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ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2016

United Nations Development Programme

Tajikistan

United Nations Joint HIV Advocacy Project

01-Jan-2016 – 31-Dec-2016



Project ID: 00074772

Duration: Jan 2016 – Dec 2016 year

Component (CPAP): HIV/AIDS

Total Budget 2016: UNDP- 120,000 USD

Total Expense 2016: 119,710 USD

Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:
(UNDP,UNAIDS,UNFPA,UNICEF, MoHSPP, TNU,NCC,MoJ)

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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

MoHSPP 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

TNU- Tajik National University

PWD-People with disabilities

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 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.

In 2016, participating UN agencies¹ of the UN JAP jointly financed some activities that do not necessarily fall under a single agency's mandate or area of technical expertise and thus benefit from collective efforts. These activities included specific researches for evidence creation and evidence-based policy advocacy, communication in one voice, mainstreaming human rights, social work for HIV and gender in HIV programming, as well as technical assistance to the government in strategy development, monitoring, reporting, and ensuring financial sustainability for national AIDS programme. UNAIDS and UNDP provided support in development of the Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (GARPR), assisted in development of methodological guidance for the participatory seminars and workshops for social workers and students from the department on social work in the Tajikistan National University in the context of HIV/AIDS and methods of working with vulnerable groups. 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.

In 2016, through the support of the international consultant from UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and in close cooperation with MoHSPP, UNICEF and EU the round table, where the outcomes of the functional review of the Social Assistance at Home Units (SAHU) in Tajikistan presented. It was mentioned that the report examines the role and functions of Social Assistance at Home Units (SAHU) and their contribution to social service delivery as set in legislation and policies framing national social protection system. The analysis in the report was based on literature and legislation review, structured interviews with decision makers in MoHSPP, focus groups discussions with management and staff of six SAHUs and interviews with selected development partners.

Through increased collaboration with civil society and joint efforts with other UN agencies as part of the "Delivering as One" approach, assistance provided to the Government to address the issues of discrimination of the rights of PLHIV and accelerate holistic reforms for social protection. UN JAP in cooperation with UNICEF assisted to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan to increase the quality and availability of disaggregated data and statistical information to inform policy decisions targeting the most vulnerable. Civil society organizations supported to participate in policy discussions so that they are part of the solutions to address stigma and discrimination against population facing

¹ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3417:board-meeting-of-united-nations-joint-advocacy-project-on-hiv-aids-in-tajikistan&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

HIV/AIDS. 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. Project Results and Impact Summary

The project has succeeded in attaining its results and targets in 2016. 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. Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (GARPR) 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>1.2. Results of NASA for 2014-2015 are available and widely used by Government for future budgeting and planning of National AIDS Programme.</i>	50%
<i>1.3. Increased of local domestic budget allocation from overall Government health budget for HIV response by 20-30% and costing of HIV key interventions completed and agreed with Government.</i>	100%
<i>2.1. There are evidences of improved national capacity of decision-makers and experts from Government and CSOs to overcome barriers of stigma and discrimination and protect the rights of PLHIV and PWD.</i>	100%
<i>2.2. At least 100 social work students and CSO practitioners have got knowledge to work with vulnerable groups of population in the context of HIV/AIDS and local Authority departments are introduced to the minimum standards of social work and case management process with vulnerable population such as PLHIV and PWD.</i>	100%
<i>2.3. The Capacity Development and Transition Plan is updated as part of</i>	100%

<i>UNDP's interim PR mandate to capacitate national entities to take on the leadership and management of Global Fund programs.</i>	
<i>3.1. Policy and institutional reforms brought in compliance with the Social Protection Floor and capacities of national actor increased in data collection and access to services targeting the most vulnerable and other at-risk groups disaggregated by sex.</i>	100%
<i>3.2. Civil society enabled to engage in policy level discussions addressing discrimination, gender based violence and emerging issues of inequality.</i>	90%

IV. 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 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 2016 UN JAP 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. Through increased collaboration with civil society and joint efforts with other UN agencies as part of the “Delivering as One” approach, UN JAP in close collaboration with UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA assisted the Government to address the issues of discrimination of the rights of PLHIV and accelerated holistic reforms for social protection. UN JAP, jointly with UNICEF, assisted to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan to increase the quality and availability of disaggregated data and statistical information to inform policy decisions targeting the most vulnerable. UN JAP also supported the national and local actors to increase gender responsiveness of social protection measures.

Communication Strategy - Awareness raising campaign

In 2016 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 Day² and “10 days of Human Rights”. Support provided and cooperation strengthened with the local Mass Media to highlight HIV issues and expanding community mobilization 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 was strengthened.

National ownership and sustainability

UN JAP in close cooperation with Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoF) contributed to finalization of National HIV Trust Fund (national out of budget fund) financing mechanisms (earmarked taxes, special allocation from national budget etc.) and its realization into practices, aimed to further elevation of funding sources for National HIV programme interventions. Technical assistance provided to the National AIDS center in analysis of data base, disaggregating data sources by sex, by mode of transmission, regional level analysis and others.

² http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3240:celebrate-individuality-and-stand-out-on-zero-discrimination-day&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

V. Project issues and actions

In 2016, 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 2016, UN JAP in close cooperation with MoF contributed to finalization of National HIV trust fund (national out of budget fund) financing mechanisms (earmarked taxes, special allocation from national budget etc.) and its realization into practices, aimed to further elevation of funding sources for National HIV programme interventions. Technical assistance provided to the National AIDS centre in analysis of data base, disaggregating data sources by sex, by mode of transmission, regional level analysis and others.
Negative attitude of the society towards vulnerable groups PLHIV causes difficulties for the active participation of vulnerable groups in the national response.	In 2016, 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	In 2016, 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 Dushanbe city, RRS and Khatlon Region. As a result of this initiative 2 CSOs were selected to implement the information sessions in cities and regions of the country.

VI. Detailed project activities review

Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (GARPR) developed through transparent process and timely submitted by the Government to UN GS and results are widely used for strategic planning and resource mobilization.

This target is achieved. In the framework of UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV and AIDS the NC AIDS supported to develop the Global AIDS Response Progress Report (GARP Report) through transparent process. Information for GARP Report collected, introduced and timely submitted to UN GS for further consideration. The partnership forum conducted in the first quarter of 2016, where national stakeholders discussed the issues regarding developing and finalization of the report.

Results of NASA for 2014-2015 are available and widely used by Government for future budgeting and planning of National AIDS Programme.

Due to the budget cutting and shortage of funds the National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA) was not supported and there were no any resources available for the Analysis in 2016. Realization of the study is scheduled for 2017.

Increased of local domestic budget allocation from overall Government health budget for HIV response by 20-30% and costing of HIV key interventions completed and agreed with Government.

This target is achieved. Under UN JAP and in close cooperation with UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub the national consultant to conduct the HIV analysis of the legislation and other normative documents and models to endorse new structures under the Capacity Building and Transition Plan recruited. Following tasks in accordance with the approved TOR were fulfilled by the consultant: finalized concept note, working modalities with local CSOs and agenda of workshops and meetings of CSOs in the field of HIV and human rights, stigma and discrimination and awareness raising activities of law enforcement authorities, community members and key risk group population; presented preliminarily results of costing of long term national program in the NAC initiated meeting on discussion of Government strategies and interventions; budgeting and cost estimation provided to final draft of National Programme action plan for 2016-2020; inputs provided to finalization of joint UN team letter on addressing mandatory premarital testing which should be submitted to Government from RCO; inputs provided to finalization of the country presentation in Regional stock Taking meeting- HIV funding priorities in close coordination with NCC and Ministry of Finance; successfully facilitated and conducted Round table meeting devoted to the current status of Social contracting and identified way forward to translate all existing norms and regulation into practices in the field of HIV prevention and care. Participants from Government institutions, CSOs, UN agencies and other development partners such as EU actively participated and contributed to drafting of road map.

In close cooperation with MoF support provided for finalization of National HIV trust fund (national out of budget fund) financing mechanisms (earmarked taxes, special allocation from national budget etc) and its realization into practices, aimed to further elevation of funding sources for National HIV programme interventions; technical assistance provided to the National AIDS centre in analysis of data base, disaggregating data sources by sex, by mode of transmission, regional level analysis and others.

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

- ❖ 25 October 2016, UN JAP, through technical support of the National Monitoring and Drug Prevention Centre ³of the Republic of Tajikistan conducted one-day round table discussion on “Joint engagement of decision makers, key HIV programme stakeholders and law enforcement on observance of the rights of vulnerable groups of population in regards to HIV and AIDS in the Republic of Tajikistan”. The main purpose of the round table was to familiarize the law enforcement agencies of the country to the realization process of programmes on HIV and AIDS fight in the country and the peculiarity of work with key groups of population, in other words, high risk groups for HIV infection, the issues of advocating for and provision of technical support to brake barriers for expanding access of vulnerable population to social and judicial services and promote their human rights. Almost 30 participants from law enforcement agencies, decision and policy makers, international organizations and CSOs took part at the event. 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. One of the main outcomes of the National Round Table sessions will be development of the Resolution derived from the presentations, discussions, proposals and observations of the participants. The document claims and guides for further struggling with all forms of discrimination against vulnerable groups of population.

- ❖ In the framework of UN JAP and co-sponsors the national consultant to conduct the HIV analysis of the legislation and other normative documents and models to endorse new structures under the Capacity Building and Transition Plan recruited. Following the consultancy work the concept note, working modalities with local CSOs and agenda of workshops and meetings of CSOs in the field of HIV and human rights, stigma and discrimination and awareness raising activities of law enforcement authorities, community members and key risk group population finalized; preliminarily results of costing of long term national program in the NAC initiated meeting on discussion of Government strategies and interventions presented; the budgeting and cost estimation to final draft of National Programme action plan for 2016-2020 provided; inputs provided to finalization of joint UN team letter on addressing mandatory premarital testing which should be submitted to Government from RCO; inputs provided to finalization of the country presentation in Regional stock Taking meeting- HIV funding priorities in close coordination with NCC and Ministry of Finance.

At least 100 social work students and CSO practitioners have got knowledge to work with vulnerable groups of population in the context of HIV/AIDS and local Authority departments are introduced to the minimum standards of social work and case management process with vulnerable population such as PLHIV and PWD.

³ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4218:round-table-discussion-on-legal-issues-facing-people-living-with-hiv-aids-and-other-vulnerable-groups-4218&catid=79:news&Itemid=521



26 August 2016, UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS and with technical support from the Social Work Department of the Tajik National University (TNU) conducted a National Round Table⁴ to present the first study course for students of the Social Work department of the TNU. The Round Table aimed at presenting and discussing the recently established course and its syllabus on social work practice with people affected by HIV and AIDS introduced by professors of the TNU. It was mentioned that the following program will be used by students and

professors of social work department during the theory and practical courses. Around 30 representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoHSPP), National Coordination Committee to combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan (NCC), Tajik National University, international organizations, local CSOs and Mass Media took part in the round table. It was mentioned that course syllabus and training program developed by Tajik National University in cooperation with MoHSPP and SCOs will assist young specialists/students of social work department to get familiar with the preventive services and rights of PLHIV. During presentations from the Department of Social Work of the TNU, the participants of the Round Table have got familiar with theoretical content of the training course and social work syllabus which consists of 18 topics. It was mentioned that in the curriculum of the department, this elective course will be called “Social Work for People living with HIV” and to be studied from 2017.

- ❖ 13 July 2016, UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS with technical support from the National Association of Social Workers “Faroshturuk”⁵ conducted a round table discussion in Tajikistan. This round table presented the first methodological guidelines for social workers and health care professionals on case management technology in social work activities with vulnerable groups. Round table aimed at presentation of the results of the trainings conducted in Dushanbe, Republican Subordination districts, Khatlon and Sughd Regions from May to August 2016, which assisted on improving the quality of services through integration of social work case management techniques in the functions of CSO service providers working with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) and presentation of



⁴ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3956:for-the-first-time-the-social-work-course-for-students-of-tajik-national-university-under-the-title-social-work-practice-with-people-affected-by-hiv-and-aids-presented-in-dushanbe&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

⁵ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3789:the-guidelines-for-social-workers-and-health-care-professionals-on-case-management-technology-to-work-with-people-living-with-hiv-presented-in-dushanbe&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

the draft of the methodological guidelines for social workers and health care professional on case management technology. Around 20 representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoHSPP), National Coordination Committee to combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan (NCC), Republican AIDS Center, Tajik National University, international organizations and local CSOs took part in the round table. It was mentioned that the methodical guidelines are designed for social workers and public service organizations that offer social services directly to vulnerable groups of the population. The guidelines can also be used by staff and students of higher education institutions dealing with social work during the practical trainings in the field of "social work" and "social services". It is commonly agreed that methodical Guidelines will be provided to the Department of Social Work under Tajik National University (TNU) to be used for further development of the academic program "Social work with people living with HIV".

The Capacity Development and Transition Plan updated as part of UNDP's interim PR mandate to capacitate national entities to take on the leadership and management of Global Fund programs.

In 2016, the international expert invited to update the Capacity Development and Transition Plan and the document endorsed by the MoHSPP of RT. The overall objective of the consultancy was to provide capacity development outreach support to UNDP in Tajikistan where UNDP is the Interim PR for Global Fund HIV grant under the NFM.

Another goal of the consultancy was to ensure that Tajikistan had a plan that supported the transition of the HIV grant, thus focusing on the continuation of the move towards greater national management and ownership of Global Fund grant implementation. Hence the new Capacity Development Transition Plan 2016-2017 focuses on all areas critical to the effective implementation of national responses, in particular those areas required for a new PR(s) leading on implementing the HIV Global Fund grant.

Discussions held at the beginning of 2016 aimed at planning of transition and enhancing capacity for managing the HIV/AIDS grant. Discussions outlined the objectives and measurable milestones in all areas that are crucial for the effective implementation of the national HIV response during 2016-2017. In particular, these interventions focused on aspects essential for the new PR to be able to implement the Global Fund's HIV grant. Those aspects include, but not limited to, following: financial management including risk management system, procurement and supply management, monitoring and evaluation, and program management, including management of sub - recipients.

MoHSPP fully supported the strategic vision of UNDP and the Global Fund expressed within the framework of the New Funding Model. One of the key features of NFM was to ensure that country moves to a new level, i.e. independently manage both internal and external (donor) resources. Whereas, the Republic of Tajikistan made additional efforts to enhance country's capacity in the field of project management, as well as to achieve comprehensive and sustainable capacity for health systems strengthening.

Policy and institutional reforms brought in compliance with the Social Protection Floor and capacities of national actor increased in data collection and access to services targeting the most vulnerable and other at-risk groups disaggregated by sex.



In 2016, UN JAP in close cooperation with UNICEF and EU supported Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of Tajikistan in realization of activates for provision of technical support to improve services for most vulnerable population. The Ministry conducted analysis of legal norms of the social protection and introduce amendments in the related social service departments of the sector including Social Assistance at Home Units (SAHU) regulation⁶.

UN JAP provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to improve national capacity for effective planning, monitoring and management of social protection sector reform, as well as contributing to promote the rights of vulnerable category of population to get access to existing services of the system. The main focus of UNDP technical support was directed to conducting specific studies resulting to an evidence-based policy advocacy, social protection service development and social work profession for vulnerable population using the principles of social equity based programming.

August 31 - September 2 2016, UN JAP with technical support from the Social Protection Department of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoHSPP) and Social Protection Policy Analysis Unit of MoHSPP conducted a 3-day workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation in Social Protection. The workshop aimed to enhance awareness of participants about current challenges in Social Protection in Tajikistan, strengthen their knowledge about basic concepts of evidence based policy making and M&E in social protection, promote discussions about current social protection data collection practices, existing data, possible gaps and next steps towards achieving a more coherent M&E system for social protection in the country. Around 25 representatives from the MoHSPP; Social Protection Policy Analysis Unit under the MoHSPP; Agency on Social Insurance and Pensions; State Agency on Social Protection of the Population; Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Population; State Agency on Statistics took part in the workshop.

It should be mentioned that the workshop was a first opportunity for bringing people together after the structural changes happened within the Social Protection governance system in 2013. At the end of the workshop, participants enhanced their knowledge on the theories about social protection, monitoring and evaluation and the results based management approach. In addition to the theories that were presented and discussed, workshop participants were actively engaged in number of interactive sessions. Plenary and small group discussions enabled participants to brainstorm around major social protection M&E issues, indicators and results for selected social protection programmatic interventions and the strong and weak sides of the current social protection M&E activities.

⁶ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3987:monitoring-and-evaluation-are-important-tools-to-improve-the-quality-of-social-protection-programmes&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

Representatives of different institutions engaged in social protection programme implementation and monitoring expressed their high-level satisfaction with the workshop and its content and suggested further continuation of the capacity building and information exchange programmes.

Transforming the social assistance at home units is contribution to closure of gaps in social service provision in the Republic of Tajikistan

November 3 2016, UN JAP with technical support from the Social Protection Department of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoHSPP) and Social Protection Policy Analysis Unit of MoHSPP conducted a round table⁷, where the outcomes of the functional review of the Social Assistance at Home Units (SAHU) in Tajikistan was presented. Around 25 representatives from the MoHSPP, Social Protection Policy Analysis Unit under the MoHSPP, State Agency on Social Protection of the Population, National and International Organizations, Experts and Donors took part at the event.



The main purpose of the event was to strengthen the capacity of SAHUs and capacity building of their employees and evaluation of other institutions engaged in social protection. This round table served as an important step towards an effective assessment of resources required, barriers to be anticipated, amongst other issues. It was mentioned that the report examines the role and functions of Social Assistance at Home Units (SAHU) and their contribution to social service delivery as set in legislation and policies framing national social protection system. Changed legal and policy context requires institutional capacity and human resources with relevant professional skills to deliver new functions. Thus, MoHSPP initiated, in cooperation with development partners, a number of interventions to expand capacities of existing structures, to create new ones and to provide methodological guidance for service providers. One of the activities building into these efforts was mentioned the assessment of the functions of SAHUs with a view to propose options for their transformation into providers of holistic and integrated social services at the local level for individuals, families and groups facing diverse social risks. The analysis mentioned in the report are based on literature and legislation review, structured interviews with decision makers in MoHSPP, focus groups discussions with management and staff of six SAHUs and interviews with selected development partners. It should be mentioned that by the end of the meeting representatives of different institutions engaged in social protection programme design and implementation expressed their high-level satisfaction with the round table and its content and suggested to establish a working group under MoHSPP which will engage national and international partners to select the best option for its further piloting and implementation in the country.

⁷ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4244:transforming-social-assistance-at-home-units-is-contribution-to-closure-of-gaps-in-social-service-provision-in-the-republic-of-tajikistan&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

Study Tour to Croatia within signed UNJAP Annual Work Plan of UNDP with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection



November 2016, taking into account the commitment of the Government in leading the reform of the social protection sector at the benefits of vulnerable population in collaboration with UN Agencies, UNDP Country Office and UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub proposed a high level delegation from Tajikistan undertake a study visit to Croatia. The visit which conducted 21-27 November 2016 and was supported through pooled and

parallel funding of UNDP, UNICEF, EU gave opportunity to Tajikistan officials to examine the social protection system of recently developed country focusing on the established low cost services to people with disabilities, people living with HIV, people who inject drugs, sex workers etc.

Croatia had a number of innovative and successful community social work schemes that could be transferable to Tajikistan. Therefore, the delegation consisting from Head of Social Protection Department of the MHSPP, Social Protection Agency representatives, Presidential Office and international organizations visited relevant Ministries and organisations operating services to vulnerable population (Governmental and non-governmental) and learned on the experience related to the following topics: Social work schemes to people living with HIV and those at risk of HIV (PWID, SW, MSM); Family Group Conferencing to manage the problems of families in poverty; Mentoring schemes addressing the families in difficult circumstances; Youth Inclusion Programmes (voluntary programme offered to young people at risk); Social Assistance schemes under the social welfare system of the country; Social allowances/payment schemes provided to vulnerable families; Procurement scheme for purchasing social services from NGOs; Other prevention, inclusive, protective and promotive initiatives for PWD and PLHIV; Management and implementation of social protection policies (strategy or state programme) and etc.

The tour created a common understanding of equity approaches in taking decisions for improving services or establishing low cost services. At the same time, the project site visits in Croatia visualised the actual services provided to vulnerable population by governmental and non-governmental organisations which could be a basis for policy discussion on adjusting similar services in the context of Tajikistan.

As a first step after the tour, it is planned that the delegation will set up a Working Group under the framework of signed Annual Work Plans between UNDP, UN Agencies and Ministry of Health and Social Protection for 2016-17. The main goal of the WG will be to draw up proposals and schemes for reforming the currently functioning Social Assistance at Home Units (SAHU) with consideration of findings from the study tour, gaps of recently conducted SAHU functional analysis and appropriate to the situation and social protection structure of Tajikistan.

Civil society enabled to engage in policy level discussions addressing discrimination, gender based violence and emerging issues of inequality.

14 October 2016, UN JAP through technical support of civil society organization (CSO) “Association of Social Workers Faroshturuk” conducted one day workshop⁸ dedicated to 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.



Around 30 representatives of law enforcement, SCOs, outreach workers and representatives from vulnerable groups of population took part in the workshop. The following event was focused on discussion and possible solutions on strengthening the national capacity on promoting human rights and gender equality, CSOs to overcome barriers of stigma and protect human rights of PLHIV and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV and AIDS.

CSO “Faroshturuk” is one out of 2 CSOs supported by UNJAP in Tajikistan to conduct information sessions in the country. The project started its work in August 2016 until the end of November 2016. During this period of time around 400 representatives of decision - making body, law enforcement agencies, Regional AIDS Centers of the country, stakeholders, CSOs passed the information sessions and gained knowledge on above mentioned issues. In particular sessions conducted in Dushanbe, Regions of Republican Subordination and Khatlon region.

As a result of the advocacy framework the cooperation for further communication with law enforcement agencies, representatives of local authorities, Regional AIDS Centers of the country and communities e strengthened and the joint action plan to boost inter-sectoral cooperation on realization of fundamental human rights of most-at-risk populations to information and support developed.

❖ UN JAP supported the UN HIV Theme focal points meeting to discuss the issues in regard of pressures of law enforcement bodies on the local CSOs working with MSM. As an immediate action, partners agreed to conduct the high level discussion in order to inform the Head of respective UN Agencies (non-UN agencies) and UN Resident Coordinator office on this situation and organize joint monitoring visits to Sughd Region with involvement MoH, UN agencies to clarify situation, find out facts and submit a report for further actions.

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

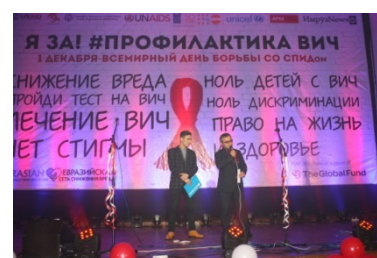
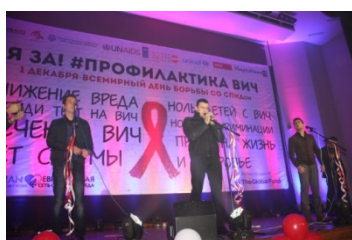
❖ In 2016, UN JAP developed and published around 10 000 copies of IEC materials on HIV prevention and reducing stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV. The information materials distributed during awareness raising activities among general population during

⁸ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4183:the-all-of-the-communities-for-creating-enabling-legal-environments-for-populations-most-at-risk-for-hiv-in-tajikistan&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

WAD campaigns, 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign, International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, Zero Discrimination Day, youth day and etc.

- ❖ December 1⁹, 2016 UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV/AIDS and Civil Society Organization “Spin Plus” in close cooperation with national and international organizations host a charity concert dedicated to the World AIDS Day 2016. 2016 World AIDS Day (WAD) theme - “Hands up for #HIV prevention” launched to emphasize the different aspects of HIV prevention and how they relate to specific groups of people, such as key populations, people living with HIV/AIDS and youth. The charity concert brought together more than 500 people, who enjoyed the performances of top Tajik hip-hop and rap artists. The participants enjoyed hip-hop and rap music concert and became the witnesses of real stories of people living with HIV, who shared their stories regarding their illness and how they managed to overcome their fair and started live a full life. The objective of this Campaign was to support World AIDS Day 2016 “hands up for #HIVprevention” initiative aimed to draw attention of public to the aspects of HIV prevention, harm reduction, testing and others. Posters and postcards have been produced with the main theme message, as well as individual messages that were printed and shared on social media. In cooperation with the Republican AIDS Center in cities and districts of Tajikistan the action dedicated to the WAD conducted. From November 15 to 29 2016 the Republican AIDS Center announced a campaign of Voluntary Counseling and Testing. During this period everyone was able to go for voluntary counseling and testing for HIV. International advocacy Campaign ¹⁰“Train of humanity” launched on November 9 at the railway station Dushanbe - Moscow. During this Campaign in total 200 train passengers were provided by information materials on HIV and AIDS prevention. 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.

The Radio Quiz in FM Radio Stations of Dushanbe 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 10 000 IEC materials on HIV/AIDS prevention disseminated among students of city colleagues of Dushanbe and other regions of the country.



⁹ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4377:hip-hop-and-rap-music-concert-in-support-of-world-aids-day-hands-up-for-hiv-prevention-held-in-dushanbe&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

¹⁰ http://www.untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4371:on-december-1-2016-the-opening-of-the-voluntary-counseling-and-rapid-hiv-testing-pointon-the-basis-of-the-representative-office-of-rpo-aids-foundation-east-west-tajikistan-in-khatlon-region-was-held-in-qurghonteppea-city&catid=79:news&Itemid=521

VII. Implementation challenges

During the implementation of the project in 2016, several challenges were encountered such as:

- Lack of social work professionals employed in SAHUs of the country;
- Low level of motivation of the employees of the state institutions;
- Limited domestic funding to support implementation of national programmes;
- 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.
- Banking crash in the country caused delay with grant implementation of the MoHSP.

VIII. 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 2016 are as follows:

- Conduct the education sessions under the developed syllabuses for social workers and students from the department on social work in the Tajik National University on HIV and work with vulnerable groups of population;
- 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;
- 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 the national ownership for the implementation of the project through regular trainings and advocacy campaigns to be conducted at national level;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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:

Fulfilling legal and policy framework in regards of SAHU. Enabling citizen's access to rights to social services, social protection and overall well-being. Filling in informational gaps on local level in terms of social risks and poverty assessment. Bringing combined services needed by users with complex needs. The role of SAHU in contributing to prevention of risks and community mobilisation.

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.

Support technical meetings 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.

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. 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.

IX. 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.¹¹ 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 01.01.2016 – 31.12.2016

Resources

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTIO N BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	120,000	120,000	
UNAIDS	-	-	-
UNICEF	-	-	-
UNFPA	-	-	-
UNDP Reg.Fund	-	-	-
TOTAL	120,000	120,000	-

Table 2: Funding status as of 31.12.2016

**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.

Financial utilization

¹¹Please 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.

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, 2016

ACTIVITIES (as per approved budget)		OPENING BALANCE For YEAR 2016	EXPENDITURES 01.01.2016-31.12.2016	BALANCE as of 31/12/2016
Activity 1	High Level Advocacy	-		0
Activity 2	Expanding national resp	30,000	29,710	290
Activity 3	Project Management	90,000	90,000	0
GMS N/A				
Total DONOR I -UNDP		120,000	119,710	290

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.