conference which took place in Bishkek. The information on the beginning of the grant project realization of one of the NGO in southern Kyrgyzstan (establishment of health school clubs) was published in Kyrgyzstan; Tajik mass media published the information on the parliament hearings on the realization of the Law "HIV/AIDS epidemic counteraction" of Republic of Tajikistan.

The work on new project web site and its informational filling was being carried out. This new web site is temporary placed on www.caap.incom.kz. The data base of Project partners and regional mass media for the further electronic distribution of Project leaflet was prepared.

Internal communications

Project Executive Director approved the new corporative image. An order on official use of Project documentation with new logotype from May, 1, 2007 was issued. Compact discs with new Project corporative image were sent to all the country offices.

COMPONENT 2. CENTRAL ASIA AIDS FUND

Grant activities

Big SPPs:

Alliance SPP: The meeting of RPMU financial department staff with Alliance representatives: program and financial directors as well as project manager to discuss the finalization of financial and program issues of SPP as well as agreed eligible level for operating costs in SPP in the revised budget were in a focus of discussion. It was agreed that Alliance will send to RPMU the package of documents for justification of sole source

procurement of international consultants (about 170 thousand USD for Alliance) and revised SPP together with scopes of work for sub – awards.

PSI SPP: RPMU staff had a meeting with PSI regional financial director on April 20 to discuss a nature of administrative operating expenses for SPP. RPMU Finance manager pointed out on high administrative costs and duplication of some positions in SPP. After the discussion, RPMU received a revised draft financial table which has to be approved first by PSI HQ.

JSI SPP: RPMU is still waiting a JSI's revised budget. During the meeting with JSI finance officer on 14 April, the last promised to submit the revised budget by the end of April.

Youth 21 SPP: The revised procurement plan of SPP has been received from the NGO and agreed with RPMU procurement staff.

HP National Centers SPP: RPMU has been requested the Principal Recipient for SPP (which is based in Almaty) several times to submit a finalized financial plan and project document where is outlined how project will manage the implementation of the SPP within the region. Unfortunately, we did not get so far any reply from the Principal Recipient..

In all four countries first payments (tranches) to the organizations won small grants of the first Project grant round took place. Together with the UNDP offices the work on the procurement of the necessary computer equipment for the grant winners of small grants is in progress.

The new Instruction variant for the grant winners was prepared and sent to the WB for the further remarks and approval. RPMU procurement specialists made their comments to the remarks by WB.

The first educational workshop for the trainers training with the aim of further training conducting among governmental and nongovernmental organizations of CA countries – potential grant winners of the Project took place on April, 24, 2007 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It was conducted by the CURATIO consultants together with the trainers from the National association of AIDS-services organizations (Kazakhstan) in the frame of DFI grant.

RPMU staff (financial manager, procurement specialists and national coordinator in RK) conducted the session to answer training participants' questions on grant process. The next educational workshop will take place on May 2.

On April 13, training on grant proposal writing techniques for representatives of medical services of Uzbek railroad, Republican dental service, Republican surgery and Psychiatrics in the Republican AIDS center.

Working meetings, training tours and business trips

11.04.07 – RPMU Executive Director and 1 Component Coordinator met with the UNICEF representatives (head of the office Mr. Rezo Khasani and M&E specialist Mrs. Minika). In a course of the meeting a joint action plan for 2007 was discussed as well as the perspective of MoU signing.

12.04.07 –RPMU Executive Director met with the deputy of Parliament Majlis of Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Dusekeev. They discussed the questions concerning the forthcoming hearings on issues of National and Regional AIDS Funds institutionalization and the organization of Second inter-parliament conference on HIV/AIDS problems which will take place in Almata in June of current year.

17.04.07 – RPMU Executive Director and National Coordinator in KR met in Bishkek with DFID office representatives for the discussion of Triune UNAIDS principles institutionalization. In this connection they touched the questions of National and Regional AIDS Funds establishment. Also, professor Meimanaliev informed about the DFI grant realization. He spoke about the program of planned educational workshops for trainers. The questions of national and regional monitoring and evaluation systems harmonization were also discussed.

18.04.07 – RPMU Executive Director met with appointed Minister of Public Health of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Abduraimov.

In April National Coordinator in RT met with parliament members, minister of public health, Director of Regional AIDS Center and Secretary of NKK with the aim to discuss the preparation process to parliament hearings devoted to the aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention in Republic of Tajikistan.

04.04.07 - National PIU in Uzbekistan has conducted a meeting for all partners and key players involved in HIV prevention and control a Presentation of developed methods and instruments (questionnaires) to collect data on training activities including information on trainers both local and international in the Republican AIDS center.

Juridical, Financial and Technical Issues of RPMU

Financial issues: The first financial report was presented to the UNDP. The report concerned the payment of the first trenches to grant winners of the first grant round in amount of 155388 USD. The report was sent to the WB. Also, the RPMU financial manager had sent to the UNDP the corrected budget with the aim to define the amount of payment necessary for the beginning of the centralized procurement for the grant winners of either of four countries.

Procurement issues: Additional procurement specialist was selected and he signed the contract. The Instruction on project procurement was reviewed and approved by the WB. Terms of Reference on the conducting of RTC educational modules development advisory services were approved by the WB and forwarded to the National Coordinators to invite the interested parties into the selection process. The contract with the Regional AIDS Center was signed in Kyrgyzstan.

The evaluation report on selection of the educational program consultant for Muslims trainers.

The comments to the reviewed Instruction for grant winners were made.

Procurement specialists met with the CDC experts for the identification of the purchased equipment specification.

Bidding for the procurement of vehicles and laboratory equipment for the pilot districts of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was developed and forwarded to the UNDP.

Informational systems: Kyrgyz country office movement to the new building took place in the middle of April. Access to the Internet was provided to the regional and national staff. They got e-mail boxes on the corporative domain @caap.info. Working spaces of the staff were established. The local area network in the new office has been installed. In the result of the negotiations with the MIS CARHAP developers the agreement on test access to the server data base on the web base providing was achieved. CARHAP staff also provided the client part of the MIS program product.

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