



UNDP / Global Fund Project August Update: Helping health care workers fight Covid-19

August 2020

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 August activities.

Equipment, e-health and trainings: how we fight Covid-19



Scientists around the world are warning of **disastrous effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on HIV and TB services**, possibly erasing years of achievements in these important fights. When it became clear that Kyrgyzstan would, unfortunately, not be exempted from the new global pandemic, the UNDP's "[Effective HIV and TB Control in the Kyrgyz Republic](#)" Project, funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, together with partners (government institutions and NGOs) started adapting their activities to **ensure continued prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV and TB in this difficult context and to help the country fight Covid-19.**

As Jenty Kirsh-Wood, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic, pointed out: *"At the UNDP, we are committed to **support health services for all, including the most vulnerable groups of the population.**"*

"No one should be left behind in this global effort to end Covid-19."

Together with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the UNDP is doing all it can to **minimize the impact of the pandemic on HIV and TB care** and continue helping those in need.

Read more: <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/08/how-we-fight-covid19.html>

Covid-19: After the «red zone», **doctors rest in observation**



“We talk to our family through the window. It’s noisy, we miss them, but it’s all we can do: we’re scared for their lives and we want to protect them,” says Dr. Atyrkul Toktogonova. With nine of her colleagues from the **National TB Center** in Bishkek, Atyrkul is undergoing a **14-day observation period financed by the UNDP / Global Fund Project** in a hotel. They spend 24 hours a day, 7 days a week inside this hotel to monitor their health and rest after two very difficult weeks of work in the red zone. *“When my daughter came to see me, she cried because she wasn’t allowed to hug me,”* said Atyrkul.

After working in the **“red zone”** in direct contact with Covid-19 patients, health care workers are supposed to undergo a 14-day observation period. During this time, they are checked daily for any signs of Covid-19 and take two PCR tests. If the results are negative, they are then able to safely go back home after a long period of **isolation from their loved ones**. The UNDP project “Effective HIV and TB Control in the Kyrgyz Republic”, funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, is providing observation periods for health care workers from partner institutions: the National TB Center and the Republican Center for Addictions.

We can see that the doctors and nurses were really marked by their passage in the «red zone». Every day they talk together about their experience, about the difficulties they faced as well as the successes...

Read more:

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/08/doctors-in-observation-after-covid19-red-zone-.html>

Voices from the Red Zone: “We need support”



“Working in the red zone is very hard,” says Aida, a TB doctor in Naryn region.

“I have four children at home and I haven’t seen them for already 14 days. I’m scared of what will happen if they fall sick, who will take care of them?” Every time we go into the red zone we’re scared.”

To **support health care workers** in these unprecedented times of pandemic, the UNDP project “Effective HIV and TB Control in the Kyrgyz Republic”, funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will soon organize **online trainings on Covid-19** as well as **psychological seminars and consultations** for health care workers.

Read more:

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/08/voices-from-the-red-zone-covid-19.html>

Photo-Report from the **red-zone for Covid-19**



The **work and life of health care workers** significantly changed with the outbreak of Covid-19 in Kyrgyzstan. Many hospitals were reconverted into emergency clinics for patients with Covid-19. The Republican Center for Addictions opened a department for 120 patients at the peak of the pandemic in July, when other hospitals were overcrowded.

The UNDP and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) is equipping health care workers with **personal protective equipment (PPE)**, providing them with **observation periods**, and will organize trainings to enhance their **knowledge on Covid-19** as well as psychological seminars to help them cope with the new pandemic.

Read more :

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/08/photo-report-from-the-red-zone-for-covid-19.html>



1 - A doctor checks a patient's blood pressure.



2 - Checking a patient's saturation in the red zone.



3 - A nurse gets ready to go into the red zone.



4 - A nurse fills in medical records.



5 - A doctor disinfects PPE.

The UNDP opened **shelters for people living with HIV** in July



The UNDP re-opened **two centers for people living with HIV**: one in Bishkek and one in Osh. These centers are meant to support and help people in difficult life situations who need to start or continue taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) and get back on their feet.

The UNDP project “Effective HIV and TB Control in the Kyrgyz Republic” is supporting the work of these shelters thanks to funding from the **Joint United Nations Programs for HIV / AIDS UNAIDS**. The centers provide the following services to people in need: free temporary housing, meals, access to laundry and shower, psychological support, legal and social consultations, HIV education and increased adherence to ART. People who do not live in these shelters can also benefit from these services, spend one night in the center, receive a consultation, eat and rest.

*“People living with HIV sometimes face **difficult life situations** in addition to health problems: violence, stigma and discrimination, unemployment, homelessness, isolation... These centers are important **transition points** where people living with HIV can receive treatment and help in order to solve their problems and change their life for the **better**,”* says Inga Babicheva, project coordinator for the UNDP / Global Fund.

Read more:

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