



## UNDP / Global Fund October Update: Better prevention, faster diagnosis and easier treatment

October, 2019

Under the Global Fund grant, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) continues to support efforts to end tuberculosis and HIV in Kyrgyzstan. Our work consists in providing best quality and free drugs for all patients on treatment and in need, improving diagnosis, organizing education and prevention activities, supporting NGOs, communities and patients. Here's an update of our October activities.

## UNDP case managers conduct **115 visits to tuberculosis patients' homes**



In October, UNDP case managers conducted **115 at-home visits** to support patients on treatment for multi and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (M/XDR-TB). The case managers, trained by the USAID Challenge TB project and located in all regions of Kyrgyzstan, **ensure that patients complete treatment** by providing education, along with social, medical and psychological support. 1144 patients are currently followed by UNDP case managers.

Treatment interruption is one of the biggest obstacles to ending the TB epidemic. The UNDP supports all efforts to help reduce the number of patients lost-to-follow-up, which accounted for around 22% of patients with DR-TB in 2016 in Kyrgyzstan. Reasons for giving up on treatment include : lack of information, poverty, financial difficulties, need to work, side-effects, stigma and discrimination, isolation, depression. This is dangerous not only for the patients, who will not heal and develop further drug-resistance, but also for the community, at risk of being infected with hard forms of TB.

In Bishkek, **four times less patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis abandon treatment** in the first six months



Results of case management and patient support in Bishkek are outstanding: for the first time, the rate of patients on treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis lost-to-follow-up (ie who stopped taking treatment for at least two months) in the first six months of treatment is of only 4%. Before, this rate was between 18% and 33%.

66 patients take their **treatment at home** thanks to UNDP sub-recipients, the Red Crescent Society.

- Six **treatment supporters** bring TB drugs at home to these patients every day, avoiding them long, stigmatizing, and sometimes impossible daily trips to the medical facility.
- Between July and September, 12 patients, who had stopped taking their medication, were successfully **returned to treatment**.
- 34 patients participated in peer-to-peer support groups with their families.

**UN day:** the UNDP / Global Fund provides fun information on TB & HIV



On October 26th, the UN celebrated its 74th birthday during a public event in a mall in Bishkek. The UNDP actively participated to inform the population on HIV and TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

- Along with UNAIDS, the Global Fund team organized an interactive and educational Kahoot! quizz on HIV.
- 50 people were screened for tuberculosis via a questionnaire
- Children learned about TB through arts and crafts workshops
- The UNDP organized a separate celebration for young TB patients in the National TB Center

More information: <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/10/sdgs-to-people--un-day-was-held-in-bishkek.html>

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/videos/2852700328097704/>



*"The UNDP does so much to help TB patients, especially children. We're very thankful to them,"* Aysalkyn Teshebaeva, head of the NTP pediatric department.







## UN day: More than 100 people tested for HIV



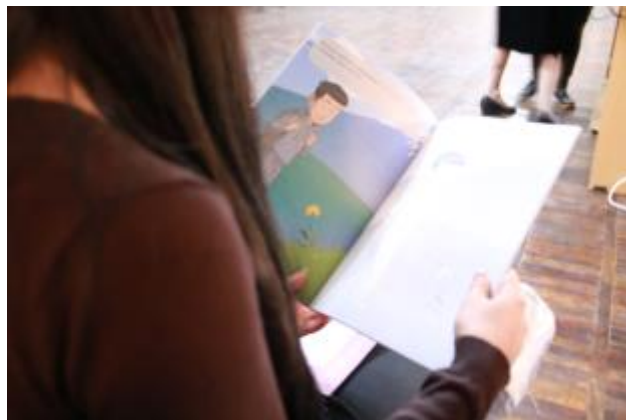
The UNDP / Global Fund provided rapid tests for HIV for UN day events in **Batken** and **Bishkek**. More than 100 guests turned up to get freely tested for HIV. They received their results after just 20 minutes.



The UNDP releases **educational coloring books** for children suffering from TB



The UNDP printed **1,000 coloring books for children** suffering from tuberculosis in Kyrgyzstan. These guides, developed by the USAID Challenge TB project, give information on the disease and its treatment in a simple language and fun, interactive manner to the youngest patients, and ensure that they, too, are best equipped to defeat TB.



## UNDP launches **transportation system for TB samples** in Batken, Naryn and Issyk Kul regions



The UNDP launched local transportation systems to ensure the rapid and safe transfer of sputum samples from clinics to laboratories. This will **shorten the delays for diagnostic** and improve their quality. 118 medical workers were trained to use this system in the targeted regions.

In October, 180 sputum samples were sent for TB diagnosis from the Issyk Kul region, already 18 times more than in September.

### Key populations for HIV trained on **human rights** protection

The UNDP organized several trainings for partner NGOs and communities affected by HIV, to help them claim and protect their human rights. Participants learned about Kyrgyz laws, ensuring free doms and security, as well as the mechanisms in place to enforce them. The aim was to arm these vulnerable groups with legal knowledge.

## TB drug management and security discussed with UNDP partners

The UNDP led a workshop with national sub-recipients of the Global Fund grant to discuss TB drug provision and management. The agency encouraged better coordination between DR-TB and drug management coordinators, in order to improve drug stock, quality, and safety.

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