

Situation Analysis

The Second Session of Council on healthcare issues under the Integration EurasEC took place on May 24-25. Project Executive Director, Prof. Meimanaliev T.C. took part in this meeting.

One of the questions discussed during the Session was “Agreement on adopting Grant obligations (CAAP) between Eurasian Economic Community and International Development Association”. In the course of discussion the following decision was taken and recorded: “to take into consideration the information of Secretariat of Integration Eurasian economic community Committee and to keep informing the Council at the posterior meetings of Agreement realization course”.

COMPONENT 1. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

Workshops and conferences:

Meeting of working group of Uzbek Parliament committee devoted to the question National AIDS Fund establishment took place on May 8, in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan. The following decisions were taken at this meeting:

- to elaborate Law analysis “HIV infection prevention”
- to organize parliament hearings on HIV/AIDS questions (last ten days of May)
- to recommend Government consider the question of National AIDS Fund establishment
- to keep cooperating with the Central Asia AIDS Control Project.

Under the technical assistance of RPMU staff Central Asian countries representatives took part in the international conference on harm reduction which took place on May 13-17 in Warsaw, Poland. 3 representatives of Central Asian countries participated in the conference: member of Inter-parliament working group from Tajikistan, Mr. Sanginov Djumaboi; representative of Kyrgyz Ministry of Justice, Mr. Talai Beishenaliev and Mrs. Krukova Valeriya, RPMU National Coordinator in Republic of Kazakhstan. Mr. Beishenaliev made presentation at one of the plenary conference sessions on questions of harm reduction in penitentiary system of Kyrgyzstan.

Parliament hearings devoted to the discussion of HIV/AIDS epidemic situation issues with the participation of Project Executive Director where he presented his report took place on May 31 in Healthcare Committee of Kyrgyz Republic Parliament.

RPMU team efforts were focused on preparatory work for the second Regional Inter-Parliamentarian Conference, which will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan on June 7-8. The following objectives have been accomplished in conjunction with partners: development of the Conference draft agenda, agreeing and collection of the Conference presentations, development of the list of participants and other logistics arrangements.

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

Sentinel Surveillance (SS)

Republican conference “HIV infection epidemic situation in Republic of Tajikistan according to the sentinel epidemiological surveillance for 2006” was organized and conducted by the RPMU and CDC specialists on May 20-23, 2007 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. At the conference RPMU was represented by Project Executive Director, Component 1 Coordinator and SES and ES Regional specialist. Vice Health Minister Mr. Mirzoev A.S. and Secretary of National Coordination Committee Mr. Goibov A. G., AIDS Center Director Mr. Ruziev M.M. also took part in the conference.

Participants of the conference familiarized with Tajikistan SES results analysis and with the investigation results of HIV infection outbreak among children in Southern Kazakhstan District. In the course of the conference the questions of laboratory researches quality control providing were also discussed. Later, SES development tasks and perspectives on the country level were discussed within the working groups. Resolution was adopted as a result of the conference.

Spade-work for the Republican Conference “SES results 2006” conducting which was planned on June 18-19 2007 in Bishkek was being realized during the reported period in Kyrgyz Republic.

In one of the pilot regions of Kazakhstan (Atyrau city) the site training on SES issues was conducted on May 15-16.

During the month RPMU staff together with CDC conducted the number of trainings devoted to the questions of voluntary consulting and testing (VCT):

- In Republic of Tajikistan – May 23-25;
- In Republic of Uzbekistan – May 28-30.

Training course “Laboratory researches quality control” took place on May 21-24, 2007 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Strengthening M&E system

- Regional informational data base promoting (CARISA)
- Country potential strengthening in the sphere of M&E

During May the work on requirements specification for the hiring of the informational technologies consultant in the field of program product “Regional informational system for AIDS - CARISA” creation was being realized.

RPMU M&E specialists elaborated book keeping forms for the grant winners. The work on project indicators among vulnerable population groups according to SES data and countries data bases was continued together with the CDC staff.

The work on preparation of the CAAP M&E strategy document and filling of project activity monitoring results table is keeping at the present time.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Courses (RTC)

1. The Memorandum on cooperation between RPMU and UNIFEM in the sphere of educational modules development for the regional training courses was prepared and signed. According to the signed memorandum UNIFEM will improve its earlier developed Instruction for trainers training “Gender and HIV/AIDS”, get the reviews and conduct training workshop for the future trainers of all four Regional Trainings Courses (RTC). UNIFEM will also provide the assistance in conducting of the first training courses in all four countries with the aim to teach the above mentioned Instruction. From its part, RPMU is obliged to support the this instruction introduction into the training programs of all four RTC in the framework of the Project, further promotion and institutionalization of this educational material in state institutions educational programs of Project member countries.

2. Informational letters on advertised by the RPMU vacancy for the selection of consultants in the sphere of educational materials development for the RTC on the work with young people (Kazakhstan) and in the sphere of harm reduction (Kyrgyzstan) were sent to all the interested organizations. As a result of the competition 8 and 6 consultants accordingly were selected. At the present time the contracts with the selected candidates are to be signed.

3. Also, requirements specifications (RS) were developed together with the procurement specialists for the hiring of international organizations in the sphere of educational materials development for the RTC in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. All the RS were approved by the World Bank. In total 11 letters of interest were received. They were preliminary evaluated and the list of candidates for the selection was also prepared.

4. RPMU got into contact with “Knowledge Hub” organization (Kiev, Ukraine). On its basis RPMU plans to train potential trainers of Uzbekistan

RTC in the field of treatment and care issues. Conditions and possibilities of training tour organization are under the discussion.

5. The letter on cooperation and the plan of joint actions of RPMU and CARHAP in the frame of harm reduction regional courses organization and conducting in Kyrgyzstan was prepared and sent to the regional CARHAP office.

Communications promotion

In May procurement specialists continued the work on contract making with the Transatlantic Partners against AIDS (TPAA) to conduct regional ToT training for journalists of Central Asia and study tour.

Organizational details of the competition for journalists on HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment were adjusted with Regional AIDS Centers of the Project member countries. The competition will last till November 1, 2007. All the spade-work concerning competition for journalists announcement placing in the newspapers was done.

Communications coordinator and strategist together with national coordinators continue the work on material collecting for the Manual for the journalists. Also the informational updating of the Project web site was done.

By Executive Director's order, the first meeting of the working group on preparation of the brochure on Project activity for its further presentation in Colombo (August 2007) was held under the supervision of Communications coordinator and strategist on May 5, 2007.

Thematic parts of the brochure were discussed and responsible specialists on informational materials preparation for the corresponding brochure chapters were also appointed.

COMPONENT 2. CENTRAL ASIA AIDS FUND

Zakir Kadirov has moved his station of duty and started working as a 2 Component Coordinator starting from 13 of May.

Grant activities

Efforts of the Component 2 coordinator were focused on the following assignments:

- In conjunction with RPMU specialists and WB consultant Betty Hanan to finalize the English versions of RAF manual and Grant recipient handbook
- To develop a TOR for technical assistance in evaluation of SPP after the second round

- To develop a TOR for technical assistance to be provided to one of the large grant sub-recipients “Healthy Life Center in Kazakhstan ”
- To design a M&E instruments and M&E work schedule for upcoming country visits that will be focused on
 - Assessing routine needs of sub-recipients
 - To assess the level of implementation of SPPs
 - To meet with National authorities in regards to RAF implementation
 - To work with UNDP country offices on sub-grantees issues

Working meetings, training tours and business trips

On May 7, Component Coordinator 1 held the working meeting with Yusur Loma – Kyrgyz Muslims Chief Mufti’s Adviser, who is also the RPMU consultant on education and programs development for the religious leaders training. In the course of the meeting, the following steps on this activity realization were discussed.

A number of working meetings with the UNAIDS and Capacity Project on Inter-parliament conference preparation in Astana was held.

On May 18, the RPMU staff headed by its Executive Director held the meeting with Ms. Fiona Percy-de Korte, Shell company HIV/AIDS consultant. On behalf of the company, Ms. Fiona Percy-de Korte expressed the interest in HIV prevention program introducing among Shell company sub-divisions in Mangistau and Atirau cities. In the course of the meeting two parts discussed the ways of possible cooperation using the RPMU technical and administrative potential and possible financial contribution of the company to the Regional AIDS Fund for the conducting of abovementioned prophylactic programmes.

The working meeting of Executive Director, Prof. Meimanaliev T. with Deputy Health Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Mirzoev A.S. took place on May 23, 2007. The issues of forthcoming regional events, planned in a frame of the Project realization were discussed at the meeting; the issues of journalist training on the regional level were also discussed.

Project M&E Specialists met with:

14.05.07 - Mr. Alexey Ilnitskiy, UNAIDS. Topic of discussion: Possible CRIS program using (version 2.1.3) and its implementation on the regional level.

16.05.07 – Mr. Baurzhan Usupov, CDC/CAR. Topics of discussion: ToR for technical assistance in services classification providing to the most vulnerable groups; project indicators and causes of data discrepancy among vulnerable groups over 2005-2006.

RPMU Public Health Specialist took part in the conference devoted to the opening of Global Health Study Center in Central Asia, organized under the auspices of the Columbia University (USA) in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

RPMU Procurement Specialist held several meetings with the UNDP representatives with the aim to discuss procurement procedures which are to be made according to the RPMU requests.

RPMU Legal Finance and Technical Issues

Procurement issues

The following have been done by the procurement unit during the week:

- Finalization of evaluation of CVs for consulting services on development of training courses for Regional Training Centers.
- Consulting and advising Admin/Finance Assistants from the UNDP country offices on procurement of office equipment for religious leaders.
- JSI, PSI and Alliance (Sub-grant recipients) procurement plan and capacity review and assessment.
- Finalization of evaluation report on selection of National Coordinator in Uzbekistan.
- Review and update of RAF manuals in cooperation with WB consultant.
- Obtaining WB's no-objection to updated ToR for Technical Expert on evaluation of SPP.
- Obtaining WB's no-objection to updated ToR for Local Consultant on SPP M&E
- Evaluation of expressions of interest for development of training modules for journalists.
- Development of contract negotiations with auditing firm meeting minutes.
- The request of the laboratory equipment procurement was submitted to UNDP.
- ToR for the establishment of technical working group for the NCC support on the legislative issues in Uzbekistan was submitted to the WB for no-objection.

Informational Systems

Technical work on server installation and its support at RPMU office was done. Data input into the 1C system, CAAP web site maintaining and data reserving was implemented. Alexey Ilnitskiy (UNAIDS) installed a new version of CRIS program (v. 2.1.3) software.