



Regional Project Management Unit's Report Central Asia AIDS Control Project

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2007

RPMU, Almaty

COMPONENT 1

Sub-component 1.1. Regional coordination of actions on HIV/AIDS counteraction

Conduction of seminars, conferences

I. On January, 22-24, in Almaty took place three-day Ориентационный a seminar in which employees of head office of a RPMU have taken part, and also CA countries divisions of the Project - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The basic purpose of the seminar was discussion of the questions of activity coordination of the national specialists employed by Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) in Central Asia, and also detailed discussion of activities plan for 2007. Also the questions of the Regional Training Centers (RTC) establishing, realization of monitoring and evaluation of the Project activities have been considered. Financial assistants of UNDP also have been invited to the seminar from the countries-participants of the Project for discussion of the questions regarding rendering fiduciary services to the Project by this international organization. Participants of the seminar have familiarized with history of the Project establishing, its purposes and objectives. Coordinators of Components 1 and 2, the Financial manager, and also the Communications and Strategy Coordinator have presented information about their scope of duties. Then the participants of orientation seminar have been split up for 4 working groups with the purpose of detailed discussion of working plans of CA countries specialists for 2007. Summing up the orientation seminar results, Executive Director of the Project, Mr. Meimanaliev has named it "rather successful", and concluded that the purposes of the seminar have been reached. Each specialist had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge, reconsider and coordinate the working plan for 2007 jointly with Components Coordinators, leading specialists of RPMU, and National Coordinators.

II. From February, 12 till February, 23 the World bank Mission conducted regular audit in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It was headed by the World Bank leading Public Health Services expert for the countries of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Mr. Patricio Marquez. The purpose of mission was realization of the Central Asian AIDS Control Project. Except for employees of the World Bank the mission included representatives of other international organizations and donors of the Project such as DFID, UNAIDS, Global Fund, UNDP, UNICEF, CDC, GAMET and Capacity/USAID Project.

Mission has heard the report of Executive Director of the Project, Mr. Meimanaliev T.S. regarding the scope work, which has been conducted in 2006. During meetings the legal aspects of the head office of RPMU residence in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the questions of harmonization of the grants process were discussed, the information on the events planned by RPMU for the current year have been discussed.

Besides the work with the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), the members of mission have had meetings with representatives of EurAsEC and have presented the work results to the members of Regional Steering Committee (PPK) during videoconference which took place on February, 23, 2007 in which the representatives of all four countries have taken part.

Summing up, the Mission members ascertained with satisfaction, that «RPMU, headed by professor Tilek Meimanaliev, should be recognized and should receive congratulations for the complex work which have been done and for the first results reached during the initial stage of the project realization».

The total sum which has been spent by February, 15, 2007 reached \$8.85 million US dollars or about 33 % from the total amount of the grants allocated for the this project.

Sub-component 1.2. Regional Sentinel Surveillance and Monitoring & Evaluation systems

Sentinel Surveillance and Electronic Surveillance Programs

Within the limits of Orientation seminar the introduction training on Sentinel Surveillance (SS) and

Electronic surveillance (ES) of HIV/AIDS cases has been conducted for the participants of working groups on January, 23.

Within the limits of the Memorandum of Agreement between CAAP and CDC the draft of the detailed activities realization Plan on SS and ES in Central Asian region has been drawn including distribution of financial assets for each country.

Together with Component 1 Coordinator the draft term of reference for the AIDS centers, which is necessary for hiring local specialists - participants of realization of all activities on SS and ES has been prepared. It has been directed to the World Bank for further coordination. Also, the terms of reference for translator of questionnaires and IT specialist on ES have been prepared.

Sub-component 1.3. Development of human resources

The regional training centers

During the accounting period the actions plan of RPMU on «Development of human resources» section with estimation of the detailed budget on each of the Project countries-participants has been prepared by the Public Health Services Specialist and all necessary approvals have been obtained. RTC National specialists were engaged in the review of the legislative base of training certification in the countries, development of the draft orders on RTC establishment.

In January-February the Public Health Services Specialist has conducted the working meetings with:

- Representatives of ZdravPlus (USAID) Galina Grebennikova and Irina Yuzkayeva concerning organization of educational programs at the Agrarian University of Astana, participation in receiving small grant for its activity by this organization, and also discussion of other forms of co-operation on training issues;
- Regional Director of the Colombian University office in CA, Ms. Assel Terlikbayeva, the opportunities of integration of the educational modules developed by the university in RTC teaching materials have been discussed.

Realization of Communicative strategy of the Project

Communications and Strategy Coordinator of the project has prepared the concept of strategy of RPMU communications promotion for 2007 which has been discussed and accepted on orientation seminar in January, and then has been presented to the World Bank mission in February 2007. Work on adjustment of communications with the partner organizations of the Project (World bank, CAPACITY Project) has been continued.

With the purpose of improvement of corporate image, decision to change the trade mark of organization has been accepted. The new trade mark has been presented to the members of mission of the World Bank.

Together with the CAPACITY Project, Communications Coordinator has taken part in the presentation of Management on information interchange improvement among national partners and international organizations working in the field of HIV counteraction.

COMPONENT 2

Grants activity

Component 2 Coordinator has summarized all comments of RTEC members and National coordinators concerning changes and additions in the RAF guidance and the Grant Recipient Guidance which then have been sent to the National Coordinators for acquaintance and further discussion at their meeting in Tashkent in the middle of March.

Two meetings with the Monitoring and Evaluation advisor of UNAIDS, Mr. Ilitskij took place in February during which the questions of modification and additions in evaluation forms for RTEC and NTEC have been discussed.

At the meeting of partners which took place on February, 5 in Almaty, the decision on introduction, at the regional level, of unified form of sub-project proposal (SPP) and the letter of intention was accepted.

Presentations and reports on received and approved SPP and their indicators, and also materials for discussion of 2-nd Grant Round schedule and RAF plan for 2007 have been prepared before the visit of mission of the World Bank.

Mission has analyzed the offers on awardees of small sub-grants and on support of preparation of documents in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and has made a decision to approve financing of awarded sub-grants. Mission also has discussed requirements for approval of large sub grants offers and the package of documents for approval, including discussed grant agreements on large sub-grants.

As a whole, the course of the first round of RAF Sub-Project Proposals conduction has been recognized by the Mission of the World Bank as satisfactory.

Exact date of start of the second Grant Round will be confirmed as soon as the agreement with the other donors financing sub-grants programs (CARHAP/GFATM) and the governments of the countries will be reached concerning: (i) priority areas for financing to avoid duplication of financing offers and to provide availability of adequate resources in the region with accent on those who defines epidemic, and (ii) agreed dates of the beginning of each grant program financed by donors.

RPMU

Working meetings, business trips

The issues of organization and conduction of Regional inter-confessional meeting on involving religious leaders into work with the population concerning counteraction of HIV epidemic were discussed at the meetings of Executive Director of RPMU and Component 1 Coordinator in Bishkek on January, 28-30, 2007 with representatives of the State Commission on Religious Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Religious Board of Muslims of the country. Inter-confessional meeting will take place in the middle of April of this year in Bishkek. Besides the Project, one of the organizers of this event is the office of the United Nations Development Program in KG. Also, the questions of creation and promotion of training course for preparation of Moslem trainers on prophylaxis of HIV have been mentioned at the meetings.

Within January-February Executive Director and specialists of RPMU have conducted a number of working meetings:

- With UNDP specialists;
- With UNAIDS specialists;
- With administration of the "CAPACITY" Project;
- With CDC specialists.

On February, 1, 2007 in Bishkek Component 1 Coordinator jointly with national employees of the Project's office in Kyrgyzstan has taken part in the meeting on discussion of CAAP annual working plan with Head of the department of Monitoring and Coordination on HIV/AIDS programs at the office of Prime-Minister of Kyrgyz Republic.

From February, 27 till March, 5, 2007. Communications and Strategy Coordinator visited Bishkek within the limits of planned fact-finding trips to the countries-participants of the Project. The purpose of the trip was acquaintance with local mass-media, selection of potential candidates from among journalists for forthcoming trainings; to acquaint the local mass-media with the Grants Program of the Project. Also he had a number of meetings with representatives of some international organizations - partners of the Project with the purpose of discussion of communicative strategy, improvement of

information interchange process, including the trainings conducted in Kyrgyzstan and training programs for the journalists covering HIV/AIDS problems.

Communications and Strategy Coordinator had meetings in Bishkek with:

1. Head of the department of Monitoring and Coordination of HIV/AIDS programs at the office of Prime-Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Ainagul Isakova;
2. UNDP specialists from Kyrgyzstan office, Vasilina Bozhko and UBDP program specialist, Zhanyl Rakhmanova.
3. PR Manager of Global Fund in KG, Mr. Eldenom Kalchakeyev
4. PR assistant of the World Bank office in KG, Mrs. Natalia Iosipenko
5. Head of the press centre of Ministry of Health of KG, Mrs. Elena Bajalinova
5. Senior Coordinator of HIV/AIDS component, Mrs. Meerim Sarybaeva
6. Media-trainer of "Internwes" NGO and Manager of the Open Media Fund, Mrs. Adel Laisheva,
7. Journalists of such printed editions as «Evening Bishkek», «MCH», magazine «Foreign investments today», TV channel «THC».

On January, 29 the Coordinator on introduction of HIV cases SS and ES systems has met with Head Physicians of Zhalalabad and Batkent AIDS Centers of the Kyrgyz Republic concerning SS introduction in the pilot areas (sites). Also the questions on work with vulnerable groups, about presence of the prepared specialists and so forth have been mentioned

On February, 22, Coordinator on introduction of HIV cases SS and ES systems had a meeting with CDC/CAR, Mr. Favorovym M.O. regarding SS and SS within the limits of realization of the Agreement of Mutual understanding between CAAP and CDC.

Legal, financial and technical questions of RPMU

Accreditation of RPMU and its personnel in Kazakhstan on February, 19, 2007. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) PK has accredited RPMU as the international organization. Accreditation became possible after signing the Host Agreement between the Government of Republic Kazakhstan and RPMU on September, 5, 2006 with its subsequent ratification by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the edition of the Decree of the President about ratification in December, 2006. Registration allows all RPMU specialists to skip the legal requirement of getting the work permissions for the employees, who are not the residents of Kazakhstan, according to the regulations, concerning the personnel of the international organizations.

Together with "InfoCom" company the work on creation of the updated version of the project web-site in view of the accepted new corporate style is being conducted. The work on supporting and updating of the information of the Project's old web-site has been conducted simultaneously.

National Coordinators, jointly with the Procurement Specialist of RPMU continue procedures of purchase of office and computer equipment for CA countries offices.