**Enhancement of National HIV Response with Focus on Target Beneficiary Groups in line with the fourth National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2015-2019**

March 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>United Nations Development Program (UNDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>“Enhancement of National HIV Response with Focus on Target Beneficiary Groups in line with the fourth National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2015-2019”</td>
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<td>Thematic area</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donors</td>
<td>• The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financials</td>
<td>GF - US$ 12,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding required</td>
<td>&gt;US$ 10,000,000</td>
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<td>Provinces</td>
<td>Nationwide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project start date</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
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<td>Estimated end date</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
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<td>Relevance to SDGs</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Project Description**

HIV/AIDS is not a generalised epidemic in Iran. However, its concentration among certain populations is noticeable. The partnership with the Global Fund started with an HIV grant in 2005 to strengthen surveillance and monitoring, disseminate information about HIV, reduce HIV risk and vulnerability, and improve access to quality care and treatment. This was followed by two subsequent Global Fund grants approved in 2010 and 2015.

This new grant in 2015 scaled up services for people who inject drugs, vulnerable women, people in prisons, people already living with HIV (PLHIV), people who use amphetamine type stimulants, pregnant women living with HIV, students with drug problems, and working children with drug problems.

Under the 4th HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2015-2019, the new grant is being implemented by several national and international parties through the programme management, coordination and convening services of UNDP as the Principal Recipient of the grant. The project aims to work towards achieving the following goals by the end of 2019:

- HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs will remain at less than 15%.
- HIV prevalence among those at-risk due to sexual contact will remain fewer than 5%.
- New HIV infections among newborns born to HIV infected women will fall by at least 90%.
- Deaths due to AIDS will decrease by at least 20%.
Carpet weaving workshop for PLHIV or affected by HIV, Kerman Positive Club.

What we accomplished

The current project is implemented under the New Funding Model of the Global Fund. The project is a continuation of two previous grants approved for Iran in the 2nd and 8th grant cycles of the Fund under three consecutive projects. The following achievements have been made:

- Contributed to national planning capacities for HIV control through the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th NSPs by conducting surveys, developing protocols/guidelines, etc.
- Provided training for about 4 million health staff, teachers, students, refugees, prisoners and their family members and other most at-risk populations.
- Conducted harm reduction programs and voluntary counselling and testing activities in prisons.
- Expanded the harm reduction services for people who inject drugs through 119 facilities.
- Expanded the Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) services by developing protocols, capacity building and providing more than 650,000 rapid tests.
- Provided second line anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy for 1,146 people in need of these medicines.
- Equipped 11 reference laboratories with hi-tech lab instruments to strengthen HIV diagnostic capacities.
- Expanded psycho-social support to PLHIV and their families through 19 Positive Clubs.
- Supported prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission through provision of RDTs, lab infrastructure and ARV medicines for 116 HIV positive pregnant women.

HIV/AIDS Counselor conducting a HIV/AIDS preventive educational class at a Women’s DIC.

Future Funding Requirements

Building on the achievements of the previous projects, the current project aims to contribute to the national efforts for the implementation of the 4th National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS. It is in alignment with the new global strategy of checking the epidemic by 2030 with a set of highly ambitious targets called the “90-90-90 Targets” aiming to achieve the following objectives by 2020:

- 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status;
- 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; and
- 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

For Iran to reach the milestones is a challenging task in technical, institutional and financial terms. The country needs support from the international community to be able to effectively contribute to this global agenda.