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# NEWSLETTER

GRANTS FOR HIV, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

MAY

2013

## HIV COMPONENT

### Training for staff of Osh Regional AIDS Center

During May training on the basics of operation and programming on the machine CyFlow Counter was conducted for laboratory staff in the Laboratory of Osh regional AIDS Center. Six laboratory technicians from the Regional Centre to fight against AIDS (RCFAA) in Osh and Jalalabad attended the training.

Earlier within the framework of the GF grant three portable meters were purchased for monitoring HIV infection and antiretroviral therapy, these have been transferred to the southern RCFAA. A need for additional and more in-depth staff training on the work of machine was identified on the basics of programming and calibration.

This training included theoretical and practical modules and promoted the availability and quality of prevention, treatment, detection and care services for people living with HIV (PLH).



*Laboratory assistants during the training*

### Training on "Forecasting and managing procurement of medicines and health products within the frame of the program on HIV/AIDS"

As part of a plan, mutually agreed with ICAP, UNICEF and Kyrgyz State Institute for Advanced Training (KGMiPK) R, training was conducted between 20-22 May 2013, in Bishkek, on "Forecasting and managing procurement of medicines and health products within the frame of the program on HIV/AIDS" under the guidance of a trainer from Ukraine, Mr. Vladimir Kurpita. This training was important for making an application for antiretroviral therapy (ART) and test systems in 2014 and for the control of remaining ART and other medicines for the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections (OI).

## Clinical protocols for the southern medical preventive institutions

730 copies of clinical protocols on ART, testing and counseling have been transmitted and distributed to Medical preventive institutions (MPI) in the Jalal-Abad and Osh regions.

## Direct agreements with sub-recipients for 2013

In May 2013 documents were signed for the extension of agreements with 3 non-governmental organizations: NGO "Krik Zhuravlia", NGO "Prosvet" and NGO "Araket plus", which operate under the Global Fund grant in order to help people living with HIV and their families. These agreements are for the period from June 1 to December 31, 2013

## Field phase of Sentinel Surveillance among prisoners in the Kyrgyz Republic finalized.

In Kyrgyzstan, once every 2 years, sentinel surveillance (SS) among the most vulnerable groups in the community is undertaken. SS is conducted among prisoners, sex workers (SW), people who inject drugs (PWID), men who have sex with men (MSM) and clients of medical institutions with symptoms of sexually transmitted infections (STI). In May 2013 a field phase of HIV SS among prisoners was conducted as well as in the institutions of the State Service for the Execution of Punishment of KR (SSEP) located in Bishkek, Chui and Jalal-Abad regions. The survey covered 750 people and consisted of two components, behavioral surveillance and serological surveillance.

The aim of the survey was to determine the relationship of risk behavior and HIV prevalence among the most vulnerable groups in the population. The field phase of SS was conducted by staff members of Republican Center "AIDS" (RC "AIDS") and Jalalabad Regional Center for the prevention and fight against AIDS (RCFAA). Financial and technical support was provided by the Global Fund / UNDP. The results will be used in the preparation of the country input for the Global Report on the HIV epidemic and in planning events for the implementation of the State HIV Program.

## National Forum of people living with HIV in the city of Osh

On 16-17 May in the southern capital of Kyrgyzstan the III National Forum of the community of people living with HIV was held under the slogan "In unity there is strength." The forum was

organized by the National Network Association "Unity of PLHIV" and UNDP in Kyrgyzstan. Over 100 people attended the forum.

The forum was also attended by Roza Otunbaeva - the former President of Kyrgyzstan and head of "R.Otunbaeva's Initiative" Fund, Alexander Avanesov - UN Resident Representative in Kyrgyzstan, Ahmadjan Muhammadov - Deputy Plenipotentiary Representative of the Government in Osh region, Umut Chokmorova - General Director of the Republican Center AIDS and Larissa Bashmakova - Country Representative of UNAIDS.

Speaking at the opening of the forum, Roza Otunbaeva, said: "I express my human sympathy to all those people who are infected with HIV and to those who are sick and suffering from this disease. Within the framework of my Fund I want to do everything possible that would raise the existing problems at the state and republic level, which would reduce the level of negative attitudes towards HIV-positive people, in order to have the public ready to accept and help our citizens in trouble."



*Roza Otunbaeva during welcoming speech*

The main purpose of this event was to develop mechanisms of cooperation between state agencies and PLH community in preventing the transmission of HIV and to ensure provision of ART for PLH. During the forum representatives of PLH also discussed the steps needed for quality control, improvement and effectiveness of diagnosis and HIV treatment.

PLH from all regions of Kyrgyzstan participated in the forum, as well as representatives of NGOs, doctors, state and representatives of international organizations.

During the forum various questions and suggestions were raised by the participants of the regions, as well as the problems of infected children and their parents to eradicate stigmatization in state and educational institutions.

At the same time upon the initiative of Roza Otunbaeva a meeting of the Plenipotentiary representative of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Osh region and district governors was organized. At the meeting the aspirations of PLH and parents of children who are HIV positive were conveyed to the participants. As a result of this meeting explanatory work to help eradicate stigmatization of PLH will be organized in all medical, educational and other state institutions.

After this meeting, at the initiative of R.Otunbaeva and A.Avanesov Sultanali aji Gapurov, Imam of Osh region, and Victor Reymgen, Archpriest and rector of the church of Archangel Michael in Osh were invited to the forum. Participants of the forum told the religious leaders of cases where the priests themselves often make incorrect judgments about HIV and AIDS, thereby contributing to the infringement of the rights of people living with HIV.

At the initiative of Sultanali Gapurov it was decided to raise awareness among Muslims during Friday prayers and during weekly television programs. Victor Reymgen expressed the same idea, promising that he will promote the rights of PLH in his congregation. Then the prayers were read into the memory of people who have died as a result of having AIDS.



*Sultanali aji Gapurov and archpriest Victor Reymgen*

On the second day of the forum elections for PLH representative to the CCM were confirmed and the resolution of "The 3rd Forum of the Community of People Living with HIV" was approved. The resolution is based on 7 points:

1. The community of PLH does not agree with the decision of CCM of 20 July 2012, to transfer the GF grants to national institutions.
2. The country must show its commitment and a willingness to prevent HIV transmission, the state through the Ministry of Health should be responsible for provision of ART for children living with HIV. Also to open a hospice, to provide good conditions in all the AIDS centers for support groups, to oblige the Ministry of Health to establish hospitalization of people who have HIV and TB, as well as to provide vehicles for transportation to a hospital.
3. Development of training modules on opening of the status of children of preschool age together with the Ministry of Education.

4. Appoint Shaismail Aliev as a consultant on HIV in the south of Kyrgyzstan and Erkin Bakiev in the north.
5. To cover issues of HIV and STI in the media on permanent basis (Sunday programs, public service announcements on radio and TV, as well as articles, stories in the press).
6. Provide palliative care at home for those in need in the terminal stage.
7. Keep UNDP as the Principal Recipient for 2 Phase of HIV grant, as we believe that the work is carried out transparently, PLH receive medicines on time, taking into account recommendations and requests. In the case of grant transferring to the national institutes, there is a fear that all the achievements of Phase 1 will be lost. In this regard, we request the Global Fund and CCM to consider the views of the community.

## 6th National Forum of non-governmental organizations working to prevent HIV and TB.

On 22 and 23 May 2013 the 6th National Forum of NGOs fighting against HIV infection and tuberculosis held in Bishkek. This Forum was supported by UNDP within the framework of the Global Fund grants to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and. The Forum was attended by representatives of state institutions and international organizations, as well as more than 75 NGOs that operate in all regions of the country.

The participants discussed the problems in the work of NGOs and the need for inter-sectoral collaboration and cooperation between the government and the public sector for improvement of the efficiency of joint efforts related to the epidemic of HIV and tuberculosis.



*Expert the staff of Government Kyrgyz Republic during his welcoming speech to the forum participants*

On the second day of the Forum elections to the Country Coordinating Mechanism were held. A resolution on civil society of the Kyrgyz Republic, carrying out its activities in the field of HIV and TB was adopted. The resolution emphasizes the need for involvement public and other authorities to attend to the following:

- Extension of activities in integrated approaches for the most vulnerable groups in the community and the emphasis on measures to improve the quality of services, supported by grants and other resources;
- Conducting of qualitative activities in the sphere of strengthening the capacity of organizations and employees, implementing HIV and TB programs;
- Expansion of advocacy activities and creation of a positive environment;
- In accordance with the recommendations of the Global Fund on the need to manage GF resources by the country and relying on the national interests, they support the decision of CCM KR on the transfer of Global Fund grants from international organization UNDP to national organizations in order to improve the sustainability of national programs and to reduce operating costs, so that these expenses were directed to direct services for vulnerable groups;
- Expansion of civil society involvement in the programs planning process, participation in tender committees and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of programs;
- Initiating a review of activities to increase primary prevention among young people, general population, migrants, etc.;
- Increase state funding of activities in the field of HIV. For example, to provide antiretroviral treatment for children infected in medical institutions, at the expense of the state budget;

## TUBERCULOSIS COMPONENT

### Arrival of drugs for the treatment of patients with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis

Anti-TB drugs of second and third generation have been delivered to the country; UNDP purchased these drugs on savings from the phase 1 grant for TB. The contract price for these drugs amounted to \$US1,459,83. Side effects drugs at a cost of \$US87,242 were also supplied to assist patients to better adhere to treatment. These purchases will allow the National TB Service and State Service of the Execution of Punishment to reduce the waiting list for treatment, which at the time of the arrival of drugs included 352 patients. As of May 27 148 patients from the waiting list have already started taking medicines purchased by UNDP.

## Implementation of clinical guidelines and protocols in the educational and scientific environment

On 2-3 May, the 4th Conference on presentation of key recommendations of the new Clinical Guidelines and Clinical Protocols was held. Participants were faculty members of medical universities and those interested in improving of the quality of health care organizations (CMIF, MAC, Hospital Association, AFP, DDME MH KR, health care facilities and research centers, etc.).

At the conference the latest clinical guidelines and protocols were presented, these reflected the recommendations of effective international practices on the most infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, periodontitis, etc. Recommendations on palliative care, septic shock, and opioid overdose were also presented at the conference.

As Tulegen Chubakov noted, rector of KGMiPK and head of clinical guideline on "Fight against TB at the level of primary health-care": "Data developed in clinical protocols are based first of all on the evidence and it is expected that the use of clinical protocols will decrease complications, unreasonable costs for medical treatment and diagnosis, length of hospitalization, unnecessary hospitalizations, mortality and morbidity, quality of life will be improved and patient's satisfaction will be increased. An important role in the development of these protocols was played by by international organizations such as the WHO Country Office, projects USAID TB CARE I and "Qualified Health Care" and the UNDP/GlobalFund."



*Tulegen Chubakov- rector of KGMiPK and Asanbaev Abdykadyr  
- Ph.D, Head of a chair Phthysiology  
at the KGMA during presentation*

### Monitoring visit to Batken region.

On 25-27 May UNDP specialists visited Batken region. The aim of the visit was to carry out monitoring of program activities within the framework of the GF grant for TB. In 2012 UNDP transferred \$US7,001.17 of the planned \$US12,643.57 to the Batken regional center for the fight against TB. Upon agreement between UNDP and Batken regional center for fight against TB budget implementation was equal to 53% of the planned amount and 95% in relation to transferred amount (see table). Financing for transportation of sputum was underspent (it was planned to



spend \$US3583 in 2012 and \$US180.74 was spent), as well as for monitoring visits and communication costs. The full implementation of all activities was hindered by difficulties in logistics and financial spheres. They include non-working laboratory equipment, lack of reagents for biochemical tests and developing radiographic films and non-working vehicles.

In Batken regional center for fight against TB there is an acute problem of staffing: only 4 of 12 staff positions are filled. MDR TB Coordinator has identified a lack of technical support from specialized professionals of regional and national levels. According to MDR TB Coordinator, 7 TB specialists at district-level and specialists in primary health care need to have training.

Provision of technical and financial assistance to Batken regional center for fight against tuberculosis by the GF UNDP project has been positively resolved by fixing the two biological safety cabinets and repair of one ambulance vehicle. Acquisition of voltage stabilizers, hygrometer, and reagents for biochemical analyzer and reagents for film developing will be further discussed. Support was provided for the opening of account in the Treasury to enable transfer of UNDP funds in 2013.

In September 2013 it is planned to organize training for grade 1 nurses of on the skills of primary care treatment adherence among patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis.

## Signing of the agreement between the Global Fund and UNDP on the implementation of the second phase of the grant for tuberculosis

On 7 May agreement between the Global Fund and UNDP on the implementation of the second phase of the grant for tuberculosis was signed. According to the document, UNDP is the Principal Recipient of funds in the amount of \$US12,375,789. For the period 2013-2015 these funds will be spent on activities to strengthen the national program of the Kyrgyz Republic on drug-resistant tuberculosis. GF funding is designed to enhance human capacity, introduction of routine drug resistance control, providing universal access to diagnosis and quality treatment, upgrading of laboratory services and treatment adherence improvement. The target group is people with tuberculosis, health workers and the general population of the country. A significant part of the grant funds will be directed to the purchase of anti-TB drugs and medicines for the treatment of side effects that occur during treatment. It is expected that finally the program will result in reduction of morbidity, mortality and the burden of tuberculosis.

## MALARIA COMPONENT

### Medical professionals of health care organizations are ready for elimination processes of malaria in the Kyrgyz Republic

In the framework of the UNDP/GF "Ensuring positive environment for interruption of local malaria transmission and the transition to the elimination in the Kyrgyz Republic", and in accordance with a contract between the UNDP and the Association of Family Physicians and Family Nursing (AFPFN) medical staff were trained in 4 areas:

- Effective management of the program on the elimination of malaria according to WHO standards for managers of health care organizations (HCO);
- Ensuring full access to early diagnosis and appropriate treatment for malaria is available to all doctors and paramedics of primary health care (PHC);
- Improving the ability for early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of malaria for laboratory technicians in PHC;
- Entomological control and activities for the fight against malaria during the period of elimination and prevention of its recovery for entomologists and disinfectors.

Training materials and thematic modules were developed by a working group of leading experts of republican medical and educational institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic. Thematic modules were approved by the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute of Training and Retraining (KGMiPK). 227 specialists have been trained, including managers - 79, doctors and paramedics PHC - 21, laboratory technicians - 67 and entomologists – 60 people. Specialists who have been trained received certificates with enrollment of credit hours.

### Training for representatives and volunteers of Village Health Committees for the prevention of malaria and its elimination in the pilot areas.

Health Promotion Association (HPA) conducted training sessions for representatives and volunteers of Village Health Committees (VHC) on the implementation and execution of the strategy of "Partnerships development and community involvement in malaria control activities in Kyrgyzstan."

Each workshop participant has received a guideline on work with the population. In addition to the basic educational guideline all participants were provided with descriptive information and

educational materials: posters, booklets, leaflets and CDs with information on malaria, developed in the framework of the UNDP/GF project with participation of experts of the Republican Center for Health Promotion, the Department of Disease Prevention and Examinations, the Ministry of Health. After the training Action Group (AG) for malaria, which will be made up of VHC members and local volunteers were formed. The aim of the AG is to work with every household, heads of business entities and public institutions on malaria prevention. The objectives of the AG are to raise awareness of the population on the precautions for prevention of malaria, to organize a proper care of sanitation facilities and irrigation system in private backyards and public areas.

Through the training each member of VHC and AG have been trained on how to develop an individual plan of work, submit for approval and coordination with local governments, as well as to execute action plans developed at the community level.

Members and volunteers of VHC in pilot areas of Batken, Jalal-Abad, Osh and Chui region have been involved into this training. More than 250 members of VHC and action groups have been trained.

### Pregnant women and children under 5 years old are protected from being bitten by malarial mosquitoes

In the framework of the UNDP/GF project and in accordance with the program "Bednetting-2013" 35,000 bed nets impregnated with insecticide have been purchased. These bed nets have been distributed in the project areas, including districts bordering with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

The program "Bednetting-2013" was approved by the Department of Disease Prevention and Examinations, Order #135 of 05/12/2012. In the program there are identified target groups, objectives, situation analysis, bed net delivery and a distribution scheme, as well as the expected results. According to the program and the distribution plan, bed nets have been delivered to the following program regions and districts:

#### Jalal-Abad region:

- Bazar-Kurgan district - 5000 unit;
- Suzak district - 3000 unit;
- Tash-Komur town- 3000 unit;
- Karakul town - 2000 unit;
- Mailli-Suu town - 1500 unit;

#### Chui region:

- Sokuluk district-2000 unit;
- Alamudun District - 2000 unit.

#### Batken region:

- Batken district - 2500 unit;
- Leylek district - 2000 unit;
- Kadamzhai district - 3000 unit;

#### Osh region:

- Kara-Suu district - 3000 unit;
- Uzgen district - 5000 unit;
- Aravan district - 2000 unit;

In order to establish the reliability/verification of source data in the distribution of mosquito bed nets with the obligatory visit to the sampled households, an expert on monitoring and evaluation of the Grants Management Unit UNDP/GF together with specialists from the field of Karasu DDPE and the Ministry of Health regularly carry out monitoring visits to the project areas.



*Handed out curtains*

## We remember and mourn.

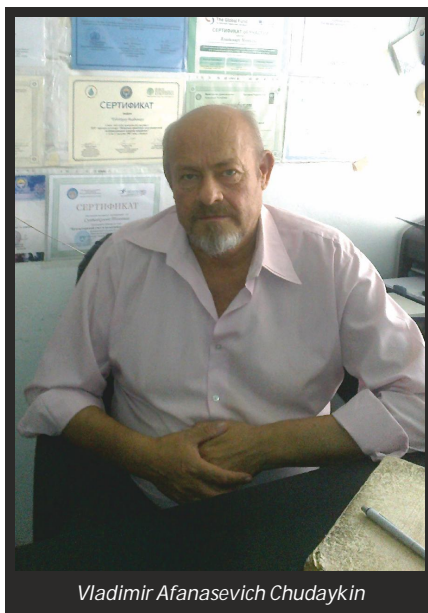
On 4 May 2013 at the age of 56 year Vladimir Afanasevich Chudaykin - psychotherapist, narcologist and longstanding head of the NGO "Ayan-delta" died.

Vladimir Afanasevich was a highly professional specialist, an expert in rehabilitation programs and harm reduction. He graduated from the Medical Faculty of the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute, and since his student years, he began to work in the field of psychiatry, during the last 20 years he worked as a narcologist. When there was a need to implement HIV and AIDS prevention programs, Vladimir Afanasevich, one of the first in the Kyrgyz Republic, began working with people who inject drugs.

In 2000, he founded the NGO "Ayan-Delta", where he was the longstanding leader. Because of his organizational and professional qualities, since that time in Tokmok town and Chui, Issyk-Ata, Kemin districts of Chui region harm reduction and rehabilitation programs have been stably implemented: needle exchange, methadone substitution therapy, detoxification.

"Ayan-delta" NGO staff speak of Vladimir Afanasievich as "as knowledgeable and proactive leader who can take on complex and responsible decisions, showing maximum flexibility in work, both with clients and co-workers."

Partners remember him as a responsible, dedicated colleague with principled, firm stand in life. Friends refer to him as a decent, honest, straight man who was a good and caring father and family man. Vladimir Afanasevich will forever remain in our memory.



## Information on procurement and supply for May:

- A contract for conduct of a survey on the number of people who inject drugs in Kyrgyzstan was signed – \$US36,804
- A contract with the regional office of Partec GmbH (Uzbekistan) was signed for training of the staff of the regional AIDS centers on operating and programming of portable CD 4 counters «CyFlow Counter» was provided – \$US 3,795.81
- A contract with UNICEF was signed to supply laboratory products for malaria – \$US16,580.11
- A contract was signed for the supply of food and hygiene items to cover the needs of 20 NGOs from May to December 2013 – \$US64,789.18
- 2 refrigerators for deep freezing and 4 for storage of medical preparations and test systems were delivered for the Scientific Association "Preventive Medicine" and Republican Venerology Centre – \$US60,686.28
- Gloves covering the needs for 2013 were supplied to the Scientific Association "Preventive Medicine", Republican Venerology Centre and NTP for the amount of \$US66,221.94
- Diagnostic audiometers were supplied to NTP for the amount of \$US28,286.04
- Measuring tools were delivered for NTP (Thermometer anemometers and radiometers) for the amount of \$US2,947
- Drugs for the treatment of opportunistic infections were supplied for the amount of \$US 4,770.00
- 2nd line TB drugs for the treatment of 300 patients were supplied for the amount of \$US593,414.94
- A contract with UNICEF to supply diagnostic test systems for the RC AIDS was signed for the amount of \$US199,877.48
- Contract for the supply of plastic cups for methadone therapy was signed for the amount of \$US4 901.00
- Reagents for study CD3/CD4 and spare parts for the equipment arrived in the amount of \$US46,703.15
- A contract for the 3rd national forum of PLHIV in the Kyrgyz Republic was signed for the amount of \$US15,355
- Contracts for the organization of the 6th National Forum of NGOs of the Kyrgyz Republic fighting against HIV infection and tuberculosis were signed for the amount of \$US28,784.60

