

COMPONENT 1. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

In October Regional Project Management Unit prepared and sent to the partners as well as to the World Bank report on conducting of Third Forum of Partners working in the field of HIV and AIDS counteraction which took place in Almaty, October 21-22, 2008.

Coordination work on final version of Forum draft resolution elaboration was conducted. This resolution was sent to all Forum participants as well as Project partners.

Preparatory activities on the training devoted to the strengthening of religious community activity in the field of HIV- infection prevention which is to be held in Bishkek on December 16-18, 2008.

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

Electronic supervision program

The work of local consultant and IT specialist of Oblast AIDS Center (Karaganda) on ES electronic version installed on working place is continued.

The work on installation and testing of computer software on the local level in pilot cities (Karaganda and Temirtau, Kazakhstan) – laboratory, epidemiologic and clinical departments data entering is continued.

Sentinel Surveillance (SS)

SS stage of field work in pilot sites of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was held in November 2008. SS & ES Coordinator prepared and submitted to UNDP country office payment request to finance SS data analysis training in the Republic of Kazakhstan planned to be held on December 1-4, 2008 in Almaty.

Two site-training on SS expanding in the Kyrgyz Republic were prepared and conducted on November 21-22 in Naryn city and on November 24-25 in Karakol.

Letters on procurement and supplying of laboratory equipment to the pilot SS sites together with the letters on single entry permission for SS tests delivery were prepared and sent to health ministers of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

National office in Kazakhstan conducted the arrangement activities on conducting of SS data entering and analysis in EPI-INFO program for the specialists of AIDS-Centers training (Almaty, December 1-4, 2008).

Basic training on training course on studying of quality control and providing of HIV infection laboratory diagnostics was held in Uzbekistan on November 4-7. The goal of the seminar was defining of HIV epidemic spreading in Uzbekistan and evaluation of HIV/AIDS related events results.

4 meetings were held (November 1-15) in pilot regions (Khorezm, Bukhara, Ferghana and Surkhandarya Oblasts) on SS start.

Laboratory equipment and consumables were purchased for SS conducting in all pilot sites.

Strengthening M&E system

- Promotion of a regional information database (CARISA)
- Strengthening of potential of the country in the field of M&E

M&E Regional specialist took part in a round table meeting for the winners of RAF third grant round in Tajikistan which took place in Dushanbe on November 7-13, 2008. Training of grant winners and M&E local specialists on work with MIS client base was included to the round table agenda. The issues concerning data entering and use of CARISA were discussed with the Director of Republican AIDS Center of Tajikistan.

In the frame of development M&E system improvement of sub-projects financed by CAAP as well as M&E system harmonization in the region the training course on MIS for the third grand round winners in Uzbekistan was held in Tashkent on November 17-19. It should be noted that MIS developed by CARHAP was adopted by the Project as the monitoring and evaluation instrument for implementation of RAF sub-projects' and organization's activity in general.

According to the working plan, MIS trainings for the third grand round winners were held. Moreover, use of this system by the sub-projects involved into the work with the most vulnerable groups is obligatory one.

The work on M&E round table was started. The meeting is to be held in Tashkent on December 11. The issues concerning difficulties and problems in the field of information collecting on UNGASS indicators, further promotion of CARISA regional data base are included into the agenda. The participants will also discuss Regional working group's working plan for the next year, and will get acquaintance with the work of PARK department under the ministry of health of Uzbekistan. Republican AIDS centers staff as well as international partner organizations are invited to take part in the round table meeting. M&E Regional Technical working group was established with the purpose to strengthen M&E national systems in the field of HIV/AIDS and harmonization of M&E various procedures and demands in the region.

The seminars on Sentinel Surveillance conducting for the new pilot sites in Narin and Karakol cities were held in the Kyrgyz Republic (November 21-25). Specialists from Regional AIDS Union, *Oblast* AIDS centers, representatives of specialized state medical institutions took part in the seminar.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development **Regional Training Courses (RTC)**

In the frame of cooperation with AIHA the third final regional study course "Advanced study of antiretroviral therapy and teaching basics" was held in St. Petersburg (November 16-23, 2008). Professors of post-graduate institutes from all four Project-participant countries took part in the course. Six specialists from Uzbekistan, two specialists from each country - Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (12 specialists in total) participated in the training. In the course of training work planned program was completely fulfilled; the participants visited various clinical bases, got acquaintance with the essential approach to services providing to PLWH, discussed various cases of co-infections and listened to a number of lectures on teaching of issues on treatment, care and support of PLWH. The participants were suggested essential hand-outs: study course itself and popular publications related with the course theme. One of the important aspects of the course was the

discussion of existing study programs for doctors in pre- and post- graduate institutes on the related issues and this issue was also included into the hand-outs. Participants' positive opinions testified the necessity and importance of the conducted training. By the training finish the participants received the certificates of international master-trainings.

Second ToT training was conducted in Dushanbe on November 24-28. It was held in the frame of Regional training center formation and development on HIV prevention among migrants and members of their families. 21 medical staff took part in the training: specialists from pre- and post-graduate institutes of Kazakhstan (5), the Kyrgyz Republic (5), Uzbekistan (4), Tajikistan (7). In the course of training the participants got interactive teaching skills of healthcare issues of migrants and their families, discussed the issues of legislative base concerning migration and HIV-contraction. The participants from different countries exchanged their experience of work with target groups in the field of HIV prevention. All participants got the corresponding training aids. The individual plans on the realization of that knowledge and skills obtained in the course of their main activity were also elaborated. In general, this ToT course was held on the high professional level. The participants got master-trainers certificate and are ready to work on the national level.

Specialist of national office in Kazakhstan on support of RTC on HIV prevention among youth carried out preparatory work on organization of two national trainings. National training in Tajikistan was held on November 17-21 in Dushanbe (20 specialists were trained). National training in Uzbekistan is ready to be conducted in Tashkent on December 1-5.

National training for AIDS-service organizations of northern region of the Kyrgyz Republic on "Capacity building of the organizations in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention among Issyk-Kul and Narin oblasts population" was held on November 10-13. 12 Specialists from local NGOs were trained.

Elaborated forms on training need evaluation in the frame of all 4 RTC which were sent to all interested national and international organizations. Information collecting is in process now.

Working meeting of Regional training centers trainers with the participation of 12 regional trainers and 4 Project specialists was organized and held together with UNIFEM in Bishkek on November 6-8. The main goal of this meeting was regional trainers training for the elaboration of methodic recommendations in the field of teaching of gender aspects in each RTC. The meeting was held under the financial support of UNIFEM in the frame of Project memorandum on cooperation with this organization.

Training on "Prevention among and their families" for NGOs was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, on November 10-14. The training was conducted by the trainers of RTC on work with migrants, Dushanbe. 25 specialists from NGOs working with migrants on country level were trained.

Communication Strategy Promotion

In late November the results of annual journalist competition devoted to "HIV/AIDS – prevention, treatment and care" were summed up. Awarding of the journalists was timed to World AIDS Day. The goal of this competition was to draw general public's attention to the problems concerning HIV/AIDS epidemic among population as well as stimulation of journalists' attention to this issue.

In Kazakhstan the results summing up took place on November 27, 2008. The jury noted the increased number of creative works. The jury awarded 10 prizes on the nominations: "The best series of

videoprograms”, “The best series of radioprograms”, “The best series of articles”, “The best videospot”.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan this competition was organized by the ministry of health and Central Asia AIDS Control Project. The competition results were presented by State Chief sanitary inspector, vice health minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. B.I. Niyazmatov at the press conference which took place on November 27.

COMPONENT 2. CENTRAL ASIA AIDS FUND

Grant activities

- Grant process harmonization in the region with other Partners
- Administration (disbursement, procurement) of the RAF Grant rounds
- SPP program monitoring

The month of November was mainly devoted for training provisions for the sub-recipients of the 3 Grant Round. Thus two trainings were conducted on RAF rules and regulations in two remaining countries Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic. The similar trainings in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have been conducted in October. These trainings covered representatives of 79 organizations sub-recipients of the RAF in 3 GR.

National Round tables were focused on achieving the following results:

- To review RAF procedures (criteria of participation, focus strategies, type of financing, RAF progress realization)
- To discuss the administrative, financial and technical aspects of a sub-project realization;
- To discuss technical and financial reporting forms, as well as M&E action plan
- To provide a platform for active discussion between RPMU, UNDP staff and grant recipients
- To adopt the sub-recipients’ budget and M&E plan for a signing of Framework Agreements

RPMU has also conducted four MIS client database introductory trainings in all 4 countries.

Although all procedural steps has been implemented by the RPMU, not all countries (CCMs) were able to provide them timely due diligence in approving the project proposals. Thus Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have not yet reported that the 3rd Grant Round project proposals had been approved by the CCM.

In addition the approval process in Kyrgyz Republic took two month as decision of NTEC has been revised by CCM. The full package for the Republic of Kazakhstan has been submitted to the World Bank approval on the 20 of November.

Taking into consideration that UNDP country offices are closing from the 4 of December, disbursements under small grant will start on in January 2009.

Regional Coordinator has also worked with International Alliance and JSI on extension of these two important projects. Scope of work, period of extension and needed funds for implementation of the projects have been agreed with respective organizations.

Fiduciary assessments of three organizations have been conducted during month of November. Thus RAF has visited Anti AIDS Association in Kyrgyz Republic and Republican AIDS centers in

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. All of these organizations were found appropriate in terms of capacity availability to administer large grants.

In Kazakhstan:

In the frame of Component 2 implementation 8 SPPs of 2 RAF GR are carrying out their work according to the working calendar events plan. Information on 1 and 2 GR grant resources use for the moment of December 1, 2008 is presented in the attachment (table #.....). Because of late financial report submitting by “SauUrpak” financing of this organization’s events was not fulfilled.

In the frame of 3 RAF grant round a package of documents on frame agreements signing was prepared; consultations for grant recipients were conducted; M&E indicators of SPP program activity were being prepared.

In the Kyrgyz Republic:

In the frame of Component 2 implementation: Regional AIDS Fund, the Public Fund “Oluya Pirim” and OYL Proftechobrazovanie completed their activity according to the calendar working schedule, final reports were prepared and submitted. Monitoring visits to Public Fund “Oluya Pirim” (Batken) and State Sanitary Epidemic Surveillance Center (Osh) were made on November 19-22, 2008. All planned activities were fulfilled.

The rest three sub-projects of the 2nd RAF GR are implementing their activity according to the working plan. More detailed information on SPP realization course will be presented in the next quarter report.

The process of 3rd RAF GR realization in the Kyrgyz Republic has been delayed because of being behindhand of the defined timetable. It was caused by the Country Multi-sectoral Coordination Mechanism (CMCM) chairman’s recommendation to review 14 sub-project proposals adopted by National Technical Evaluation Committee within the broadened committee

CMCM meeting on decision adopting on SPPs approval and financing by the resources of Regional AIDS Fund 3rd GR took place on October 30. 8 sub-projects out of 14 selected by the National Technical Evaluation Committee for their further consideration at CICM were approved (total sum \$200147 USD). \$153909 USD were allocated for the realization of those SPPs working with the most vulnerable groups and \$46238 USD were allocated for vulnerable groups. Thus, the proportion of RAF allocated resources aimed at the work with the most vulnerable groups and the vulnerable groups is 60% and 40% correspondingly. Approved sub-projects can be sorted geographically: 3 SPPs from Osh, 1 SPP from Batken, 4 SPPs from Bishkek; according to their activity directions: 4 SPPs – work with PLWH; 1 – work with the young IDUs; 2 – work with medical staff; 1 – with youth. More detailed report on 3rd GR realization status was submitted to the RPMU.

On November 26-28, National round table meeting for the 3rd RAF GR grant recipients devoted to SPP administration and management, revision of Agreements on small grant providing took place in Bishkek. Representatives of the organizations-sub-recipients of the small grants as well as both the RPMU staff and National CAAP office in Kyrgyzstan took part in the meeting (27 people in total). The round table meeting resulted in prepared agreements on small grant providing within the 3rd RAF GR implementation with all necessary annexes (SPP detailed budget, procurement plan, indicators, etc.).

Working meetings, training tours and business trips

21 November – CAAP Executive Director met with Vice Prime-Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, member of Regional Steering Committee, Mrs. Elmira Ibraimova. Goal of the meeting: discussion of WB mission results on the Project Mid-term review.

24-25 November - M&E National Specialist of Kazakhstan took part in the 5th Forum of AIDS-service NGOs of Kazakhstan which was held in Shimkent.

14 November - WB audit group was on working visit in the CAAP national office in Kyrgyzstan with the purpose to conduct financial audit of Project activity. National coordinator and AFA specialist were involved.

13 November – National M&E specialist in Kyrgyzstan participated in the round table meeting devoted to the results of the sub-project “Program on drugs-use and HIV prevention among risky youth at the age 15-24 in four Central Asia states ” implementation. This project was implemented under the financial support of CAAP (regional large SPP of 1st RAF GR). The implementing agency of the project is the Association of harm reduction programs “Partner network”. Within the SPP realization a youth center is successfully functioning in Bishkek.

19-22 November – monitoring visits to the implemented sub-projects of the 2nd RAF GR were made.

26 November – CAAP national office in Tajikistan had several meetings with IOM representative in Tajikistan, Mrs. R. Kurbanova; vice-minister of labour and social protection of RT, Mr. S.B. Burkhonov; Director of the Republican AIDS Center, Mr. M.M. Ruziev; Director of the Republican Center of healthy lifestyle formation, Mr. A.S. Sharipov. Purpose of the meetings: discussion of the issues of ToT program necessity as well as the training of specialists in the field of HIV prevention among labour migrants and their families in Tajikistan.