

Country Situational analysis

For the reported period of time were not special changes according to Project realization activity in member countries.

“National strategic plan on HIV/AIDS epidemic counteraction in Republic of Uzbekistan for 2007-2008” was approved in September in Uzbekistan. National monitoring and evaluation indicators were confirmed. Uzbekistan applied to take part in 7-th round Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Agreement on amendments of Grant obligations between International Development Association (IDA) and Eurasian Economic Community came into force from August 15, 2007. Thus, juridical procedures on passing the present grant obligations from “Central-Asia Cooperation Organization (CACO) to Eurasian Economic Community were completed. Now grant recipient is EurAsEC till August 15, 2010. The present juridical steps were undertaken in view of CACO decision to consolidate this organization with other international organization- EurAsEC.

CACO was determined as grant recipient on AIDS control in Central in the agreement, concluded by IDA and CACO on May 12, 2005. The present agreement legally defined status of created international organization- RPMU on Central Asia AIDS Control.

COMPONENT 1

Sub-component 1.1. Regional coordination and Policy Development

Conferences, workshops, working meetings, discussions

On September 6-7, 2007, working meeting on Regional Training Program for Moslem trainers on HIV prevention in Central Asian countries took place.

Representatives of Moslem leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, leaders and teachers of Islam Institutes of the region as well as representatives of religious affairs committees and agencies of above mentioned countries took part in the meeting.

The main attention of participants was given to Training Program of Project for Moslem trainers on HIV prevention in Central Asian countries. All participants were divided into working groups. Participants' work in the group helped to work out recommendations and additions to suggested draft of Training Program.

The main result of the meeting was adoption of next steps on advancement of Regional Training Program for Moslem trainers on HIV prevention in Central Asia.

Orientation seminar for CAAP staff

Orientation seminar for CAAP staff on Central Asia AIDS control project took place on September 9-11 in Issyk-Kul region, Kyrgyz Republic. 33 representatives of Project team from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as UNDP partners-administrative financial assistants, giving fiduciary help in Project realization- attended the seminar.

Key issues of orientation seminar were the followings: result of RPMU activity for 8 month of 2007; each Project staff's activity till the end of the current year and for next year;

improvement of internal and external team communications. The raised issues of orientation seminar were achieved.

Participating in 8-th International AIDS Congress in Asia and Pacific region

On August 18-24, 2007, CAAP staff, headed by Executive Director, Prof. Tilek Meimanaliev, visited Colombo, Shri-Lanka and took part in 8-th International AIDS Congress in Asia and Pacific region.

More than 2000 delegates from 70 countries took part in the Congress in Shri-Lanka. Project staff together with representatives of other international organizations, working in the region, held satellite session: "Harmonization of regional corporation in HIV spreading counteraction in Central Asian countries". Participants shared with their regional initiatives, realized in UNAIDS, CAAP regions and Capacity Project.

Such initiatives of Project as attraction parliamentarians and religious leaders on the regional level to HIV counteraction work attracted participants' special attention. Suggested instutalization concept of Regional AIDS Fund and National AIDS Fund was welcomed and caused hot debates.

Preparation for holding Second Central Asian Partners Forum of HIV counteraction

RPMU had preparation to hold Second Central Asian Forum of HIV counteraction Partners, planned to be on October 18-19, 2007, in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan during the quarter. Decision on Forum conducting terms was made after the UNAIDS approval. In view of this RPMU staff prepared information letter, list of participants and preliminary agenda of Forum at the end of June and sent them to all Forum participants. Administrative functions were also provided: reservation of meeting places, reservation of the rooms in the hotel, giving visa support for participants of Forum.

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

Electronic supervision program

Concept of electronic supervision system building for HIV/AIDS cases was prepared together with CDC/CAR partners;

Translation of concept of electronic supervision system building for HIV/AIDS cases, agreed with WB, was done;

Replies on submitting Concept of ES Project were received from Ministers of Health of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, comments will be taken into account for drawing up program product ES system for HIV/AIDS cases;

TOR were prepared for local and international consultants of Developing Product Program on the system ES for HIV/AIDS cases. TOR were translated into English and sent to WB to be approved;

Sentinel Epidemiological Surveillance

On July 2-5, training course on implementation of outcome data of Sentinel Epidemiological Surveillance for HIV/AIDS epidemic cases into the EPI-INFO program took place in Dushanbe. Epidemiologists, infection disease doctors, assistants of epidemiologists as well as IT-specialists of AIDS Center of pilot sites: Khujand, Khorog, Kulyab, Vagdat (14 pers.) attended the course. Participants were presented with certificates at the end of the course.

On September 24-27, the advanced course "Progressive applied study of providing system and quality control of laboratory HIV infection diagnostics". 20 specialists of AIDS Centers and Blood transfusion Centers of pilot sites (Dushanbe, Vagdat, Kulyab, GBAO, Sogdi district) attended the course. All participants were presented by the certificates.

Preparations on the seminar, planned to be hold on November 5-8, 2007, on progressive applied study of providing system and quality control of laboratory HIV infection diagnostics in Kyrgyz Republic is being carried out.

Training course on increasing quality of laboratory research took place in August, in Republic of Uzbekistan. 25 specialists of Republic of Karakalpakstan, districts of Fergana, Horezm, Buhar, Cyrdarya, Navoi, Namangan, Jizak took part in the training course. Training was held on the base of Republic AIDS Center.

From the beginning of September SS arrangements were suspended till the end of October, 2007 in view of cotton-harvesting campaign in Republic of Uzbekistan.

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

Promotion of a regional information database (CARISA)

Issue of logical frame of information database CARISA was discussed with international partners and representatives of governmental structures and NGO of countries. Technical task of hiring consultant to elaborate program on information database, developed by Capacity Project is prepared. Ministers of Health of member countries approved the draft to advance HIV/AIDS CARISA regional information database.

Work on developing of service classifier (sphere of rendering service, list of service, standard's presence, code) discussed in the course of regional meeting, which took place on March 29-30, in Bishkek, on development of unified approach and instruments of monitoring and evaluation, is completed. At present the document is being presented to international partners for their comments. Service classifier will be presented at Partners Forum on October 18-19, in Tashkent.

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist of RPMU finished Manual on project indicators and creation of M&E CARISA regional system. The Manual was presented during operational seminar for Project staff.

National office in Kyrgyz Republic received official reply from RC of AIDS Minister of Health of KR to apply regional computer database CARISA on the national level.

Strengthening of potential of the country in the field of M&E

National specialists of M&E Project in member countries continued the process of collection of information from grant recipients on realization of projects during report period. Quarter reports of M&E of SPP for 1st GR RAF round on all countries were formed on their basis.

Organizational works, connected with holding of round table to present program indicators, developed by working groups, were held in Republic of Uzbekistan; collection of reports in the frame of SPP realization is being carried out.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Courses

On July 9-13, working meeting of Regional Working Group members on developing of training materials on HIV prevention among youth for Regional Training Courses took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Specialists of 4 member countries took part in the working meeting.

On July 19-20, working meeting of Group Members on developing of educational modules on harm reduction, connected with drug use, took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The object of the meeting was discussion, developed by RWG members, on educational modules on harm reduction, connected with drug injection.

On August 26-30, 2007, Training Seminar with the theme "Gender aspects of HIV/AIDS in the framework of organization of regional training courses in Central Asian countries" took place in Kyrgyz Republic. Holding of training course for trainers/teachers of Regional Training Courses of all Project member countries on the theme "Gender aspects of HIV/AIDS" is one of planned event, which was held in the framework of Collaboration Memorandum between UNIFEM Regional Office for CIS countries and RGMU AIDS Control in Central Asia, signed in April, 2007.

Elected trainers' list, that will have training course in October, 2007 on the basis of Regional Training-Information Center on problems of help and HIV/AIDS treatment in Eurasia in Kiev, Ukraine, was prepared.

National staff of RTK in RUz prepared Regulations of Regional Training Center on treatment and carry of HIV/AIDS patients.

Communication Strategy Promotion

External communications:

Communication Strategy Coordinator prepared press release "Religious Leaders To Discuss Regional Training Program for Moslem trainers on HIV prevention in CA countries", which was sent to all CA regional Mass Media. This information was also placed on the web-site of CAAP together with the information of CAAP staff retreat held in Kyrgyz Republic in September.

Calendar of project's events till the end of 2007 was renewed on the web-site of CAAP. Special information section, devoted to the forthcoming Second Partners Forum, planned to

be held in October 2007, in Tashkent, was created and placed together with the Forum's program and a list of participants.

Together with the InCom company work was being carried out to prepare the CAAP flesh-presentation in Russian.

In August, the CAAP publication entitled: "Central Asia and AIDS: Facing the challenge" was prepared in English, and presented to the 8-th International AIDS Conference in Asia and Pacific Region in Colombo, Sri Lanka. At present it is being translated into Russian.

On September 25, the CAAP SS & ES Coordinator for HIV cases participated in a TV program broadcast by Kyrgyz State TV "KTR"/ Topic of her speech: CAAP country activity and measures undertaken under SS program implementation.

Holding of Regional Training Seminar for journalists

Decision to develop Project Manual for journalists who elucidate theme of HIV/AIDS together with efforts of CAAP staff was made in view of failed negotiations on financial procedures with TPPA (Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS) NGO, Moscow. That NGO was a winner of the CAAP tender process. The decision was made together with National Coordinators to form working group of technical experts to review Manual and hiring them afterwards as trainers when Regional Training Seminar on preparing trainer among journalists takes place.

Journalists' competition

Collection of journalist pieces for competition is being continued in all 4 countries.

In September, RPMU through its national offices distributed the magazine "Youth and HIV/AIDS" N6(1), 2007 among interested organizations-partners of all 4 countries, working in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention as well as other institutions, working with youth, was started through National office of CAAP. The magazine publishes under the RAF big grant received by the Tajik NGO "Youth-21 century"

International communications

CAAP Communications Coordinator made the presentation on improving internal CAAP communication and proposed an electronic document circulation (e-office) during the CAAP staff retreat. It could be done with the purpose of harmonizing RPMU information flow among Regional and countries' offices as well to increase the efficiency of CAAP staff's work.

COMPONENT 2. CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL AIDS FUND

Grant activities

Component Coordinator continued to develop and improve Manual and planning of SPP monitoring and evaluation. Giving consultative help for RAF applicants and technical assistance for National branches of Regional AIDS Fund. Improvement of RAF normative and directive documents was also being continued. In particular, RAF Manuals and Grant Recipient Manual were revised and translated into Russian, the consultant for evaluation of large SPP was hired.

Draft manual on Project monitoring and evaluation was developed together with M&E specialists.

- **Program monitoring of SPP on realization stage**

Monitoring of fulfillment and sub-project realization were carried out on a national level together with representatives of National offices in July-August. During report time performed work reports in the framework of SPP realization were being collected in all country offices.

- **Information about the Second Grant Round**

All juridical entity - organizations, applied their Letters of Interest to participate in the Second grant round RAF- were informed about results by July 12, 2007. All LoI were considered and invitations were sent to every member country to take part in weekly training seminar on the issues HIV/AIDS program of project management and finance management among vulnerable group of population, organized by Association NGO Kazakhstan financed by IDF grant.

The training seminars for RAF applicants were held in all CAAP member countries in July-August, 2007:

In Kazakhstan- from 19.07 to 26.07; in Tajikistan- from 06.08 to 12.08; in Uzbekistan- from 06.08 to 12.08; in Kyrgyz Republic- 22.08 to 28.08.2007.

Representatives of AIDS-service organizations, NGO and governmental structures took part in the trainings. In view of planned training seminar was postponed from the beginning of August to the end of August because of SHCO summit, decision was taken to prolong SPP submission term in Kyrgyz Republic till September 7, 2007.

Thus, on September 7, reception of all SPP, applied in the framework of second Grand round RAF, was completed. Total number of applied SPP into RAF was 225. Total sum, demanded from RAF was 17 312 188 USD.

Documents for NTEC members on small SPP were prepared by National Coordinators, and Coordinator of Component 2 prepared documents for RTEC members on large SPP, including:

- Project proposals, distributing materials, project manual and etc. were printed.
- Analysis of received drafts is ready.

On September 26, 2007, the first meeting of NTEC of Republic of Uzbekistan for evaluation of sub-project proposals, applied to conduct the Second Grant round for RAF, was held in Tashkent.

Negotiations by phone were carried out by National Coordinators with all NTEC members on organizational and technical issues of the Second Grant round in Kazakhstan. NTEC meeting for KZ is planned to be on October 9-11, 2007 in Almaty.

Working meetings, business trips

CAAP Executive Director, Prof. Meimanaliev T.S. took part in 4-th Conference on pathogenesis, treatment and HIV prevention, organized by International AIDS Community. The conference took place at the end of July 2007 in Sydney, Australia.

On September 18-29, 2007 Project Executive Director attended 3-th Regional meeting of Global Fund on AIDS prevention, tuberculosis, malaria for grant recipient countries of East Europe and Central Asia in Tbilisi.

Coordinator of Component 2 met with Deputy of Minister of Health of Republic of Uzbekistan to discuss the course of the Project realization in Uzbekistan. Meetings were organized with representatives of Global Fund for coordination of activity as well.

Coordinator on applying SS and ES HIV cases organized meeting with directors of AIDS Centers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan on agreement of holding seminars on studying of providing system and quality control of laboratory HIV research in September- November, 2007.

At the of September there was business trip to Almaty for CDC partners for the purpose of SS and ES measures till the end of 2007 and Project plan on SS and ES for 2008.

25.29.2007- National Coordinator in Republic of Uzbekistan met with Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Nyazmetov B.I. The theme was forthcoming Second Central Asian Partners Forum.

Communication and Strategy Coordinator had meeting with representatives of UNESCO and Capacity Project on the collaboration issues in the framework of journalistic program of the Project.

RPMU legal, financial and technical issues

Financial issues:

Reporting. During the third quarter the main activity of financial department consisted of preparation annual report and sending reports on expenditure for second quarter of 2007. The requested amount of money for the second quarter of 2007 was totally transferred to special account in the sum of USD 300 850.

WB mission. RPMU staff met with WB Financial Specialist John Ogalo. He held an audit of accounting system and financial documents on its correctness. Results of the audit will be reflected in the mission report of WB.

UNDP. Reports were submitted monthly on expenditure, passing UNDP account. The meeting was held with a representative of UNDP regional office on improvement of communication activities, procurement procedures and payment between UNDP and RPMU. UNDP accounts were replenished with USD 364 500 from WB on the basis of RPMU request.

Audit. In August the annual audit was conducted on RPMU reports and audit report for 2006 was prepared for submission to WB. The audit was implemented by an independent audit company Jacobs Audit from Bishkek. Contract sum for company made up USD 12000. It is planned to pass audit reports to WB during October mission and to be sent to RSC members.

Procurement issues:

The bidding on procurement of laboratory consumables and supplies for SS in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan has been completed.

Consultant on development of classifier and rendering services to vulnerable groups of population was hired.

Selection and signing of a contract with International Organization of Migration (IOM) on development of educational modules has been carried out.

Selection and signing a contract with Socium Consult company on revision of fifth large grant proposal has been carried out.

Bidding on procurement of video conference equipment has been held.

The consultant for evaluation of large grant proposals under the second grant round has been hired.

The consultant on development of the religious modules has been hired.

The several trainings on procurement methods and procedures for sub-grant recipients have been held.

Project site www.caap.info