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## **ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2014**

**United Nations Development Programme**

**Tajikistan**

**United Nations Joint HIV Advocacy Project**

**01-Jan-2014 – 31-Dec-2014**



**Project ID:** 00074772

**Duration:** Jan 2014 – Dec 2014 year

**Component (CPAP):**HIV/AIDS

**Total Budget 2014:** UNDP- USD 129,324, UNDP RF-  
USD 40000

**Total Expense 2014:** USD 160,525

**Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:**  
(optional)

**Table of Contents:**

I. Acronyms and abbreviations..... 3

II. Context.....4

III. Results summary and implementation review.....5

IV. Project Results and Impact Summary.....6

V. Implementation Strategy Review.....8

VI. Project risks, issues and actions.....9

VII. Detailed project activities review.....11

VIII. Implementation challenges.....17

IX. Lessons learnt and next steps.....18

X. Financial status and utilization.....20

## **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 2014 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.

Overall, a good relation was maintained with all responsible partners at the national and local level. National partners were involved in all stages of project implementation. During project implementation, national priorities were taken into account and any changes were discussed with national partners. Good partnership was established with the Tajikistan Network of women living with HIV, Youth committee and other partners. National ownership and partnership was strengthened through developing national strategies, standards and documents to prevent HIV/AIDS and other related documents. Capacity building was provided to both governmental institutions and SCOs through trainings, exchange visits and consultative support for effective HIV prevention programmes.

### **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 2014.

In 2014, in the framework of the UN JAP the International advisory services on development of the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2015-2018 and HIV/AIDS concept note for the New Funding Model of GFATM were provided. A series of meetings with representatives of Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population and local and international partners were conducted. As a result of the consultancy work the draft of the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan with clearly identified service delivery areas, financial gap analysis was developed and shared with local and international partners. UN JAP project supported National AIDS Center (NC AIDS) to develop the National AIDS Report (UNGASS) for 2014 through transparent process. Information for Country AIDS Progress Report 2014 was collected, introduced and timely submitted.

Starting from 2013, the UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF), Ministry of health and social protection of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan, experts and other international and local partners began the process of realization of the examination of Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on HIV/AIDS and introduction of changes and amendments to the document. On March 2014, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan has signed the updated Law of the Republic of Tajikistan to fight HIV/AIDS. The current Law reflects those gaps outlined in the previous Law. Tajikistan's updated law removes mandatory HIV testing for all foreigners, foreign missions, refugees and stateless people. With these changes, all HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence are eliminated in Tajikistan. Awareness raising campaigns on HIV/AIDS (AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day, Youth Day, AIDS Day) are conducted where more than 10 000 IEC and promo materials on prevention of HIV/AIDS were disseminated among population, especially young people.

#### IV. Project Results and Impact Summary

The project has succeeded in attaining its results and targets in 2014. 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. National strategies for HIV/AIDS are revised in line with mid-term review's recommendations and budgeted action plan is developed for 2014-2016 period.</i>	90%
<i>1.2. National AIDS Report (UNGASS) for 2014 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>1.3. Results of NASA 2014 are available and widely used by Government for future budgeting and planning of National AIDS Programme.</i>	100%
<i>1.4. Updated national strategy for TB/HIV is widely introduced in the country and key stakeholders are using the strategy in their TB/HIV activities.</i>	100%
<i>1.5. Comprehensive country concept note developed and submitted to the GFATM to obtain new funds for HIV/AIDS program within the framework of the New Funding Model</i>	90%
<i>1.6. Capacity of National AIDS Center on managing human resources and sub-recipients are improved through introduction of appropriate normative documentation and SOPs.</i>	100%
<i>2.1. There are evidences of improved national capacity of decision-makers and</i>	90%

<i>experts from Government and CSOs to overcome barriers of stigma and protect human rights of PLHIV.</i>	
<i>2.2. HIV related gender issues are mainstreamed into support activities of UN and gender-sensitive activities are actively promoted among other stakeholders.</i>	90%
<i>2.3. At least three CSOs receiving micro-grants represented needs of PLHIV and Women LHIV and strengthened their networks at national levels by 2014.</i>	100%
<i>2.4. At least 20,000 IEC 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, IOM, ILO, WFP) on routine base by the end of 2014 with both national and field staff reached.</i>	90%
<i>3.2. At least three learning and communication events arranged and focused on safe behaviour, S&amp;D and HIV issues at the workplace.</i>	100%

## **V. Implementation Strategy Review**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

UN JAP project implemented the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process, through quarterly reports, monitoring visits and working meetings with national stakeholders (SCOs). 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**

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. In 2014 UN JAP assisted in advocacy for funding; provided support to programs implemented by the government and NGO partners; promoted 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. In particular, the contribution covers provision of technical expertise, design and delivery of care and prevention services, and capacity building of national partners. Project worked for facilitating networking and support for PLHIV; identifying strategies to increase the well-being of all people infected or affected by HIV by promoting positive living, self reliance and reduction of infection through education (positive prevention, treatment literacy, HIV prevention, condom distribution), prevention and care programs. Support 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.

### **Communication Strategy - Awareness raising campaign**

UN JAP integrates 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 to the government partners in policy development issues, sustainability planning, coordination, monitoring, and programme implementation. The capacity of National AIDS Center on managing human resources and sub-recipients are improved through introduction of appropriate normative documentation and SOPs.



## 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
<b>Financial</b>	
	Resources for the implementation of the project activities for 2014 are mobilized in the framework of UN JAP project. The consultancy works and activities on HIV issues conducted in according to project's AWP for 2014.
<b>Operational</b>	
	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.
<b>Organizational</b>	
	A series of meetings of UN Theme Group and UN Joint HIV team organized to discuss the progress of joint technical support on HIV/AIDS in the country and action plans developed for further implementation of the activities.
<b>Political</b>	
	UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS introduced the changes and amendments to the Law on HIV/AIDS of the Republic of Tajikistan. The current Law reflects those gaps outlined in the previous Law. Tajikistan's updated law removes mandatory HIV testing for all foreigners, foreign missions, refugees and stateless people and other issues of protection of human rights of the vulnerable groups of population.
<b>Security</b>	
	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.
<b>Environmental</b>	
	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 in society.

## Project issues and actions

In 2014, 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.	The normative documents and SOPs for HR Management, Sub-recipient and contract management in the NC AIDS developed. The existing system on HR, SR and Contract management, including rapid assessment of needs, development of different standard operation procedures (SOPs), management tools, job aids and templates strengthened. The guidance on HR management in line with the generally accepted national and international standards, as well as the requirements of the donors developed; personnel action forms, basic HR records forms, including interview forms, applications forms, vacancies announcements, generic job descriptions, employment issues, form of labor agreements for the employees, position profiles, personnel evaluation forms developed;
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 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. On 1 <sup>st</sup> of March 2014 the Regional launch of the very first International Day-Zero discrimination Day conducted in Tajikistan. Information materials with Zero Discrimination Day messages were disseminated among students at city colleges.
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 project initiated to support the SCOs working with PLHIV and networks of women LHIV for their capacity building. The preliminary meetings conducted to representatives of PLHIV and networks of PLHIV in order to get their ideas and initiatives for their capacity building. UN JAP received the project proposal from the side of the PO “Tajikistan Network of Women Living with HIV”. The project proposal focused to the issues of access of people living with HIV to the justice. In the framework of the project, the network developed the referral mechanism for PLHIV on the places, using the existing resources, to solve the actual problems of PLHIV at the local level. The project is planned to continue this initiative in 2015.

## **VII. Detailed project activities review**

**National strategies for HIV/AIDS are revised in line with mid-term review's recommendations and budgeted action plan is developed for 2014-2016 period.**

On February 2014, in the framework of UN JAP project 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 MoH 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 and sent to local and international partners. This target is completed.

**National AIDS Report (UNGASS) for 2014 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 project supported NC AIDS to develop the National AIDS Report (UNGASS) for 2014 through transparent process. Information for Country AIDS Progress Report 2014 collected, introduced and timely submitted to UN GS for further consideration. This target is completed.

**Results of NASA 2014 are available and widely used by Government for future budgeting and planning of National AIDS Programme.**

UN JAP project supported AIDS Centre to conduct the National AIDS Spending Assessment for 2014-2015. NASA conducted and all data collected, the information is used by all partners.

**Updated national strategy for TB/HIV is widely introduced in the country and key stakeholders are using the strategy in their TB/HIV activities.**

Through the support of UN JAP the updated national strategy for TB/HIV prepared and provided to UN JAP to cover the translation of the document and its production. In the third quarter the document was translated, published and widely introduced in the country. The key stakeholders have been using the strategy in their TB/HIV activities.

**Comprehensive country concept note developed and submitted to the GFATM to obtain new funds for HIV/AIDS program within the framework of the New Funding Model.**

The international consultant was hired to complete the country concept note from UNDP HQ. The comprehensive country concept note developed and now the document is in the process of finalization and approval.

**Capacity of National AIDS Center on managing human resources and sub-recipients are improved through introduction of appropriate normative documentation and SOPs.**

In the framework of UN JAP project the TOR for selecting of the National Consultant on developing of normative documents and SOPs for HR Management, Sub-recipient and contract management in the NC AIDS was developed and the vacancy was announced to select the consultant. The main purpose of the consultancy was to establish and/or strengthen the existing

system on HR, SR and Contract management, including rapid assessment of needs, development of different standard operation procedures (SOPs), management tools, job aids and templates. In the course of the works the guidance on HR management in line with the generally accepted national and international standards, as well as the requirements of the donors developed; personnel action forms, basic HR records forms, including interview forms, applications forms, vacancies announcements, generic job descriptions, employment issues, form of labor agreements for the employees, position profiles, personnel evaluation forms developed; key SRM templates and forms, including: call for proposals, technical proposal and financial proposal forms, proposal evaluation sheets, SR performance appraisal forms, standard minutes for SR selection, standard SR agreement forms, standard report templates developed and educational trainings for Centers' staff on sub-recipient and contract management conducted.

**There are evidences of improved national capacity of decision-makers and experts from Government and CSOs to overcome barriers of stigma and protect human rights of PLHIV.**

a) Through the support of UN JAP, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan has signed the updated Law of the Republic of Tajikistan to fight HIV/AIDS in March 2014. The updated Law reflects those gaps which were visible in the previous Law. Tajikistan's updated law removes mandatory HIV testing for all foreigners, foreign missions, refugees and stateless people. With these changes, all HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence are eliminated in Tajikistan. In addition, the updated law reflects the issues concerning to free of charge formula milk for babies born to mothers with HIV; the conceptions of vulnerable and high-risk groups; the anonymity and confidentiality are indicated; such important definitions like stigma, discrimination and others were included to the fundamental concepts of the updated Law. UN JAP project in cooperation of other partners will strive for further advocating of the updated law to overcome barriers of stigma and protect human rights of PLHIV.

b) In the beginning of third quarter, UN JAP received the financial support from the UNDP Regional Centre for Europe and CIS. The resources provided to implement activities directed to raise awareness of the national partners on legal issues associated with HIV/AIDS and harm reduction programme among vulnerable groups of population. Upon getting confirmation from



the Ministry of Health, the Letter of Agreement was developed and co-signed between officials of the United Nations Development Programme and officials of National Monitoring and Drug Prevention Centre of the Republic of Tajikistan. In accordance to the agreement, the National Monitoring and Drug Prevention Centre conducted the review of the national legal acts (laws, concepts, policies, guidelines, protocols and other relevant documents) in the field of the rights and duties of PLHIV and key populations at higher risk of HIV infection. Conducted t 10 educational sessions on the rights and responsibilities of people living with HIV and key populations at greater risk of HIV infection for the members of the mahallas, hukumats of the regions, jamoats, civil society organizations, PLHIV, stakeholders in all regions of the country, in particular, Dushanbe, Districts of Republican Subordination, Khatlon, Sughd and GBAO.

Also, on November 25, 2014 the National Monitoring and Drug Prevention Centre of the Republic of Tajikistan conducted the round table on “Joint engagement of decision and policy makers, key HIV programme stakeholders Law enforcement and representatives of key populations at higher risk of HIV on human rights and the law; as well as obligations of individuals and prevention the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Tajikistan”. Almost 30 participants from law enforcement agencies, decision and policy makers, international organizations and NGOs took part at the event. The event was opened by Mr. Jafarov N.D., the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan who noted about the significance of this event.



In the course of the event, the presentations regarding HIV and stigma, the rights of PLHIV and others were made. Abasova D. M. the specialist from the Republican Centre for HIV Prevention and Control in her presentation: "Existing and ongoing activities, goals and objectives of the programs to combat HIV/AIDS in the country and their connection with the national policies and laws to combat HIV/AIDS" has mentioned about existing stigma and discrimination by law enforcement officials in relation to vulnerable groups especially PLHIV. Participants have

mentioned that stigma and discrimination against PLHIV in the country can enhance the dissemination of HIV among people. At the end of the round table the participants agreed that ongoing stigma in society about HIV or about those at risk of infection continues to prevent too many from seeking testing or treatment and combating stigma is critical to stemming the spread of HIV in Tajikistan. Also it was mentioned that stigma keeps people from taking the action needed to protect themselves and others from this disease. For those at risk of infection, stigma can make it more difficult to use condoms and seek HIV testing. Participants have mentioned that strong cooperation between decision and policy makers, key HIV programme stakeholders, law enforcement and representatives of key populations are needed to overcome stigma and discrimination against PLHIV and stop the spread of HIV in the country.

**HIV related gender issues are mainstreamed into support activities of UN and gender-sensitive activities are actively promoted among other stakeholders.**

Through the support of UN JAP the national consultant representing the National Institution Center of Self-actualization of Women in Dushanbe City was selected to evaluate the existing problems concerning to observance of the rights of PLHIV, and the gender aspect which are recognized by the country. The main objective of the advisory activities was to determine the existing difficulties connected to realization of the rights of PLHIV, which are recognized by the country and the gender aspect during observance of the rights of PLHIV. As a result of the consultancy work the brief review of the legislation of the RT and normative legal acts related to PLHIV, protection of their rights and interests in different areas conducted by consultant. After conducting of the review, the focus-group for 12 representatives of PLHIV conducted, which assisted to find out the issues faced by PLHIV. Following the results of the consultancy work, the recommendations on the ways to improve the conditions of PLHIV in Tajikistan provided to UN JAP office. On basis of the following recommendations the further work in

different levels of the authorities (legislative and executive), also involvement of the SCOs to the improvement of the services, provided to PLHIV will be scheduled.

**At least three SCOs receiving micro-grants represented needs of PLHIV and Women LHIV and strengthened their networks at national levels by 2014.**

UN JAP project initiated to support the SCOs working with PLHIV and networks of women LHIV for their capacity building. The preliminary meetings conducted to representatives of PLHIV and networks of PLHIV in order to get their ideas and initiatives for their capacity building. UN JAP received the project proposal from the side of the PO “Tajikistan Network of Women Living with HIV”. The project proposal focused to the issues of access of people living with HIV to the justice. In the framework of the project, the network developed the referral mechanism for PLHIV on the places, using the existing resources, to solve the actual problems of PLHIV at the local level. The project is planned to continue this initiative in 2015.

**At least 20,000 IEC materials on HIV prevention and reducing stigma and discrimination towards PLWH developed and distributed at country level.**



a) On 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2014 the Regional launch of the very first International Day-Zero discrimination Day, through support of UNAIDS project was conducted in Tajikistan. During official celebration of the event, in UN Country Office in Tajikistan, heads of international and local organizations, representatives of UN agencies, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, legal organizations, PLHIV were discussed the issues on how to overcome stigma and discrimination associated with

HIV/AIDS which exists in all parts of the world. Also, presentations on the results of the National Researches on forms of S&D and main issues of PLHIV associated with these issues sounded. Particularly it was mentioned that mass media plays an important role for correct coverage of this issues and influence to society. During nonofficial part of Zero Discrimination Day celebration, interesting events with involvement of youth and young sportsmen with slogan “Sport against Discrimination” were conducted. Information materials with Zero Discrimination Day messages were disseminated among students at city colleges.

b) On May 23, 2014, UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) in Tajikistan, in cooperation with Committee on Youth, Sports and Tourism of Sino district celebrated the Youth Day. Series of events on the occasion of the Youth Day were conducted in the capital park named after A. Rudaki. During the event, different programmes dedicated to Youth Day were organized on the part of city colleagues’ students. The messages on HIV/AIDS prevention and importance of healthy lifestyle among youth were sounded during this event.



The programme consisted of several show performances with the involvement of students and youth. It has to be mentioned that around 5000 information, education and communication

materials on HIV/AIDS prevention were disseminated among young people, during realization of this event.

c) 1 December 2014, UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF), in cooperation with Committee on Youth, Sports and Tourism of Sino district celebrated the World AIDS Day 2014 under the slogan "Close the gap this World AIDS Day". 1 December 2014, under the World AIDS Day slogan "Close the Gap", 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 Committee on Youth, Sports and Tourism of Sino district in three main city streets (I. Somoni, A. Rudaki, M. Tursunzoda), around 5 000 IEC materials on HIV/AIDS prevention were disseminated among population, with assistance of 30 volunteers, generally young people

**UN Care Programme is implemented at least in six UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, IOM, ILO, WFP) on routine base by the end of 2014 with both national and field staff reached.**

UN JAP project initiated the development of new format of promotion materials on UN Cares 10 minimum standards, which disseminated among UN staff. Also, the booklet "Living in a world with HIV" published and disseminated among UN Agencies.

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



a) October 30, 2014 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) the round table for more than 35 Mass Media representatives of the country on "HIV infection: the importance of objective, accurate and politically correct media coverage" conducted. The event was organized through the initiative of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with United Nations Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF), through the financial support of UNDP

Regional Centre for Europe and CIS. The main purpose of the round table was to familiarize the participants of the event with manual for the journalists "HIV infection: media coverage", developed by the group of local authors, representing the National AIDS Center in Tajikistan and the Tajik State Medical University. During the event, all participant got information on the principles of HIV infection (prevention, diagnosis, treatment) and the issues of HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination. The representatives of SCOs, who also participated in the round table, answered to journalists' questions regarding their work with key high-risk groups and people living with HIV. Also, participants were introduced with epidemiological situation on HIV in the country and updated Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Combating HIV and AIDS". The



updated law reflects the issues regarding protection of the rights and freedoms of people, as a basis of the HIV prevention activities. During the event, it was mentioned that Mass Media play an important part in prevention of the HIV infection in the country. It is known that correct, exact and regular coverage of the topic “HIV infection” in Mass Media contributes to improvement of effectiveness of realized prevention programmes and reducing stigma and discrimination in society towards people living with HIV and AIDS.

The participants of the round table have mentioned that The Media Channels of the country characterized by a poor commitment of the coverage of HIV infection issues. Also it was emphasized, that strengthening the partnership among Mass Media and HIV service state and public organizations is a key component to successful fight against HIV infection. According to the programme of the round table, the participants of the event had a study visit to the State Institution “the National AIDS Center in Tajikistan”, where could deal with leading specialists of this medical institution and identified the topics for their future broadcasts on HIV issues. Upon completing of the event, all participants received the Manual for the journalists: “HIV infection: media coverage” and expressed their confidence that this Manual will serve as a stimulus for the development and coverage of helpful and effective materials on this topic.



**b)** UN JAP project announced the national Media Contest, which aims to raise awareness among local population and decision makers on the problems faced by people living with HIV (PLHIV) and other people at risk, including key population, most at risk adolescent (MARA), women and girls. Several UN agencies, international and national partners decided to unite efforts for conducting this Media Contest which will motivate journalists working for print, electronic and digital media as well as active bloggers to cover the

above mentioned issues. The following categories of journalists working for national and regional mass media invited to participate: Journalists/contributors working for print mass media (newspapers, magazines); Journalists/contributors working for digital mass media (TV, radio stations); Journalists/contributors working electronic mass media (web-sites, blogs, etc.). About 40 mass media materials (newspaper articles, radio and TV program) submitted to the contest. From all works provided the jury selected 9 winners and best works in 3 nominations (1. best newspaper article – 1, 2, 3 places 2. Best Radio programme 1, 2, 3 places and 3. Best TV programme 1, 2, 3 places). The official awarding ceremony of journalists of the National Media Contest on Raising Awareness of general population and decision makers on Tolerance promotion and Stigma and Discrimination Reduction took place in Dushanbe on 16 December, 2014. Such positive initiatives will be continued by the organizing partners in the future as well.



## **VIII. Implementation challenges**

During the implementation of the project in 2014, several challenges were encountered such as:

One of the complicated issues in the country is high mortality rate among PLHIV, enrolled by ART program. It can be explained by late detection of HIV infection and, accordingly, delayed prescription of ART. In addition, analysis of causes of death among PLWHA has shown that TB is one of the leading causes of death. It is evidence of the pending referral of PLHIV in health facilities, lack of awareness of available HIV treatment services and inadequate integration of HIV prevention and treatment services in the general health system. The issues concerning the response and prevention of HIV/AIDS, protection of human rights, HIV/AIDS infected are very critical issues.

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.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan highly recognizes the HIV problem and its impacts at high political level. 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 next steps**

### **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 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 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.

## **Recommendations**

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

Path forwards on improvement the national experts, governmental institutions' members and CSOs, employers, mass media to address issues of stigma and discrimination and promote human rights. Support the networks of Women LHIV and PLHIV at national levels. Further development and production of IEC materials on HIV prevention and reducing of stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV. Identify effective interventions to reduce stigma and discrimination particularly in health settings and include them in the further plans as one of the priorities to improve access of key populations and vulnerable groups to HIV services.

It is important to provide support to increase national capacity to reduce stigma and discrimination. To improve the level of tolerance towards people living with HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan through integration of the issues on HIV related stigma and discrimination into national campaigns on WAD, protection of human rights and stopping VAW.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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 01.01.2014 – 31.12.2014<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Resources</b>			
<b>DONOR NAME</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		<b>CONTRIBUTIO N BALANCE</b>
	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Received</b>	
UNDP	129,324	129,324	
UNAIDS	61,050	61,050	-
UNICEF	33,500	33,500	-
UNFPA	27,000	27,000	-
UNDP Reg.Fund	40,000	40,000	8,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>290,874</b>	<b>290,874</b>	<b>8,000</b>

**Table 2: Funding status as of 31.12.2014**

\*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.

<sup>1</sup>Please 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.

<sup>2</sup>The "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, 2014**

<b>Total DONOR I -UNDP</b>		<b>129,324</b>	<b>128,252</b>	<b>1,072</b>
Activity 1	Project Management			
Activity 1	Joint Action for HIV			
Activity 2	High Level Advocacy			
GMS 7% (see agreement)				0
<b>Subtotal DONOR II- UNDP Reg.Fund</b>		<b>40,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>169,324</b>	<b>160,252</b>	<b>9,072</b>

### 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 UNDPCO via email, please specify whether or not the draft includes GMS. If not, UNDPCO 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.