

Country Situation Analysis

For the reported period there were not serious changes able to influence on Project activity realization in the Project participant countries.

COMPONENT 1. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

Work with Parliamentarians of Central Asia

First meeting of the Working Technical Group (WTG) on revision of HIV and AIDS law of the Republic of Uzbekistan took place in Tashkent on December 16.

The Group consists of five deputies of legislative chamber Oliy Majilis (the Uzbek Parliament), representatives of health ministry, as well as national Project coordinator in Uzbekistan. During the meeting analysis of the current law on HIV – infection, recommendations and additions were made. Further format of WTG meetings and responsibilities of each group member were defined.

Work with religious leaders

The training on “Capacity building of religious community representatives in the field of HIV/AIDS” was conducted in Bishkek on December 16-18. This training participants were the representatives of religious communities and state agencies on religious affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan: Spiritual Muslim Board of the Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic University of Kyrgyzstan, oblast madrasahs, nongovernmental organizations, research institute of Committee on religious affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The goal of this training was providing of basic knowledge to listeners on preparation of proposal applications for the participation in the grant programs on HIV-infection epidemic counteraction.

During the training a number of issues were discussed: project cycle management, budget and procurement planning, project activity indicators formulation. In the course of the training working groups were created and they worked through the skills of projects elaboration with the discussion of the received results.

Also, the participants got information about epidemiological situation in Central Asian countries, state HIV-infection prevention program implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic, international organizations activities, working in the country in the field of HIV/AIDS and harm reduction.

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

Electronic supervision program

Local consultant and IT specialist from oblast AIDS center of Karaganda continue work on elaboration of the program electronic version installed on the working place;

The work on installation and approbation ES software on the local level in the pilot cities of Karaganda and Temirtau.

Sentinel Surveillance (SS)

2008 SS field stage was being carried out in the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan in all pilot sites;

The site-training on SS expanding was prepared and held in the Kyrgyz Republic (Talas, December 3-4); hand-out materials were prepared and replicated;

SS and ES coordinator prepared presentations for the site-trainings in the Kyrgyz Republic on SS expanding in three new pilot sites;

Also SS and ES Coordinator provided consultative assistance in the field of preparation and carrying out of SS field work in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan including the procurement of product packages and active storage for the SS carrying out.

Daily work was carried out through electronic mail with the national specialists in the countries on organization and conducting of planned activities on SS and ES over HIV/AIDS cases in CA countries.

Field stage of sentinel surveillance over HIV-infection in four regions of the country (Khorezm, Bukhara, Syrdarya, Fergana) was begun in Uzbekistan in December 2008. Necessary laboratory equipment was delivered to these regions for the purpose to conduct SS laboratory research. Two working meetings with the representatives of international organizations CDC and Global Fund were held. The meetings were devoted to the monitoring and evaluation of SS activities realization.

In coordination with the Republican AIDS Center, SS conducting in Tajikistan is postponed for lack of active storage.

Training on SS data input and analysis in EPI-INFO for the specialists of AIDS-service was held in Almaty of the Republic of Kazakhstan on December 1-4, 2008. 22 specialists passed the training (15 epidemiologists and 7 IT specialists).

Strengthening M&E system

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

Round table on the important issues of monitoring and evaluation of HIV-infection epidemic counteraction programs in CA countries was held in Tashkent on December 11. The goal of this meeting was the discussion of problems in reports preparation on UNGASS indicators and ways of their solving as well as further steps in the field of sustainable functioning and institutionalization of CARISA information data base as the instrument of information exchange in the region.

During the round table the participants got acquaintance with the activity of Planning, analysis, response and coordination (PARC) department of the Country Coordination Committee in the Republic of Uzbekistan. At present, PARC is a wonderful example of M&E issues coordination and information exchange in National HIV and AIDS program in the region.

Besides, Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) held the meeting on M&E where the Action Plan draft on strengthening of national M&E systems was discussed. Also the issues demanding the solution of harmonization of M&E system on the regional level in 2009 were discussed. RTWG structure was changed. The members of RTWG approved Project proposal to include the issue of data collecting and CARISA system support in the countries into the agenda of the nearest meeting of the Regional Working Committee. The decision to include

the conducting of national round table meetings with the purpose to present and promote regional information base - CARISA into the working plan for the first quarter of 2009.

The report on round table meeting results was translated into English and sent to the World Bank and other interested partners.

M&E regional specialist completed the work on M&E indicators data collecting for sub-proposals of the third RAF grant round in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Courses (RTC)

Regional public healthcare specialist prepared quarter and annual reports on indicators. National specialists of four countries collected the information from partners about conducting of evaluation of educational needs. Received data were generalized. General report on educational needs evaluation: "Staff capacity building in the field of HIV-infection epidemic counteraction in CA countries" was prepared on these data basis. After being translated into English it will be sent to the World Bank for further steps discussion and planning.

First national training on "HIV-infection among youth" took place in Tashkent on December 1-5. The participants of this training were the specialists of postgraduate training of pedagogical staff (18 specialists) and health system specialists (4). The manual elaborated by the group of specialists within Central Asia AIDS Control Project underlies at the heart of the training program. All participants got theoretical and practical skills in the field of HIV-infection prevention. During the training active work on experience exchange between the participants of healthcare and education systems was carried out. It is a very important aspect in the area of HIV-infection prevention. The participants received certificates after the training.

Communication Strategy Promotion

Press-conferences and solemn award ceremonies of journalist contest winners on the best covering of "HIV/AIDS: prevention, care and support" took place in the Kyrgyz Republic on December 1. The contest occurs annually within CAAP in cooperation with national (Republic AIDS Centers) and international partners (GFATM in the Kyrgyz Republic).

The Project Executive Director took part in the awarding ceremony in the Kyrgyz Republic on December 1, 2008. 12 journalists were awarded. In the frame of sub-project implementation (NGO "Children Media Center") the presentation of documentary films was made under the joint title "Letters of people living with AIDS" in one of the movies theater of Bishkek. This was the first Central Asian experience of creating of documentary films series with the aim to raise tolerant attitude to HIV-positive people. This presentation provoked great response and became one of the main events devoted to the World AIDS Day in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In Tajikistan the competition results were presented during the grand meeting devoted to the final stage of republican marathon "We'll overcome HIV/AIDS only together" which took place in Dushanbe on December 1, 2008. the prizes were presented by vice Prime-minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mrs. Kurbanova R.A. and minister of health, Mr.Salimov N.F.

In total, 86 journalists of CA countries participated in the contest. The jury considered more than 100 creative works.

Information about fulfilled events was widely covered in the Mass-Media of the Project-member countries.

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

Results of large sub-proposal realization “Drugs use and HIV prevention among risky youth at the age 15-24 in four Central Asian countries” implementing in the frame of the first RAF GR by Central Asian Branch of International Non-commercial Corporation Population Services International (PSI) were considered at the round table meeting in Almaty on December 10, 2008. The round table participants were presented the results of youth centers activities “Youth Power” which work in three countries of the region. Their activity is aimed at HIV/STDs prevention, drug use prevention and changing of risky behavior among youth.

2nd GR small grants implementation

National office in the Republic of Kazakhstan a package of documents on Frame Agreements (FA) signing was prepared within the third RAF GR, consultations for grant recipients were held and FA were signed with them.

M&E indicators of 3d GR SPP program activity were prepared for the World Bank’s approval.

Grant recipients of the 3d grant round from South-Kazakh, Pavlodar, Karaganda, Almaty oblasts as well as Almaty city working with the most vulnerable groups of population were trained to maintain MIS program at the beginning of December. In total 16 specialists (7 representatives of NGO and oblast AIDS center of Karaganda) were trained.

5 sub-projects (Public Fund “Oluya Pirim”, Association Proftechobrazovanie, Central State Sanitary-Epidemiology Service of Osh town, Public Fund “Koz Karash”) completed their activity in the Kyrgyz Republic during the reported period. Their activity was fulfilled in time according to the calendar working schedule of program activities realization. Final reports are prepared and forwarded to the CAAP national office in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The rest three sub-projects of the 2nd RAF GR are carrying out their work according to the working calendar plan. Information about financial assets development is presented in the annex 1.

Detailed information about small SPP of 2nd RAF GR realization course in the countries will be presented in the next quarter report.

Table on financial assets development of RAF SPP in the Project-participant countries for December 19, 2008 is in the annex 1 and 2.

National office carried out the work with the heads/coordinators of 8 approved sub-projects on compulsory annexes to small grant providing Agreement (detailed budget, procurement plan, sub-projects implementation indicators, staff etc.) bringing into an order. Frame agreements

with the necessary package of documents are prepared. Data were forwarded to the World Bank for consideration.

The work on data analysis in MIS within realization of the first and second RAF GR was carried out. National office in the Republic of Tajikistan prepared the report on the third RAF GR realization in Tajikistan. A full package of documents (Frame Agreements and necessary annexes) is prepared for further signing with 3d RAF GR recipients.

Working meetings, training tours and business trips

CAAP Executive Director had in December the following meetings and business trips:

December 11-12 – participation in the round table meeting on actual issues of monitoring and evaluation of HIV-infection epidemic counteraction programs introduction in Central Asian countries, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

December 16-18 – participation in the training on strengthening of religious community's role in HIV-infection prevention, Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic.

December 24-26 – participation in the meeting on discussion of draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on "Public healthcare", Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic.

SS and ES Coordinator participated in the regional remote course on HIV/AIDS for medical specialist on December 17-18. This course was conducted by the Kyrgyz state medical institute of retraining and professional skills raising together with Invent organization (FRG).

Procurement specialist was on business trip in Tashkent on December 9-19. The goal of this business trip was carrying out of inspection on availability and purposeful use of main resources, purchased and provided to the grant recipients within small RAF grants realization in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

By CDC/CAR invitation, CAAP national coordinator in Kazakhstan took part in the National conference on "Second generation sentinel surveillance over HIV-infection in Central Asian countries: review and main achievements" which took place in Ashgabat of Turkmenistan on December 8-9, 2008. Topics of the presentations were: "SS over HIV-infection among injection drug users in Central Asian countries: main results" and "SS over HIV-infection among prisoners in Central Asian countries: main results".

On December 23 CAAP national coordinator in Kazakhstan participated in the meeting of Regional expert group on arrangement of Moscow conference on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia which took place in Moscow.

On December 24 national coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic participated in the round table on results presentation of working group joint activity with the National Committee on state language under the president of the Kyrgyz Republic on devising of special terms and abbreviations in the field of HIV/AIDS issue in the Kyrgyz language.

On December 25 – participation in the meeting of thematic working group on harm reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention among IDUs.

Juridical, Financial and Technical Issues of RPMU

Following the World Bank Mission's recommendations all RPMU staff worked in December on development of the RPMU working plan and budget for the first quarter of 2009.

Financial issues: financial report for December is included to the RPMU financial report for the fourth quarter 2008.

Procurement issues: RPMU procurement specialist fulfilled the following work:

- prepared additional agreements on Project staff contracts terms prolongation;
- prepared procurement plan for the first quarter of 2009
- conducted monitoring and coordination of test systems providing into Project-participant countries;
- conducted monitoring and coordination of laboratory equipment into the countries as well as its installation and training of laboratory specialists;
- conducted evaluation and prepared evaluation report on research consultant hiring.

Project site www.caap.info