

COMPONENT 1. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

Orientation Seminar

Orientation seminar for Central Asia AIDS Control Project staff was being held in Kyrgyz Republic on August 24-26, 2008. It gathered 33 Project colleagues from all country offices of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as our partners from the UNDP country offices – administrative and financial assistants, providing fiduciary services in the Project implementation.

The following key issues were discussed: 1. RPMU activity results for 8 months of 2008; 2. Finance planning and expenditures; 3. Regional AIDS Fund component strengthening; 4. Methods of rational planning of events; 5. Introducing of management information systems (MIS) and I.D.E.A.

During three days all the specialists were getting the latest information on organization activity, discussing their working plans for the following 2009 year.

Seminar for Regional Training Centers' trainers

Training on “Improving of interactive training and interpersonal dialogue skills” for trainers of regional training centers created with support of Central Asia AIDS Control Project took place in the Kyrgyz republic, Issyk-Kul district (August 29 – September 2, 2008). 30 trainers of 4 regional training centers were invited to the seminar (RTC).

It is expected that improving of trainer's skills of the regional trainers team will provide the most qualitative carrying out of training. After the training all participants got certificates.

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

Strengthening M&E system

- Regional information data base (CARISA) promotion

CAAP IT Specialist worked on completing of financial module and “Grant Progress” module in the MIS web part program. Benchmark codes for a web part of MIS were received on August 30. At present system installation on RPMU server is conducted.

M&E national specialists were involved into July sub-projects' reports gathering within RAF grant program implementation.

Trainings for regional AIDS centers specialists on M&E issues took place in all regions of Uzbekistan on July 15-31. They were organized by PARK department under Country Coordination Committee of Uzbekistan.

Electronic supervision program

In August the international and local consultants continued their work on electronic version of the program for laboratory and clinic department of AIDS centers. It is also supposed to finish the software installation for the epidemiological department.

Work on selection of the firm for creation local network in ES pilot cities in the Republic of Kazakhstan is being carried out.

Sentinel Epidemiological Surveillance (SES)

Training on reports preparation by results of the SS data for 2007 was held in Kyrgyz Republic (August 4-9). The training took place in the premises of Kyrgyz Health Ministry in Bishkek. The training purpose was preparation of reports on the basis of those results received during SS data processing for 2007 in the "EpiInfo" computer program in all surveillance groups of the pilot sites. Representatives of the Republican AIDS Center and its territorial (regional) divisions (chief doctors, head of epidemiological departments and epidemiologists) took part in the training. Totally 12 specialists participated in the training. In the training's frame the information on reports' structure and content was presented. Prepared reports on the basis of received SS data for 2007 results in sentinel groups (SW, IDUs, MSM, prisoners, pregnant women, people having STDs) in the pilot sites became the outcome of the training.

SS and ES coordinator prepared a report form on used test systems which had been used for SS conducting in 2007. The form was sent to the countries.

SS results for 2007 for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan were interpreted into English and sent to the countries for placing on web sites of both Republican AIDS Centers and Ministries of Health. Request to finance training on laboratory research quality control in the Kyrgyz Republic was sent to UNDP. The training is expected to be held in Bishkek on September 2-5, 2008.

Meetings between the "ABBOTT" firm representative and specialists of the Tajik health ministry and the Republican AIDS Center were arranged. The topic of the meeting: test systems delivery for SS conducting. The representative of MFS-Servis firm arrived to Uzbekistan to hold preliminary talks on SS tests registration.

RPMU national office in Kazakhstan prepared documents for SS financing among MSM in Kazakhstan's cities (reward for participation).

Training on received data analysis received in a framework of SS conducted in 2007 in the pilot sites took place in the Republic of Uzbekistan (August 8-12).

Training on preparation of presentation on received SS data for 2007 in the pilot sites took place in Tajikistan on August 13-18.

Communication Strategy Promotion

Communications coordinator and strategist continued elaborating of Manual for Media trainers of Central Asia on HIV and AIDS issue coverage. To continue work on journalists pool establishing on HIV and AIDS covering in the Project-member countries, national training on HIV and AIDS issues coverage for Tajik journalists took place in Dushanbe on August 19-21. Journalists trained by the Project in June 2008 were the trainers. Manual for Media trainers of Central Asian countries on HIV and AIDS issue coverage, elaborated by CAAP, was used During national journalists training program design. 17 journalists participated in the training.

CAAP lawyer, Mr. Niyatbekov made a presentation on legislative aspects in HIV and AIDS spread counteraction in Tajikistan and other CA countries.

Communications coordinator and strategist spoke about CAAP activity, its regional approach and also about those activities which are conducted by the organization for the Mass Media representatives (contest for journalists).

Communications coordinator and strategist provided practical assistance in the field of youth's awareness rising about TUMAR Project activity in Kazakhstan which is being realized by JSI within 2 RAF grant round implementation.

National office in Tajikistan has prepared an information on the events conducted within the Project to place it on HIV and AIDS National Coordination Committee's web site.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Courses (RTC)

National offices were carrying out logistical arrangements the purpose of two country multidisciplinary teams' participation in the training on ARV-therapy among adults which will take place in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, on September 6-12.

Spadework on the first regional trainings carrying out is in progress: ToT training on HIV prevention among youth (Almaty, September, 22-25) and ToT training on HIV prevention among migrants (Dushanbe, October 13-17).

RTC national specialist in Kazakhstan updated Manual "HIV prevention among youth» for trainers training working with education system experts and volunteers.

Work plan and budget for 2009 on all Regional Training Centers is being conducted. The work on registration of Central Asian training and information center of harm reduction was continued.

COMPONENT 2 Central Asia Regional AIDS Fund

Grant activity

Central Asia AIDS Control Project (CAAP) with the aim to keep abreast National and Regional Technical Evaluation Committees members with the Regional AIDS Fund (RAF) strategies and proposal evaluation criteria and procedures conducted the regional workshop in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic on August 4-5, 2008. It gathered 37 representatives of the regional and national technical evaluation committees from all the Project-member countries: Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

During two days, participants had a chance to get familiarized in detail with the revised Regional AIDS Fund strategy, its evaluation criteria and technical procedures. In particular, RAF structure, its goals and objectives were presented. Participants were also informed with the results of the Central Asia AIDS Control Project mid-term review and RAF strategy assessment results.

Addressing to the RTEC and NTEC members, CAAP Executive Director, Prof. Tilek Meimanaliev said that CAAP will continue its efforts in harmonization of grant award process at the regional level.

Kazakhstan: In August national coordinator and M&E specialist made monitoring visits within SPP implementation of the 2-d RAF grant round:

- Shymkent – Southern Kazakhstan *Oblast*, NGO Umit - August 12-13;
- Pavlodar – Pavlodar Regional AIDS Center, NGO Gerlita - August 19-20;

The documents on monitoring visits made were prepared. Thus, monitoring visits to the organizations implementing SPPs within second grant round in Kazakhstan were finished. Information on 3-d grant round implementation, trained grant appliers of the third grant round and grant recipients of the first and second grant rounds was prepared.

Tajikistan: During the reporting period one SPP has completed its realization within the first grant round – the Republican Center on HIV prevention and counteraction. Final evaluation of this sub-project implementation was made. At present UNDP studies final financial report of this SPP.

Third RAF Grant Round

RAF coordinator carried out a spadework on evaluation of large grant proposals submitted to the third grant round. The work of priorities definition of next year's activity was conducted. According to the planned schedule of the third grant round implementation, Project national offices carried out technical evaluation (prescreening) and evaluation of institutional potential of submitted sub-project proposals. Necessary documents for National Technical Evaluation Committees' meetings were also prepared. All NTEC members got sub-project proposals which had past initial screening as well as evaluation sheets. NTEC meetings will take place in Project-member countries in September. The RPMU prepared the detailed information on received LoIs and sub-project proposals for 3 GR.

Working meetings, business trips

Executive director took part:

- in the work of RAF RTEC and RTEC members (Issyk Kul, the Kyrgyz Republic), on August, 4-5 2008
- in a conference "HIV infection epidemic situation in Uzbekistan according to SS results for 2007" (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), August 18-21, together with the Component 1 Coordinator, Chinara Seitalieva and SS and ES Coordinator, Ainagul Osmonova.

For the purpose to provide technical assistance in 3 RAF grant project proposals (screening) in Uzbekistan (more than 100 LoIs were received), RAF coordinator was on working trip in Tashkent from August 11 till 19, 2008;

Communications coordinator and strategist together with CAAP lawyer were in Dushanbe by UNAIDS national office invitation (August 18-23) in Tajikistan. They took part in the conducting of national training for journalists on HIV and AIDS issues.

Regional public health specialist had a number of working visits with UNIFEM representatives. They discussed and prepared to the signing a joint action plan for 2008.

National M&E specialist in Tajikistan visited Khorog (August 6-9), Kulob (August 21) and Kurgan-Tube (August 22). Goal of the visits: participation in the meetings of *Oblast*

Coordination Committees on HIV counteraction, TB and malaria. These meetings were held by the NCC secretariat together with Capacity Project and the UNAIDS country office.

RTC specialists of the Project national offices were in Issyk Kul (August 28-September 2) where took part in the training on improving of interactive training and interpersonal dialogue skills. It was held in a frame of national RTC trainers training.

RPMU Juridical, financial and technical issues

Financial Issues

UNDP. Administrative and financial assistants (AFA) of UNDP country (except AFA specialist from Tajikistan) participated in work of orientation seminar in Issyk Kul. One of this seminar's results was taking of the decisions towards quality improvement of communication and reporting system between UNDP and RPMU. All the comments made during the audit (spring 2008) were discussed. The following agreement was reached: UNDP will have eliminated all audit remarks by September 30, 2008 and will forward the report to RPMU. UNDP accepted the proposed manual on managing of Project national offices without remarks and additions. This manual will come into the force from September 1, 2008. RPMU has received financial report by UNDP for July which will be sent to the World bank in order to get disbursement in amount of 201,048 US dollars.

The financial Reporting. The quarter financial report for the second quarter of 2008 is sent to the World bank. WB questions and comments were responded. Request to replenish Special account was sent to the World bank. Financial resources in amount of 453,770 USD were transferred to the Special account.

Grants' Payments. Payments for 2 GR large grants for there grant recipients in total amount of 284,320 US dollars were made in advanced. Reports on large grant implemented by PSI and Alliance NGOs were received. Reports with RPMU remarks were sent back to the organizations.

Mid-term report on SPP implemented by JSI NGO was approved. It was sent to the World bank for direct payment in amount of 317,940 US dollars.

Procurement issues

Computer equipment for ES for the pilot cities of Karaganda, Temirtau (Kazakhstan) and Bishkek (the Kyrgyz Republic) was bought and installed.

ToRs on trainers hiring for regional training conducting within RTC on youth and migrants were elaborated. Evaluation and selection procedures were carried out and specialists were hired.

Mr. Martin Horseling arrived to RPMU and started his work as managing adviser from August 1, 2008.