

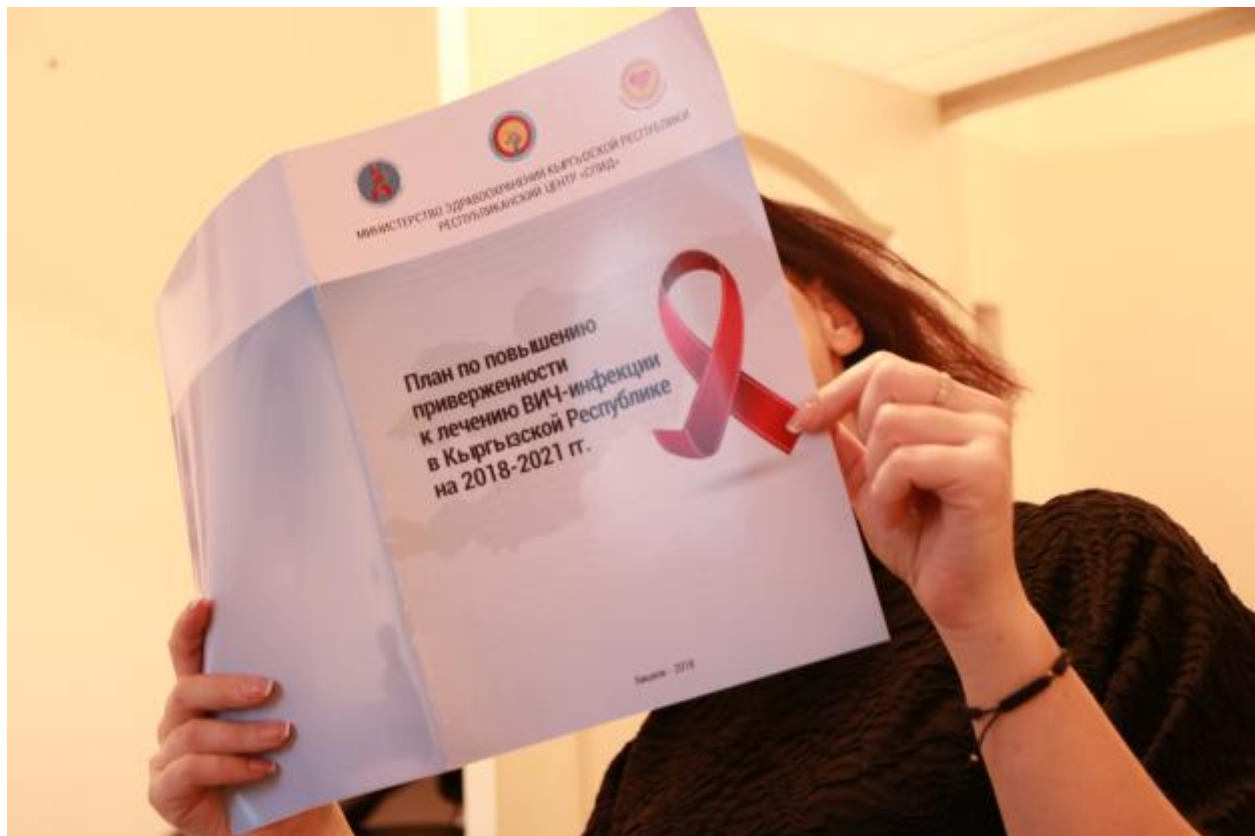


UNDP / Global Fund Project December Update: Fighting TB & HIV with partners

December 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 December activities.

Coping with HIV thanks to **peer support** under the UNDP / Global Fund grant



"We try to show patients that there is always light at the end of the tunnel," Elmira says. Under the Global Fund grant, the NGO Ishenim Nuru provides **social and psychological support to people with HIV**. Staff members organize peer-to-peer consultations, medical appointments, trainings, at-home visits, legal aid, and ensure that their clients are able to take their treatment in the best conditions.

"I've been on treatment for ten years, and I'm doing just fine. Now I help others cope with this," says Marat, one of the peer consultants.

"When I tell them that I've been living with HIV for 20 years, they open up and I see hope in their eyes."

Read the full story:

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/12/peer-support--helping-one-another-fight-hiv-.html>

Fighting HIV within key groups of the population



Under the Global Fund grant, **the UNDP supports NGOs working to prevent HIV among key population groups** and help people living with HIV. The AntiAIDS association is one of the leading NGOs fighting HIV in Kyrgyzstan. One of its projects, funded by the Global Fund, aims to decrease the spread of HIV and diagnose clients as early as possible among men who have sex with men and the transgender community.



1 - Chynara Bakirova, director of the AntiADIS association

Chyngyz, outreach worker for the AntiAIDS association, remembers how scared he was when waiting for the results of his blood test for HIV. ***“It’s better to know immediately. I had to wait almost two months. I tortured myself; I asked myself a million questions. It felt like I was bleeding inside.”***

Chyngyz wishes that the world will find a cure for HIV.

“I live with only one hope, that one day I’ll wake up and I’ll be able to say that I’m completely healthy,” he says.

Until then, Chyngyz is taking his treatment for HIV, which allows to control the infection, and feels well; **he helps men in his community protect themselves from HIV and accept their diagnosis** when needed.

Read the full story:

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/12/they-live-with-hiv-and-fight-to-save-others.html>

Cover photo: Vladimir, employee of AntiAIDS association.

Watch how the UNDP works to **end TB & HIV**



Under the Global Fund grant, the UNDP helps the Kyrgyz Republic **reduce its burden of TB and HIV**. By providing **quality prevention, diagnosis and treatment**, the UNDP is efficiently working to help the country reach the third sustainable development goal set by the United Nations and build a healthy environment.

Watch a video to learn more about our project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3QnclJna8&feature=emb_title

The UNDP purchases **new and high quality drugs** and equipment for the **treatment of TB**



In December, the Kyrgyz Republic received drugs for the treatment of tuberculosis purchased by the UNDP / Global Fund for a **total amount of \$749258**. These include **new drugs for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis** : Bedaquiline (939 packages), Delamanid (85 packages) and Clofazimine (3834 packages).

The UNDP also bought lab equipment, including 20,000 cartridges for GenXpert tests for TB diagnosis.

The UNDP purchases drugs **according to the latest WHO recommendations and regulations**. It strictly controls the **quality of the drugs**, from their order to their delivery to patients. During transportation, a temperature sensor is used to detect any deviations from the norm. Drugs are stored in refrigerators or

temperature-controlled containers. Ensuring high quality of drugs and timely delivery is essential to cure tuberculosis.

The UNDP **extends transportation system** for TB diagnosis and treatment monitoring to the entire country



In December, the UNDP signed a contract with the transportation service to ensure timely and **regular transportation of sputum samples and other analyses, as well as TB drugs, throughout the Kyrgyz Republic**. As of January 2020, this system should cover the entire country. Transportation is used to quickly bring analyses from Family Medical Centers at the village levels to the national and GenXpert laboratories, equipped to perform tests for accurate diagnosis and treatment monitoring.

The transportation system is funded by the Mandatory Health Insurance Fu in the regions of Talas and Chuy, and by the UNDP / Global Fund in the rest of the country. This functioning system will ensure **timely and quality TB diagnosis** for any resident of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Trained and hired specialists will, in their turn, ensure the good functioning of the transportation system at the local levels. They will be responsible for training local medical workers to **speed up diagnosis and monitoring of TB**. This requires that they supervise several steps, mainly: that doctors refer patients to TB centers for diagnosis, patients show up on time, nurses correctly collect and pack samples, fill in documents, samples are timely picked up by the transportation system and brought to

laboratories under high quality conditions, laboratories perform accurate and fast tests and inform doctors on results, and doctors take timely decision on treatment.

13 patients returned to TB treatment thanks to case managers

In the last quarter of 2019 in Bishkek alone, **13 patients, who had previously abandoned their treatment for tuberculosis, were successfully returned to treatment** thanks to support from case managers. The UNDP, under the Global Fund grant, works with the National Red Crescent Society to provide case management for patients in difficult situations. **Currently, 52 patients in Bishkek benefit from this life-saving service.** These are people who otherwise would not be able to go the medical facility every day to take their treatment and fight TB.

Andrei (name changed) just finished his treatment regardless of difficulties. He lived in an isolated village in someone's home, didn't work and had no family to help. He didn't have money to travel to the health facility every day to take his TB pills. He was able to complete his treatment thanks to daily visits from a case manager from the National Red Crescent Society, who brought his treatment and made sure he was doing well.

UN agencies celebrate **Universal Health Coverage Day**



On December 17th, UN agencies and other international and national partners attended a ceremony organized by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization to celebrate **Universal Health**

Coverage Day. The event served as a reminder on the importance to **give access to health services to every citizen** in the Kyrgyz Republic.

*"Health is our most precious asset. Health must not be a privilege. **Health is a human right,**"* said UN Resident Coordinator Ozonnia Ojielo.

Giving access to quality HIV and TB services to everyone in the country is one of the UNDP's main priorities.



2 - Dr. Nazira Artykova, head of the WHO country office, gives a speech during UHC Day



3 - UN Resident Coordinator Ozonnia Ojielo highlights the importance of UHC.



4 - The Minister of Health Kosmosbek Cholponbayev opens the ceremony



5 - The Minister of Health Kosmosbek Cholponbayev opens the ceremony



6 - International and national partners celebrate UHC Day

UN agencies and national partners **brand bus stops** in Bishkek for World AIDS Day



UN agencies and national partners continued their campaign for World AIDS Day in December. In order to raise awareness among the population, **posters on HIV were put up on bus stops in Bishkek**. Large posters showed the slogan of World AIDS Day 2019, "communities make the difference", and gave information on **where to reach out for HIV diagnosis and treatment**.

Best wishes for the New Year!

The UNDP / Global Fund team wishes you a very happy New Year 2020! We wish for you and your loved ones to be healthy, and for the world to step up the fight against TB & HIV!

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