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ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2015

United Nations Development Programme

Tajikistan

United Nations Joint HIV Advocacy Project

01-Jan-2015 – 31-Dec-2015



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I. Acronyms and abbreviations:

NC AIDS - National AIDS Center

UN JAP – United Nations Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan

UNGASS - United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS- Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS

UNDP –United Nations Development Program

UNFPA- United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund

AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ART- Antiretroviral Therapy

STIs- Sexually transmitted infections

PLHIV- People living with HIV

MHSPP RT- Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan

MSM- Men who have sex with men

SWs- Sex workers

PWID- People Who Inject Drugs

AWP- Annual Work plan

MDG- Millennium Development Goals

M&E- Monitoring & Evaluation

CSO-Civil Society Organization

NCC- National Coordination Committee on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria prevention

II. Context

Since 2005 the UN Joint HIV Advocacy Project (UN JAP) in Tajikistan is actively promoting and advocating to enhance the national capacity for effective implementation of the programmes. The UN Joint HIV Advocacy Project (UN JAP) in Tajikistan has been implemented with an annual update in planned outcomes, activities and budgeting. The overall goal of the project is to support the National Response to HIV and follow-up with the UN Joint Programming on HIV in accordance with UNDG/UN Development Group Organization and Global Task Team (GTT). Initially the budget of the UN JAP consisted of co-financing resources and a pooled funding mechanism. Over the past years, the UN JAP activities were supported through the pooled and parallel funding from UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA.

The outcomes and outputs of the Project Document are harmonized with two UN strategic documents (UNDP's CPAP for 2011-2015 and UNDAF for Tajikistan for 2010-2015), as well as with the National programme on the response to the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Tajikistan. The main goal of the proposed UN JAP in 2015 was to expand and to coordinate UN technical support to improve national capacity of decision makers and local partners on HIV programmes and contributed to national priorities in HIV prevention, treatment care and support to achieve mid-term targets of MDG 6. The key objectives of the project are the strengthening of the implementation of UN Joint Programme for Support to address country needs on HIV, enhance the national capacity on advocacy, strategic information and management for effective implementation of the programmes, tracking epidemic and response as well as reducing stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV, promotion of human rights and gender equality. The project also implemented activities and strategies under GFATM-funded HIV projects and projects supported by other UN agencies, and found the linkages to broader national agenda.

In 2015, the National Consultant was selected and started the development of the concept note for disseminating/lobbying the investment scenarios among MHSP and MOF. Consultant supported the cost estimation of draft HIV Strategy for the period of 2016-20 which should be discussed along with MTEF planning for health sector and provide the report on decided transition scenario which should position the Government to achieve sustainable financing of national HIV response.

UN JAP provided its assistance in selecting of the International Consultant to design and conduct an independent assessment of hard to reach population (MSM) in Tajikistan. The purpose of the consultancy work was to conduct population estimation study among men having sex with men (MSM) and identify MSM' problems in Tajikistan and monitor and oversee conducting the Integrated Bio-Behavioural Survey among MSM. Awareness raising campaigns on HIV/AIDS (AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day, Youth Day, AIDS Day) conducted where more than 10 000 IEC and promo materials on prevention of HIV/AIDS were disseminated among population, especially young people.

III. Results summary and implementation review

The given report provides an overview of the performed activities and the results achieved by the United Nations Joint HIV Advocacy Project throughout the year 2015.

In 2015, UN JAP supported NC AIDS to develop the Global AIDS Response Progress Report (GARP Report) for 2015 through transparent process. Information for GARP Report collected, introduced and timely submitted to UN GS for further consideration.

UN JAP provided its technical support to start the process of selecting of National Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Civil Society Networks (CSN) for realization of series of workshops/information sessions for representatives of decision - making body, law enforcement agencies, Regional AIDS Centres and stakeholders on the issues of creating enabling legal environments for populations most at risk for HIV, protection of human rights, reducing gender-based violence of target groups and reducing stigma and discrimination. The selection process implemented through micro capital grant procedures. The project activities covered all regions of the country. As a result of this initiative 6 CSOs were selected to implement the information sessions in almost 15 cities and districts of the country. As a result of the information sessions more than 473 local Authorities representatives, 376 CSOs employees and 280 law enforcement bodies, changed their attitudes toward PLHIV thanks to 63 conducted workshops in 4 regions of the country during August to November 2015.

UN JAP through technical support of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, conducted three day consultative meeting on People Living with HIV stigma index research in Tajikistan. The event has brought together around 50 representatives from the national AIDS Center under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, representatives from international organizations, outreach workers, networks of people living with HIV, Civil Society Organizations and initiative makers. It was mentioned that the People Living with HIV Stigma Index was developed and implemented by people, living with HIV for people affected by HIV. The main purpose of this initiative was to collect information about the challenges of PLHIV related to stigma, discrimination and human rights violations. Participants were informed that the results of the study, will increase the understanding of how stigma and discrimination is experienced by people living with HIV.

UN Cares Programme was actively advocated in 2015 at country inter-agency level. UN JAP project started the development of calendars with messages on Political Declaration: Targets and elimination commitment, and zero discrimination targets. UN Cares Programme implemented in main part of agencies on a regular basis. UN agencies fully meet UN Cares standard requirements. Posters on UN Care 10 minimum standards developed and distributed among agencies. UN Agencies are in compliance with UN Care 10

IV. Project Results and Impact Summary

The project has succeeded in attaining its results and targets in 2015. Almost all planned activities were carried out in accordance with the AWP and planned budget.

Output: National capacity, systems and institutions are strengthened to address HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes and to achieve MDG 6 targets.

Target	Accomplished in %
<i>1.1. Budgeted action plan is developed for 2015-2017 period aligned with the National strategy for HIV/AIDS with findings of investment case and financial sustainability assessment.</i>	100%
<i>1.2. New funds for HIV/AIDS program obtained within the framework of the New Funding Model of GFATM.</i>	100%
<i>1.3. At least 2 high level officials from government institutions attended international advocacy events in 2015 and presented Tajikistan's efforts on HIV-related human rights, strategic planning, M&E, and management.</i>	100%
<i>1.4. National AIDS Report (UNGASS) for 2015 developed through transparent process and timely submitted by the Government to UN GS and results are widely used for strategic planning and resource mobilization.</i>	100%
<i>2.1. At least 100 regional decision-makers, law enforcement officials and mass media improved their knowledge on HIV program enabling them to overcome barriers of stigma and protect rights of PLHIV.</i>	100%
<i>2.2. At least two SCO receiving micro-grants from UNDP represented needs and rights of PLHIV and Women LHIV and strengthened their networks at national levels by 2015.</i>	100%
<i>2.3. At least 5,000 IEC and promo materials on HIV prevention and reducing stigma and discrimination towards PLWH developed and distributed at country level.</i>	100%
<i>3.1. UN Care Programme is implemented at least in six UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS,</i>	90%

<p><i>ILO, WFP) on routine base by the end of 2015 with both national and field staff reached.</i></p>	
<p><i>3.2. At least three learning and communication events arranged and focused on safe behaviour, S&D and HIV issues at the workplace.</i></p>	<p>90%</p>

V. Implementation Strategy Review

Monitoring and Evaluation

UN JAP implemented the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process, through monitoring visits in district level. In particular, the monitoring visits of 6 CSOs conducted in the process of realization of series of workshops/information sessions for representatives of decision - making body, law enforcement agencies, Regional AIDS Centers and stakeholders on the issues of creating enabling legal environments for populations most at risk for HIV, protection of human rights, reducing gender-based violence of target groups and reducing stigma and discrimination. Mostly, the M&E process of the stakeholders conducted through the quarterly reporting at peripheral level and reported to the central level of organization, where it is consolidated and analyzed.

Partnership building

In 2015 UN JAP assisted in advocacy for funding, in particular the National Consultant was selected and started the development of the concept note for disseminating/lobbying the investment scenarios among MHSP and MOF. Consultant supported the cost estimation of draft HIV Strategy for the period of 2016-20 which should be discussed along with MTEF planning for health sector and provides the report on decided transition scenario which should position the Government to achieve sustainable financing of national HIV response. Project strengthened the cooperation with international agreements and programs on HIV and AIDS, and shared the results of researches and advocated the protection of human rights of vulnerable groups of population. Project worked for facilitating networking and support for PLHIV. Support provided for participation of vulnerable groups of population in strategy development, program and activity design and review as well as prevention of stigma and discrimination against PLHIV. The UN JAP plays a variety of supporting roles in providing of technical support to the government and non-government partners in policy development, planning coordination, monitoring, and implementation.

Communication Strategy - Awareness raising campaign

In 2015 UN JAP was able to integrate the HIV related issues into nation-wide campaigns on World's AIDS Day, Stop Violence against women (VAW), Zero Discrimination Day and "10 days of Human Rights" campaigns. Provide support and strengthen the cooperation with the local Mass Media to highlight HIV issues and expanding community mobilization with involving new partners in the national response. As well as development and production of culturally, gender and politically relevant IEC materials, posters, billboards to reflect issues on stigma and discrimination, violence against women and the promotion of human rights of PLHIV and their distribution countrywide.

National ownership and sustainability

UN JAP provided technical support in implementation of the HIV, Health and Development (HHD) portfolio at UNDP CO including follow-up to the implementation of Modeling an optimized Investment Approach for sustainable financing options of the HIV response in Tajikistan.

VI. Project risks, issues and actions

According to the requirements of UNDP, prior to project implementation, the UN JAP risks have been considered and risk log with potential risks that might threaten the successful completion of the project were predetermined and mitigation activities foreseen. The risks have been divided into several categories, namely environmental, financial, operational, organizational, political, regulatory, security, and strategic. A summary of the project risks and the corresponding management response is detailed below.

Project Risks	Actions/Management Response
Financial	
	The consultancy works and activities on HIV issues conducted in according to project's AWP for 2015. Resources for the implementation of the project activities for 2015 are mobilized in the framework of UN JAP project.
Operational	
	The involvement of PLHIV in national response planning, implementation and monitoring through providing of the technical assistance and micro grants for capacity building of SCOs working with PLHIV and networks of women LHIV advocated.
Organizational	
	UN Theme Group and UN Joint HIV team organized a series of meetings to discuss the progress of joint technical support on HIV/AIDS in the country and action plans developed for further implementation of the activities.
Political	
	UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS supported realization of one day round table dedicated to the results of the Research on "Modelling of Optimized Investment Approach for Tajikistan-Sustainable Financing of National HIV Responses". As a result of the discussion, the preliminary advantage was given to the scenario 2, which consists from two options: 1. improving allocative efficiency for the prevention and the care and treatment programme components, comprising about 60% of the total budget in 2013; 2. improving allocative efficiency for the prevention and care and treatment programme components.
Security	
	The project initiated to strengthen the capacity building of SCOs working with PLHIV and networks of PLHIV through consideration of their project proposals concerning to their needs and shortages in concrete area. Representatives of PLHIV supported to take part in different international and national gatherings and events on HIV/AIDS issues.
Environmental	
	Through providing of micro-capital grants, UN JAP advocated the reduction of stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS in society. Networks of women living with HIV, SCOs supported to implement the projects focused to community leaders, law enforcement and decision makers to reduce HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination.

Project issues and actions

In 2015, the UN JAP encountered various issues ranging from programme/administrative issues. Some of the issues affected the implementation of UN JAP project overall by affecting the expected timeframe for the implementation of certain activities. A detailed list of issues and management response can be found in the following table.

Project issues	Actions/Management response
Lack of government ownership could result in the duplication of HIV related activities and overall country coordination mechanism.	In 2015, The National Consultant was selected and started the development of the concept note for disseminating/lobbying the investment scenarios among MHSP and MOF. Consultant supported the cost estimation of draft HIV Strategy for the period of 2016-20 which should be discussed along with MTEF planning for health sector and provides the report on decided transition scenario which should position the Government to achieve sustainable financing of national HIV response.
Negative attitude of the society towards vulnerable groups /PLWH causes difficulties for the active participation of vulnerable groups in the national response.	Awareness raising campaigns on HIV/AIDS (AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day, Youth Day, AIDS Day) conducted where more than 10 000 IEC and promo materials on prevention of HIV/AIDS were disseminated among population, especially young people. Also campaigns were conducted among general population on stigma and discrimination and also technical and consultative support were provided to PLHIV to improve their participation in the national response on HIV/AIDS.
The networks of WLHIV and PLHIV need support to implement the advocacy campaigns and promote gender and human rights issues related to HIV/AIDS	UN JAP provided its technical support to start the process of selecting of National Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Civil Society Networks (CSN) for realization of series of workshops/information sessions for representatives of decision - making body, law enforcement agencies, Regional AIDS Centres and stakeholders on the issues of creating enabling legal environments for populations most at risk for HIV, protection of human rights, reducing gender-based violence of target groups and reducing stigma and discrimination. The selection process implemented through micro capital grant procedures. The project activities covered all regions of the country. As a result of this initiative 6 CSOs were selected to implement the information sessions in almost 15 cities and districts of the country. As a result of the information sessions more than 473 local Authorities representatives, 376 CSOs employees and 280 law enforcement bodies, changed their attitudes toward PLHIV thanks to 63 conducted workshops in 4 regions of the country during August to November 2015.

VII. Detailed project activities review

Budgeted action plan is developed for 2015-2017 period aligned with the National strategy for HIV/AIDS with findings of investment case and financial sustainability assessment.

This target is achieved. The International Consultant for development of the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2015-2018 and HIV/AIDS concept note for the New Funding Model of GFATM was hired. A series of meetings with representatives of Ministry of Health and Social Protection and local and international partners were conducted. As a result of the consultancy work the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan with clearly identified service delivery areas, financial gap analysis was developed.

New funds for HIV/AIDS program obtained within the framework of the New Funding Model of GFATM.

This target is achieved. The agreement for HIV/AIDS project within the framework of the New Funding Model of GFATM was signed for 17 million USD.

At least 2 high level officials from government institutions attended international advocacy events in 2015 and presented Tajikistan's efforts on HIV-related human rights, strategic planning, M&E, and management.

UN JAP supported the local specialist from NC AIDS to participate in the International Scientific – Practical Conference on the issues regarding problems of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, which took place in St. Petersburg. The specialist represented the NC AIDS had an opportunity to take part at the dialogue which gave an opportunity to exchange the experience between medical specialists, experts, representatives of ministries and departments, civil society, communities of HIV-infected people as well as Russian and international non-governmental organizations acting in this sphere.

National AIDS Report (UNGASS) for 2015 developed through transparent process and timely submitted by the Government to UN GS and results are widely used for strategic planning and resource mobilization.

UN JAP supported NC AIDS to develop the Global AIDS Response Progress Report (GARP Report) for 2015 through transparent process. Information for GARP Report collected, introduced and timely submitted to UN GS for further consideration. As a result the high quality results were collected and reported on the AIDS response which is considered as important elements for shared responsibility and global solidarity. All monitoring data and HIV estimates were collected and submitted on time. The partnership forum conducted in the first quarter of 2015, where national stakeholders discussed the issues regarding developing and finalization of the report. This target is completed.

At least 100 regional decision-makers, law enforcement officials and mass media improved their knowledge on HIV program enabling them to overcome barriers of stigma and protect rights of PLHIV.

- 27 November 2015 in Dushanbe the national round table “Strengthening the national measures to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls” was conducted. The round table was organized by UN JAP, through the initiative of CSO “Bovari +” and Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN). Around 60 representatives of CSOs, international organization, mass media, outreach workers and representatives from vulnerable groups of population took part in the meeting.



The purpose of the round table was to draw attention of society to the problems of women and girls, especially of women living with HIV and gender issues related to HIV infection, for elaboration of overall recommendations and follow-up actions to reduce violence against women and girls. In the course of the round table, participants introduced their presentations and views to strengthening measures to eradicate forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. Presentations followed by interesting discussions and suggestions. Participants expressed their concerns regarding the factors limiting the access of women living with HIV to



different types of social services, stigma and discrimination from society, inadequate legal and institutional framework, and the low level of legal literacy and unawareness of women living with HIV on HIV/AIDS prevention and the existing support programmes. One of the main outcomes of the National Round Table was development of the Resolution derived from the presentations, discussions, proposals and observations of the participants.

- Hundreds of people were covered by series of events on the occasion of the Youth Day, World AIDS Day, Zero discrimination Day and other awareness raising activities in city and district levels. The messages on HIV/AIDS prevention and importance of healthy lifestyle, prevention of stigma and discrimination against PLHIV disseminated among population, during realization of this events.

- July 27-29, 2015, consultative meeting on People Living with HIV stigma index research in Tajikistan. The event has brought together around 50 representatives from the national AIDS Center under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, representatives from international organizations, outreach workers, networks of people living with HIV, Civil Society Organizations and initiative makers. It was



mentioned that the People Living with HIV Stigma Index was developed and implemented by people, living with HIV for people affected by HIV. The main purpose of this initiative is to collect information about the challenges of PLHIV related to stigma, discrimination and human rights violations. Stigma Index provides a tool that measures and detects changing trends in relation to stigma and discrimination

experienced by people living with HIV. It aims to address stigma relating to HIV while also advocating on the key barriers and issues perpetuating stigma - a key obstacle to HIV treatment, prevention, care and support. Also participants were informed that the results of the study will increase the understanding of how stigma and discrimination is experienced by people living with HIV. The evidence gained will then shape future programmatic interventions and policy change. Also the information gained from the Index will provide evidence for the success (or failures) of current programmes and highlight neglected areas requiring future action. These include improving workplace policies, informing debates about the criminalization of HIV transmission, and promoting the realization of human rights.

At least two SCO receiving micro-grants from UNDP represented needs and rights of PLHIV and Women LHIV and strengthened their networks at national levels by 2015.

In second quarter of 2015 UN JAP announced call for grants to involve the National Civil Society Organizations (CSO), Civil Society Networks (CSN) for realization of series of workshops/information sessions for representatives of decision - making body, law enforcement agencies, Regional AIDS Centres of the country, stakeholders, CSOs, representatives from Jamoats, districts' local Authorities and communities on the issues of creating enabling legal environments for populations most at risk for HIV for the realization of their fundamental human rights to information and support, including



access to the qualified services, protection of human rights, reducing gender-based violence of target groups and reducing stigma and discrimination. Overall, 10 grant proposals have been received. Afterward, 6 public organizations have got the passing scores- 1. CSO “Tajikistan Network of women living with HIV”; 2. CSO “Volunteer”; 3. CSO “Centre for the Development of Democracy”; 4. CSO “Anis”; 5. CSO “Equal opportunities” and 6. CSO “Spin Plus”.

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1. CSO “Tajikistan Network of women living with HIV” covered Districts of Republican Subordination (Tursunzade city, Hisor city, Rudaki district). During realization of the project, project activities covered 102 PLHIV in Rudaki, Gissar and Tursunzade. PLHIV provide the following consulting services: -54 Psychological counseling "equal to equal";-24 Legal consultations on the issues (access to medicine, domestic violence, etc.



2. CSO “Centre for the Development of Democracy” covered Sugd Region (Khujand city, Chkalovsk city, Bobojon Gafurov district). Around 300 representatives of leading governmental institutions, AIDS Centers, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs) representatives of Jamoats, executive authorities (Hukumats) and community leaders (heads of mahalla committees and women's councils) attended in information sessions.

3. CSO “Anis” covered Kulob city, Kulob region, Vose and Farkhor regions. CSO "Anis" held 4 trainings for 102 representatives from all sectors of the community. Participants provided with information modules on gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS prevention, workshop presentations, information sessions, distribution of information materials. Around 81 law enforcement representatives covered by trainings on gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS prevention.

4. CSO “Equal Opportunities” covered Dushanbe city. During realization of the project 3-day training on Gender, HIV, Advocacy for employees of CSOs who are working with key groups of populations conducted. In the course of the trainings representatives CSOs from Dushanbe, RRS, Sugd Region (Khujand city, Nov, Spitamen, B. Gafurov, Panjakent), Khatlon Oblast (Kulob city, Kurgan- Tube, Yovon) took place. The main achievement of the following training was that participants had opportunity to get the information on vulnerable groups of population and how to work with them, in the context of gender equality, HIV and advocacy.

5. CSO “Spin Plus” covered Dushanbe city. The project covered 4 regions of Dushanbe (Firdavsi, ismoili Somoni, Shohmansur and Sino). The target groups of the project were women IDUs from 20 to 45 years old from Vahdat and Dushanbe, women, living with HIV from 20 to 45 years old from Vahdat and Dushanbe and IDUs the members of OST programme in Dushanbe.



6. CSO “Volunteer” covered Khorog City, Shughnan district, Rushon district The joint Action Plan developed to strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation to implement the main rights of key groups of population for information and support, including access to quality services, through strengthening the mechanism of cooperation of NCC with Regional Coordination Council.

During project realization more than 473 local Authorities representatives, 376 NGO employees and 280 law enforcement bodies, changed their attitudes toward PLHIV thanks to 63 conducted workshops in 4 regions of the country during August to November 2015.

At least 5,000 IEC and promo materials on HIV prevention and reducing stigma and discrimination towards PLWH developed and distributed at country level.

- UN JAP developed and published around 10000 copies of IEC materials on HIV prevention and reducing stigma and discrimination towards PLWH. The information materials distributed during awareness raising activities among general population during WAD campaigns, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, Zero Discrimination Day, youth day and etc.



27 February 2015- Under the slogan of, “Let’s strive for making our world free of stigma and discrimination”, through the initiative of the UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF) in Tajikistan and

technical support of civil society organization - “Tajikistan Network of Women living with HIV” series of information sessions and awareness raising activities for the representatives of SCOs and vulnerable groups of population on HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination (S&D) issues conducted. In total 50 representatives of SCOs, outreach workers and vulnerable groups of population were discussed the issues on how to overcome S&D associated with HIV/AIDS, which exists in the country. Also, presentations on the results of the National Researches on forms of S&D and main issues of PLHIV associated with these issues sounded. Video clips dedicated to Zero Discrimination Day were demonstrated and information materials with Zero Discrimination Day messages were disseminated among participants. Representatives of most-at-risk populations from the districts of the country, who also participated the sessions have mentioned, that women continue to face discrimination and violence that make them more vulnerable to HIV, that increases the vulnerability of representatives of most-at-risk populations to HIV, as well as to S&D, marginalization and violence. Participants have mentioned that most people living with or vulnerable to HIV do not know their rights.

- 11 October 2015, - Tajikistan National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO clubs of Tajikistan through technical support of UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) in Tajikistan (UN JAP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Republic of Tajikistan and civil society organizations launched the new talents exhibition dedicated to the International Day of the Girl Child. In a short period of time around 300 works were submitted from all over the country to UNESCO clubs. Juries representing art galleries and studios selected the best 25 works among more than 300. The winners received memorable gifts from the organizers. It should be mentioned that children representing the vulnerable groups of population to HIV/AIDS also participated in this context and most of their works were highly appreciated and rewarded.



- On June 26, 2015, Civil Society Organization “Spin Plus”, through the support of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, Central Asian Union of People Living with HIV and other local and international partners organized the campaign dedicated to the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The event, which took place in the courtyard of Dushanbe City Health Centre № 4 has brought together around 150 representatives from Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, Networks of people living with HIV, Civil Society Organizations, International organization, youth, volunteers and all those, who are concerned about drug abuse and HIV/AIDS in society. By the end of the event information education communication materials on drug prevention, addiction treatment and HIV/AIDS disseminated among participants.
- On May 16, 2015, UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) in Tajikistan, in cooperation with Republican Center for AIDS under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of Tajikistan, through the initiative of Civil Society Organizations “Guli Surkh” and “Network of women living with HIV/AIDS” and other international organizations organized the event

dedicated to the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day. The event, which took place in the building of the Republican AIDS Center of Tajikistan, has brought together around 200 representatives from Networks of people living with HIV, Civil Society Organizations, International organization, youth, volunteers and all those, who are concerned about HIV/AIDS. It should be noted that special theatrical performances reflecting the issues faced by people living with HIV (PLHIV) were demonstrated by volunteers and social workers from communities and networks of PLHIV. By the end of the event information education communication materials on HIV/AIDS prevention disseminated among participants.

UN Care Programme is implemented at least in six UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ILO, WFP) on routine base by the end of 2015 with both national and field staff reached.



UN JAP developed around 1000 of desk calendars with messages on Political Declaration: Targets and elimination commitment, and zero discrimination targets. The materials produced and disseminated among all UN Agencies in Tajikistan. UN Cares Programme implemented in main part of agencies on a regular basis. The main parts of UN agencies fully meet UN Cares standard requirements. Posters on UN Care 10 minimum standards developed and distributed among agencies. UN Agencies are in compliance with UN Care 10.

At least three learning and communication events arranged and focused on safe behaviour, S&D and HIV issues at the workplace.

November 28, 2015 UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) in Tajikistan and Civil Society Organization “Spin Plus” in close cooperation with national and international organizations host a charity concert dedicated to the World AIDS Day 2015. The charity concert brought together more than 500 people, who enjoined the performances of famous Tajik pop and rock groups and musicians. The event was opened by Dr. Navruz Jafarov, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of Population of Tajikistan, who expressed the Governmental commitment in increasing access to treatment of HIV for the People who live with this infection. It was mentioned that to fight against the HIV, we need more knowledge and information to promote the rights of PLHIV and eliminate the stigma and discrimination. The participants enjoyed live music show and became the witnesses of real stories of People living with HIV, who shared their stories regarding their illness and how their managed to overcome their fair and started live a full life, became happy husbands and fathers of healthy children. The participants enjoyed live music show and became the witnesses of real stories of People living with HIV, who shared their stories regarding their illness and how their managed to overcome their fair and started live a full life, became happy husbands and fathers of healthy children. Events dedicated to World AIDS Day held in secondary schools, colleges and universities, in jamoats in rural and urban mahallas in institutions, hospitals, public parks, etc. 1 December 2015, the Radio Quiz in two main nationwide radio stations “Sadoi Dushanbe” and “Radio Tajikistan” in Russian and Tajik languages sounded. The Radio Quiz involved listeners through all over the country, which had a great opportunity to find out the basic information about HIV/AIDS. Also in cooperation with

voluntary organizations around 5 000 IEC materials on HIV/AIDS prevention disseminated among students of city colleagues of Dushanbe.



VIII. Implementation challenges

During the implementation of the project in 2015, several challenges were encountered such as:

- The issues concerning the response and prevention of HIV/AIDS, protection of human rights, HIV/AIDS infected are very critical issues. Lack of information campaigns leading by state institutions, in particular the Committee on Women and Family Affairs and representatives of Jamoats, CSOs, international organizations on prevention of HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights of PLHIV issues.
- Lack of meetings conducted in cooperation with public organizations, Ministry of Interior Affairs of Tajikistan regarding the issues of HIV/AIDS prevention, stigma and discrimination, gender issues and protection of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Awareness of population, especially women in rural area on HIV and existed HIV services continued to be low. Capacity of network of PLHIV as well as Women living with HIV continued to be limited. All these issues are existed in parallel with high level of stigma and discrimination among general population as well as among service' providers and low awareness on HIV and available services.
- Insufficient legal literacy among CSOs brings the rapid actions for realization trainings to raise the legal literacy among CSOs and gender-oriented communities. Also working meetings with representatives of HIV services, narcology, health departments, CSOs, committee for women affairs and local authorities should be conducted.
- Although, there are many challenges and obstacles to expand national response despite the fact that substantial efforts made by key players in the field of HIV/AIDS, including donors, governmental and non-governmental organizations. HIV/AIDS issues are still seen as sole problems of health sector. The involvement of other governmental sectors needs improvement. The role of CSOs and network of PLHIV in the planning, implementation and monitoring of National response needs to be strengthened.

IX. Lessons learnt and Recommendations

Lessons learnt

Overall, the implementation of the project itself, monitoring visits, meeting and other observations showed strength and weaknesses during project implementation that can be further used for future projecting. The main lessons learnt within the project implementation in 2014 are as follows:

- There is a need to support technical meeting of NCC (TWG) to increase capacity of decision makers, local authorities, employers, law enforcements representatives, SCOs on HIV policy issues including protection of human rights and reducing stigma and discrimination;
- In cooperation with higher education institution to develop the syllabuses for social workers and students from the department on social work in the Tajik National University on HIV and PWD;
- There is a need to conduct series of learning sessions, workshops to social workers at district level and students from the department on social work in the Tajik National University in the context of HIV/AIDS and the issues of working with vulnerable groups;
- There is a need to improve coordination on the national multisectoral level, among the government and civil society sector, particularly at regional and district level though holding the regular meetings and forums of partners to be initiated by National Coordination Committee to fight HIV, TB and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Further development and issuance of cultural, gender and policy-related IEC materials, posters, billboards highlighting HIV related stigma and discrimination;
- To promote further development and strengthening of national ownership for the implementation of the project through regular trainings and advocacy campaigns to be conducted at national level;
- To enhance the capacity building of national partners from both government and civil society sector, Mass Media representatives on HIV/AIDS issues, particularly stigma and discrimination through trainings and workshops;
- There is a need to provide support to increase capacity of network of PLHIV particularly women living with HIV. Provide assistance to expand national response on HIV to achieve gender equality;
- There is a need to provide support for involvement of PLHIV and PWD in national response planning, implementation and monitoring through technical assistance and micro grants for capacity building of CSOs working with PLHIV and PWD.

Recommendations

The following recommendations can be made for the effective implementation of project activities in the future:

Continual realization of information campaigns in cooperation with state institutions, in particular the Committee on Women and Family Affairs and representatives of Jamoats, CSOs, international organizations; Realization of series of meetings at the Center of employment and migration with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Tajikistan on the rights of PLHIV; Realization of series of workshops in cooperation with public organizations regarding the issues of HIV/AIDS prevention, stigma and discrimination, gender issues and protection of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS;- Realization of joint events in cooperation with AIDS Centre and other institutions and Jamoats to reduce stigma and discrimination against PLHIV in society.

Continue further advocacy participation and presentation of investment modeling in Annual Health Summits and Conferences; Support technical meeting of NCC (TWG) to increase capacity of decision makers, local authorities, employers, law enforcements representatives, SCOs on HIV policy issues including protection of human rights and reducing stigma and discrimination; Organizational review and revision of NAC, organogram to reflect implementation model future PR role and SR Management.

It is necessary to strengthen the capacity of National Coordination Committee to fight HIV, TB and Malaria (NCC) to improve coordination of all activities related to HIV prevention in the country. More efforts should be made to improve advocacy and strengthen local governance and ownership over HIV projects, particularly regional level, where coverage should be expanded. More works should be carried out with regional and local governmental bodies in advocacy efforts to prevent HIV epidemics. It is also necessary to strengthen activities related to HIV and AIDS issues at work place and juridical system.

X. Financial status and utilization

This section includes the following:

1) A *financial status report* covering all funding donated to the project (core and non-core resources); include reference to all donor contributions.¹ The purpose is to ensure that donors can identify, at a glance, how much of their contribution was expended during for the project as a whole, and the year in question.

2) A *financial utilization report*, which presents project disbursements vis-à-vis the project latest budget for the year. This summary is presented by a) ATLAS Activity and b) by donor.

Financial status

If the project has multiple phases, all figures should refer only to the current phase of the project (refer to the dates in the project document).

Table 1: Contribution overview 01.01.2015 – 31.12.2015²

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTIO N BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	69,000	69,000	
UNAIDS	-	-	-
UNICEF	-	-	-
UNFPA	-	-	-
UNDP Reg.Fund	8,000	8,000	-
TOTAL	77,000	77,000	-

Table 2: Funding status as of 31.12.2015

*Committed refers to the existence of a signed agreement; Received refers to already committed funds which have been released to UNDP by the donor.

*The Received column in this table should match the figures in the column (of the same title) in the Resource Overview table.

**The Earmarked column should specify if any donors have earmarked their funding to a specific activity or other requirement.

¹Please note that the term “Committed” refers to funding which has been obligated by signed agreement, but not necessarily released by the donor. “Received” refers to funding which has already been committed and released by the donor.

²The “resource overview” can be any kind of chart (a pie chart, for example, would be an effective way of demonstrating a funding gap).

Financial utilization

The figures in this section (budget, expenditure, and balance) can refer only to the reporting period (i.e. one year).

Table 4: Annual expenditure by donor 1 January – 31 December, 2015

ACTIVITIES (as per approved budget)		OPENING BALANCE For YEAR 2015	EXPENDITURES 01.01.2015-31.12.2015	BALANCE as of 31/12/2015
Activity 1	High Level Advocacy	21,000	21,000	0
Activity 2	Expanding national respo	38,000	38,000	0
Activity 3	Project Management	18,000	18,000	0
GMS N/A				
Total DONOR I -UNDP		77,000	77,000	0

Mandatory Format:

- 1) **Titles.** Expenditure tables under the ‘Financial utilization’ part of this section must spell out the activity description titles as specified in the project budget and the names of donors. ATLAS codes can be included as well but are not sufficient.
- 2) **Figures.** All figures must be in USD, and should be rounded to whole numbers. No decimals.
- 3) **General Management Support (GMS).** All figures must be inclusive of UNDP GMS 7%. When the draft is submitted to UNDP/CO via email, please specify whether or not the draft includes GMS. If not, UNDP/CO finance will insert it.

IMPORTANT NOTE

When submitting your draft report to UNDP country office, please include the following: 1) a soft copy of all financial tables in Excel in addition to any tables embedded in the report and 2) specify whether the figures come from ATLAS or from the project.