

Situation analysis

For the first quarter the following CAAP-related events took place in the Project-participant countries.

Thus, President of the Republic of Tajikistan appointed Mrs. Rukiya Kurbonova as new Vice-Prime Minister on social policy issues on 26 January 2008. Mrs. Rukiya Kurbonova replaced Mrs. Khairiniso Yusufi who was also the chairman of the Project Regional Steering Committee (RSC). Mr. Nusratullo Salimov, who worked as the First Deputy Minister of health, was appointed as Tajikistan's Minister of health.

In February the meeting on results presentation of the first stage of five-year GFATM evaluation of integrated impact on healthcare took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The Kyrgyz Republic is included into the number of 12 countries of different regions for the five-year activity evaluation in the frame of GFATM grant financing in the following aspects: studying of the integrated impact on healthcare and studying of GFATM cooperation effectiveness. This fact is a very important aspect in tracking of conducting events activity and establishment of sustainable system of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics counteraction in the country.

National Coordination Committee meeting chaired by Tajik Vice Prime-Minister, Mrs. Rakiya Kurbanova took place in Tajikistan. The following issues were discussed among those included into the meeting agenda: plan of the HIV/AIDS epidemic counteraction program introduction in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period of 2007-2010; report on HIV/AIDS epidemic counteraction program implementation and also new National Technical Evaluation Committee staff on Sub-Project Proposals (SPPs) evaluation in the Republic of Tajikistan was approved.

In early March Country Coordination Committee meeting was held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, where National Manual on monitoring and evaluation and information exchanging systems was presented.

COMPONENT 1

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

In March Central Asia AIDS Control Project became one of organizers of the International Conference on HIV/AIDS situation evaluation issues and HIV infection spreading counteraction in Central Asian countries. The conference was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic (March 11-13, 2008).

The Project partners in the conference conducting were USAID, CDC and GFATM. The conference gathered more than 200 participants who got acquaintance with the experience of introducing of second generation Sentinel Surveillance (SS), recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO); discussed the results of HIV – infection epidemic situation analysis together with the specialists from neighboring countries (India, Afghanistan, Russia and China). The detailed report on the event was sent to the World Bank, placed on the Project website and distributed among partner organizations.

Over the reported period, the Project staff was preparing to the participation in the Second International conference on HIV/AIDS issues in Eastern Europe and Central Asia “Access improvement, prevention, care and treatment” (Moscow, May 2008). According to the results of

selection committee on received thesis, organizational committee selected poster reports of a number of the Project specialists. In particular, the following reports were selected: “Development of Regional Information database on HIV and AIDS in Central Asia (CARISA)”, “Evaluation of educational programs for medical workers from family physicians groups in HIV-infection field at the primary level of Kyrgyzstan healthcare system” and “Religious organizations’ role in Central Asia and HIV/AIDS problem”.

It is planned to provide clergy representatives from the Project – participant countries with financing for them to take part in the conference within the subcomponent “Religious leaders’ involvement into HIV and AIDS spreading counteraction”.

Arrangement activities on preparation to the 19th International conference on drugs harm reduction (Barcelona, May 11-15, 2008) have been carrying out in the reported period. The participation confirmation was received for the representatives of all Project-participant countries: Kyrgyz Republic – Mr. Marat Kayipov, Minister of Justice; Republic of Uzbekistan - Mr. Bakhtiyar Niyazmatov, Vice Minister of health; Republic of Tajikistan – Mr. Djumaboi Sanginov, Deputy of Parliament; Republic of Kazakhstan – Mrs. Maria Isanova, Deputy of Parliament and Mrs. Mariyam Khasanova, RC SPID director.

Preparatory activities are being carried out in the field of forthcoming Regional ToT trainers training from the number of Muslim leaders on HIV and AIDS issues.

In the frame of establishing of the pool of Central Asian journalists-trainers, ToR was prepared for the consultant hiring in the field of making additions and reviewing of journalists-training Manual on HIV and AIDS issues covering. Also, ToR was submitted to approval for hiring of trainers for the regional ToT training from the number of CA journalists to be conducted.

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

For the reported period M&E specialist:

- reviewed functional duties of national M&E specialists, national training programs coordination specialists what was approved by the World Bank.
- continued database collecting on project indicators, which were approved by the World Bank mission in December.
- together with GAMET M&E consultant elaborated Project working plan on M&E for 2008.
- elaborated M&E Manual draft.
- Prepared detailed plan on MIS/CARHAP adaptation (registration form of clients, trainings and reporting forms).

On February 6, 2008, M&E Regional Technical Working Group meeting took place in Almaty. M&E specialists from the Republican AIDS Centers as well as M&E specialists seconded to the National Coordination Committees, representatives of a number of international organizations such as UNAIDS, CDC/USAID, CARHAP/DFID, AFEW and GFATM took part in it.

The participants of the meeting discussed the aims of M&E Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) establishment in the field of HIV prevention, RTWG Regulations draft as well as M&E activity plans for 2008. Also the list of the RTWG members was discussed.

One of the issues at the meeting was the discussion of Services Classifier draft on HIV prevention, treatment and care in central Asian countries and other steps in its promotion in the countries of the region.

For the reported period M&E national specialists conducted consultations and provided methodical assistance to the directors/coordinators of sub-projects in the field of final report preparation as well as program reporting forms.

On March 10, the RPMU team (Component 1 Coordinator, SS and ES Coordinator and M&E specialist) headed by the Executive Director took part in the Round table meeting on monitoring and evaluation organized by GFATM. Detailed report on the conducted round table was prepared and sent to the World Bank.

One of the round table results was the prepared letter on optimization and harmonization of information flows in healthcare system of Kyrgyz Republic for Health Minister of KR on behalf of the Project Executive Director.

Together with the IT specialist ToR was elaborated for hiring of a company with the purpose to elaborate regional information database on HIV and AIDS (CARISA). ToR was approved by the World Bank, and tender was announced.

Electronic Surveillance Program (ES):

SS and ES Regional specialist, Mrs. Osmonova A., National Coordinator of the Project in Kazakhstan, Mrs. Krukova V. as well as specialists of pilot sites of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic participated in a study tour in Kiev on March 23-29, 2008. Aim of the tour: experience study of introduction and use of ES software in the National center of AIDS prevention and counteraction in Ukraine.

Local ES consultant made an evaluation visit to the pilot site in Karaganda city (Kazakhstan) with the purpose to discuss statistical paper forms of HIV infection cases registration with the specialists from the district AIDS center.

Contract negotiations are being held with the international consultant on the ES software design.

Sentinel Surveillance (SS):

- Detailed working plans on ES and SS over HIV and AIDS cases in the countries were prepared according to the RPMU Working Plan for 2008 which were agreed with republican AIDS centers directors. The dates of planned events were defined and agreed with partners from CDC.
- The list of trainers was agreed and negotiations were held with regional AIDS centers directors in the countries to extend a term of the contract with the local specialists for the SS and ES events for 2008 carrying out.
- Negotiations with the companies-suppliers of tests for SES produced in Russia and by Abbot company are in progress now. By the companies' request, all calculations on countries' needs in tests for SES for 2008 were made.
- The request to certify laboratory equipment for HIV anti-bodies detection and their further testing was made. Regulating documents were received from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in a form of health ministries orders and governments' resolutions. In Uzbekistan the information on this issue is being collected.

- Training was prepared and conducted on advanced training system of securing and quality control of laboratory investigations (15-18 January, 2008, Tashkent, republic of Uzbekistan)
- Training was prepared and conducted on data analysis in EpiInfo program for the new pilot sites in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, 21-24 January 2008). Certifications were presented to all participants.
- The request on financing of six SS questionnaires types replication was prepared and sent to the UNDP.
- Letters were prepared and addressed to the ministers of health of RK, KR, RT, RUzb. With the request to publish findings of SS that is conducted in the countries on the annual basis on the Project, GFTAM and CDC websites for the SS data access providing and coordination of preventive programs on the country and regional levels.
- Preparatory work is underway in Kazakhstan on conducting of training on data analysis in Epi-Info according to the results of sentinel surveillance over HIV/AIDS cases in 2007. The training was planned on April 7-12, 2008, in Almaty.
- Preparatory work is underway on National Conference conducting on SS results for 2007, planned on April 14-15, in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Because of technical problems during winter period (limits in electric power providing), the date of workshop on EpiInfo introduction in the pilot sites to be conducted in February was postponed till April of the current year.
- Preparation to the training on SS analysis for the specialists of new pilot sites in Republic of Tajikistan (April 14-17, 2008, Dushanbe).

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Courses (RTC)

On February 19-21 Project specialists group (component1 coordinator, regional public healthcare specialist, national consultant on promotion of Regional training centre on harm reduction in Kyrgyz Republic) as well as president of harm reduction association in Kyrgyz Republic were on visit in Vilnius, Lithuanian Republic.

During three days the specialist got acquaintance with the organizational structure and forms of work of Eurasian harm reduction net (EHRN), its secretariat and training centre activity. The agreement on close cooperation in trainings organization within programs on harm reduction and formation support of Regional resource and information centre on harm reduction in Kyrgyz Republic

The first meeting of Regional technical working group on advancement of Regional Training Center (RTC) on issues of treatment, care and support of PLWH was held in Tashkent on January 22-24, 2008. Developed modules were discussed; training program was prepared for the first training course of this RTC. Report was prepared and sent to all participants and interested parties.

First Central Asian ToT basic on anti-retroviral therapy (ARV) among adults for multidisciplinary teams was conducted in Tashkent on February 11-15, 2008. That course was conducted by CAAP under the assistance of American International Health Alliance (AIHA), UNIFEM and Ministry of health of Republic of Uzbekistan in the frame of Regional Training Center on treatment and care for PLWH formation and development in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main characteristic of the course was training of trainers (ToT) in multidisciplinary teams (MDT) on PLWH treatment, care and support issues.

For this purpose every Project-participant country -Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan sent two MDT consisting of a doctor, a nurse and a social worker. Totally, 24

specialists from CA countries in the field of PLWH treatment and care took part in the training course. Specialists of Regional training and information center on PLWH support and treatment in Eurasia (Kiev, Ukraine) became the trainers of this training course.

Draft project of Memorandum on cooperation between the Project and WHO was prepared and sent to WHO European office for consideration.

Project of joint action plan of the Project and American International Alliance on healthcare in RTC promotion in Uzbekistan was developed.

The list of participants included into the Regional technical working group on RTC promotion in Uzbekistan was renewed.

Project of joint working plan with CARHAP project was prepared.

International Organization of Migration (IOM) of Tajikistan has completed its work on developing training modules for RTC of Tajikistan.

On March 14, 2008 the round table meeting on institutionalization issue of Central Asian training and information on harm reduction was held in Bishkek. 49 representatives of international and national organizations working in the field of harm reduction programs attended the round table. The goal of the meeting: adopting of the joint strategy coordinated with all partners working in HIV epidemic counteraction and drugs spreading field on formation, development and support of Central Asian training and information center on drugs use harm reduction.

According to the round table results the minutes was prepared and sent to all meeting participants as well as the project of Regional technical working group on harm reduction and list of its members.

In accordance with the results and recommendations of the conducted round table the preparation was started for RTWG experts' working meeting on elaboration of strategic documents on CAHRC institutionalization planned for the second part of April.

CAAP Action plan on harm reduction issues promotion for 2008 was drafted and sent to the World Bank.

ToR draft was prepared for the consultant on conducting of experts meeting on issues of strategic planning, establishment, development and support of Central Asian training and information center on harm reduction.

The concept of Regional Training Center on PLWH treatment and care was developed.

All the necessary preparatory work on Round table on Central Asian training and information center on PLWH treatment, care and support was carried out. The meeting is to be held on April 10, 2008 in Tashkent.

Communication Strategy Promotion

In accordance with the WB recommendations the Communication strategy and the Project information distribution were revised. The Strategy was discussed at the meeting of the RPMU staff as well as at another meeting with the Project components coordinators.

Term of reference was developed to design "CAAP E-office" software program.

Annual Report on Central Asia AIDS Control Project activity in 2007 was prepared.

In the first quarter of 2008 the Project activity resulted in the number of publications, articles, radio and TV programs of Central Asian region. The total number of informations concerning CAAP activity was 39. The information was in general based on press releases prepared for Mass Media and journalists' visits of the Project events.

Special attention was paid to the information covering of International conference "HIV Epidemic in Central Asia and Neighboring Countries: Surveillance Approaches and Challenges

for Control and Prevention.” (March 11-13, Bishkek). In particular, press release was prepared together with CDC and sent to CA countries Mass Media; press-conference for Kyrgyz and foreign journalists (16 representatives in total) was arranged; report in Russian and English was prepared and placed on the Project website and sent to the partner organizations.

In March Executive Director took part in the TV program of Kyrgyz National television; gave two interviews to “Azzatyk” Radio, “Vecherny Bishkek” newspaper (publication from March 28, 2008). Interview with Executive Director devoted to the establishment issues of Regional training centre on treatment and care of PLWH was published in Uzbek Mass Media in February. *Website:* The Project website is regularly updated. Total, from the beginning of the year more than 14 informations and photos of big Project events were placed, the information on RAF 1 and 2 grant rounds subprojects implementation was updated, monitoring reports as well as grant recipients’ reports are available on the Project site. Events calendar is updated on the regular basis. The Project website updating (tender and competition announcements, given contracts) was carried out together with the procurement specialist.

Information campaign preparation for the 3 Grant round: Video- and audio-spots were prepared; the text of information announcement was reviewed and sent to national coordinators. The assistance in media plans elaboration was provided. Within the information campaign preparation the announcement on 3 Grant round launching was placed on the Project website.

The brochure “Role of Islam in HIV prevention” is being prepared with the purpose to elaborate information and training materials. Information on examples of successful realization of the 1st RAF Grant round is being collected as well as for making additions and changes in the brochure “Central Asia and AIDS”.

Communication Coordinator made presentation at the regional workshop for the young journalists from CA countries organized by Soros Foundation/Kazakhstan and MediaNet organization in March. He spoke about the Project activity, work with journalists and the forthcoming competition for journalists on the best coverage of HIV/AIDS issue. Preparatory work on ToT regional training course is being carried out together with UNESCO.

COMPONENT 2 Central Asian AIDS Fund

Component Coordinator together with consultant carried out the work on additions and changes making in the RAF directive documents.

Monitoring 1st RAF Grant Round:

В отчетном периоде продолжался сбор и анализ ежемесячных отчетов суб-проектов по Первому Грантовому раунду. В феврале в РГУП были представлены квартальные отчеты о деятельности суб-проектов 1 грантового раунда за ноябрь- декабрь 2007 и январь 2008г. Окончательная оценка успешности выполнения целей суб-проектов, завершивших свою деятельность, будет дана после проведения итогового (финального) программного мониторинга с выездом рабочей группы в места расположения суб-грантеров. Данное мероприятие запланировано на март-апрель месяцы 2008г.

Second RAF Grant Round:

All the procedures concerning Framework Agreements (FA) signing with small grants recipients and UNDP country offices were finished in January in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and

Uzbekistan. In Kazakhstan FA were signed by 9 grant recipients, in Kyrgyz Republic – 8, in Uzbekistan- 29. In Tajikistan FA were prepared and resigned with all grant recipients of the 2nd Raf Grant rounds (totally – 21 organizations) in March 2008.

Trainings for 2 Grant Round sub-recipients were organized in February in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. This trainings' goal was to make certain that the representatives of recipient organizations have advanced knowledge and necessary practical experience for the successful implementation of the projects focused on carrying out of prophylactic events on HIV among vulnerable groups.

Realization of sub-project events within small grants of the 2nd GR is being carried out in accordance with the calendar plan. All the sub-projects got financing according to the previously submitted requests for financing providing through the first trench.

In the reported period further work was continued on adaptation and use of Logical framework for the 2nd RAF GR sub-projects.

All grant recipients were provided with the consulting assistance in the field of program reporting forms as well as current activities with the purpose to solve any questions and problems. Besides, the meetings with potential applicants were held in order to clarify how to prepare project application and other 3d RAF GR participation conditions.

The Project national offices staff carried out preparatory work on conducting of program and financial monitoring of the sub-projects financed from the Regional AIDS Fund's recourses in the 1st and 2nd grant rounds. Thus, from March 25 – 29, the monitoring of sub-projects financed from the Regional AIDS Fund's recourses in the 1st and 2nd grant rounds was being conducted in Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek and Chuisk).

The information about sub-projects implementation course will be presented after sub-projects monitoring finishes in the Project-participant countries (April 2008).

Preparation the 3-rd RAF Grant Round

Terms of reference was developed to hire the consultant on reviewing of RAF strategy; WB approved TOR.

Within preparation to the information campaign the work on video and audio spots production was carried out.

The announcement for print Mass Media of the region was prepared and sent to the Project national offices. Media plans were elaborated for the conducting of comprehensive information campaign in all Project-participant countries.

Working meetings, visits

With the purpose to promote the realization of planned events as well as to strengthen cooperation in the field of HIV counteraction, CAAP Executive Director held the following meetings:

11 January – meeting with Minister of Health of KR, Mr. Mambetov M.A. and chief sanitary inspector of the republic, Mr. Abdikarimov S.T. They discussed further plans of joint activity for 2008.

6 February – met with Zhagorky Kenesh (Kyrgyz Parliament) Speaker, Mr. Madumarov A.K. The agenda of the meeting was: information providing on the CAAP activity; discussion of the joint activity in the field of legislation improvement on HIV/AIDS issue and involvement of the Project-participant countries parliaments representatives; information on events conducting by the Inter-parliament Working Group established in the Project frame in 2007; discussion of the

new Inter-parliament Working Group members from the Kyrgyz Republic; discussion of the joint cooperation in the frame of the events planned by the Project for 2008.

10 March – working meeting with Mr. Tokubaev R., deputy director of , Mrs. Zurdinova A. Goal: discussion of cooperation issues in the formation and support of Central Asian information and resource centre on harm reduction.

11 March – meeting with Ministry of health of the Kyrgyz Republic (KR) and representatives of all parts, involved in the process of Central Asian information and resource centre on harm reduction support and promotion.

28 March - meeting with Director of State Agency on religious affairs of KR, Mr. Kanibek Osmonaliev.

31 March - meeting with Azreti Mufti Advisor, U. Loma. They discussed training program of the forthcoming ToT training among Muslim leaders (Dushanbe, May 20-22, 2008).

On January 28-31, the Central Asian team represented by different type of stakeholders included representatives of the Governments, parliamentarians, representatives of NGOs and public organizations participated in the consultation called “Response beyond the borders”. It was held in Goa, India. The consultation aimed to facilitate an interactive meeting where discussions and debate between key stakeholders on the issue that face Governments and AIDS-service organizations (ASOs) of Asian countries would led to better coordinated response and comprehensive response. Report on the trip was presented to the World Bank.

On February 1, Component 1 Coordinator and National Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic met with head of the UNDP Project “Kyrgyz Republic Government support in HIV/AIDS counteraction”, Mrs. Isakova A. The goal of the meeting was the discussion of joint activity in the field of country religious leaders involvement to the prevention measures activity.

On February 1, Component 1 Coordinator, National Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic and the consultant on Regional Training Center on harm reduction promotion (RTC HR) met in Bishkek with representatives of WHO Agency in the Kyrgyz Republic. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible cooperation in the field of RTC HR institutionalization, perspectives and development variants of information and resource regional center on harm reduction as well as other activity directions in this field.

In February Component 2 Coordinator met with AFEW representatives. The main goal of the meeting was to get familiar with the new AFEW ACCESS project, that will be implemented in Central Asia and to ensure that there will be no duplications with the grant awarded under RAF.

From February 28 to March 3, 2008 National Coordinator in RK was on visit in Moscow where she participated in the meeting of program committee “Science” of the forthcoming Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS international conference. The goal of the meeting was final formation of conference scientific program.

In March procurement specialists was on working visit in Astana where he took part in the conference on information technologies procurement by the projects financed by the World Bank.

On March 7 Component 1 Coordinator, Mrs. Seitalieva Chinara, RTC HR promotion Consultant, Mr. Asanov T.K., National Coordinator in KR, Kadiralieva A. met with Mr. Moldokulov Okson, WHO Agency Director on contacts and coordination in Kyrgyz Republic.????? The goal of the meeting was discussion of further cooperation possibilities in the field of RTC HR promotion and support.

RPMU Juridical, Financial and Procurement Issues

Financial issues:

UNDP During the reported quarter three meetings with the UNDP representatives with the purpose to improve RPMU and UNDP cooperation. Expenditures for 2007 analysis was carried out to uncover discrepancies of data in the reports prepared by the administrative and financial assistants (AFA) and in the reports generated by the UNDO ATLAS system. Reporting for 2007 was prepared; last year's reports were corrected. Deposit account was replenished twice by the Project money resources for the reported. Deposit account was increased to 200 000 USD.

WB Mission In February WB financial specialist, Mr. John Ogallo conducted monitoring of booking and reporting system as well as financial documents for the purpose of their proper preparation. Monitoring results are included into his report, necessary recommendations were received.

Financial reporting Report on expenses for 2007 was prepared and sent to the audit company for checking up. Negotiations on audit conducting terms in the Project-participant countries were held: audit monitoring will be started on April 15 and will be finished in mid-June. Budget analysis for 2007 and 2008 was carried out to avoid the same events doubling. Budget for 2007 and 2008 was modified with the further WB agreement. The latest data were added into the reporting system.

Analysis and modification of the guides (components and expenses items) was carried out in the software in the connection with expenses items restructuring in the working plan.

Accounts replenishment Two requests were sent to the World Bank with the purpose to replenish those spent resources from Special account in the 4th quarter of 2007 \$337285 in total and 1st of quarter \$401617 in total. UNDP deposit accounts were replenished to the amount of \$361930 in the 1st quarter of 2008.

SPPs financing. Interim report on SPP, which is implemented by "JSI" NGO was received. The request to the amount of \$178960 was paid.

Final report on SPP which is implemented by "Youth of 21 century" NGO and the final payment was made.

General management issues. Operational Manual on finance was reviewed. According to the received from the World Bank and audit recommendations the changes were added. The reviewed Manual was sent to the World Bank for recommendations and approval. Due to the contract termination with disbursement specialist the competition for this position was announced. Proposals were received; selected and successful candidates were interviewed.

Financial assistant hiring in Tashkent. The issue of additional hiring of financial specialists in Tashkent UNDP country office that plays fiducial role in Republic of Uzbekistan was discussed. The hiring is caused by the specific character of work with grant recipients and work of UNDP

country office that carries the main burden of RAF grants administration. National Coordinator in Uzbekistan prepared the letter on necessity of hiring of two financial specialists and displacement of responsibility centre on financial reporting into the UNDP office and RPMU national office in Uzbekistan. World Bank approved the hiring of one financial specialist instead of two.

SPPs monitoring in the Republic of Uzbekistan proved the necessity of additional finance assistants hiring. Though, it is necessary to stress that displacement of responsibilities for the reporting system from grant recipient to the UNDP office is impossible. There is an opinion among grant recipients in Uzbekistan that they are not responsible for financial reports on grants. They think that responsibility is imposed on AFA specialist. Moreover, grant recipients in Uzbekistan do not make any financial notes (accounting) in the organization of grant getting. This case needs to be examined to avoid any legal violations. In this connection, National coordinator is charged with the job of discussing with grant recipients the issue of reports providing and thus to withdraw the question of hiring of the second specialist.

Procurement issues:

- Preparation of the individual plans contracts and duties of RPMU and their sending to the World Bank for approving.
- Preparation of final version of the Project training plan and its sending to the World Bank for approving.
- Bids opening, evaluation and contract award to the firm on MIS software adaptation. Preparation and signing of the contract.
- Bids opening on SS laboratory equipment delivery. Beginning of general and technical evaluation of the proposals.
- Selection of an international consultant on SS software design. The consultant was selected on the basis of international competition.
- Evaluation of letters of interest from the consulting firms on the Project external evaluation. Contract evaluation and award on the Project external evaluation.
- Selection of the consultant on revising and elaboration of RAF manual.
- Conducting of the repeated tender videoconference equipment purchase.
- Evaluation of the received proposals on SS laboratory equipment delivery.
- Contract signing with the consultant on RAF manual revising and elaboration.
- Elaboration of ToR for the Project Program Manager and CDC; further approval from the WB.
- Hiring of consultant on evaluation of need in training for NGOs of Kazakhstan.
- Procurement Plan revision for 2008 in accordance with program changes.
- Contract signing with the Project – participant countries RAF on technical assistance providing in SS conducting.
- Elaboration and WB approval of the ToR and placement of announcement on the Project disbursement specialist hiring.

COMPONENT 3 Project administrations, monitoring and evaluation

Videoconference

The issues on measures implementation in the frame of Components 1 and 2, administrative and financial issues were discussed during the videoconference which took place on February 22,

2008. Besides the RPMU staff and World Bank Project Coordinator, Ms. Dorothee Eckertz, National Coordinators as well as the World Bank country offices staff took part in it.

Regional Steering Committee Meeting

Regional Steering Committee Meeting of Central Asia AIDS Control Project took place on February 5, 2008. The issue on sub-project proposals (SPP) approval in sum more than \$50,000 USD was included into the agenda. In course of the meeting, Regional AIDS Fund Coordinator who also acts as Regional Technical Evaluation Committee Secretary familiarized the RSC members with the results of sub-project proposals technical evaluation received during the Second RAF grand round.

Project site www.caap.info