

Situation Analysis

Country Coordination Committee meeting was held on March 4, 2008 in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan. National Manual on monitoring and evaluation and information exchanging systems were presented at the meeting.

COMPONENT 1. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

Conferences and workshops

The main event organized and conducted by Central Asia AIDS Control Project in March was International conference on HIV/AIDS situation evaluation issues and HIV infection spreading counteraction in Central Asian countries, Bishkek, March 11-13, 2008. 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). The Project staff is preparing posters. In particular, the organizational committee of the conference has selected the following poster reports: "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".

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". The report on theme: "Role of religious organizations in Central Asia and HIV/AIDS problem" will be presented by Yusuf Loma, Kyrgyzstan Mufti's Adviser.

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. Official letters with the request to define the training participants list were sent to the Committees and Agencies for Religious Affairs of the Project-participant countries.

Legislature representatives' involvement

The official letter with the request to arrange a meeting of CAAP Executive Director with the members of Inter-parliament working group of the Republic of Uzbekistan on HIV and AIDS issues was sent to Vice-Chairman of social issues and labor committee of Oly Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mrs. Sh. Umarova. It is expected that the main issues of the forthcoming meeting will be providing of organizational and technical assistance within Inter-parliament working group activity realization. This support is aimed at, in particular, realizing of a number of initiatives and trainings conducting for legislature representatives in the area of HIV and AIDS issues. It is also planned to discuss those issues concerning the holding of the Third Inter-parliament conference of Central Asian countries

on HIV and AIDS issues which is to be held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan in autumn 2008.

During the reported period the preparatory work to the 19th International Conference on drugs use harm reduction (Barcelona, May 11-15, 2008) was continued. The following decision-making officials of the Project-participant countries have confirmed their intention to participate in the conference: Mr. Marat Kaiypov, Minister of Justice of Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Bakhtiyar Niyazmatov, Vice-Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Mr. Dzumaboy Sanginov, Deputy of Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan; Mrs. Maria Isanova, Deputy of Parliament of KR; Mrs. Mariyam Khasanova, Director of Regional AIDS Centre of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The letter with the request to consider the possibility of the Third Forum of Partners conducting in Uzbekistan in early October 2008 was prepared and sent to Mr. Kasimov R., Vice Prime-minister of Republic of Uzbekistan.

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

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 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 Karagandu city (Kazakhstan) with the purpose to discuss statistical paper forms of HIV infection cases registration with the specialists from the district AIDS center. This work is necessary for the preparation of the ES software database.

Contract negotiation was held with the international consultant on the ES software design.

Sentinel Surveillance (SS)

Negotiations with tests suppliers for SS by Russian companies-producers and EBBOT company are continued. EBBOT company representative plans to visit Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in May with the purpose to make contacts with local partners (tests supplier's representatives – juridical person) which will provide assistance in tests registration in the countries.

Information on the Project participant countries needs for tests to conduct SS in 2008 is prepared.

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 will be conducted in Almaty (April 7-12, 2008).

Preparatory work on conducting of Final National conference "HIV infection situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan according to sentinel surveillance results over 2007", (Almaty, "Kazakhstan" hotel, April 14-15, 2008) is under way too.

National office in Tajikistan prepared all the necessary documents (budget, program, list of participants, etc.) to the forthcoming final basic training on analysis of the results of providing and quality control principles introduction into the HIV infection laboratory diagnostics (April, 14-17, 2008).

Strengthening M&E system

- Promotion of the Regional information database (CARISA)

ToR adopted by the World Bank was elaborated together with IT Specialist, Mr. Tagirov. Tender on company hiring with the purpose to elaborate regional information database on HIV and AIDS (CARISA) was announced.

- Country capacity strengthening in the field of M&E

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

Project indicators and SPPs M&E indicators were discussed.

Letters on RTEC and NTEC members involving into the small RAF grants monitoring and evaluation were prepared and sent to RTEC Chairman.

ToR was prepared for the consultant on studying and evaluation of the Project-participant countries capacity in HIV testing and consulting initiated by the medical workers in treatment-and-prophylactic institutions.

Sub-component 1.3. Human Resources Development

Regional Training Courses (RTC)

Regional Training Courses (RTC)

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.

Report on the meeting results is placed on the Project website and sent to the World Bank and all interested parties.

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.

In Kazakhstan:

Trilateral agreement was signed between Central Asia AIDS Control Project (CAAP), Republican post graduate institute for scientific and pedagogical staff of Republic of Kazakhstan and National Center on healthy lifestyle formation of Health Ministry of Kazakhstan on establishment and support of Regional training center on HIV prevention among youth in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

In Uzbekistan:

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

All the necessary preparatory work (program, LoP, distribution of invitation letters) on Round table on Central Asian training and information center on PLWH treatment, care and support was carried out. Together with Component Coordinator, negotiations on establishment and institutionalization of treatment Center in Tashkent were held with American International Health Alliance (AIHA) headquarters.

Communication Strategy Promotion

For the reported period of time Communication Coordinator and Strategist carried out the following work:

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.

Information about the results of the conference in Bishkek and round table on institutionalization of RTC on harm reduction was placed on the website too. The conference and round table photo-galleries are also available at the Project website.

Information on Component 2 and realization course of the first and second grant rounds was reviewed and placed on the website. Information about the Third Grant round launching (May 1) is announced. CAAP events calendar for April-June has been updated.

Preparation to the Third Grant round information campaign is under way: video and audio spots, information announcement text was prepared and sent to all national coordinators. Assistance in media plans development was provided.

CAAP Communication Strategy revision is done. The Communication Strategy was discussed at the RPMU staff meeting as well as at the meeting with the Component 1 and 2 Coordinators on March 25, 2008.

The work on updated version of the Project activity brochure design was carried out together with all the interested staff.

Project activity covering in mass media: 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). More than 20 electronic and print Mass Media from all CA countries covered the Bishkek International conference work.

In Almaty Communication Coordinator made presentation at the regional workshop for the young journalists from CA countries organized by Soros Foundation/Kazakhstan and MediaNet organization on March 30, 2008. He spoke about the Project activity, work with journalists and the forthcoming competition for journalists on the best coverage of HIV/AIDS issue.

COMPONENT 2. CENTRAL ASIA AIDS FUND

Grant activity

- Program monitoring of the implementing SPPs

The interim grant report prepared by JSI was received. Request for the next tranche was sent to the World Bank.

Kazakhstan:

Reports preparation on monitoring visits of SPPs of the 1 and 2 Grant rounds is in progress. Financial analysis of 1 and 2 Grant rounds SPPs implementation is made.

Kyrgyz Republic:

The RPMU team together with national M&E staff participated in the monitoring and evaluation of small grants financed by RAF within 1 and 2 Grant rounds (Bishkek and Chuisk district of the Kyrgyz Republic, March 25-29). In Kyrgyz Republic, 7 out of 8 SPPs have finished their activity within 1 grant round by March 20. The implementation of SPP "HIV prevention among labor migrants, market traders and members of their families" ("Beliy Zhuravl" NGO) will be completed in April 2008.

Complete report on M&E monitoring visit will be finished on April 30.

Tajikistan:

Final evaluation of a number of SPPs ("Khaety Solim", "Samar", NCC, Republican Center of health-style formation) realization was made. Budget of expenditures was also prepared for program and financial monitoring of the following SPPs (1 GR): "Shifobakhsh" and "Samar".

Brief report was prepared on 1 Grant round SPPs realization course with percent indicators of spent financial resources and reasons that caused SPPs implementation delay. The report was sent to the RPMU Component 2 Coordinator.

The work on additional agreements signing with the grant recipients ("Phoenix" and "Shifobakhsh") of the 1 Grant round, which are behind the events realization schedule is in progress now.

Frame agreements were prepared and signed with all grant recipients of the Second RAF Grant Round (total 21).

Uzbekistan:

The suppliers of centralized procurement and equipment delivery for the second grant round recipients were defined.

Preparatory work on evaluation visits organization on monitoring and evaluation of big and small grants of the first RAF grant round in Uzbekistan. (visits schedule was prepared).

- Preparation to the Third Grant round

National staff from all the Project country offices carries out necessary activity on agreements signing on the Third Grant round information material placing with Mass Media (the information campaign will start on May 1, 2008). Communication Coordinator and Strategist provides national offices with necessary consulting assistance in media plans preparation for the Third RAF Grant round information campaign launching.

Working meetings, training tours and business trips

28.03.2008. – Project Executive Director, prof., Tilek Meimanaliev met in Bishkek with Director of State Agency on religious affairs of KR, Mr. Kanibek Osmonaliev. Component 1 Coordinator, Mrs. Chinara Seitalieva took part in the meeting. Mr. Kanibek Osmonaliev was familiarized with the information on the organization activity, the Project plan of work with religious leaders for 2008 as well as with forthcoming ToT training among Muslim leaders (Dushanbe, May 20-22, 2008). Developed training course was presented for reviewing. Also,

the concept of Central Asian training center for Muslim religious leaders establishment was discussed.

31.03.08. - Project Executive Director met in Bishkek with Azreti Mufti Advisor, U. Loma. They discussed training program of the forthcoming ToT training among Muslim leaders (Dushanbe, May 20-22, 2008).

20.03.08 - video conference conducting with the participation of the World Bank representatives and regional Project specialists. Conference subject: Events implementation in the frame of Component 2.

14.03.08. – Project specialists met in Bishkek with Eurasian net on harm reduction (ENHR) and CARHAP on cooperation coordination in the field of Central Asian Center on harm reduction formation and development.

March 23-29, 2008 – 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 study tour in Kiev. Aim of the tour: experience study of introduction and use of ES software in the National center of AIDS prevention and counteraction in Ukraine.

6.03.08.– CAAP National Coordinator in Tajikistan took part in the consulting meeting of donors, arranged by the Tajik health ministry. Meeting subject: crucial problems of external policy coordination of Tajik healthcare.

RPMU Juridical, Financial and Procurement Issues

Financial issues:

UNDP Database analysis was made to establish data discrepancies in the AFA reports as well as in the reports generated by the UNDP “ATLAS” system. Reports for 2007 were prepared.

Financial reports Report for 2007 was prepared to send to the audit company. Audit company informed of audit terms in the countries to have finished it to the middle of June. Analysis of actual expenses and planning data for budget refinement for 2007 and 2008 was made. The budget after analysis with changes will be sent to the World Bank and than it will be introduced into the reporting system.

Operational Manual The Manual 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.

Issues on disbursement specialist hiring RPMU received the approval from the WB for ToR for disbursement specialist hiring. The tender was announced and the results will be summed up in the middle of April.

Procurement issues:

Conducting of the repeated tender on video conference equipment procurement.

Development and signing of contract with the selected company on MIS software adaptation.

Evaluation of the received proposals on SS laboratory equipment delivery.

ToR preparation for consultant on technical evaluation of the received proposals on laboratory equipment delivery and its further approval by the WB.

Selection of the international consultant on ES software design.

Evaluation and contract award in the external Project evaluation.
Contract signing with the consultant on RAF Manual revision and elaboration.
Elaboration of ToR for the Project Program Manager and CDC and 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.

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