

QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT
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Fourth Quarter Report – Second Year
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by

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI)

and partners:

**Abt Associates,
Boston University,
Howard University,
International HIV/AIDS Alliance, and
Populations Services International (PSI)**

I. Introduction:

During this quarter, CAPACITY began implementing the expansion phase of the civil society mobilization (CSM) strategy. Umbrella NGOs, trained during the regional workshop in Issyk-Kul, went back to their oblasts and conducted onward training with local NGOs and government AIDS service organizations. Multiple proposals have been written by NGOs and compiled into oblast level umbrella proposals. Each one focuses on providing comprehensive HIV prevention services to vulnerable populations with at least 60% coverage.

Collaboration between CAAP and CAPACITY is continues with co-financing taking place for the CSM workshop in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan requested to have a national CSM strategy including the training workshop on proposal development, since UZ was not included in the regional training. This workshop went off extremely well and UZ has now caught up with the other country participants in the strategy.

CAPACITY continues to wait for registration in Uzbekistan. While CAPACITY co-implemented the CSM workshop there, operations have generally slowed, due to the fact that we are still not registered there. Registration still has not been rejected, and that is a good sign.

CAPACITY's work in the area of TB and HIV has been recognized internationally once again by the acceptance of our peer reviewed article in the international journal, *Global Public Health*.

CAPACITY implemented its STI laboratory diagnostics training in Turkmenistan. This was a long awaited activity that finally received the green light from the ministry in that country. CAPACITY now also has a new country representative in Turkmenistan, and even though the MOU has not yet been signed, we are finally beginning to formalize our presence there.

Finally, CAPACITY's youth power centers are coming to the completion of one year of implementation. During this quarter and the next, CAPACITY will be developing sustainability plans to try to ensure the smooth and continued functioning of these centers.

As we close the second year of CAPACITY implementation, we feel we can reflect back on our achievements to date, while looking forward to even greater things in the coming years.

II. Programmatic Progress

A. Strategy 1: Improve Stewardship of National HIV/AIDS Programs

A.1. Regional

CAPACITY Branding Strategy and Marking Plan

Following Modification #5 to CAPACITY's Cooperative Agreement, CAPACITY developed its Branding Strategy and Marking Plan which has been approved by USAID. Generally, the Branding Strategy outlines the Project deliverables and outcomes that will be marked by USAID Identity and promote the message that the assistance is coming from the American

People. The Branding Strategy was approved as of September 19, 2006 and is now being implemented by all CAPACITY Country Offices.

CAPACITY Presentations at International Forums

CAPACITY presented a poster at the International AIDS conference in Toronto, Ontario Canada in August on its TB/HIV model program. The presentation was selected through a peer review process. In addition, a journal article produced on this topic was accepted in the international peer review journal called Global Public Health. The article is due to be published in March, 2007.

CAPACITY M&E Matrix Updated

CAPACITY revised its M&E Matrix of Project Indicators to integrate PEPFAR requirements and other programmatic variations following two years of project implementation. The updated M&E Matrix was sent to the USAID Regional Office for approval.

Strengthening NACM Communications

During this quarter the Regional Communications Coordinator conducted situation analysis and needs assessment with the National AIDS Coordination Mechanisms and met with the deputy RAC Director in Uzbekistan and RAC Director and NCC Secretary in Tajikistan, together with seconded communications specialists. It is also planned to meet with the RAC Director in Kazakhstan to identify needs in communications strengthening. The findings will serve as a basis for developing best approaches to developing national communications strategies.

Monthly Bulletins

CAPACITY continued to issue the Monthly Bulletin from the regional office every month. The Monthly Bulletin serves the purpose of informing the wide range of stakeholders throughout the CAR on CAPACITY's activities and progress in the region.

CAPACITY Internal Communications Guidelines

Currently CAPACITY is developing its internal communications guidelines which provide a framework and direction for communications to all audiences for the CAPACITY Project for the next three years. It is anticipated that the communications guidelines will be finalized by the end of next Quarter.

Stewardship Paper

Comments and feedback from multiple partners are now being compiled and will be incorporated into the final draft of the Stewardship Paper.

A.2. Kazakhstan

Seconded Specialists

Monitoring and Evaluation: The M&E seconded specialist continues her work in Republic AIDS Center. During the last three months she worked on the creation of project indicators for NGOs. These indicators will be presented and discussed with the partners at the UNDP-sponsored National NGO Forum in November 2006 in Almaty. The M&E seconded specialist also has been working on the development of an ARVT M&E computer program for the RAC.

Communications: Upon the request from the Director General of the Kazakhstan Republican AIDS Center, CAPACITY is in the process of hiring a communications specialist to be seconded to the RAC. It is expected that the Specialist will start working by end of October and will be a significant contribution to strengthening NACM Communications.

Assistance to and Collaboration with CDC on Surveillance

CAPACITY worked with CDC to modify questionnaires for the HIV sentinel surveillance to make them more compliant with the requirements for UNGASS reporting.

A.3. Kyrgyzstan

Support to National Steward

During the fourth quarter the project team had a series of meetings with the AIDS Unit in order to strengthen the coordination mechanism of HIV/AIDS programs in Kyrgyzstan, to review the Seconded Staff performance and hear suggestions for areas for improvement, and to indicate updates on the CAPACITY activities and get feedback from the AIDS Unit. Since CAPACITY is an official member of 5 technical sectors of CMCC, during the reporting period the project team was able take part at the meetings of the following sectors: sector on fulfillment of the GFATM grants and Health and Social Protection sector.

CAPACITY has partially supported a workshop initiated by AIDS Unit. The purpose of this workshop was to build capacity of people working at state agencies in how to develop project proposals and M&E of the HIV/AIDS programming within the framework of implementation of the State program. CAPACITY was able to present the project strategies on stewardship and community mobilization.

Seconded Staff

Seconded Staff (**communication and NGO Liason specialists**) continued their efforts in strengthening the AIDS Unit and MCCs (Multi-sectoral Coordination Committee) at the oblast level. Thus, OMCCs (7 oblasts) were established due to their active support and facilitation. Seconded Staff also provided support in developing their action plans for coordinating the implementation of the State HIV/AIDS program at the oblast level.

NGO Liason specialist developed the draft statute and regulation for the AIDS-servicing NGO Support Centre initiated by AIDS Unit. As a member of the initiative group in

establishment of the Regional Network of AIDS-servicing NGOs, the seconded specialist has developed the draft statute which is now under the review by other members of the IG. Currently, the registration of the Regional Network is under the negotiation with Ministry of Justice.

M&E specialist facilitated and assisted in developing the regulation of a national M&E system; national plan for M&E of the State HIV/AIDS program and the development of the plan for institutionalization of the State program. She also made a significant contribution to the development of regulation for sub-structures on M&E of the National Statistics Committee. Under her guidance a manual on M&E and the manual on national system of M&E have been developed.

Collaboration with Partners

CAPACITY facilitated a number of meetings with GFATM, CAAP, WHO, USAID and CARHAP with the aim to increase cooperation on strategies and activities in community mobilization and other areas of collaboration.

CAAP: As a result of discussions with CAAP, staff from CAAP facilitated and provided support during the last two days of the oblast level civil society mobilization seminars on proposal writing in Chuyi, Bishkek, and southern oblasts. The participation of CAAP at these oblast workshops made an important contribution to participants understanding of the budget planning process.

GF/PIU: Staff from the GF/PIU also took part at Bishkek and Chuyi oblast workshops and provided important information on policies and procedures of GF. The GF/PIU was very supportive of the umbrella model and said that this model is an effective strategy in terms of high coverage and avoidance of duplication. As a result of collaboration with GF/PIU, one of the selection criteria of project proposals to GF will be to include CAPACITY's 60 plus approach.

New CAPACITY Country Director

A number of meetings as well were held during this quarter with all national stakeholders and international partners for the purpose of presenting a new CAPACITY country director for Kyrgyzstan. A few additional meetings were held by the country director with the main national stakeholders and partners in order to deeply understand their approaches and policies for strengthening further collaboration between the project and them.

A.3. Tajikistan

Seconded Staff

Seconded specialists continued to render technical support to NACM, and achievements in this area are expected to have sustainable positive effect on NACM operations. One such achievement is the agreement on the development of a web-site for the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) on HIV, TB and Malaria. In addition to activities related to their area of expertise, seconded staff took active part in revising draft HIV Testing Regulations and developing draft Regulations on Technical Working Groups of NCC, incorporating

comments received from partners, including civil society organizations. Also seconded specialists took a leading role in development of project proposals on HIV prevention among vulnerable populations submitted to CARHAP and CAAP grant competitions. Finally both proposals were approved by grant review committees.

The **Communication Specialist** took the leading role in the preparation and distribution of three issues of the RAC Monthly Bulletin. A joint decision by CAPACITY, the RAC, and the NCC has led to the broadening of the audience of the bulletin including other Ministries and oblast AIDS Centers. Another joint decision resulted in the launching of a calendar of events by the NCC Secretariat with support of the Communication Specialist. The purpose of the calendar is to post information on upcoming events planned by partners so the overlap of events is avoided and all stakeholders are aware of other partners' plans.

There was further development of the NCC web-site initiative as well. A bilateral agreement between CAPACITY and CAAP on sharing costs related to development and maintenance of the web-site and tri-partite agreement between the NCC Secretariat, CAPACITY and CAAP on roles and responsibilities of the partners on web-site development were issued. NCC Secretariat approved the design and structure of the site. The site will cover three thematic areas (HIV, TB and Malaria) and contain the following components:

- Information on NCC (structure and functions, minutes of meetings).
- Partners database (including government structures, NGOs, international agencies).
- Calendar of events.
- Laws, regulations, prikazes, reports, media reviews.
- News, announcements, vacancies.
- Web-pages of national AIDS, TB and Malaria Centers.
- Interactive map of Tajikistan with update of National HIV Program progress at national and local level.

The **M&E Specialist** participated in the sentinel surveillance conducted by RAC among IDUs, prostitutes and pregnant women. She was responsible for controlling the quality of the surveillance. The M&E Specialist also continued activity on the introduction of the unique identification code (UIC) at national level. Together with the Head of RAC she developed a project proposal on scaling-up of the UIC system that was submitted on behalf of the RAC to the Drug Demand Reduction Program for consideration. However, since the TWG on M&E is not operational yet, it is difficult to plan and implement multi-sectoral activities on strengthening the National M&E system.

The **NGO Liaison** was fully involved in the oblast-level civil society mobilization activities. Another area of her activity was the preparations for the National Forum of AIDS-servicing NGOs. The idea of the Forum appeared during the Issyk-Kul regional workshop where NGOs from Tajikistan complained of lack of opportunities to discuss the common problems and possible solutions with each other and with NACM representatives. The NGO Liaison took up the issue and worked on its development together with civil society organizations' representatives. It was agreed that Forum objectives will include elaboration of strategies on greater involvement of AIDS-servicing NGOs in response to the HIV epidemic in Tajikistan and improvement of collaboration and linkage between civil society and NACM. The forum is expected to be conducted upon approval of the National Strategic Plan. CAPACITY and CAAP are among the potential donors of the event.

Stewardship Paper

The head of the RAC submitted comments on the Stewardship paper developed and distributed by CAPACITY. He commended on the idea of technical recommendations for implementation of the Three-Ones Principles but requested to undertake country-specific approaches taking into account different situations across the region.

Collaboration with Partners

Participation in the development of the National Strategic Plan (NSP): Upon receipt of the draft NSP, CAPACITY initiated development of joint recommendations together with a number of partners, including CARHAP, DDRP, Global Initiative on Psychiatry, and Tajik Association of Harm Reduction. The following concepts were highlighted in the recommendations:

- targeting coverage of adequate proportion of vulnerable populations (60% and more) with comprehensive package of services,
- mobilizing civil society for expanded response to HIV epidemics, and
- improving access of AIDS-servicing NGOs to financial and other resources.

Recommendations were submitted to the NCC and are being considered by the TWG on development of the NSP.

Development of CAPACITY Y3 workplan: Leading partners (NCC Secretariat, RAC, UNAIDS, CAAP, CARHAP, USAID) were involved in the finalization of the CAPACITY annual work plan for Y3. As a result, many areas collaboration were identified and will be pursued during the third project year.

A.4. Turkmenistan

New Country Representative Hired

CAPACITY has hired Sona Valiyeva as the country representative for Turkmenistan as of July 2006. Thus, CAPACITY now has a serious presence in the country, even as we wait for the signing of the MOU.

MOU

After reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan (MOHMIT) has made several comments on the draft document. Since there were no substantial proposed changes, agreements on all comments were reached with the MOHMIT. Further, the MOHMIT has sent the MOU to the board of ministers for review which in turn also has made several comments. Comments related to the technical part of the document have been discussed with the CAPACITY regional office and the part on general provision is being discussed with USAID. It is hoped that after agreeing upon these comments the MOU will be signed by the Minister of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan.

Meeting with the National Counterparts

During July, the CAPACITY Chief of Party and Country Representative met with a number of national counterparts, including the MOHMIT, Youth and Women's Unions. During these meetings CAPACITY has reached agreement with MOHMIT on the MOU and has discussed the prospects of establishing youth power centers at the Youth Union and of collaborating with the Women's Union on HIV/STIs preventive educational activities.

A.5. Uzbekistan

National Strategic Program

The CAPACITY Project continued to actively participate as a TWG member in weekly meetings on evaluation of Strategic Program on Response to HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Uzbekistan for 2003-2006. Also, CAPACITY was included in a thematic working group on the development of a new National Strategic Program for 2007-2011.

B. Strategy 2: Educating and Empowering Vulnerable Populations

B.1. Regional

CAPACITY Prevention Models: Regional HIV Prevention Proposal Prepared and Submitted to CAAP

Technical assistance was provided for the development of proposals from NGOs in seven model sites for HIV prevention among IDUs and sex workers with 60 Plus coverage of essential comprehensive package of services in KZ, TJ, KG, UZ. The proposals were finalized and formatted according to CAAP's requirements. CAPACITY country offices worked with the selected NGOs to collect the documents required for the regional proposal. The seven proposals were combined to make one regional proposal. The combined final version was submitted for funding to CAAP by the middle of August 2006.

Civil Society Mobilization

The CAPACITY regional office has been busy during this quarter supporting the expansion of the civil society mobilization strategy at the country level. Skills gained and lessons learned at the regional workshop during the last quarter have been imparted during oblast level workshops in the countries.

60 Plus Paper

CAPACITY distributed the English version of its technical paper on 60 Plus entitled "Universal Access to HIV Prevention in Central Asia: A Technical Working Paper on Reaching High Coverage among Vulnerable Populations" to various international stakeholders to obtain their input and feedback. Some feedback has been trickling in and some discussion has taken place by email among various partners. In addition, the 60 Plus concept has been presented at several partner forums. The Russian translation of the paper is nearly complete and will be distributed for comments among national stakeholders. The goal

is to obtain feedback from as many partners as possible on this document which seeks to advocate for high coverage of vulnerable populations with essential comprehensive packages of HIV preventive services.

B.2. Kazakhstan

Civil Society Mobilization

The CAPACITY KZ team has been heavily engaged in the implementation of the Civil Society Mobilization (CSM) Strategy in 8 selected pilot regions. Oblast-level trainings on project proposals development were conducted for 8 pilot sites with representatives of governmental organizations (oblast AIDS centers, narcology centers, dermatology and venereology centers) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs, initiative groups) of Kazakhstan. One trainer/consultant who participated in the Regional workshop, was invited to facilitate the trainings.

The oblast trainings covered such issues as completion of the proposal development process, discussion of partners' responsibilities under the projects, and the necessity of providing focus-groups with vulnerable populations. Besides the theoretical part the participants of the oblast trainings had an opportunity to use their practical skills as well. One of the most successful outputs of the workshop was that by the end of this event, project proposals on HIV prevention in 8 regions were developed. All participants were satisfied by the quality of trainings.

As a result of the CSM strategy in Kazakhstan: 9 umbrella NGOs were created, 4 TWG were formed, and 100 participants were trained on oblast level and 18 on regional workshop; and 34 individual and 8 combined proposals were developed. Besides these important achievements, in the frame of CSM activities governmental and non-governmental organization applied with proposals to ADB and CAAP (ADB – 4 proposals, CAAP- 6).

Interventions with Sex Workers

Almaty (Saina, Seiphullina and Auezova streets)

The target sex worker population at these sites was estimated to be 3,000, however, to date, 4,923 sex workers have been contacted (cumulative). 922 sex workers were contacted during the Quarter. This quarter:

- Trainings: 245 sex workers during 60 trainings;
- Mini-educational sessions: 1,572 sex workers during 510 mini-sessions (Themes were HIV and AIDS, STI, Communication skills, Responsible behavior, and Condom Use)
- Free Condoms distributed: 4,610
- Brochures distributed: 5,482 (Themes were HIV and AIDS, STI, Condom is my protection, Assess Your Own Risk)

Pre- and post-test results of BCC among sex workers

| Location | Pre Test % | Post Test % |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Almaty | 45 | 77.6 |

Referral Systems on STI diagnostic and treatment:

A new Friendly Cabinet (FC) was opened based on Republic Dermatology Institute. A Referral System was installed for Free Diagnostic and Treatment for STIs using vouchers and tracking system. Joint site visits were initiated with the Republic Skin - Venereal Institute targeting sex workers conducting joint mini-sessions on HIV and AIDS and STIs related issues. Additionally, 424 sex workers were referred to FC in City AIDS Center and received STI diagnostic testing. Of the sex workers tested, 23 were positive with Trichomoniasis, 1 with gonorrhoea, 8 with syphilis, 7 with hepatitis B, and 1 with Candida.

Referral System on VCT (Demand Creation, Moving Labs and Referral system to CITY AIDS Center)

Referral Activity on VCT was continued targeting sex workers disseminating relevant information on demand creation and awareness. As a result, 424 sex workers were referred to FC in City AIDS Center and actually passed through VCT. VCT demand creation was also continued among sex workers organizing 12 Moving Laboratories on HIV testing around Hot Risk Zones and in Exact Hotels where Outreach Workers do work. Monthly 40-50 sex workers were consulted before testing by Doctors of City AIDS Center. All sex workers which were consulted were tested on HIV and none were HIV positive.

Condoms Availability: Monitoring

Condom social marketing was expanded by adding New Hot zones in Almaty (Kurmangazu –Kunayev St.) by recommendation of City AIDS Center. Outreach Workers and Sales Agent started promotional campaign called “Mystery Client” among drug stores located in the hote zones.

Mass Media Activities

PSI peer educators were invited to take part during development and shooting of TV spot on Healthy Life Style together with NGO “Peer to Peer”.

CAPACITY subcontractor PSI as Member of National Sentinel Surveillance Team

Continued support is being given to the national sentinel Surveillance team to access sex workers. This quarter, 290 sex workers were tested as part of the sentinel surveillance.

Interventions with Vulnerable Youth

CAPACITY Youth Power Center (CYPC) in Almaty (Rabochii poselok).

The target of Vulnerable Youth population at this site (Rabochii Poselok) totals 6,073 by data of the Police Department of the district and District Educational Department). To date, 4,215 ARY have been contacted. During the present quarter 1,243 vulnerable youth have been contacted during peer education, peer outreach, alternate activities and Youth Friendly Counseling. This Quarter:

- TOTs: 19 participants during 1 TOT
- Peer education trainings: 72 vulnerable youth during 12 peer trainings conducted by 10 peer educators (Themes include HIV/AIDS/STIs issues, personal risk assessment, ways of protection and condom use, linkage between HIV/AIDS and injecting drug use, and availability of referral system to free VCT, STI treatment)
- Mini-sessions: 1078 vulnerable youth during 512 mini-sessions
- Events: 320 vulnerable youth during 3 events

- Alternate activities: 328 vulnerable youth (Activities include English Language Lessons, Kazakh Language Lessons, Bingo , Guitar Club, First medical help; Art therapy; Computer Club; Break dance Club; Table Tennis club)
- Peer Outreach: 600 vulnerable youth were contacted in non-traditional sites (streets, parks, discos, etc) (Themes include HIV/AIDS issues, personal risk assessment, and ways of protection and condom use and availability of treatment, social services and alternatives).
- Youth Friendly Counseling: 187 vulnerable youth received counseling by 2 counselors (gynecologist and psychologist) (Themes include reproductive health related issues, contraception, family planning, prevention of STIs, problems of personal development, interpersonal communications, existential problems, psychology of sexual relationships, psychology of self development, referral to friendly cabinet of a women’s clinic and CITY AIDS center on free VCT and STI testing and treatment).
- Free Condoms distribution: 569 condoms
- Brochures distribution: 624 brochures

Pre- and post-test results of BCC among vulnerable youth

| Location | Pre Test % | Post Test % |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Almaty | 66 | 91 |

Update on Baseline for CYPC

The Baseline survey was conducted in collaboration with BRIF/Central Asia Research Agency (Almaty). Cross-sectional study with one study group (site under intervention) and one control group during which study populations were observed before the intervention was introduced by using questionnaire covering demographic information, sexual behaviour, condom use, and socialization to IDUs, OAM determinants, and exposure to PSI’s interventions. The total sample size for two districts was 380 participants. At-risk youth aged 15-25 were randomly selected in Almaty in two districts (Zhetysuisky and Turksibsky districts). Selected intervention and control areas are matched by similar socio-demographic characteristics, so we could ensure proper evaluation of the impact. The report with results of the baseline evaluation is currently being finalized.

On the basis of derived data there were developed Programmatic Recommendations: 1) Promote consistent condom use with all partners; 2) Emphasize the risk of HIV transmission from all partners, even partners vulnerable youth know well; 3) Challenge the belief that condom use reduces trust between partners and that using condoms demonstrates love and caring for one’s sexual partner; 4) Promote having condoms on hand at all times among sexually active vulnerable youth; 5) Support vulnerable youth to develop skills to negotiate condoms and avoiding of heroin/opiates use; and 6) Improve availability of condoms for vulnerable youth in certain places.

Non-CYPC interventions with Vulnerable Youth (BCC component of CSM)

Almaty city: Almalinski, Jetysuiski, Turksibski districts

The target vulnerable youth population in these site totals 91,716 (City Statistic State Board on quantity of vulnerable youth at age 15-24 living in mentioned administrative districts).

These sites were proposed by Republican AIDS Center based on HIV prevalence rates, drug availability, and social and economic environment. To date, 29,648 vulnerable youth were contacted (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer trainings: 0 vulnerable youth during 0 peer trainings (due to summertime)
- Mini-sessions: 2,832 vulnerable youth during 964 mini-sessions
- Events: 200 vulnerable youth during 1 events
- Free Condoms distribution: 1,925 condoms
- Brochures distribution: 1,170 brochures

Karaganda city:

The target vulnerable youth population in these site totals 15,619 (City Statistic State Board on quantity of vulnerable youth at age 15-24 living in mentioned administrative districts).

Project to date, NGO Saur Pak trained by PSI educational modules contacted 1,073 vulnerable youth in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer trainings: 117 vulnerable youth during 23 peer trainings
- Mini-sessions: 129 vulnerable youth during 43 mini-sessions
- Events: 90 vulnerable youth during 2 events
- Free Condoms distribution: 635 condoms

Increasing access to Condoms through Social Marketing

- During the Quarter, 393,096 units of condoms were exported to Kyrgyzstan;
- During the Quarter, 27,778 gross of condoms (4,00,032 units) were imported from Germany;
- Sales Team applied to MOH on continuation of Favorite certificate Export license;
- 6,200 units of condoms were disseminated during various events and educational activities;
- 350,417 condoms were disseminated through traditional channels (pharmacies and shops), hot zone distribution and free distribution during educational activities;
- 16,014 units of condoms were disseminated around Hot Zone Streets targeting sex workers and clients of sex workers (Saina and Seiphullina Streets, Almaty, Kurmangazy-Kunayeva Street);
- Summer Promotional Campaign was finished at September 1 (15% discount on all Sales Operations);
- **Total Year 2 Condom Dissemination: 1,793,651**
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B.3. Kyrgyzstan

Civil Society Mobilization

CAPACITY KG team was heavily engaged in the implementation of the CSM Strategy in 7 selected pilot regions. Oblast-level trainings on project proposals development are in the process of being conducted and have been so far completed in 4 oblasts with 14 NGOs and 8 initiative groups. The participants of the trainings include representatives of governmental organizations (oblast AIDS centers, narcology centers, dermatology and venereology centers) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs, initiative groups) of Kyrgyzstan. One trainer/consultant who participated in the Regional workshop, was invited to facilitate the trainings.

The oblast trainings covered such issues as completion of the proposal development process, discussion of partners' responsibilities under the projects, and the necessity of providing focus-groups with vulnerable populations. Besides the theoretical part the participants of the oblast trainings had an opportunity to use their practical skills as well. The workshops to date have been successful in meeting their objectives and resulted in the submission of 4 joint project proposals to Global Fund. The participation of the CAAP Finance Manager at these oblast workshops made an important contribution to participants understanding of the budget planning process and donor's requirements. Two more oblast level workshops are planned to be held by umbrella NGOs in Jalal-Abad and Osh in mid-October.

HIV Prevention Model Development

During this quarter, CAPACITY provided support to two NGOs, *Podruga* and *Roditely protiv narkotikov*, to develop HIV prevention proposals. These proposals were included in a regional project proposal on HIV prevention that was submitted for funding in August 2006 to CAAP.

Collaboration with Partners

WHO invited CAPACITY to participate in the technical consultation meeting where the approaches on how to achieve Universal Access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care with emphasis on most at risk population were discussed. This meeting was a follow up to the workshop conducted by two WHO experts from Ukraine aimed at presenting the Ukrainian model on developing multidisciplinary teams to provide comprehensive/integrated services (treatment, care and support services and adherence support) for PLHIV. The main purpose of this meeting was to present donors and other international projects the drafted model done by the participants of multidisciplinary approach with an emphasis on adherence to ARVT. WHO sees CAPACITY as a partner in implementing their project on this matter in future.

Interventions with Vulnerable Youth

CAPACITY Youth Power Center (CYPC) in Bishkek (Leninski district)

The target of Vulnerable Youth population at this site totals 36,983 by data of City Statistics Board). To date 10,908 vulnerable youth have been contacted. This quarter:

- TOTs: 18 participants during 1 TOT.

- Peer education trainings: 2,796 vulnerable youth during 1,166, 45-minute peer trainings (Themes include HIV/AIDS/STIs issues, personal risk assessment, ways of protection and condom use, linkage between HIV/AIDS and injecting drug use and availability of referral system to free VCT, STI treatment)
- Mini-sessions: 2,149 vulnerable youth during 137 mini-sessions
- Alternate activities: 181 vulnerable youth (Activities included English Lessons, Turkish Lessons, Computer courses, and Debate Club).
- Peer Outreach: 2,149 vulnerable youth contacted in non-traditional sites (streets, parks, discos, etc. Themes include HIV/AIDS issues, personal risk assessment, and ways of protection and condom use and availability of treatment, social services and alternatives).
- Youth Friendly Counseling: 55 vulnerable youth by 1 counselor who provided counseling/psychological services to help them cope with the broad range of human problems such as personal development, interpersonal communications, existential problems, psychology of sexual relationships.

Pre- and post-test results of BCC among vulnerable youth

| Location | Pre Test % | Post Test % |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Bishkek | 80 | 95.6 |

Update on Baseline for CYPC

The Baseline survey was conducted in collaboration with volunteers of CYPC (Bishkek). The study with a quasi-experimental design, i.e. without control group, before the intervention was introduced by using a questionnaire covering demographic information, sexual behaviour, condom use and socialization to IDUs, OAM determinants, and exposure to PSI's interventions. The total sample size was 150 participants. At-risk youth clients of Bishkek CYPC aged 15-25 were randomly selected at the CYPC during their first visit to the CYPC. Field work was accomplished and obtained data are under analysis process.

Non-CYPC interventions focused on Vulnerable Youth (BCC component of CSM)

Bishkek city: Leninski, Sverdlovski, Pervomaiski, administrative districts

The target vulnerable youth population in these site totals 128,521 (City Statistic State Board on quantity of vulnerable youth at age 15-24 living in mentioned administrative districts). Project to date, 26,824 vulnerable youth were contacted in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer education trainings: 2,803 vulnerable youth during 1,188 peer trainings
- Mini-sessions: 2,166 vulnerable youth during 134 mini-sessions
- Events: 373 vulnerable youth during 6 events
- Free Condoms distributed: 2,000 condoms

Pre- and post-test results of BCC for non-CYPC vulnerable youth

| Location | Pre Test % | Post Test % |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Almaty | 80 | 95.6 |

Increasing access to Condoms through Social Marketing

- 393,096 units of condoms were imported to KG
- 161,534 units of condoms (7,322 for free) were disseminated
- **Total Year 2 Condom Dissemination: 304,988**

B.4. Tajikistan

Civil Society Mobilization

As follow-up of the Regional CSM strategy Workshop, umbrella NGOs together with the NGO Liaison conducted 5 oblast level trainings for 56 NGOs and 16 government organizations (oblast and city AIDS, Narcology, Dermatovenerology, Healthy Lifestyle Centers, Drug Control Agency) on development of project proposals to scale-up efforts on HIV prevention among vulnerable populations (IDUs and sex workers). As the result of the trainings participants increased their knowledge on basics of HIV prevention programs, learned about grant mechanisms of donors present in Tajikistan and mastered proposal writing skills (average pre-test result – 54.1% of correct answers, average post-test result – 80.5%).

Umbrella NGOs also provided technical assistance to participants on the finalization of their project proposals, which had been started during the trainings, and currently are consolidating the proposals into one document for consideration and approval by oblast Technical Working Groups. It is notable that umbrellas provided in-kind contribution (computers, trainers' work) to the trainings.

However, one of the observations of the training is that NGOs still need further capacity building to be considered by donors as competitive participants of grant contests. Also training participants requested CAPACITY to focus on HIV prevention among external labor migrants as well, since this group has alarmingly high potential for spread of HIV into general population. At the same time, the capacity of NGOs working with migrants is insufficient. Currently the CAPACITY Tajikistan team is gathering data to assess the situation in this direction.

Prevention models development

The CAPACITY team provided technical assistance to local partners (Sugd oblast AIDS Center and NGO Fidokor) to finalize sub-projects on prevention of HIV among IDUs in Kurgan-Tyube city of Khatlon oblast and prostitutes in Khujand, Chkalovsk and Kayrakkum towns of Sugd oblast). Project proposals were incorporated into regional project proposal submitted to CAAP regional grant competition.

Resource Mobilization

CAPACITY assisted the Tajik Association of Harm Reduction, which is represented in NCC, to develop recommendations to be included into national application to GFATM 6th round. As in case of NSP recommendations were focused on securing funds for provision of HIV-related services to 60% and more of vulnerable populations. As the result it was stated in the

application that “by the end of the program, at least 60% of the vulnerable groups including youth will have access to HIV prevention and care services.”

Collaboration with Partners

CAPACITY participated in meetings with partners and events related to HIV prevention among vulnerable populations to advocate 60 Plus approach and civil society mobilization concept, and to identify ways of collaboration. It is worth noting a meeting with IOM that was devoted to collaboration on building capacity of NGOs working with migrants (conclusions of the meeting need further elaboration and clarification for making decision on inclusion to CAPACITY civil society mobilization strategy).

Interventions with Sex Workers

Dushanbe (Karabolo street, Disco Dousti, Disco Sitora, café Farahnoz)

The target sex worker population at these sites totals 4,000 and to date 1,354 sex workers have been contacted (cumulative). This quarter:

- Trainings: 204 sex workers in 46 peer trainings
- Mini-educational sessions: 225 sex workers in 85 mini sessions (Themes were HIV and AIDS, STI, Communication skills, Responsible behavior, and Condom Use);
- Free Condoms distributed: 2,192 condoms
- Brochures distributed: 2,019 educational brochures (Themes were HIV and AIDS, STI, Condom is my protection, Assess Your Own Risk);
- Event: 4 Favorite promotion actions

Pre and Post Test Results of BCC among sex workers

| Location | Pre Test % | Post Test % |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Dushanbe | 29 | 61 |

Interventions with Vulnerable Youth (BCC component of CSM)

Dushanbe city: micro districts ## 46,61,63, “Sahovat”, “Giprozem”, Sovetsky – 1, Sovetsky – 2, Diagnostika

The target vulnerable youth population in these sites totals 48,000 (City Statistic State Board on quantity of vulnerable youth at age 15-24 living in mentioned administrative districts). Project to date, 16,550 vulnerable youth were contacted in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer education trainings: 1,156 vulnerable youth during 292 peer trainings
- Mini-sessions: 2,135 vulnerable youth during 608 mini-sessions
- Events: 765 vulnerable youth during 6 events in target sites such as Discos.
- Free Condoms distribution: 338 condoms
- Brochures distribution: 3,883 educational brochures

Increasing access to Condoms through Social Marketing

- 5,700 units of free condoms were disseminated during various events and educational activities

- 149,596 units of condoms were disseminated through traditional channels (pharmacies and shops), hot zone distribution and free distribution during educational activities
- PSI Tajikistan Sales Department started Promotional campaign announcing 13% Incentive scheme for partners involved into Cause Related Social Marketing
- **Total Year 2 Condom dissemination: 560,257**

B.5. Turkmenistan

Youth Center Proposal

The CAPACITY-developed proposal to implement the CAPACITY Youth Center (CYC) model in Turkmenistan as requested by USAID/Turkmenistan, is still pending.

B.6. Uzbekistan

Civil Society Mobilization Strategy – identifying regions for CSM implementation

Uzbekistan was not included in the regional CSM workshop at Issyk-Kul. After discussions with the national steward there, the conclusion was made that since CAPACITY is not yet registered in UZ, and since the NGO movement in UZ is currently under difficult times, then it would be better if at that time they did not participate. However, a few months later, the UZ national steward expressed interest in having a similar event at the national level. CAPACITY and CAAP agreed to co-sponsor the event.

CSM implementation: The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the CAPACITY Project/Uzbekistan selected seven pilot regions of Uzbekistan for CSM implementation to work with vulnerable groups on prevention of HIV/STIs. The regions are as follows: Tashkent oblast, Khorezm oblast, Kashkadarya oblast, Surkhandarya oblast, Navoi oblast, Bukhara oblast and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. After further negotiations, it was decided to cover the rest oblasts with CSM activities as well.

Roundtable with key partners in Samarqand: In the beginning of July, a roundtable with CSM key partners (oblast AIDS center, narcology dispensary, education department, sanitary and epidemiological service, NGOs) was held in Samarqand. The main purpose of the roundtable was to discuss a grand proposal developed for Urgutskiy rayon of Samarqand oblast, enlist the partners' support and define their functions and responsibilities in the project. All participants agreed with the necessity of implementation of this project in Urgutskiy rayon of Samarqand oblast, expressed their willingness to take active part in its implementation, made some relevant changes in the log frame and provided CAPACITY with letters of support. Also, it was decided to organize a meeting with representatives of vulnerable groups (IDUs and sex workers) in order to discuss the Urgut project and ensure their active participation in it.

CSM work meetings with potential partner organizations: In August work meetings were held for potential partner organizations on community mobilization on HIV/AIDS prevention among vulnerable groups in six oblasts of Uzbekistan. During the work meetings, CSM goals and objectives were identified and further CSM steps in Uzbekistan were discussed, the partners' inter-sectoral cooperation was organized, thematic Working Groups (TWG) members were selected as well as the National Workshop participants.

About 180 participants attended the work meetings, including representatives of oblast AIDS centers, narcology centers, dermatology and venereology centers, oblast khokimiyats (local administration) and health care departments, oblast internal affairs departments, PLHIV, civil society and mass media. It is also important to note that the Republican AIDS Center (RAC) representatives took active part in all work meetings organized in the selected oblasts.

National workshop on project proposals development: As the next step of the CSM Strategy implementation, in close partnership with MoH/RAC and CAAP, the National Workshop on project proposals development was conducted for 38 representatives of governmental organizations (oblast AIDS centers, narcology centers, dermatology and venereology centers) and non-governmental organizations (Mahalla, NGOs) of Uzbekistan. Four international trainers were invited to facilitate the workshop.

Besides the theoretical part of the workshop the participants had an opportunity to use their practical skills as well. One of the most successful outputs of the workshop was that by the end of this event, project proposals on HIV prevention in seven oblasts and two projects on improving specialists' skills (medical students and psychologists) were developed. It is planned to conduct 5-day trainings on oblast level in pilot sites in November. The trainings will cover such issues as completion of the proposal development process, discussion of partners' responsibilities under the projects, and the necessity of providing focus-groups with vulnerable groups.

Interventions with Sex Workers

Tashkent (Chilanzar district)

The target sex worker population at this site totals 5,000 and to date 3,657 sex workers have been contacted (cumulative). This quarter:

- TOTs: Outreach Workers attended 2 TOT. First covered ARVT, VCT co-dependence, human reproductive system, STI risk evaluation, referrals, organization, friendly-to-target-groups, and management of friendly meetings. Second covered new strategies for working with sex workers and was conducted in conjunction with DDRP.
- Trainings: 276 sex workers in 162 peer trainings
- Mini-educational sessions: 451 sex workers in 384 mini sessions
- Free Condoms distributed: 835 condoms
- Brochures distributed: 2,074 educational brochures (Themes were HIV and AIDS, STI, Condom is my protection, Assess Your Own Risk);

Pre- and post-test results of BCC among sex workers

| Location | Pre Test % | Post Test % |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Tashkent | 51 | 95 |

Interventions with Vulnerable Youth (BCC component of CSM)

Tashkent city: M-Ulugbek, Mirabad, Yunusobod districts

The target vulnerable youth population in these site totals 134,549 (Republican Statistical Center of Uzbekistan, 2005 for quantity of vulnerable youth at age 15-24 living in above mentioned administrative districts). Project to date, 34,491 vulnerable youth were contacted in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer education trainings: 1,752 vulnerable youth during 367 peer trainings
- Mini-sessions: 1,514
- Events: 270 vulnerable youth during 4 events in target site such as discos.
- Free Condoms distributed: 1,631 condoms
- Brochures distributed: 822 educational brochures

Pre- and post-test results of BCC among vulnerable youth

| Location | Pre Test % | Post Test % |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Tashkent | 34 | 98 |

Increasing access to Condoms through Social Marketing

Due to new requirements in UZ for selling condoms and medicines, and the difficulties CAPACITY subcontractor PSI has had with licensing, a decision was made to halt condom social marketing in UZ for the time being. CAPACITY condoms will be moved from UZ to TJ and KZ.

C. Strategy 3: Improve the Quality of HIV/AIDS Services

C.1. Regional

TB/HIV

During the reporting period, CAPACITY regional activities were mainly focused on monitoring implementation of the TB/HIV models in pilot sites of TJ, UZ, KG and making necessary adjustments, including developing the new M&E reporting forms and questionnaires for the forthcoming M&E refresh-trainings. In addition, meetings with major stakeholders were held to continue partner collaboration in TB/HIV directions.

Analysis of ARV Procurement Prices for all CIS countries

The Global Fund requires all countries to submit ARV procurement prices to a central data base. ARV data from the Global Fund and the Global Price Reporting Mechanism have been obtained for all CIS countries. Analysis was conducted to compare and contrast ARV selection choices as well as price comparisons. This analysis should assess rational selection choices in terms of dosage forms and number of ARVs. In addition, the price comparison will enable countries to compare their price with similar countries when negotiating prices with manufacturers and distributors. This data will be shared with National AIDS Center officials and MOH on the next visit to the region. Comments from local colleagues will be included in a final report. The report will be distributed to all countries.

C.2. Kazakhstan

TB and HIV Services Interaction

CAPACITY is continuing its work with the TB/HIV working group in Kazakhstan and in collaboration with partners (National TB Center, Project HOPE, KNCV). In the frame of

TWG, CAPACITY helped to draft National TB Prikaz (TB/HIV part), and developed the protocol on dual TB/HIV infection. The protocol received high marks and approval from the European region of WHO.

ARVT

CAPACITY participated in and provided technical assistance to the WHO training on adherence to ARVT in Temirtau. The training was conducted for three NGOs and the AIDS centers of Karaganda, Pavlodar and Temirtau. During the training the main obstacles for increasing adherence to ARVT and ways of overcoming them were suggested. Additionally, CAPACITY provided technical assistance, jointly with KZ Alliance of PLHIV, for the adaptation for KZ of an information and education brochure on adherence to ARVT, which will be published by the Global Fund. Finally, at the request of the RAC, viral load analysis of patients receiving ARVT from 2005 was provided and the results were given to the RAC.

Development of Research Protocol to Identify Barriers to ARV Initiation and Adherence

While ARVT medical services have been successfully established in Kazakhstan, patient uptake of ARVT program has been alarmingly low. This response rate is typical in IDU populations globally and can be expected in neighboring countries as they begin to roll out ARVT services. As such, in order to optimize efficiency of treatment programs, there needs to be interventions and programs to improve patient willingness to initiate and maintain ARVT. A small research protocol is being developed for rapid assessment to identify barriers to ARVT initiation and adherence in Kazakhstan. It is expected that the assessment tool can be used in other settings and will provide some insight into programmatic and policy changes to promote ARVT adherence. The project will include a rapid evaluation followed by recommendations. The first stage of field work is expected to be conducted in December 2006.

C.3. Kyrgyzstan

TB/HIV

The TB/HIV model implementation continued in pilot regions this quarter. Capacity held meetings with major stakeholders to discuss further collaboration in TB/HIV directions in an effort to promote on-going collaboration/coordination with partners. In the frame of TWG CAPACITY helped to draft the TB/HIV part of the National Application to GF 6th round.

In July 2006, USAID regional coordinator on HIV/AIDS Laurel Fain and Kip Beardsley made their visit to pilot site in Kant. There was a meeting at the Family Medicine Center and doctors from the two services of TB and AIDS shared their experiences on how the integrated model works, what are their needs and obstacles to effectively implement the model. The positive outcomes of the model were also indicated.

Voluntary Counseling and Testing

In September 2006, TWG on VCT had its meeting. This was a follow up to the first meeting held in late June. The purpose of this meeting was to do the situation analysis on the existing

system of Psycho-Social Consultations and develop normative documents for opening rooms on Psycho-Social Consultations. The TWG has been divided into three sub-groups, including educational, state (medical institutions), and NGO groups and were decided to prepare the normative documents for the next meeting taking into consideration all the existing normative documents within the VCT. It was agreed that three groups will have three separate meetings in October where the drafted normative documents will be discussed. The TWG will compile and process it into one document and submit to the MoH for their feedback and approval. In addition, CAPACITY attended the coordination meeting organized by WHO on VCT with a follow up TOT on VCT.

STI

Country director has met with the head of Republican Venereological Clinic to discuss the proposal initiated by RO on strengthening national STI services. The meeting was positively received by the head of the clinic and showed their readiness for collaboration. The clinic happily provided all information requested by CAPACITY and positive feedback was given as well by the Head of the Clinic to the draft letter prepared by CAPACITY to the Ministry of Health.

Development of Research Protocol to Identify Barriers to ARV Initiation and Adherence

While ARVT medical services have been successfully established in Kyrgyzstan, patient uptake of ARVT program has been alarmingly low. This response rate is typical in IDU populations globally and can be expected in neighboring countries as they begin to roll out ARVT services. As such, in order to optimize efficiency of treatment programs, there needs to be interventions and programs to improve patient willingness to initiate and maintain ARVT. A small research protocol is being developed for rapid assessment to identify barriers to ARVT initiation and adherence in Kyrgyzstan. It is expected that the assessment tool can be used in other settings and will provide some insight into programmatic and policy changes to promote ARVT adherence. The project will include a rapid evaluation followed by recommendations. The first stage of field work is expected to be conducted in December 2006.

C.4. Tajikistan

TB/HIV

The TB/HIV model implementation continued in pilot regions this quarter. CAPACITY held meetings with major stakeholders to discuss further collaboration in TB/HIV directions in an effort to promote on-going collaboration/coordination with partners. The National TB/HIV monitoring team conducted the second monitoring of TB/HIV model implementation in Dushanbe-city. Monitoring demonstrated improved referral system between the services. However, some problems were revealed, like absence of VCT in TB services, weak referral system between Narcology Center and RAC leading to loss/drop-outs of PLHIV, absence of free X-ray films for diagnostics of TB in PLHIV. Based on the monitoring results, the TWG on HIV/TB made some decisions to solve the problems (e.g. VCT has been introduced in Dushanbe-city TB center), while issues related to additional Government funding (purchase of X-ray films, medicines for prevention and treatment of TB in PLHIV) are still open.

However it is encouraging that the component on strengthening HIV/TB interaction was included in the National Application to GFATM 6th round (CAPACITY had a series of meetings with key persons from HIV/TB TWG on development of this component). In case of approval of the application, US\$215,000 will be available for scaling up the model. Also Project HOPE with CAPACITY's support submitted a proposal to Asian Development Bank (NGOs support program) on training of specialists on HIV/TB interaction and management of co-infection.

Collaboration with Partners

CAPACITY participated in the following Project HOPE events:

- a) Grant Review Committee (grants to NGOs on promotion of DOTS among population of priority districts);
- b) Training for TWG on BCC/IEC for TB on M&E of BCC activities.

Upon proposal of co-chairman of TB/HIV TWG CAPACITY submitted request to NCC to be considered as potential sub-recipient for implementation of TB/HIV activities (though CAPACITY was not mentioned in the list of sub-recipients in the final application to GF).

C.5. Turkmenistan

The STI Training Workshop

CAPACITY in collaboration with the AED/TK has conducted the five-day training workshop on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Laboratory Diagnostics in July 2006. There were present 28 participants from all over Turkmenistan, consisting of 8 dermatology/venereal disease specialists, 9 lab specialists of the serological laboratories, 5 bacteriologists, 1 lab specialist of the clinical diagnostic laboratory, and 5 lab specialists of the AIDS centers. As a result of this training workshop, participants have significantly improved their knowledge on the STI laboratory diagnostics. Pretest result for the training was 56% and post test result was 93%.

C.6. Uzbekistan

HIV/TB Model Implementation

During the reporting period, the CAPACITY Project/Uzbekistan continued its work on HIV/TB Model implementation in pilot regions (Tashkent city and Tashkent oblast). Moreover, TIAME teachers started to train medical specialists of all levels on interaction of AIDS/TB services using the education course developed with CAPACITY technical assistance. CAPACITY held meetings with major stakeholders to discuss further collaboration in TB/HIV directions in an effort to promote on-going collaboration/coordination with partners.

D. Strategy 4: Improve Resource-Use to Integrate HIV/AIDS Services

D.1. Kazakhstan

Patient and Fund Flow Analysis

Preliminary analysis of the information collected within the functionality and funding assessments – through interview of 28 oblast, city and rayon-level health managers and providers from a variety of service programs/organizations such as the health department, AIDS centers, TB, dermato-venereal and narcology dispensaries, maternity centers, friendly cabinets/trust points and PHC facilities – was completed. Also completed was preliminary analysis of information collected from the patient-flow assessments – through interview of 44 patients/clients seeking HIV/AIDS related services (5 HIV/AIDS, 2 HIV/AIDS and TB, 1 HIV/AIDS and STI, 21 TB, 12 STI, and 3 syringe exchange services). The next step is to finish the final analyses and report-writing.