

Central Asian AIDS Control Project

CONCEPT
on establishment, development and support
of Central Asian Training & Information
Center for HIV Prevention among Migrants

(draft for discussion)

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Basis

Currently one of common problems that became an integral part of transitional period of development and formation of economics in Central Asian countries is labor migration. As per evaluation data, annually up to one million citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan depart their home country for near foreign countries as labor migrants. Neighborhood countries are not the exception – the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan, citizens of which depart for neighborhood countries to do seasonal work. The Republic of Kazakhstan is mainly a country of acceptance of labor migrants and is also involved into processes related to labor migration problems. Central Asian region's population health protection from the viewpoint of the above stated problems requires increased attention and special approaches.

The data received by International organization for Migration (IOM) of Tajikistan as a result of the conducted surveys testify that conditions related to mobility increase vulnerability to HIV of both, migrants themselves and members of their families/partners. Taking into account a large number of labor migrants and mobile people as a whole this aspect has far-reaching tragic consequences.

Presently the most important task for Central Asian countries is a broad coverage of target groups with preventive measures. A necessary condition for achieving this aim is a preparation of a sufficient number of qualified trainers who would, in perspective, provide implementation of a complex of training programs on HIV and AIDS prevention among labor migrants and representatives of professions directly related to them in the process of their labor activity.

As a result of a preliminary analysis of the situation, it has been specified that among countries participating in Central Asian AIDS Control Project the training by problems related to external labor migrants has been developed only in the Republic of Tajikistan. However, currently, in this country there is still a number of problems on organization and conduction of a complex training on this problem. In the other Central Asian countries, there is also a great need for a training and primarily, for training of qualified trainers teams.

As a whole, in all countries there is a lack of a coordinated system of a training of profile-based specialists of different activities on labor migrants' health protection provision, and in particular, on HIV prevention.

Training sessions (workshops, trainings), occasionally conducted by international and non-government organizations are frequently valid for one occasion only and based on self-dependently developed training materials which, in their turn, are not agreed and approved as official training programs in the countries. Also, there is an insufficient coordination of the training activity of government, international and non-government organizations in the countries even at the national level. There is a lack of proved evaluation data on real needs for the training of specialists operating with labor migrants.

Taking into consideration the fact that the problem of external labor migration exists in all Central Asian countries and the latter have a great need for training on this issue at both, national and regional levels, establishment of Regional Training & Information Center for HIV Prevention among Migrants is an important step to improve activity coordination on implementation of training programs, ensuring training quality, and as a whole, in countries' capacity improvement which has been provided in the plans of Central Asian AIDS Control Project (CAAP).

Aim

The aim of establishment of **Central Asian Training & Information Center for HIV Prevention among Labor Migrants** (abbr, CATICLM, hereinafter "Center") is an assistance to reduce harmful consequences of labor migration for population health via development and institutionalization of effective training programs on HIV prevention in Central Asian countries.

Objectives

The key objectives of the Center activities are:

- Advocacy of migrants HIV prevention programs;
- Strengthening of countries' professional capacity via implementation of educational regional and national trainings;
- Institutionalization of the developed training programs on HIV prevention among migrants in CAR, certification of training courses;

- Conduction of surveys on needs for training and effectiveness of implemented training programs;
- Network interaction, collection and dissemination of permanently updated and valid information;
- Assistance in development of national associations to operate with migrants.

Management

It is proposed to realize management of the Center in two levels: political and executive.

In the political level it is proposed to establish Regional Steering Committee (RSC) from representatives of government, non-government and international organizations/projects working in Central Asian region and supporting the aims and principles of the Center activity. The responsibility of RSC will be allocated to development of policy and key directions of the Center's activity. Representatives of donor organizations can also be involved into RSC.

In the executive level management of the Center will be realized by Executive Director (or Coordinator), who will be responsible for provision of the Center's current activity in accordance to the Plan and activity directions approved by RSC for a definite period of time (approximately for 2 years).

In order to provide practical consultative assistance to realize the Center's activity it is proposed to create Technical advisory committee that will consist of independent regional experts with high professional qualification. Experts will be used for conduction of various expertise, evaluations, review of materials, trainers' activities etc. The council can also include experts of international level. Consultative assistance of Technical advisory committee is also proposed as assistance to form and support regional links between organizations working in the field of labor migration.

Structure

The structure of the Center will be approved by RSC. It should ensure effective functioning of the Center based on aims, objectives, volume of financing and planned measures. A principle on rational use of the existing resources will be taken as a base of Center's structure formation.

Status

At the initial stage the Center will have a status of CAAP sub-unit and will be under its subordination realizing a training component jointly with base-model institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan (2008-2009).

At the next stage it is proposed to institutionalize the Center via legal recognition of it as sub-unit of one of basic-model institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan under the condition of keeping its regional status.

Basic-model institution selection criteria:

1. Availability of license for training activity;
2. Training activity – as a key function;
3. Direct interaction with target groups.

Responsibility of basic-model institutions:

1. Approval of training programs;
2. Certification of training courses;
3. Ensuring conditions for organization and conduction of trainings;
4. Assistance to solve problems of inter-country inter-recognition of certificates;

Non-government or international organization that have resource or training center for training of non-government organizations' staff can also serve as one of basic-model institutions.

Overall activity will be realized under close interaction and coordination by Republican Center for AIDS Prevention & Fight in the Republic of Tajikistan.

At this stage, it is proposed to support the Center's activity by both, national and various international partnership organizations in the form of grants, memorandum on cooperation etc (2009-2010 ...).

In perspective a long-term sustainable functioning of the Center is proposed with capability to transform it into self-dependent legal unit.

Human resources policy

List of staff members will be approved by RSC. Hire of staff members and trainers at the first stage will be a prerogative of CAAP and realized on the competitive base by the World Bank common procedures in the form of temporary contracts. Hiring and dismissal of specialists will be made in accordance to the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Payment of trainers' services at the initial stage of the Center's formation is also proposed to cover by CAAP funds.

In perspective, human resources and financial policy of the Center will be built up on the base of requirements of financing party and in accordance to the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Trainers/teachers

It is proposed to hire trainers to ensure a training process on the contractual base from international, regional and national specialists who are experienced in implementing training programs on migration and HIV. Preference will be given to practicing specialists working in the region on these specifics and to those who have training skills.

Forms and working conditions

It is proposed to use the following forms of activity:

At the initial stage:

- Regional trainings conducted by ToT principle on the bases of head organizations by using interactive training methods aimed at the training of regional trainers;
- National site trainings on the base of partnership organizations in the participating countries of the Project (as agreed);
- Conduction of advocacy measures taking into account the national specifics and regional peculiarities;
- Creation and use of regional database on trainers, trained specialists, training modules and programs, organizations implementing this training component in the countries;
- Organization of the training of regional trainers and basic organizations staff in advanced foreign training bases with the aim to improve their capacity.

At the next stage of activity

- Continuation of the above indicated measures;
- Formation of regional and national teams of trainers from trained specialists who have the best experience on realization of training programs;
- Creation of research groups on the contractual base to do evaluation activity and scientific support of training and advocacy processes on the base of evidence-based medicine;
- Creation and support of resource centre activity.

Activity principles

In order to achieve its aims and objectives the Center will keep the following activity principles:

- Close interaction with national and international partners (non-government, government and international organizations), openness for dialogue;
- Use of evidence-base and scientific content principles;
- Use of best practices from international and regional experience of organizations implementing programs on HIV prevention among migrants;
- Target directivity and compliance of training programs to target groups needs as well as to local conditions;
- Accessibility of the training process and other implemented measures for external and internal evaluation; use of interactive ways of the training process organization;
- Transparency of the budget with publication of annual reports;
- Maximal use of Internet for partnership interaction;

Target groups for training

Target groups for training in the base of the Center can be specialists of the following structures from participating countries of the Project:

- Non-government organizations;
- Undergraduate and postgraduate training institutes;
- Medical organizations (family physicians, dermato-venerologists, obstetricians and gynecologists etc);
- Migration services of the countries;
- Organizations subordinate to the Ministries of Education, Labor and Social Protection of the Population, Transport and Communications;
- Mass Media;
- Independent experts – individuals;

Target group of audience will be selected individually in compliance to research area of the training course and as per results of training needs assessment;

Certification

Certification of developed and used training courses in the training component of the Center will be made after consideration and approval by basic-model organizations of the Center in the Republic of Tajikistan in accordance to the stated rules of the country.

Also, it is proposed to solve the problem on inter-recognition of certificates obtained in the Republic of Tajikistan by other participating countries of the Project.

Interaction with partners

Organizations providing assistance in implementing initiatives of the Center are determined as partners. Relationships with them will be built up on the base of Memorandum on cooperation, which, in their turn, could be made for both, specific initiative (project) of the Center, and for a definite period with a list of joint activity types.

It is proposed to regulate relationships between the Center and services consumers by preliminary arrangements fixed by Supervisory Board in the annual work plan of the Center.

It is planned to realize the activity of the Center under close cooperation with International Organization for Migration, Representative Office in CAR as well as other international and national partners.

Financing

At the initial stage it is planned to realize financing by CAAP funds, and, possibly by other donors as direct investments into development of the Center, at least during the implementation period of CAAP and other partners (as agreed). Financing mechanism on trainings' conduction can be under both, full coverage of expenditures by CAAP and donors and under partial investments by basic-model organizations and national partners in countries.

It is proposed to provide additional financing by grant funds, by requests for specific projects with a supply of required financial reporting forms.

After termination of direct donor support, the Center should proceed to self-financing.