



UNDP / Global Fund Project November Update: **Putting patients' rights first**

November 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 November activities.

Health facility directors and TB doctors trained on **stigma, discrimination and patients' rights**



The UNDP / Global Fund project, together with AFEW, conducted a series of **trainings for directors of family health centers and TB doctors** from all regions of Kyrgyzstan to familiarize them with patients' rights. The goal was to **increase fair access to quality medical services** for patients and key population groups, who often face barriers in getting consultations or treatments, or are scared to seek medical help. During the training, participants learned about **stigma and discrimination**, the particularities of working with members of key population groups and **patients' rights**.

This type of training on stigma and discrimination is a first for TB doctors. It helped them understand the difficulties faced by their patients, and also see how their own attitude can sometimes influence a patient's decision to take treatment or not. Practical exercises were aimed at improving health care workers' communication with clients. In addition, doctors learned about **burn-out**, a question even more actual with the Covid-19 pandemic and the increased burden on health care workers.

LGBT community discusses **rights and legal protection**



Members of the LGBT community are particularly vulnerable to rights violations, stigma and discrimination, and in addition have been particularly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the new disease. The UNDP / Global Fund project together with the AntiAIDS Association conducted a two-day training for members of this community and NGOs to inform them on their **rights and possible protection mechanisms** to use in case of violations. During the training, presenters assessed **how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected rights violations against LGBT community** representatives and discussed themes such as **access to medical services, detention, gender and domestic violence, hate crimes and labor rights**. Participants learned which mechanisms they could use to cope with rights violations in different situations.

AIDS Centers staff trained to **expand access to HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment**



Within the framework of the Global Fund catalytic funding, aimed at reducing barriers to HIV prevention, diagnosis and care services, the UNDP / Global Fund project together with the "Partners' Network" association conducted a two-day training for managing staff and health specialists of AIDS Centers. Themes discussed included **procurement of drugs and medical equipment, tenders for the provision of service and drug quality monitoring.**

Boards of trustees trained to manage health institutions and **provide transparent and quality services to clients**



Within the framework of the Matching Funds grant, the UNDP / Global Fund project organized a three-day training for members of **medical boards of trustees** from the Ministry of Health, the Republican AIDS Center and the National TB Center. The aim was to **increase their capacity in managing health institutions, ensuring transparency, guaranteeing fair access to healthcare, involving civil society in their work and providing the best services to clients**. The training was led by the “Partners’ Network” association, an organization that lobbies for quality HIV and TB services and strived to give board members tools to solve problems and liquidate barriers in prevention, diagnosis and treatment services for TB and HIV.

UNDP supports a series of **events for World AIDS Day**



For World AIDS Day, the UNDP / Global Fund project supported a series of **awareness and communication activities** carried out by the Republican AIDS Center, local and international partners to increase knowledge on HIV. These events included, among others, printing of banners for bus stops in Bishkek and Osh, free HIV testing in the capital's markets, a contest among journalists and bloggers, and a joint online conference on HIV and Covid-19. More information on World AIDS Day will be published in our next newsletter.

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