



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)

86 Kunaev str., Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan; Tel: + (7 3272) 44 73 17; fax +(7 3272) 44 73 16

Ref №001/2-211
31/10/2006

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
it's deep respect and informs you about the activities implemented during October, 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

COMPONENT 1

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

Conducting workshops, seminars and conferences

I. On 26 October 2006 a videoconference on discussion of Project indicators between Almaty, Bishkek, and Washington was organized and conducted, where the RPMU staff, and the World Bank, CARHAP, DFID, UNAIDS, CAPACITY officers participated. In the process of discussions at the videoconference, some constructive proposals were made on improvement of the indicators developed. By 15 November 2006 this activity will have been completed.

II. On 2 October 2006 a regular videoconference was held with participation of the RPMU staff, Ministers of Health and Directors General of the Republican AIDS Centers of all Project member-countries. The resolution of this videoconference was reviewed and processed according to the outcomes of the discussions and submitted to the RPSC members for signing.

Working meetings

I. Active dialogue with religious leaders of all Central Asia Project member-countries was conducted as per possibility of cooperation in combating HIV/AIDS. The Executive Director and the RPMU officers held a number of meetings with the Supreme Muftis of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the religious leaders of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with regard to collaboration in the field of preventing HIV/AIDS. In the course of the meetings a certain understanding and agreement of the religious leaders was achieved in carrying out of joint activities on the regional level with the CAAP. Upon the results of the meetings, letters were developed and sent out, a draft agenda of the roundtable was prepared. Conducting of the Roundtable on the subject «The role of Muslim religious leaders in preventing HIV spread in Central Asia and priorities of interregional cooperation» is planned for the first week of December 2006 in Tajikistan or in the Kyrgyz Republic.

II. The RPMU specialists performed work on preparation of the Partners' Forum, which is planned for 11-12 December 2006 in Samarkand (the Republic of Uzbekistan). A letter "Conceptual basics of Partners' Forum Establishment" was developed and sent out to all international partners for discussion. A number of meetings with the chiefs of international organizations and projects were held. At present, the list of participants and the meeting program are under preparation.

III. The RPMU specialists took part in conducting the roundtable entitled «Social partnership of NGOs, state and international organizations in preventing HIV and drug addiction in Almaty», that was organized by the Equal to Equal republican association.

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

HIV Electronic Surveillance System (HIV-ES)

Preparatory work is under way for conducting of the regional seminar-conference on development and introduction of the HIV Electronic Surveillance System (HIV-ES) in CAR. The conference is planned for 21-22 November 2006 in Almaty, Kazakhstan with participation of the Project member-countries. In cooperation with the CDC, the list of participants and the conference program have been developed, and all necessary logistics procedures are under implementation.

Sentinel Epidemiological Surveillance (SES)

Together with the CDC staff, the RPMU have organized and successfully conducted the National conferences on extending of the sentinel epidemiological surveillance (SES) and introduction of the HIV-

ES in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, - on 5-6 October in Tashkent and on 10-11 October in Dushanbe. The number of the conference participants made up 72 and 65 people respectively.

All participants were provided with the manuals on SES, developed by the SDC and RPMU specialists; in the course of the conference, all technical issues on organization and conducting of SES at pilot sites of the countries were covered.

Thus, all the planned conferences on SES have been conducted by now. Assessment visits have been also completed except for Atyrau Oblast and Almaty in Kazakhstan, that were postponed to November because of complicated HIV epidemiologic situation in the country and tight schedule of the country specialists.

The RPMU officers-in-charge in cooperation with the CDC officers conducted assessment visits to the pilot sites of Uzbekistan: Gulistan, Bukhara, Urgench; and Tajikistan: Vakhdat, Khuliab, and Khorog. Work on sampling of a number of people to be examined among vulnerable groups, such as: CSWs, IDUs, STIs and pregnant women was conducted. Preparatory stage of site-training workshops at pilot sites, planned for November, has been carried out. During the fielded missions, some meetings were held with the heads of the state administration of oblasts and cities, as well as with the heads of oblast departments of health at the pilot sites. As a result, a draft regulation of the local government on joint conducting of SES with participation of the state structures, Ministry for Home Affairs, NGOs, and medical institutions has been elaborated.

At present, the RPMU National Coordinators for Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are finalizing preparation of financial statements with regard to the National Conferences conducted on SES extending at pilot regions and Assessment Visits of the RPMU and CDC employees.

Sub-component 1. 3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Centers (RTC)

As a result of long-term cooperation of the RPMU staff and NGOs of the Russian Federation, memorandums on cooperation of the RPMU on the one part – Open Health Institute and AIDS-infoshare on the other part, concerning providing technical assistance in formation and development of the Regional Training Centers in the Project member-countries, were signed. In the course of the working visit of the RPMU Public Health Specialist to Moscow, during a working meeting with the leadership of the aforementioned organizations, the joint steps, work details on arrangement of the regional training centers and the preliminary budget were discussed in detail.

The process of candidate selection for positions of the RTC Coordinators is coming to an end. In the near future, it is planned to elaborate a schedule for technical consultants' visits to the countries for review of the RTC bases and experience available in training and preparation of draft training programs in the countries.

COMPONENT 2

Granting

The National Coordinators of all Project member-countries have performed preparatory work for organization and conducting of national conferences upon the outcomes of the first CAAP granting round in order to analyze the reasons of rejections and approvals of sub-project proposals, to consider all comments and recommendations made by the NTEC members and signing a RAF Grant Recipient Framework Agreement with the winner-organizations. Written responses (for both approved and rejected proposals) were sent to all organizations that submitted their sub-project proposals for review in the first grant round.

The abovementioned national conferences were held in Uzbekistan on 17 October, in Kyrgyzstan on 20 October, and in Tajikistan on 30 October. A similar conference will be held in Kazakhstan on 2 November 2006.

At request of Ms. Dorothy Eckertz, Human Resources Development Projects Officer in Europe and Central Asia, the RPMU specialists prepared a letter on the outcomes of the first CAAP granting round, which was submitted to the WB.

The venue and dates of the conference to be held by RTEC members have been coordinated, that is 23-24 November 2006, in Almaty. Acting Component-2 Coordinator provided necessary consultative assistance to all members of the RTEC in issues of evaluation of the sub-project proposals for large grants. In cooperation with the GAMET and UNAIDS specialists, the priority aspects for the next granting round of RAF were discussed and identified. The draft Plan of Actions and Budget for 2007 were prepared.

A meeting with the staff of the Republican Research Institute of Dermatovenerology in Almaty was conducted concerning preparation of the regional sub-project proposal on issues of preventing STI, as one of concurrent infections of HIV transmission.

RPMU

Conferences, travel assignments, and working meetings

Ms. Lucine Mirzoyan, GAMET Consultant visited the RPMU within the reporting week. She rendered assistance in development of CAAP indicators. The entire personnel of the RPMU participated in this joint work. Within the framework of her visit, a number of working meetings on discussion of this issue were organized with the UNAIDS, CDC, and CAPACITY Project officers.

The RPMU Executive Director and specialists participated in the working meeting on discussion of the beginning of implementation of the IDF-grant, which envisages support in training of organizations of various profiles in writing and submission of grant proposals, and promotes harmonization of these procedures among all international donors working in the territory of CAR. All aspects of this grant were discussed at the meeting: financial management and accounting, as well as the uniform monitoring system of grant applications.

From 24 to 27 October 2006, Ms. Surdina, the RPMU Public Health Specialist was on travel assignment in Moscow, where she participated in the 3rd Summit of Russian Media Partnership, conducted joint activities with the management of TPAA, OHI, AIDS-infoshare. In the course of the working visit, joint steps on organization of the regional training centers in the Project member-countries were discussed in detail, and memorandums on cooperation were signed. Besides, issues of participation of 3 RPMU specialists and 4 journalists from CA countries in the training for journalists which is conducted annually by TPAA were discussed. A detailed report on this travel assignment will be displayed on the RPMU website in the near future.

The National Coordinator of Uzbekistan cooperated with the CAPACITY Project on introduction of the society mobilization policy. Starting from 30 November, it is planned to conduct the second cycle of field training workshops with traveling to seven oblasts of Uzbekistan. He also participated in working groups on development of the new State Program to Combat HIV/AIDS epidemics on a Comprehensive Basis in Uzbekistan.

At present, Mr. Sh. Niyatbekov, Legal Specialist is on a travel assignment in Dushanbe, where he is authorized to conduct evaluation procedures on selection of national specialists and conduct a working meeting with the authorities with regard to the RPMU cooperation with the religious leaders of Tajikistan.

On 20 October, the RPMU Public Health Specialist, being invited by the CAPACITY Project staff, took part in the work of interdepartmental commission on tender selection of a PR Specialist fielded to the Republican AIDS Center of Kazakhstan.

Technicalities

The RPMU staff carried out preparatory work on providing participation of the RPSC members and RPMU employees in the working visit to the British Virgin Islands for the purpose of participation in the 6th Annual Conference of Prime Ministers of the Caribbean Region countries (PANCAP) who united their efforts in combating AIDS. On 30 October, the RPMU received a message from the Minister of Health of

Kazakhstan about his refusal to participate in this travel because of disagreeable epidemiologic HIV situation in the country, and impossibility of his absence from the country on the dates of conducting a number of state organizational activities related to this.

Procedures of selection of the National Specialists in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have been conducted. The Evaluation Commission comprising RPMU specialists reviewed the CVs of all candidates, and developed short lists of 3 candidates for each position. Contracts with the selected specialists will be concluded starting from 1 November. It is planned to finalize this work in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the near future.

The evaluation report on selection of a candidate for the position of Component-2 Coordinator was developed and submitted to the WB. The evaluation report for positions of PR Promotion Specialist and Procurement Officer was prepared.

A tender selection of candidates for the position of the RPMU Assistant was conducted: the candidates were interviewed and their command of English was tested. In the near future, a contract will be signed with the selected person.

Reports for September, and for Quarter III, 2006 on the RPMU activities were prepared in Russian and in English, and sent out to all members of the RPSC, Ministers of Health, and Directors of AIDS Centers of the Project member-countries, as well as to the WB Regional Office, to all WB Country Offices, and to the DFID Regional Office. Weekly reports on RPMU activities are regularly prepared and sent to the WB Office in Washington.

The letter of information for September has been developed.

The final version of the technical specifications of the videoconference equipment was finalized and sent to the World Bank officers for review and comments.

The agreement between the UNDP and RPMU with regard to rendering fiduciary services in the countries was developed.

The RPMU Chief Accountant was trained in International Financial Accounting Standards at the International training sessions.

The CAAP website information is regularly maintained and updated.

Clarification for the World Bank as for selection of specialists to be hired temporarily for introduction of SES and HIV-ES at the pilot sites of the Project member-countries is under preparation.

All National Coordinators of the countries together with the RPMU Procurement Specialist carry out procedures of procurement of office and computer equipment for the country offices.

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