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NEWSLETTER

GRANTS FOR HIV,
TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

 **KYRGYZSTAN**

march 2014

UNDP reports on the implementation of grants provided by the Global Fund to Kyrgyzstan in 2013

The annual UNDP report presentation for 2013 was held on 18 March 2014 in Bishkek. The presentation was attended by the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Global Fund, members of Parliament, the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Government, as well as partners from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

UNDP, as the Principal Recipient of the GF grants since January 2011, carries out its activities following international reporting standards and open procedures for the management and control of processes related to the implementation of three grants. Evidence of transparency in the implementation of grants can be seen in the annual UNDP reports submitted to members of the Country Coordinating Mechanism, national partners, civil society and media.

Alexander Avanesov, UNDP Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic opened the presentation with a welcome speech by. During his speech, he noted the following achievements of the programme.

1. 2013 was the most successful year since the start of GF programmes in Kyrgyzstan. All three grants were assessed by the Global Fund and received "A" rating in recognition of achieving objectives and performance indicators for the reporting period.
2. The GF grants in Kyrgyzstan passed the UNDP internal audit and were rated as "satisfactory". It should be noted that this is a very high auditor's opinion in the UNDP system and only a few offices globally implementing GF grants received such a rating in 2013.
3. The programme saved significant resources within the HIV Grant. More than \$12 million of the \$30 million allocated for the first phase were saved. This will allow extension of all the activities of the grant for 2014 without additional funding from donor.
4. The programme provided an uninterrupted supply of medicines and health products, which is very important for patients receiving vital therapy for the treatment of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.
5. The TB grant saved about \$900 000 in 2013, which will be used to purchase additional medicines and interventions to improve infection control and storage of medicines. All this was possible thanks to the efficient management of resources, in particular savings in procurement.
6. In 2013 several pilot projects were launched. Among them the most interesting is a pilot project establishing a single window of services for HIV, tuberculosis, and substitution therapy. Furthermore, a pilot project to introduce rapid HIV testing in Jalal-Abad and Batken oblasts was launched.
7. UNDP attaches great importance to enhancing the capacity of national partners to transfer grants to the management of national institutions, in particular the Ministry of Health. In 2013, with the assistance of UNDP a plan to enhance the capacity of the potential Principal Recipients was developed. The Plan was approved by the Country Coordinating Mechanism and the Global Fund and will be implemented in 2014. The plan is for two years.



Alexander Avanesov, UNDP Resident Representative in Kyrgyzstan

Summing up his speech, Mr. A.Avanessov emphasized that the success was achieved through partnership with public institutions, the non-governmental sector, and international institutions.

The next speakers were Marat Kaliev, Deputy Health Minister and Kamilla Nurbaeva, Senior Programme Officer, on the GF Secretariat in Geneva.

The Deputy Health Minister noted that 98-99% of response to tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and malaria in the country has been funded by the Global Fund. Expressing gratitude on behalf of the Ministry of Health, he noted that the Government

is facing a big challenge in consolidating funds of additional aid and state budget resources in order to find a way to purchase antiviral drugs in the future when donor funds will be reallocated to the less developed countries of the world.

Ms. Kamilla Nurbaeva in her speech said that in 2014, the Global Fund plans to give Kyrgyzstan \$ 44 million for three years, thus funding for tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria will decrease compared to previous years. An additional \$7 million to control TB will be allocated, as Kyrgyzstan is a country with a severe TB burden and wide spread cases of its drug-resistant form.

Thereafter, UNDP Grants Coordinators provided reports for 2013 on the implementation of the three grants. Here are the highlights of the presentations.

The full report on the implementation of the GF grants in Kyrgyzstan for 2013 can be downloaded from the official website of UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic. Link to download: <http://go.gl/s2yD2Q>

HIV Grant

Summary:

- Grant Start Date - 1 July 2011
- End date - 31 December 2013
- Budget for 2013 - \$ 11 829 864
- Grant implementation rating - «A 2»

Major grant achievements:

- Since July 2013 with the support of the WHO and Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic rapid blood testing in the laboratories of primary health care (PHC) was launched.



Marat Kaliev
Deputy Health Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic



Kamilla Nurbaeva
Senior Programme Officer, GF Secretariat, Geneva

- During 2013, UNDP was able to reach with harm reduction programmes more than 10,000 people who inject drugs (PWID), among them more than 1,000 - female. 15 needle and syringe exchange points within the state prison system were supported by the Global Fund grant.
- After evaluating the capacity of all sub-recipients of the nongovernmental sector UNDP signed direct agreements with sub-recipients. By the end of 2013 the number of sub-recipients on direct contracts with UNDP increased to 38 organizations.
- A landmark was the establishment of a "single window" for people living with HIV at the Bishkek City AIDS Center City AIDS Center. Thanks to the establishment of a "single window", now PLH do not have to travel to different parts of the city for medical care. In this center a multi-disciplinary team was created, which includes medical and social services to address patients' problems.
- At the initiative of UNDP in Kyrgyzstan, for the first time NGOs working with vulnerable groups were involved in rapid HIV testing. Thanks to the pilot project from November 2012 to October 2013 4,500 people among NGOs' clients were tested, 226 people were diagnosed positive. Results of the pilot project have shown that it is necessary to further increase the number of governmental and non-governmental organizations providing HIV testing to reach vulnerable groups.
- In 2013, UNDP opened 5 points of methadone maintenance therapy (MMT). Two points were opened in Osh oblast at the Center of Family Medicine Centre (FMC) of Kara-Suu district, 1 point at the FMC of Panfilov district in Chui oblast, also two new points were opened in correctional colonies No. 1 and No. 3.
- The pharmaceutical warehouses of Osh, Batken, Naryn, Talas, Chui Oblast AIDS Centers were repaired. Also renovated were the pharmaceutical warehouses of the Republican AIDS Center, City AIDS Center, as well as PCR laboratories of RC AIDS and NGO "Preventive Medicine".

According to the epidemiological situation the number of officially registered cases of HIV for the period of 2005-2013 cumulatively totaled 5115 cases. HIV incidence among the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2013 decreased by 3.2% compared with 2012. Thus, in 2013 there were registered 480 cases against 704 cases in 2013.

Injecting drugs use remains the main mode of HIV spread, 37.1% of all cases of human immunodeficiency virus detected in 2013 can be accounted for by people who inject drugs (PWID).

Also, there is an unfavourable growth trend in the number of HIV cases among women, the majority of whom are most likely injecting drugs or are sexual partners of infected drug users. If in 2001 among people living with HIV, women accounted for 9.5%, by the end of 2013 this figure increased by 3 times and amounted to 30.7%.

TB Grant

Summary:

- Grant Start Date - 1 January 2013
- End date - 31 December 2013
- Budget for 2013: \$ 5 916 702
- Grant implementation rating - «A 1»

Major grant achievements:

- The programme achieved a higher success rate of TB treatment than in past years. Cohort study conducted among patients starting treatment in 2010 showed that the success rate of treatment increased from 42.2% to 53.7%.

- The rate of discontinued treatment decreased by 15% from 38.5% to 23.1%.
- In 2013 year 810 MDR TB courses were procured. Also procured were drugs to treat the side effects of TB drugs. Drug procurement for 2014 was also started.
- For the first time ever third-line drugs to treat extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-T) were procured.
- The programme implemented a new top-up payment mechanism for health workers based on the performance of the programme indicators.
- Food and hygiene packages were procured for patients, and their travel expenses to receive anti-TB drugs were reimbursed.
- Reagents and consumables were procured for sputum smear microscopy, culture studies, biochemical tests and X-ray examination. A generator was installed in the National Reference Laboratory, laboratory equipment was repaired. There was organized a visit of Bekton Dickenson, specialist for maintenance of MGIT machines and contracts were signed with two outside laboratories for biochemical studies of patients on treatment for MDR.
- 9 local trainings on capacity development were held (118 trained health workers). 3 employees of TB facilities attended international courses, and oblast coordinators and accountants were trained by UNDP to manage grant funds.
- Savings of grant funds reached \$914 thousand. These funds were reprogrammed to purchase additional drugs, increase monitoring and management of the programme, and improve storage and quality control of drugs.

Kyrgyzstan is a country with a high tuberculosis incidence and high prevalence of drug-resistant TB. According to the WHO, the estimated incidence of TB in Kyrgyzstan in 2012 was 141 per 100,000 with the absolute number of annual cases of 7700.

According to the results of the drug resistance surveillance conducted by the CDC and Project HOPE in 2011, the proportion of MDR-TB among new cases was 26.4%, and among relapses - 51.6%. The study also revealed the presence of patients with an extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR) and multi-drug resistant TB (MDR).

Malaria Grant

Summary:

- Grant Duration (Phase 2) - 3 years (1 January 2012 - 31 December 2014)
- Total budget - \$1 703 026
- Budget for 2013 - \$817 071
- Grant implementation rating - «A 2»

Major grant achievements:

- Treated 22800 households in epidemiologically disadvantaged settlements in the republic;
- Distributed 35000 bednets to pregnant women and children under 5 years;
- Trained 261 representatives of rural health committees (RHC) and 232 specialists of primary health care (PHC), CSSES, DDP&SSES and MOH KR;
- Created thematic maps using geographic information system (GIS) on foci of malaria for 2006-2010;
- Parasitological Laboratory of DDP&SSES successfully underwent external quality control;

- Purchased mosquito nets, laboratory consumables, antimalarial drugs, protective clothing for disinfectants and Automaxes, consumables for PCR laboratory of DDP&SSES;
- Analyzed stocks of antimalarial drugs in the republic.

According to the epidemiological situation for the period from 2011 to 2013 there was not a single case of local transmission of malaria and/or parasite carrier in the Kyrgyz Republic. This was achieved through annual events held through the Global Fund for the past 8 years. In this regard, the Kyrgyz Republic has requested the World Health Organization (WHO) to start the process of preparing for an international peer review and subsequent certification of the Kyrgyz Republic as a country free of malaria.



Guests during the presentation

After the speech of the grants managers, guests were also shown a small documentary film of UNDP on the progress made in 2013. This film can be seen at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7HRW1gm2cc>

Summing up the results of the annual reports, Anna Chernyshova, Programme Manager of UNDP Project in support of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, thanked all the partners for their contributions during the implementation of the three grants. Also she assured the participants that in 2014, UNDP plans to focus on strengthening of the national capacity of the TB and AIDS services. UNDP will continue to provide technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan together with the WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, and other development partners.

Agreement with the Republican AIDS Center for the first half of 2014

As part of the Global Fund grants implementation, in March 2014 UNDP signed an agreement with the Republican AIDS Center for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2014. The amount of the agreement is \$80 153,82.

Activities of UNDP's sub-recipients

In this issue Erkin Musaev - head of the NGO "Prosvet" answered the following questions.

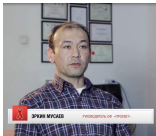
Tell us about the most significant achievements that occurred in 2013 in your organization.

We can safely say that in 2013 our organization reached a new stage of development. From July to 31 December 2013 our initiatives to expand the services of our organization in Jalil district (Kara-Balta) and in Moskovskiy district (Belovodskoe) were supported by UNDP.

The project team staff has increased by an assistant, a peer counselor and infectious disease doctor in Kara-Balta. In addition, the organization covered Issyk-Ata district and Kant town. Total coverage of clients from July to January 2013 was 225 people, among them - 128 adherents of antiretroviral therapy.

What are the challenges encountered by your organization in the course of activities?

There are no special challenges, but due to the nature of our work and lifestyle of patients sometimes arise certain difficulties. It is certainly narcotic and other dependence of clients, which is a major obstacle to the adherence of clients to ARV therapy. Also, due to stigma and discrimination by society to people living with HIV we have to work a lot to build a trusting relationship between patients and medical institutions and other state organizations. In some cases, for technical reasons, in the laboratories of the Republican AIDS Center there are also failures in devices to determine viral load and CD4 count. Also, there are sometimes cases of inaccuracy of obtained results.



*Irkin Murov
Head of the Public Fund «Prosvet»*

In 2013 UNDP conducted several trainings to enhance the capacity of sub-recipients of the Global Fund, as well as there were organized trainings on reporting. Were those trainings useful?

UNDP reports are designed to carry out set tasks to the extent possible in the framework of the Global Fund grant. All technical aspects of reporting have been overcome, and at the moment we have no difficulties to deliver reports. The trainings on capacity strengthening have helped to systematically work in accordance with UNDP procedures.



In your opinion, what kind of trainings conducted by UNDP in 2013 were the most helpful and gave tangible benefits?

As a sub-recipient of UNDP in 2013 we participated in various trainings. Each training helped us to learn new skills, as well as during meetings with colleagues from other regions we had the opportunity to discuss and find solutions to various problems encountered in the course of our work. For me the most memorable trainings were "Principles of Management and Administration" conducted by the trainer Dmitry Chuprin and "Case Management" held in the city of Kiev on the basis of the Association of Ukrainian Network of PLWH.

What are the plans and objectives of NGO "Prosvet" for 2014?

Our main objective for 2014 is to continue to protect the rights of patients as well as provide consulting, psychological and medical assistance (support) for PLHIV and their families. We will continue to improve our results - Also we will increase the number of patients in the project, including to antiretroviral therapy. In general, we will strengthen the qualitative indicators and plan to expand the activities of the foundation in Sokuluk district.

Thank you for the interview!



Trainings on "Basics of PCR method and main stages of PCR analysis"

Training in the workplace for employees of the RC AIDS, Osh AIDS Centre, Jalal-Abad Oblast AIDS Centre and NGO "Preventive Medicine" was held on 12-15 February 2014 at the Reference Laboratory of the Republican AIDS Centre in Bishkek.

The training was attended by 10 laboratory workers. The training was conducted by the regional CDC/ICAP expert - Azat Ondorbaev (Almaty).

During the training the staff of the PCR laboratory was acquainted with the basics of PCR method and PCR analysis. The participants mastered the methods of preprocessing clinical material and the isolation of nucleic acids. The training was followed by practical exercises, programming the results of analyzes, and applying the skills in practice.

Training on MIS database for employees of the State Penal Service (SPS)

Training on capacity building when working with database MIS was held on March 25-26 in Bishkek at the training centre of SPS for the staff involved in the implementation of the project on HIV prevention among prisoners in the penitentiary system.



A similar training was held in October 2013 for employees of SPS, this training was designed to consolidate previously acquired skills. The training was attended by 15 employees of SPS, as well as 2 coordinators of MMT and NSE programmes.

The results of the training revealed the main tasks for SPS employees of working with MIS database, as well as worked out the general requirements for completing the database.

Audiometers and computers for TB institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic

In March 2014 the installation and commissioning of audiometers purchased by UNDP for TB facilities and SPS in Kyrgyzstan was completed. Thus, as part of the GF grant, 6 audiometers and computers with printers were transferred to the National TB Center and redistributed to the following institutions:

1. MDR Department of National Centre of Phthisiatry
2. Kara-Balta Republican TB Hospital
3. MDR Department of Jety-Oguz Republican Rehabilitation Centre.
4. Colony No. 31
5. MDR Department of Jalal-Abad Oblast TB Centre
6. MDR Department of Osh Oblast TB Centre

As noted by Toktogonova Atyrkul, MDR-TB treatment Coordinator of the National TB Center:

«Treatment of TB patients with multi-drug resistant TB is an important and challenging task for TB doctors. It requires an integrated approach to the treatment of patients, taking into account various side reactions that occur during long-term use of anti-TB drugs. One of these side effects is hearing loss in patients. The audiometers received thanks to UNDP will help TB doctors to timely check hearing loss in patients».



Toktogonova Atyrkul, MDR-TB treatment Coordinator of the National TB Center

Procurement Updates for February and March 2014

HIV Grant:

In February:

- Signed a contract for the supply of 4th generation test kits for RC AIDS totaling \$45162,05
- Signed an additional agreement for the supply of food packages totaling \$812,67.

In March:

- Held a tender for the supply of food and hygiene/food packages from April to 31 December 2014 (the contract is at the stage of signing);
- Held a tender for the installation and training of 1C software for 38 sub-recipients of UNDP implementing GF grants (proposals are underevaluation);
- Signed an addendum for the supply of plastic cards for identification of PWID customers for the residual amount of \$14306,89;
- Signed an addendum to assess the capacity of UNDP partners for the implementation of GF grants totaling \$6775,70;
- Signed a contract for international audit in five organizations totaling \$35427,70;
- Delivered medicines to treat opportunistic infections totaling \$2571,76;

TB Grant:**In February delivered:**

- Spare parts for the centrifuge of Talas Oblast TB Center totaling \$772;
- Audiometers to oblast TB centers totaling \$1426;

In March signed contracts:

- For the supply of 2nd line anti-TB drugs for 165 patients totaling \$697869;
- For the supply of X-ray tube for fluorography apparatus to jail-5 in Osh totaling \$2599;
- For the supply and installation of HEPA filters for the City TB Center totaling \$2888.

Information on deliveries for February and March 2014**HIV Grant:****In February delivered:**

Health products, thermometers, and data loggers:

- To NGOs totaling \$ 52153,06.
- To oblast AIDS centers totaling \$ 5572,64.

Medicines to Republican Center of Dermatology and Venereology and Family Medicine Centers

- totaling \$6459,38.

Information and educational materials to NGOs

- totaling \$792,33.

In March delivered:

Health products and thermometers:

- Laboratory supplies to RC AIDS and oblast AIDS centers totaling \$126998,97.
- Equipment and accessories to PCR laboratory "Preventive Medicine" totaling \$76569,92.
- To NGOs - totaling \$18999,07.

Medicines to NGOs and Family Medicine Centers

- totaling \$1300,94.

Information and educational materials to NGOs

- totaling \$466,42.

TB Grant:**In February delivered:**

- Medicines to TB centers totaling \$3813,98.
- Laboratory supplies totaling \$65565,30.

In March delivered:

- Laboratory reagents to TB centers totaling \$15169,55.
- Drugs to treat side effects to TB centers totaling \$318685,80.
- PAS for \$408894.

For notes



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