

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

For the reported period there were no special changes which could influence on the Project activity in Project member countries. The Second Session of Council on healthcare issues under the Integration EurAsEC Committee took place on May 24-25. Project Executive Director, Prof. Meimanaliev T.C. took part in this meeting.

One of the questions discussed during the Session was “Agreement on adopting Grant obligations (CAAP) between Eurasian Economic Community and International Development Association”. In the course of discussion the following decision was taken and recorded: “to take into consideration the information of Secretariat of Integration Eurasian Economic Community Committee and to keep informing the Council at the posterior meetings of Agreement realization course”.

COMPONENT 1. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT **Sub-component 1.1. Regional HIV/AIDS Coordination and Policy Development**

Conferences, workshops, working meetings, discussions

I. Inter-confessional conference

On April 19-20, the Regional Inter-confessional conference on HIV/AIDS issues took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The main aim of this conference was to attract the attention to and to join efforts of various religious confessions representatives in HIV epidemic prevention in Central Asian region.

The representatives of Russian Orthodox Church in Central Asian countries, Moslem leaders, representatives of Judaic and Buddhist communities, the largest Christian denominations (Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists, Adventists) as well as the officials of governmental structure on religious affairs, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations took part in the conference. The main result of the conference became the adoption of resolution. CAAP was represented by Executive Director, Component 1 Coordinator and national coordinators of Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic. The main result of the conference became the Resolution adoption.

II. Interparliament HIV and Aids conference

The Second Inter-parliament conference of the working group on HIV and AIDS issues took place on June, 7 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The conference was held under the initiative of Kazakhstan Parliament and under the assistance of the UNAIDS and Central Asia AIDS Control Project.

Deputies from Azerbaijan and for the first time, deputies from Turkmenistan also took part in the conference besides the members of Central Asian inter-parliament working group on HIV issues from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Ministers of Health of Central Asian states and the representatives of international organizations also attended the conference.

Vice Speaker of Parliament Majilis of Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Diyachenko S.A., and Health Minister of Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Dernovoy A.G. welcomed the participants. During two days the deputies from Central Asian states and Azerbaijan were discussing the interregional cooperation priorities, the issues of legislative measures providing in the field of HIV counteraction, exchanged the experience gained by CA countries in the area of legislation improvement concerning HIV/AIDS. The issues on conference agenda were the

establishment of sustainable financing mechanism for the HIV/AIDS programs with the purpose of effective resources use for the future HIV epidemic localization.

The parliamentarians also got acquaintance with the international organizations and projects activities, working in Central Asia in the field of HIV – infection counteraction. Professor Meimanaliev T.S., the Executive Director of Central Asia AIDS Control Project made the presentation on the Project activity.

The conference participants noted the importance of such events and made the decision of the Third inter-parliament conference 2008 conducting in Republic of Tajikistan.

III. Parliament hearings

In May parliament hearings on institutionalization of UNAIDS “Three ones” principles issues took place in the corresponding committees of Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek parliaments.

Deputies attended the hearings were familiarized with CAAP activity and the concept of Regional AIDS Fund institutionalization. Project Executive Director took part in the parliament hearings held in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

IV. Second Regional HIV/AIDS Partners Forum

Second regional Partners Forum will take place in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on October 18-19, 2007. The decision on Forum conducting terms was made after the UNAIDS approval. In view of this RPMU staff prepared the informational letter what was sent to all the national and international partners working in project member countries.

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

Electronic supervision program and Sentinel Surveillance (SS)

In April – June Republican conferences under the CAAP support were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic (working meeting), and Tajikistan. Those conferences were devoted to the HIV-infection epidemic situation in the above mentioned countries according to the SS results over 2006.

Managers and other staff of Health Ministries, Republican AIDS Centers, chief doctors, heads of epidemiological departments and laboratories of district and city centers on HIV prevention and counteraction as well as the representatives of the number of international organizations and civil sector contributing to access to the representatives of the groups with high risk of HIV infection were participating in the conferences.

Medical service specialists of penitentiary system on work with prisoners of Ministry of justice of these countries attended the conference in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic.

The results of sentinel surveillance, conducted in 2006 in every above mentioned CA country among the injection drug users (IDU), commercial sex workers, men living with men (MLM) prisoners, patients showing the sexual transmitted disease symptoms and pregnant women as well as the results of providing quality control of serological SS stage were presented to the participants. The indicators, conclusions and recommendations for the next steps and decision making were made at the end of each presentation.

A number of site trainings, educational workshops on enlargement and country SS data analysis and introduction into the program “Epi-Info” were conducted in April. On their basis the presentations on 6 surveillance groups were prepared for the republican conferences.

Training on data introduction into the “Epi-Info” program for the AIDS centers of Republic of Uzbekistan was being held on June 25-29, 2007 in Tashkent. 20 specialists from Fergana, Horezm, Syrdarya and Bukhara areas as well as the Republican AIDS Center specialists took part in the training.

Further steps in the sphere of SS tests purchasing were defined together with the CDC epidemiologist on HIV/AIDS issues and the RPMU procurement specialists.

During May RPMU staff together with CDC conducted the number of trainings devoted to the questions of voluntary consulting and testing (VCT):

- In Republic of Tajikistan – May 23-25;
- In Republic of Uzbekistan – May 28-30.

Training course “Laboratory researches quality control” took place on May 21-24, 2007 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Questionnaires for SS are being translated into the state languages of Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Strengthening M&E system

- **Promotion of a regional information database (CARISA)**

Project M&E specialist worked at terms of reference for the hiring of consultant on informational technologies in the sphere of “Regional informational system on HIV/AIDS - CARISA” software creation.

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

In May, the RPMU M&E specialist reviewed and elaborated the RAF chapter “Monitoring and Evaluation”. Also, some changes were made in the “Project indicators” chapter.

The work on ToR on services classification providing to the vulnerable population groups was finished.

The RPMU M&E specialists elaborated statistic and return data forms for the grant winners.

The work on project indicators among vulnerable population groups according to SS data and data basis was continued together with the CDC staff.

Project indicators targets were defined and the tables of project activity monitoring results were filled. The final version of project indicators was submitted to the World Bank for its further adoption. Budget of all planned trainings was also prepared.

In Tajikistan: the Manual preparation for the SS data integration into the National M&E system according to the approved indicators through the programming in the EpiInfo program is being finished.

M&E draft Plan “HIV/AIDS counteraction programs in Republic of Tajikistan 2007-2010” was developed and submitted to the Government of Republic of Tajikistan.

In Uzbekistan: planning of next steps and national M&E systems; preparation of ToR for the working groups on Program level indicators development; work on Services Qualifier defining according to the national program was conducted.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Courses (RTC)

The Memorandum on cooperation between RPMU and UNIFEM in the sphere of educational modules development for the regional training courses was prepared and signed by both parts in May. According to the signed Memorandum, UNIFEM will improve its earlier developed ToT Manual “Gender and HIV/AIDS”, get the reviews and conduct training workshop for the future trainers of all four Regional Trainings Courses (RTC). UNIFEM will also provide the assistance in conducting the first training courses in all four countries with the aim to teach the above mentioned Manual.

From its part, the RPMU is obliged to support this ToT Manual introduction into the RTC training programs in the Project framework, further promotion and institutionalization of this educational material in educational programs of Project member countries state institutions.

Selection procedures as well as contracts making with the consultants in the field of educational materials development for the RTC on work with young people (Kazakhstan) and on harm reduction (Kyrgyz Republic) were finished. Consultants started the active work in educational modules development with the activity coordination of regional and national RPMU specialists.

Spade-work on organization and conducting of regional working groups meetings on educational materials development in Almaty (July 9-13) and Bishkek (July 19-20) was done by the RPMU specialists together with national RTC specialists.

Necessary procedures on international organizations selecting and contracting for the educational materials development in the frame of RTC Tajikistan on work with migrants and RTC Uzbekistan on PLWH treatment and care were conducted.

During May-June the spade work on study tour organization devoted to the PLWH treatment and care issues for the group of specialists from the Project member countries on the basis of WHO educational center in Kiev, Ukraine was continued.

The letter of cooperation and the plan of joint RPMU and CARHAP actions in the frame of organization of regional trainings on harm reduction in Kyrgyz Republic was prepared and submitted to the CARHAP office.

In April national RTC specialists worked out the detailed analytical reports on the results of business trips to Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the field of regional training courses development.

The RPMU public healthcare specialist prepared the general analysis of countries’ potential in educational issues in the HIV and AIDS area. The general analysis was sent to the World Bank and all the national offices. The information is also placed on the Project web site.

Communication Strategy Promotion

External communications: During the second quarter the main activity was aimed at the informational covering of Project most important events such as inter-confessional conference on HIV/AIDS issues (June, Astana, Kazakhstan).

Press releases on all Project most important events were prepared and distributed among regional Mass Media. 17 TV and radio programs on Project events were broadcast, 5 articles were published.

Also, the information on parliament hearings in Republic of Tajikistan, on conducted SS events in four Central Asian countries including the covering of national conferences on HIV infection situation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan according to the SS data over 2006; on SS and ES trainings conducted together with the CDC in all the Project member countries was prepared for the Project website.

Website: The Project website design was updated during the second quarter. The general information on Project activity and the information on its separate components was totally updated. The electronic registration of grant applicants has been introduced by the informational company beginning; a new SPP electronic form was also introduced; FAQ section on grant participation issues of CA RAF was specially developed and placed into the web site. The number of site visitors has increased to more than 3500 since the new site design was launched.

Journalists' competition: Journalists' competition on the best HIV/AIDS covering in Mass Media was announced in the second quarter in all the Project member countries. Besides the Regional AIDS Fund, UNESCO and GFATM became the competition partners in Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan. The advertisements on competition launching were placed in the printed and electronic Mass Media of the countries.

Internal communications

According to the Executive Director's order dated on May 1, 2007, CAAP new corporate image officially come into force.

COMPONENT 2. CENTRAL ASIA AIDS FUND

Grant activities

- Administration (disbursement, procurement) of the First Grant round
- SPP program monitoring
- Information about the Second grant round

Big grants: During April and May the RPMU staff held the meetings with all grant winners of big SPP including SPP Alians, PSI, JSI, Youth – 21 century and National Healthy Life Style Centers with the aim to come to the final decision in financial and program SPP issues. The RPMU staff prepared and submitted to the World Bank complete package of documents on technical estimation of JSI SPP documentation.

ToR for the technical assistance providing to one of SPP winners – Healthy Life Style Center of Republic of Kazakhstan was developed.

During May the RPMU staff together with WB consultant, Mrs. Bethy Khanaan was working at project documentation development. As a result, a new variant of Manual for grant winners was prepared and approved by the WB. Regional AIDS Fund Manual was also updated.

M&E instruments development was carried out as well as country visits schedule for the M&E groups.

Small grants: The first payments (tranches) to the organizations – small grant winners of the first Project grant round were realized in April in all four countries. Together with the UNDP offices the work on necessary computer equipment procurement for the small grants winners is being realized.

SPP Program monitoring: For the purpose of project and financial SPP monitoring and evaluation, financing by the Regional AIDS Fund resources in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, two working groups consisting of the RPMU specialists were established. They were headed by Executive Director and Component 2 Coordinator. These groups visited the above mentioned countries in June. The consolidated report will be submitted to the WB in July after the SPP monitoring in Kazakhstan.

Second grant round: ToR for the technical assistance providing in the evaluation of second grant round SPP was developed in May.

Second grant round informational campaign:

On June, 10, 2007 in compliance with the approved schedule of the Regional AIDS Fund the second grant round informational campaign had simultaneously started in all the Project member countries.

The following spade work has forerun the informational campaign launching:

- Audio and video spots in Russian and other national languages were produced for the second grant round.
- National coordinators have prepared and made contracts on advertisements placing in newspapers, audio- and video spots broadcasting (not less than 3 radio stations and 2 TV channels in each country). Besides, the advertisement was distributed by the wire agencies of four countries.
- In accordance with the Project partners, the advertisement was also placed on the UNDP, WB, Regional AIDS Fund and NCC country websites.
- The direct distribution through the Project database of governmental, public NGOs, mass media, private sector which can be considered to be the potential grant winners (more than 400 addresses) was used for the first time.
- The detailed information for the potential grant winners (FAQ, grant winners Manual and Regional AIDS Fund Manual) was placed on the Project site.
- Letters of Interest (LoI) registration was done through the CAAP web site on-line system.

The informational campaign was completed on June, 30. In total, 469 LoI were received, 150 more than for the first grant round. LoI proportion according to the countries has reached: Kazakhstan – 39, Tajikistan - 177, Uzbekistan – 148; Big grants LoI – 36.

Working meetings, training tours and business trips

During the second quarter of 2007 the **RPMU Executive Director** paid a number of visits to the countries of the region, where he participated in:

Kazakhstan:

- Inter-parliament conference on HIV and AIDS issues (June, 7, Astana)

- Regional Coordination Committee meeting (June, 8, Astana)

Kyrgyz Republic:

- Central Asian inter-confessional conference on HIV/AIDS (April, 18-19, Bishkek)

- Parliament hearings on Three-one UNAIDS principles institutionalization issues (May, 31, Bishkek)

- Working meeting "HIV-infection situation in Kyrgyz Republic according to SS results over 2006" (June, 18-19).

Tajikistan:

- National conference on HIV-infection situation in Republic of Tajikistan according to SS results over 2006 (May, 23-24)

Uzbekistan:

- Meeting with vice health minister of Republic of Uzbekistan (April, 23, 2007).

CA countries representatives under the RPMU staff technical assistance took part in the international conference on harm reduction, which took place on May 13-17 in Warsaw, Poland.

On May, 18, the RPMU staff with Executive Director in the head met with Mrs. Fiona Percy-de Korte, Shell Company HIV/AIDS consultant. On behalf of the company Mrs. Fiona Percy-de Korte expressed the interest in HIV prevention program introduction among Shell Company subdivisions in Mangistau and Atyrau. In the course of the meeting, parts discussed the ways of possible cooperation using the RPMU technical and administrative potential and possible financial contribution of the company to the Regional AIDS Fund for the conducting of above mentioned prophylactic programs.

In the frame of the Project national coordinators took part in all planned events in their countries. (*see meeting details in monthly Project reports*).

Juridical, Financial and Technical Issues of RPMU

Financial issues:

Reporting. During the second quarter the main financial department activity consisted of preparing to the reports audit of 2006 conducting. Though, the audit conducted lasted because of audit team selecting.

Special account. The expenditure sheets for the first quarter of 2006 were prepared and sent to the World bank. The requested amount of money for the first quarter was totally transferred.

Inventory. Equipment inventory was completed and the reports on items purchased in 2006 and in the current year in the CAAP country offices were prepared.

Taxes. The RPMU office requested to the tax inspectorate to return paid in Kazakhstan taxes. The taxes covered 2006 were transferred on the RPMU account.

UNDP The UNDP payments on Project expenditures were continued. The countries reports on more than \$250,000 expenditures were prepared. The procurement procedures were started through UNDP.

Small grants. Small SPP monitoring was completed. The first financial and procurement monitoring results were received. The first small grants reports submitting is in progress. The

reporting tables are under the correction. Procurement process and grants payments are being put to rights.

Procurement issues:

During reporting period the RPMU Procurement team activity was focused on the following:

- CV evaluation for the consulting services providing on REC education programs development was completed;
- Negotiations on contract making with company tender winner were conducted in May and the contract was signed in June.
- Procurement plans for Big SPPs (JSI, PSI, Alliance) were reviewed;
- RAF manual was reviewed and updated together with the WB consultant;
- World Bank No-Objection for the updated ToR for technical SPP evaluation expert was received;
- World Bank No-Objection for the updated ToR for the local M&E SPP consultant;
- Evaluation of LoI, received for development of training modules for CA countries journalists, was conducted;
- Purchasing order was sent to UNDP for lab equipment procurement;
- Bidding documents for lab equipment procurement were prepared;
- Bidding documents for video conference procurement were prepared;
- Vacancy on consultant in the field of development of the unique monitoring system on HIV prevention services providing in the SPP frame was announced on the Project and UNDP site;
- Bidding documents on selection of consulting company in the field of HIV training modules preparation were finalized and distributed among the all interested parties;
- The evaluation report preparation was completed as well as contract signing with the consultant on of training module for Moslem trainers;

Technical issues:

All technical renovation work on the CAAP web site was conducted together with InfoCom company in accordance with the new approved corporate image. At the same time necessary maintain work was done,

In the end of May, RPMU National Office in Uzbekistan moved to the new repaired office.

Project site www.caap.info