



INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

The Republican Public Organization “Afif” is pleased to submit for your consideration the Interim Narrative Report of “We are under the same sun” Project (Grant Request Proposal: 15471), funded by Gilead Sciences Inc. for the period of April 11, 2022 - August 1, 2022.

Project goal:

Reducing the negative impact of HIV infection in the Republic of Tajikistan in the context of the coronavirus pandemic by conducting information and educational work among the general population using innovative approaches aimed at creating a favorable social environment that excludes stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV (PLHIV).

Objective 1:

Raising general population awareness on HIV infection using innovative approaches, as well as creating a social environment that excludes discrimination and stigma against PLHIV.

Objective 2:

Development of a Guideline for implementation that provides an integrated interdisciplinary approach to the provision of medical care to people infected with HIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expected Outcomes / Impact:

- 500 people from the target audience took part in a study to determine “Knowledge, attitudes, practices and behavior” in the field of HIV infection in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic before and after the information campaign;
- Information products (video, printed materials and souvenirs) were developed and disseminated;
- More than 100,000 people from general population are involved in an information campaign to raise awareness about HIV infection and create a supportive social environment that excludes stigma and discrimination against PLHIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Conducted two capacity building trainings for at least 40 journalists and bloggers (TikTok, Cheez, Telegram, Instagram, Facebook) from 6 project pilot cities on HIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account gender aspects;
- The training participants developed and published gender-sensitive articles, publications, videos on HIV infection, for creating a favorable social environment that excludes discrimination and stigma towards PLHIV;
- A competition was held among journalists and bloggers for the best coverage of the topic of HIV infection and tolerance towards people living with HIV, the best journalists/bloggers were identified and awarded in 5 nominations: “Best printed publication”, “Best publication in online resources”, “Best radio story”, “Best TV story” and “Best blog content”;
- A Guideline developed to ensure an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the provision of health care to PLHIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- A round table was held with participation of 30 key stakeholders to discuss and approve a strategic plan to ensure an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the provision of medical care to people living with the human immunodeficiency virus in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I. Report

Key achievements:

- A Joint Action Plan between the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republican Public Organization “Afif” on implementation of the project “We are under the same sun”, financed by Gilead Sciences Inc. has been approved by key authorities of the esteemed Ministry;
- A draft brochure “We are under the same sun” on HIV/AIDS myths, differences, treatment, transmission and prevention ways, HIV and pregnancy issues, useful information along with contact details of HIV/AIDS centers throughout the country has been developed;
- A video spot on supporting PLHIV that excludes discrimination and stigma towards them has been developed for demonstration among wide audience in the Republic of Tajikistan;
- A draft Guideline for providing an integrated interdisciplinary approach to the provision of medical care to people infected with HIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has been developed.

Progress report

On May 4, 2022, the Joint Action Plan between the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MHSPP RT) and the Republican Public Organization “Afif” (RPO “Afif”) on implementation of the project “We are under the same sun”, financed by Gilead Sciences Inc. has been agreed and approved during a meeting between the representatives of RPO “Afif” and MHSPP RT. With the aim of implementation of the Action Plan, two national consultants from the esteemed Ministry have been involved in the project.

№	Activity	Timeline	Geography	Expected outcome	Implementation status
1.	Development of information and educational materials, video and souvenirs to raise general population and target audience awareness on HIV and AIDS and formation of a social environment that excludes stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.	May-June 2022	Dushanbe, Khujand, Bokhtar, Khorugh, Kulob, Panjakent	More than 100 000 general population and key population covered with information and educational materials (Brochures, posters, caps, T-shirts, video posted in the media)	<p>In agreement with National consultants, a draft brochure “We are under the same sun” has been developed, which shall be further approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan.</p> <p>At the same time, a video spot on supporting PLHIV that excludes discrimination and stigma towards them has been developed for demonstration among wide audience in the Republic of Tajikistan. The video spot is being reviewed in focus groups among the target audience of the project and is being improved further taking into account the recommendations received.</p> <p>Broadcasters will include the prepared video on HIV issues as advertisements in a wide variety of programs, ensuring that the information is posted in a wide variety of publications, not only in special news programs and public service announcements dedicated to the issue. Also</p>

					<p>video spot will be posted on social networks: TikTok, Telegram, FB, Instagram etc.</p> <p>At the same time, promo products (t-shirts, caps and bags) are also being developed.</p>
2.	<p>Conducting two training to increase the capacity of journalists and bloggers on the coverage of HIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account gender aspects</p>	<p>June-July 2022</p>	<p>Dushanbe</p>	<p>40 journalists and bloggers participated in training and increased their capacities to on the coverage of HIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account gender aspects. The materials are published on media, radio, tv and blogs and social media</p>	<p>Two two-days trainings on increasing the capacity of journalists and bloggers on coverage of HIV issues in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic with gender aspects were held on July 21-22 and July 28-29, 2022 in Dushanbe.</p> <p>Out of 40 invited journalists and bloggers, 39 have attended trainings. During the trainings, participants have learned how to prepare evidence-based materials, as well as received information on guidelines and instructions in the field of HIV/AIDS from the medical expert - Dr. Dilshod Sayburhonov. They have learnt how to create ethical journalism content by maintaining a balance of opinions, using reliable sources of information and cross-checking the facts from the media experts - Mr. Khurshed Niyozov and Ms. Farishtamoh Gulova. As well as, the journalists and bloggers have studied how to create a favorable social environment that excludes stigma and discrimination of PLHIV from the NGO representative – Ms. Sevar Kamilova.</p> <p>In addition, during both trainings, the RPO “Afif” has organized video conferences with American Infectious Diseases Doctor – Dr.</p>

					<p>Arash Alaei. During video conferences, the Tajik journalists and bloggers have received valuable information from Dr. Alaei on the coverage of HIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The participants have had a very talkative discussion with Dr. Alaei, and got answers to their questions on HIV/AIDS myths, transmission and prevention ways, as well as the ways of reducing the negative impact of HIV infection in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Based on the results of analysis of pre-test and post-test questionnaires, there was an increase in the level of awareness of participants, where the percentage of correct answers after the session was 87.04.</p>
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3.	Development of a Guideline for providing an integrated interdisciplinary approach to the provision of medical care to people infected with HIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic	July-August 2022	Dushanbe	Service providers will receive an algorithm for working with key population groups in the context of COVID-19, and the target audience will receive in-demand services on a multidisciplinary and non-discriminatory basis.	<p>As specified by the Letter No. 33/99 dated May 27, 2022, and in accordance with recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, an editing team has been created, which consists of three specialists: 1. Dr. Dilshod Sayburhonov, Director of the Center of Prevention and Fight against AIDS in Dushanbe – specialist, who develops a Guideline in Russian, 2. Mr. Navruz Jafarov - Head of the Department on Sanitary and Epidemiological Safety, Emergency situations and Emergency Medical Aid of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan – specialist, who edits the Guideline in accordance to the normative and legislative documents of the Republic of Tajikistan, 3. Mr. Odil Nasibov – Assistant Executive Secretary of the National Coordination Committee to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan – specialist, who translates the Guideline from Russian into Tajik.</p> <p>Jointly with specialists, the draft Guideline has been developed. It shall be further agreed by the MHSPP RT, translated from Russian into Tajik and distributed among key stakeholders for future reference.</p>
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4.	Monitoring visit	July, 2022	Dushanbe, Khujand, Bokhtar, Khorugh, Kulob, Panjakent	Educational materials are finalized, replicated and distributed among the general population	<p>The monitoring visits to the pilot regions are being organized, where number of general populations are participating in focus groups to assess the informational and educational materials' accessibility, understandability and demandness among themselves.</p> <p>Taking into account, opinions and recommendations of participants of the focus groups, the informational and educational materials, video and promo products shall be further improved.</p>
5.	Competition among journalists and bloggers for the best coverage of a topic that contributes to the formation of a favorable social environment that excludes discrimination and stigma towards people living with HIV in 5 nominations: "Best printed publication", "Best publication in online resources", "Best radio story", "Best TV story" and "Best blog content".	August - September, 2022	Dushanbe	The competition will initiate the preparation and publication of acute and topical materials in the mass media to cover problematic issues related to HIV, stigma and discrimination against key population groups, as well as it will raise interest and strengthen public discussion on these issues.	It is planned in August-September, 2022

6.	Organizing and conducting an information and advocacy campaign dedicated to the World AIDS Day (information kiosks, awarding the winners of the competition among journalists and bloggers, distribution of information and image products, broadcasting of a video clip on TV, etc.)	November-December, 2022	Dushanbe, Khujand, Bokhtar, Khorugh, Kulob, Panjakent	The general population and decision-makers receive reliable information about the epidemiological situation in the country and the need for a tolerant attitude towards people affected by the HIV epidemic.	It is planned in November-December, 2022
7.	Organization of a Roundtable to discuss and approve a Guideline to ensure an integrated interdisciplinary approach to the provision of medical care to PLHIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.	February, 2023	Dushanbe	30 key stakeholders discussed the Guideline/ The Guideline is approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of Tajikistan.	It is planned in February, 2023
8.	Preparation and submission of the Final Report	March-April, 2023	Dushanbe	The Final Report is approved by Gilead Sciences, Inc.	It is planned in March-April, 2023

Planned activities for the period of August 1, 2022 - April 11, 2023

RPO “Afif” plans to accomplish project activities on providing informational and educational materials (brochures, caps, t-shirts, bags and video posted in Mass media) to more than 100 000 general and key populations before September 01, 2022.	July-August, 2022
Organizing monitoring visits to the pilot regions (Dushanbe, Khujand, Panjakent, Bokhtar, Kulob and Khorugh cities), where number of general populations will participate in focus groups to assess the informational and educational materials’ accessibility, understandability and demandness among themselves.	July-September, 2022
Making an official announcement of a Competition among journalists and bloggers in 5 nominations: “Best printed publication”, “Best publication in online resources”, “Best radio story”, “Best TV story” and “Best blog content” for the best coverage of a topic, which contributes to the formation of a favorable social environment that excludes stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV.	September, 2022
Organizing and conducting an information and advocacy campaign dedicated to the World AIDS Day (information kiosks, awarding the winners of the Competition among journalists and bloggers, distribution of information and image products, broadcasting of a video clip on TV, etc.).	November-December, 2022
Organization of a Roundtable to discuss and approve a Guideline to ensure an integrated interdisciplinary approach to the provision of medical care to PLHIV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.	February, 2023
Preparation and submission of the Final Report.	March-April, 2023

Social Media Publications in RPO “Afif”’s Facebook page:

Publication No. 1: Training for Journalists and Bloggers, July 21-22, 2022

Publication date: July 22, 2022

Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/tashkilot.tj/posts/pfbid02GNhezTSiEYhaHdgeXm2zBMNRR6FaudMwBeKHhanj7Lso7aPi8WsnvP4w1MzewoJ3l>

Publication No. 2: Training for Journalists and Bloggers, July 28-29, 2022

Publication date: July 28, 2022

Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/tashkilot.tj/posts/pfbid0awx8So3o6qNeRjSWhDhSdsPLCQYFQxdwYVTYgi16yXnPjT9cSBbt9cs1tjLjz1T3l>

Publication No. 3: Video Conferences during Trainings for Journalists and Bloggers, July 22 and July 29, 2022

Publication date: August 1, 2022

Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/tashkilot.tj/posts/pfbid0ANee2YN37XzyvmuGDCagNsGuKCNjP9FGkiynygLiMtaTaVb2pNnyddJLYBjbrU7XI>