

“STRENGTHEN SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND SCALE UP PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE TO CONTAIN HIV EPIDEMIC IN THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN”

PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE



If your organization is implementing projects under more than one grant please make sure to complete a separate ‘Project Progress Update’ for each signed grant agreement.

Section A Project Information

Name of Sub-Recipient: AIDS Foundation East West – Tajikistan (*AFEW-Tajikistan*)

Grant agreement number: 00072826 TAJ-809-G07-H , 9 October 2009 (TFM)

Programme Period (*from sub-recipient grant agreement*): March 01, 2015 – September 30, 2015

Final Beneficiaries:

- 770 people living with HIV (PLHIV)
- 720 vulnerable women including sex workers

Target groups:

- 20 representatives of NGOs working with PLHIV, vulnerable women and sex workers;
- 70 police officers working in project regions;
- 1500 general population living in project regions.

Geographic Coverage Areas:

- Dushanbe;
- Qurgonteppa;
- Kulob;
- Khudjand and Isfara.

Reporting Period: March 01 – September 30, 2015 (including Quarter III, July 01 – September 30, 2015)

Section B: Quantitative Data

Results Analysis Based on Key Indicators from Performance Framework

Indicator	Reporting Period	Target	Result	% Achievement
20 representatives of NGOs, health service providers will be educated on adherence to ART, care and support	<i>March – September 2015</i>	20	22	110,00%
70 law enforcement officers are trained on stigma and discrimination of PLHIV, MARP and vulnerable women	<i>March – September 2015</i>	70	74	105,71%
770 PLHIV received at least three types of project services	<i>March – September 2015</i>	770	852	110,65%

720 vulnerable women including sex workers received at least three types of project services	March – September 2015	720	750	104,17%
80% of PLHIV passed CD ₄ and VL, diagnostic and/or treatment for TB and opportunistic infections	March – September 2015	616	649	105,36%
90% of Client Management Program participants (PLHIV and vulnerable women) who positively evaluate the quality and access to services	March – September 2015	1341	1435	107,00%
60% of vulnerable women passed HIV testing and know their own status during reporting period	March – September 2015	432	497	115,05%
1500 people from general population in project regions informed about HIV and available services for PLHIV.	March – September 2015	1500	2999	199,93%

Section C

Results Analysis Based on Key Indicators from Performance Framework

Explanation of programmatic performance:

Describe information on indicators and figures given in section B. Explain the planned versus actual results; include reasons for programmatic deviation. Explain the factors affecting these achievements.

Activity 2100. One national 2-days training on adherence to ARV treatment, care and support for staff of NGOs, counselors, outreach workers and other health and psycho-social service providers

- The 'Adherence to ARV treatment, care and support' training with participation of 22 social/outreach workers and peer consultants from 11 partner organizations was conducted on March 31 - April 1, 2015 in Dushanbe. Educational activity was provided with involvement of Republican AIDS Centre specialist and AFEW trainer. Participants were trained in accordance with purposes and principles of antiretroviral (ARV) therapy to provide qualitative counseling and adherence support for PLHIV and contribute on decreasing the rate of ART interrupts. 83,8 % of post training answers among training participants are correct.

Activity 2200. Workshops on Stigma and discrimination of PLHIV, most at risk population (MARP) and vulnerable women for 70 law enforcement officers

During the report period four Workshops for law enforcement officers were conducted by AFEW-Tajikistan in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.

- *The first Workshop for LEO "Stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV and key populations" was conducted on April 22, 2015 by participation of 44 representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (22 police officers), Drugs Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, National Centre on Drugs Prevention and Monitoring of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, UNDP-Tajikistan, USAID TB Control Program, NGOs: "SPIN Plus ", "Guli Surkh", "Etibor", "Equal Opportunities", "Tajikistan Network of women living with HIV", "Bovary+", "Vita", "Apeiron", "Marvorid", "ROST" and Mass Media "Radio Ozodi", "Informational Agency Khovar", "Informational Agency Tajikistan". The workshop was facilitated by Hagzibekova F., Deputy of Head of the Medical Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.*
<http://www.mvd.tj/index.php/tj/asosi/7258-barrasii-mas-ala-oi-shakhsoni-bo-vnmo-zindaqikunanda-va-osebpazir>
<http://www.afew.tj/ru/chm/news/22-aprelya-2015-goda-v-g-dushanbe-sostoyalas-rabochaya-vstrecha-diskriminaciya-i-stigma>
<http://www.afew.tj/tq/chm/news/dar-sanai-22-apreli-soli-2015-dar-sh-dushanbe-vohurii-korii-poymolkunii-hukuk-va>
- *The second Workshop for LEO "Stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV and key populations" was conducted on May 22, 2015 in Kulob. 28 representatives of Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in Kulob region (16 police officers), Department of Health Region, Regional narcological Center, Regional and city AIDS Centers of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, NGOs "SVON Plus ", "Sudmand ", "Jovidon", "Nakukor" and the branch of AFEW-Tajikistan in Khatlon region took part in event. The workshop was facilitated by Hagzibekova F., Deputy Head of the Medical Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.*
- *The third Workshop for LEO "Stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV and key populations" was conducted on July 10, 2015 in Qurqhontepa. 26 representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in Khatlon region (17 police officers), Regional AIDS Centers of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan in Khatlon region, NGOs "Fidokor", "Orzu Plus", "Akhtari bakht", "Sino", "Subhi tandurusti", "Tomiris" and the branch of AFEW-Tajikistan in Khatlon region took part in event. The workshop was facilitated by Hagzibekova F., Deputy Head of the Medical Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.*
- *The fourth Workshop for LEO "Stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV and key populations" was conducted on August 21, 2015 in Khujand. 29 representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in Suhgd region (19 police officers), Regional narcological Center and Regional AIDS Centers of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan in Suhgd region, NGOs "AntiAIDS", "Rohi zindagi", "Hayoti nav", "Ikboli nek", "DINA", "VITA" and initiative group "Khujand" took part in event. The workshop was facilitated by Hagzibekova F., Deputy Head of the Medical Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.*

During abovementioned workshops the representatives of local NGOs presented and discussed with police officers information about their work on HIV prevention among vulnerable groups and client management of PLHIV. Also, the issues of reduction of stigma and discrimination of vulnerable groups of population were discussed during the meetings. Participants of the workshops familiarized with the Instruction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs RT on organization of HIV prevention work and health safety at working place. AFEW-Tajikistan presented its video spot about the human rights of PUDs to participants of the Workshops.

Activity 2300. Provide methodological assistance and sub-grants to NGOs working with PLHIV and vulnerable women throughout the country (such as cities, oblast centers, other densely-populated areas)

AFEW-Tajikistan transferred sub-sub-grants to five NGOs (“Guli Surkh” and “Tajikistan network of women living with HIV”(Dushanbe), “Orzu Plus” (Qurqhoonteppa), “SVON Plus”(Kulob) and “Rohi zindagi” (Khujand and Isfara)) which have experience of joint work, capacities to provide services for final beneficiaries and interacting with local health and social service providers.

During report period 852 PLHIV were covered by peer counseling, ART adherence support, IEC, condoms and prevention materials. 547 or 64,20% from 852 PLHIV reached by Project passed TB screening. 0 new cases of TB were detected. 649 or 76,17% from 852 PLWH reached by Project passed CD 4 diagnostic. As result 120 PLHIV started ARV treatment. 538 PLHIV started the ART treatment before the realization of this project. 70 PLHIV interrupted ART treatment. Eight of dropped out patients are died. Left 62 PLHIV were reached by IEC materials, pre-treatment readiness and ART counseling of peer counselors and social workers of NGOs. As result, 50 from them are initiated follow up ART treatment and passed for supervision of AIDS Center’s specialists. At the end 12 of dropped out patients still didn’t return back to treatment.

Disaggregation of coverage by number of PLHIV and services provided by sub-sub-grantees is provided in Table #1.

Table 1. Number of PLWH reached by sub-sub-grantees services.

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>The number of PLHIV wh received at least three types of project services</i>	<i>The number of PLHIV passed to CD4</i>	<i>The number of PLHIV diagnostic and/or treatment for TB</i>	<i>The number of PLHIV diagnostic and/or treatment for opportunistic infections</i>	<i>% of Client Management Program participants wh positive evaluate the quality and access to services.</i>	<i>The number of PLHIV wh started ARV treatment during project</i>	<i>The number of PLHIV wh started the ART treatment before the realization of this project</i>
<i>NGO ‘Guli surkh’</i>	287	201	176	220	243 (84,7%)	44	138
<i>NGO “Tajikistan network of women living with HIV”</i>	178	136	68	79	169 (94,9%)	54	119

NGO 'Orzu Plus'	68	54	41	36	68 (100,0%)	3	22
NGO 'SVON Plus'	213	152	160	157	207 (91,2%)	17	178
NGO 'Rohi zindagi'	106	106	102	29	104 (98,1%)	2	81
Total	852	649 (76,2 %)	547 (64,2 %)	521 (61,2%)	791 (92,8%)	120	538

At the same time, 750 vulnerable women including 469 (62,53%) sex workers covered by comprehensive package of HIV prevention services of sub-sub-grantees. The package of project services is including HIV and STIs education, HIV counseling and testing, IEC, condoms, and distribution of prevention materials. 66,27% or 497 from 750 vulnerable women reached by Project are passed HIV testing. 1 case of HIV was detected. 73 vulnerable women referred to TB counseling and received TB diagnostic. 0 new TB cases were detected.

Disaggregation of coverage by number of vulnerable women and services provided by sub-sub-grantees is provided in Table #2.

Table 1. Number of VWs reached by sub-sub-grantees services.

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>The number of VW who received at least three types of project services</i>	<i>including # sex workers</i>	<i>% of Client Management Program participants who positive evaluate the quality and access to services.</i>	<i>% of vulnerable women passed HIV testing and know it's status during reporting period</i>	<i>Number of condom distribution</i>	<i>Number of people informed about HIV and available services</i>	<i>Number of IEC materials developed and disseminated among final beneficiaries</i>
NGO 'Guli surkh'	160	83 (51,9%)	117 (66,9%)	96 (60,0%)	12240	800	1400
NGO "Tajikistan network of women living with HIV"	167	66 (39,5%)	147 (88,0%)	137 (82,0%)	5438	50	1038
NGO 'Orzu Plus'	163	105 (64,4%)	139 (85,3%)	91 (55,8%)	8080	202	310
NGO 'SVON Plus'	154	154 (100,0%)	137 (89,0%)	85 (55,2%)	13110	747	2171

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NGO 'Rohi zindagi'	106	61 (57,5%)	104 (98,1%)	88 (83,0%)	7350	1200	307
Total	750	469 (62,5%)	644 (85,9%)	497 (66,3%)	46218	2999	5226

Activity 2400. Awareness raising activities on improving access to services for PLHIV through conducting advocacy and awareness raising activities

During May 17-23, 2015 AFEW-Tajikistan supported initiatives of NGOs "Guly Surkh", "Tajikistan Network of women living with HIV", "Orzu plus", "SVON Plus" and "Rohi zindagi" and the AFEW-Tajikistan Representative Office in Khatlon region to organize advocacy events devoted to the International AIDS Candlelight Memory Day and to raise awareness of local communities about HIV. In close collaboration with regional AIDS centers the local NGOs carried out awareness-raising campaigns along with dissemination of information materials among population of five cities (Dushanbe, Khujand, Isfara, Kulob, Qurghon-Teppa). During the actions, the mobile units of AIDS center provided pre-test counseling and HIV testing for 93 general populations in Khujand and Qurghon-Teppa. 0 new cases of HIV have been detected.

Furthermore, within events devoted to International AIDS Candlelight Memory Day in Dushanbe, Kulob and Qurghoontepa the set of food kits were distributed for 32 poorest families affected by HIV and AIDS.

Overall 2999 people participated in the actions devoted to the International AIDS Candlelight Memory Day.

Activity 2500. Technical assistance and monitoring site visits to track the quantitative progress of sub-grantees as well as to evaluate the quality of provided services to beneficiaries.

On May 18-26, 2015 and on September 02-08, 2015 two monitoring visits have been conducted by AFEW-Tajikistan. Partner organizations provided with practical assistance on organization of client management services for final beneficiaries and verifying project data. Monitoring held in NGOs 'Guli surkh' and 'Tajikistan Network of women living with HIV' (Dushanbe), 'Orzu plus' (Qurghon-Teppa, Khatlon province), 'SVON Plus' (Kulob, Khatlon province) and 'Rohi zindagi' (Chkalovsk, Sughd Province). Essential recommendations on improving program, administrative and financial management have been passed to sub-sub-grantees.

UNDP National consultant on ART and care also took part at monitoring visits.



Please complete Annex 'A' for monitoring visits undertaken by the SR (to sub-SRs or service delivery sites) during the reporting period. (If applicable)

Please see Annex A

Was there a delay or cancellation of planned activities?

There is no delay on implementation of Project activities.

Progress and implementation of management actions from previous periods: *(Please list all outstanding actions).*

N/A

Describe other success stories not reflected in the quantitative data:

HIV positive Kurbonbi, 34-year-old young woman, after divorcing her husband, left without support, without job and house and had to return with her five-year son to her parents' house, where nobody was waiting for her. Her relatives did not know about her HIV status. Coming back home was another test for Kurbonbi. She had a hard time because of the constant conflicts with her relatives who did not need dependents. She hid receiving the ARV because she was afraid that the family get to know of her HIV-positive status and will kick her out of the house. Hiding the treatment and taking the medicines Kurbonbi do not take them in time disrupting her treatment. And regular visits for getting medication at AIDS center was another stress for her. During a visit to the AIDS center Kurbonbi met with the consultant of "Tajik network of women living with HIV" and told her about her problems of living with HIV. Consultant invited Kurbonbi to their organization, where they discussed the issues of adherence to ART and provided her with legal advised. Social workers continuing to provide support for treatment adherence; found an HIV-positive man, who responded to the request of Kurbonbi. It turns out that he also wanted to start a family with HIV-positive woman, but was afraid to talk about it to anyone. Young people met each other and at the first meeting realized that they could trust to each other. After a while they got married

- *"HIV-positive women primarily need psychological and social support. Usually the relatives of husband and the parents of HIV-positive women kick them out of the house, once they got to know about their HIV status. Cooperation efforts with the public services we provide women with demanded social and legal services in crisis situations"- says Takhmina Khaydarov, the head of the "Tajik network of women living with HIV":*

With the help of consultants and social workers in the life of Kurbonbi appeared a man who supports her and her child. Now they live separately from Kurbonbi's relatives. Kurbonbi is happy to take ARV without fear and grateful for that meeting, when an employee of the organization handed her a helping hand. Kurbonbi began to attend self-help group and is always ready to help others

- *"Before, it was difficult to me to fight for life. There was no one whom I could trust, and there was not strong shoulder to rely. Meeting with women with the same problems as me, I found a loving man and start a family. I am very happy"- says Kurbonbi.*

Lessons Learned and proposed changes to the work plan:

Taking into account lessons learned, will you be implementing any changes to your work plan for the next reporting period? Please describe the proposed changes and provide reasons for the proposed changes.

AFEW-Tajikistan will continue work on introducing VCT service on the basis of NGOs. Starting from May, 2015 AFEW-Tajikistan is initiated the process of negotiations with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection on finding possibilities to introduce VCT service on the basis of NGOs. As result of bilateral consultations, the Ministry positively responded to AFEW-Tajikistan request and by its

Order # 832 dated September 30, 2015 permitted to local NGOs to provide VCT services to key populations by themselves.

Section D: Capacity Development

(actions taken towards eliminating omissions and implementing recommendations that are indicated in SR Management Letter)

No

Section E: Inventory and Assets Management /

(the report is submitted on semi-annual and annual basis)

No

Section F: Authorization

The undersigned authorized representative acknowledges that all information provided in this report is complete and accurate

Signed on behalf of the Sub Recipient *(signature of authorized representative)*

Name: Ikrom Ibragimov

Title: Director RPO "AIDS Foundation East West – Tajikistan" (AFEW)

Date and Place: October 15, 2015, Dushanbe

Organizational Stamp:



Annex A

Monitoring Visits by SR

Date of Visits	Name of Organization or Service Delivery Point	Town/Province	Key Findings	Recommendations
May 18, 2015	NGO "Rohi zindagi"	Khujand	Interruption of ART.	HIV and peer counseling including focus group discussions with PLHIV those on ART should more focused on importance of adherence to ART.
September 03, 2015			Self-help groups do not held regularly, only when PLHIV gather together. This is because of the clients live in different cities: Khujand, Chkalovsk and Kairakkum.	To assign the responsibility for organizing and carrying out regular meetings of self-help groups to the specialist working with PLHIV or to social worker.
May 19, 2015	NGO "Guli Surkh"	Dushanbe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is discrepancy in the reports on reaching the project's clients. Each social worker fills his/her log book. 2. The project clients face problems of social and legal issues: kicked out of the house, left with the child in the street; husband refused to help, the woman returned to her parents; husband's parents do not want to support the HIV-positive daughter-in-law. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop unified project's log-books: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Initial registration of PLHIV". Log-book must show results of referral to CD4 diagnostic, TB screening and STIs testing. • "Initial registration of sex workers". Log-book must show referrals to VCT made, number of IEC and prevention materials distributed • "Initial registration of vulnerable women" • To appoint a responsible person to manage project documentation including accurate filling of data into log-books. 2. To involve a lawyer to provide legal support to PLHIV.
September 02, 2015			No comments.	Recommendations made during previous monitoring visits are executed.
May 20, 2015	NGO "Tajikistan"	Dushanbe	A public organization does not have enough experience in organizing medical and social	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project staff has to be familiar with the AFEW-Tajikistan Guidelines "Organization of Client

Date of Visits	Name of Organization or Service Delivery Point	Town/Province	Key Findings	Recommendations
	network women living with HIV"		support for clients and program management.	Management of vulnerable groups" and introduce this approach into practices. 2. Project staff should use the AFEW-Tajikistan "Guidelines on the organization of mini-trainings for the prevention of socially significant infections" for conducting information sessions among final beneficiaries reached by Client Management services 3. To consider the possibility of involvement of infectious disease physician and obstetrician-gynecologist to the work of the project.
September 04, 2015			NGO staff has lack experience of work with sex workers.	Recommendations made during previous monitoring visits are executed. To involve in project implementation peer counselors and outreach workers to build network with final beneficiaries and learn experience of other local NGOs working with sex workers.
May 22, 2015	NGO "SVON Plus"	Kulob	Discrepancies in figures on provided services for diagnosis of HIV and CD4 in report and the log-books.	To check and verify all data on the services provided for PLWH and VW according with service plans, the service provided log and with AIDS Center for CD4 diagnosis and HIV testing.
September 07, 2015			No comments	Recommendations made during previous monitoring visits are executed.
May 26, 2015	NGO "Orzu Plus"	Qurqhonte ppa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 32 sex workers did not cover by HIV testing. The bed sanitary and hygienic conductions in new office. Discrepancies report data, client's registration log-books and magazine of provided services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To meet with the administration of Regional AIDS center to discuss possibilities of organization of VCT among sex workers. To set up the cleaning of territory and premises. To check and verify all data in program log-books with cards of clients, service plans and vouchers and align everything according request.

Date of Visits	Name of Organization or Service Delivery Point	Town/Province	Key Findings	Recommendations
August 24, 2015			<p>On the basis of results of monitoring held in NGO Orzu+ on August 10,2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The log book of patient has been started, but it is not very informative in terms of the number of patients (how many of new patients are covered and how many previous patients came for a certain period of time). • There is no information about counseling to improve adherence. • No active work of PO staff with patients (home visits, group work and work in self – help groups – almost are not provided) • There is no cooperation and understanding from AIDS Center of Khatlon region. • Out of 9 patients who interrupted ART in July 2 patients restored the treatment, but one of them has died due to late recovery when CD4 cells were reduced. • Two reports from the previous quarters which were not provided in time have been requested. • Not any documentation showing the fulfilled work was provided (except the log book which was uninformative) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To update and improve the log-book, because it does not match with previous recommendations. <i>According proposed format, to introduce magazine which collecting data about project indicators and information about adherence to ART</i> • To work actively with patients on improving adherence with the result of the recovery of patients who interrupted treatment. <i>This work is carried out, but not reflected in the log-book of consultant working with PLHIV. The log-book where the information on the work with PLHIV is indicated and to modified adherence to ART, home visits, return to ART. The clients' card will also be reworked.</i> • To maintain records on hard and electronic versions. <i>The quarterly reports with the indicators of the project are printed and situated in accessible place.</i> • The PO staff has to be trained on adherence issues and have clear understanding of their tasks and commitments. <i>On September 04, 2015 the Representative office of AFEW –Tajikistan conducted mini-training on adherence to ART among the staff of the PO "Orzu Plus».</i> • To involve AFEW-Tajikistan for negotiations and resolving problems with the director of regional AIDS center in Qurghonteppa. • To resolve the issue for the office premises, to in order the patients could come and attend self-

Date of Visits	Name of Organization or Service Delivery Point	Town/Province	Key Findings	Recommendations
				<p>help group and where they feel themselves comfortably (and conduct negotiations with the Director of AIDS Center to develop mutual understanding). <i>The meeting with director of AIDS Center in Khatlon region Mr. Davlatov A.H. was conducted. All issues showed in the statement were discussed with Mr. Davlatov A.H. Director told that he supports and will continue to provide full support to PO "Orzu Plus" in their work g with PLHIV. Self-help groups will be held in the office of PO "Orzu Plus" with the participation of consultant who works with PLHIV.</i></p>
<p>September 08, 2015</p>			<p>Absence of interest to changes and further organizational development.</p>	<p>PO "Orzu Plus" need to revise they vision on organizational, project and financial management.</p>