

QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT



**Second Quarter Report – Third Year
1 April 2007 – 30 June 2007
Submitted 31 July 2007**

by

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI)

and partners:

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

This document was made possible through support provided by US Agency for International Development, under the terms of Cooperative Agreement No. 176-A-00-04-00014-00.



I. Introduction:

During this quarter, USAID sponsored a midterm evaluation of the CAPACITY Project during this quarter. The midterm evaluation team consisted of an independent consultant, a USAID staff from Washington, DC, and two regional USAID staff. The evaluation was conducted in 4 countries, excluding Turkmenistan and examined CAPACITY's technical achievements as well as Project management. CAPACITY staff was engaged in MTE preparation activities, such as preparing project documents, writing success stories, and preparing Power Point presentations for the MTE team. The MTE team was on the ground during late April and early May. Following the data collection phase of the MTE, a MTE report was produced and submitted to JSI for review. The report contained 12 recommendations, including 9 technical recommendations and 3 management recommendations. Meetings between USAID, JSI/HQ, and JSI/CAR staff are planned for early next quarter to discuss which of the recommendations will be accepted, which will be rejected, and to brainstorm about the CAPACITY year 4 work plan.

CAPACITY- and UNAIDS-trained consultants, including CAPACITY staff and national partner staff, worked diligently during this quarter to provide technical assistance in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan towards the production of the national applications for the GFATM round 7. CAPACITY was instrumental, along with other stakeholders, in getting HIV prevention to be a major priority in the applications of these three countries. In addition, CAPACITY successfully pushed to enable NGOs and civil society to play a role on the NACMs (CCMs), and for NGO applications to find a place within the national application of Kazakhstan.

The TB/HIV models in three countries all came to their end during this quarter, even as new models are being planned in Kazakhstan. In the three countries, TWG meetings and stakeholder roundtable meetings were held to present the preliminary findings and results of the models. In all three countries, the TB/HIV models received wide support, including from the governments, which are now engaging CAPACITY to provide TA for the scaling up to other regions of the countries using GFATM funds.

Sustainability plans for the CAPACITY Youth Power Centers are well underway in both Almaty and Bishkek. PSI secured funding from CAAP to transfer the CYPCs to local organizations. CAPACITY plans to continue to provide technical assistance to the local organizations. In addition, three countries have included YPCs in their GFATM round 7 applications, and UNICEF is using the model in their Friendly Youth Centers in Almaty.



II. Programmatic Progress

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

A.1. Regional

Promoting USAID and the CAPACITY Project

CAPACITY Project Success Stories: Staff from all the country offices and the regional office pulled together a series of success stories to give brief synopses of the successful activities completed by the Project toward meeting the objectives agreed upon between the Project and USAID.

CAPACITY Project Website: The official Project website was launched among all Project partners in April, 2007. It is an effective tool for communicating with partners and sharing Project information and materials. The website address is www.capacityproject.info and it is available in English and Russian languages.

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.

Strengthening NACM Communications with an AIDS Online Communications Database

Following the presentation of CAPACITY's technical paper on Improving NACM Communication among the regional and country-level HIV stakeholders CAPACITY initiated development of the online Communication system on AIDS which is aimed to serve as an information sharing tool between various stakeholders, an information reporting tool from stakeholders to the national stewards, and a management tool for national stewards to effectively coordinate the implementation of the national AIDS programs.

CAPACITY hired a web-developing company which started working in May and the work will take about 2.5 months. It is anticipated that in the next Quarter the test version of the database will be introduced in the selected country for testing and collecting feedback on its drawbacks and improvements. The test period will last for 2 months and will also be used for collecting and entering information on AIDS-service organizations, grants, trainings and other events, and AIDS-related technical papers.

It is anticipated that the online database will be administered by CAPACITY's seconded communication specialists on the country level while international and donor organizations will be responsible for providing and entering relevant data. Once introduced, the communications specialists will be responsible for training information providers on how to use the database, as well as others within the national stewards on how to use the information for coordination and management. Specialists will also be responsible for following up with stakeholders to ensure early utilization of the tool.



Technical Assistance to CAAP

Following the announcement by CAAP of the winners of the first round of regional HIV prevention grants, CAAP began the process of finalizing the agreements with the grantees. As part of the process, CAAP required that grantees sign a subcontract agreement with CAAP. Unfortunately, CAAP did not have a subcontract agreement already written. CAAP staff asked CAPACITY to help prepare the subcontract agreement. CAPACITY welcomed this opportunity to provide technical assistance to CAAP and agreed to take the lead to prepare the subcontract agreement for all CAAP regional grantees.

Since there are 5 sub-agreements of the first round of regional grants from CAAP, CAPACITY negotiated with all of the subs to get their agreement on the draft subcontract agreement that CAPACITY wrote. This was an important process to undergo since all five subs are required to sign subcontract agreements and all were having difficulty in their negotiations with CAAP. Essentially, CAPACITY made it possible for the CAAP sub-grants to move forward by writing the subcontract agreement, getting all five sub-grantees to agree with the draft, and pushing CAAP to sign by a deadline. Communications with some of the sub-grantees has indicated that if CAPACITY had not stepped up to this task, there might still be no signed subcontract agreements.

In addition, all of the sub-grantees are having difficulty using the CAAP Grant Recipient Handbook. CAPACITY is now working with CAAP to improve this Handbook. This work will extend into next quarter, but it is not 100% clear if CAAP will make suggested changes.

A.2. Kazakhstan

GFATM 7th Round National Proposal Development

This quarter CAPACITY actively participated in all activities in the frame of GFATM 7th Round National Proposal development. In this connection Kazakhstan Country Director met with the Minister of Health and discussed issues related to the GFATM 7th round. Yelena Kudussova presented information on the GFATM the 7th round, six minimal requirements to the CCM and regional training where 6 consultants from Kazakhstan were prepared. Elections for CCM membership from NGO sector was initiated and 6 representatives from non-governmental sector were selected. CAPACITY consultants that were trained at the Regional Training for effective Proposal Development (March, 2007) developed the package of documents, including statement and operational manual for CCM. Minister of Health supported 7th round's all work directions mentioned above. He also approved national technical expert/consultant hiring by PSI.

In May, Ministry of Health under the technical support of CAPACITY held First Expanded Meeting involving all interested Ministries and departments in order to define priority directions for the 7th round National Proposal. Representatives of Ministry of Health, CAPACITY, PSI, UNAIDS, NGOs, RAC, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Culture, NTBC and CDC participated in this meeting. The agenda of the meeting covered issues as following:



- General information on the GFATM 7th round, GFATM requirement to the CCM, compliance of the main directions with the National AIDS Program. The concepts of NCC and CCM.
- Plan of activities in the frame of preparation to the GFATM 7th round in Kazakhstan
- report on election of NGO sector to the Commission on collaboration with GFATM (CCM).
- Main functions of Commission on collaboration with GFATM, and of TWG on development of proposal for the GFATM 7th round.
- Unified application form.
- Defining priority directions to be included to the national proposal
- Discussion and approval of CCM basic documents.

Stages and activities on preparation to the development of National proposal: Regional workshop on preparation of National consultants, assessment of financial provision for National Program, development of recommended work plan, and development of technical recommendations (CCM Manual) were presented. The process of NGO sector election to CCM was described. This process was transparent and open and conducted through the distribution and newspaper announcement.

At this meeting the unified application form was presented. This form was supported by international organizations as well as by GFATM. RAC also approved this form with some minor comments. The package of documents was posted on the RAC website and consists of three documents: (1) the letter of intention (not applicable to this round), (2) proposal form and (3) budget form. The participants of the meeting also discussed National proposal log frame, of the following components:

- HIV prevention among IDUs
- HIV prevention among sex workers and IDU sex workers
- Youth programs for vulnerable youth and adolescents
- HIV prevention among prisoners
- STI diagnostics and treatment in the frame of strengthening of reproductive and sexual health.

CAPACITY closely collaborated with TWG and consultants on the GFATM 7th Round National Proposal development. Upon the request of TWG and consultant CAPACITY prepared all attachments to the National Proposal.

Support for STI Treatment and Prevention Component to National GFATM Proposal
CAPACITY conducted an assessment in Kazakhstan to determine how to best include an STI prevention and treatment component into the GFATM round 7 proposal. The assessment was conducted in collaboration with the National Dermatovenerological Center. The latter selected Aktobe as the site for the assessment. The objective was to develop linkages between STI clinics and AIDS services to prevent HIV/STI among sex workers. CAPACITY, PSI, and the Dermatovenerologic Institute held a joint meeting to provide a situation assessment and definition of oblasts for project implementation. The priority directions in provision of friendly HIV/STI services for sex workers were defined and protocols for assessment were developed. CAPACITY staff together with Dermatovenerologic Institute representatives provided assessment among Almaty, Aktobe and Shymkent medical facilities and sex workers, where they interviewed staff of medicals



facilities of pilot cities – AIDS Centers, STI clinics and friendly cabinets – and sex workers. As a result of the data collected, a project proposal on Strengthening STI services for sex workers was designed. This proposal is to be included to the National Proposal for the GFATM 7th Round.

Communications

In April CAPACITY Staff met with RAC General Director to present the technical paper on Improving RAC Communications with partners. CAPACITY Regional Communications Coordinator made a presentation for RAC General Director that covered such topics as CAPACITY technical assistance in improving HIV/AIDS communications among partners on the country level; CAPACITY technical paper on improving NACM communications; online database of HIV/AIDS activities designed by CAPACITY in collaboration with multiple international and national stakeholders to be developed and introduced Central Asian countries and next steps of collaboration with KZ RAC in the area of improving communications. This initiative got highly positive feedback from RAC because it goes along with RAC plans to create a national information center to improve collaboration. M. Khassanova also welcomed the idea of development and introduction of the online database, and summed up that she appreciates CAPACITY's activities to support RAC. It was agreed that M. Khassanova and her specialists will review the technical paper on communications and get back to CAPACITY with feedback and suggestions.

Secondment Staff

CAPACITY Seconded Communication Specialist

This quarter Communication Specialist developed a project on website improvement and presented it to RAC General Director. RAC General Director approved the website design change, information to be placed on the website, updates and other details concerning the website existence. As soon as the General Director approves the budget for website changes all the work related this issue will start.

In June, the Republican AIDS Center (RAC) with CAPACITY technical assistance initiated production of RAC Monthly Bulletins. The Bulletin will highlight the events implemented in the HIV/AIDS area in Kazakhstan. From July, RAC is planning to start placing bulletins on its website.

NGO Liaison

In May, Meruert Sandykbaeva joined CAPACITY as the NGO Liaison Specialist seconded to the Republican AIDS Center in Kazakhstan.

A.3. Kyrgyzstan

Support to National Steward

During the reporting period, CAPACITY country office as well as the seconded staff took active part in the process of preparation of the national proposal for the 7th Round GFATM by CMCC. CAPACITY staff participated in a series of work meetings that have been organized and coordinated by the AIDS Unit among international and national organizations for the discussion the design and the key components of the national proposal. In addition, the



CAPACITY country office has provided its technical expertise on the overall content and budget of the national proposal.

Promotion of the Unified Application Format

Under policy dialogue, the project team met with the following policy makers in order to promote the Unified Application Form through the leadership of the CMCC:

- the Director of the Republican Aids Center Mr. Mamatov
- the Program Manager PIU/GFATM AIDS component Mr. Subanbaev
- the Head of AIDS Unit Ms. Isakova

The results of the meetings are as follows: AIDS Unit has requested an official letter which would state that all donors with whom this format has been agreed will use this unified format in their national grant cycles; RAC and PIU/GFATM in general have agreed to use this format, however, PIU manager said that this format is still complicated for use by local applicants and if PIU/GF decide to use this format it can happen only early next year when the last national grant cycle from the 2nd round GFATM will be announced.

The close policy dialogue was constructed with the national program Manas Taalimi (MT) team group during the participation at the Joint Annual Review meetings. Specifically, the integration of HIV/TB model at the PHC level has been discussed within the framework of implementing the MT national program and the appropriate recommendations have been promoted by CAPACITY team based on the results of TB/HIV model. More detailed report on this event is presented in Strategy 3 part of this report.

Coordination with Donor and Key Partners

By the coordination of USAID country office the CAPACITY Project took part at the USAID funded health program partners meeting. CAPACITY staff took part in the conference organized by RAC aimed at presenting the results of the 2006 Sentinel Surveillance Data. As a result of the implementation the TB/HIV model in penitentiary systems of Chui Oblast as well, CAPACITY team took part in a series of meetings organized by the Ministry of Justice. In this regard, the CAPACITY Project has become a member of the newly established coordination committee under the MoJ which consists of the representatives of international programs, national agencies and NGOs that are involved in the process of implementation of the health reforms program in prisons.

Seconded Staff

M&E specialist has been appointed by Aids Unit as a member of the national team of experts for consolidating the national proposal for 7th round of GFATM. She took a lead in carrying out several meetings aimed at registration, classifying and reviewing the sub proposals for 7th round; and at registration the applications submitted for the position of Principal Recipients of 7th round award. In late June, the M&E specialist took part in international conference entitled Second Monitoring AIDS Pandemic (MAP) meeting in the Commonwealth of Independent States held in Moscow. It was aimed at monitoring AIDS Pandemic in the CIS countries from 1989 to 2006.

NGO Liason continued to work on improving partnership between NGOs, international partners and CMCC. He took part in the second round of the workshop series on leadership for HIV prevention among state agencies and NGOs organized by UNDP. The specialist



facilitated the working group on strengthening collaboration between state agencies and NGOs.

During this quarter, the specialist took part in other regional workshops, one of which TOT was held in Almaty aimed at management of projects funded by WB in the sphere of HIV/AIDS in CAR. NGO Liaison has been delegated by the AIDS Unit to take part in this event. The specific issues that have been trained at this training were the programmatic and financial parts of the proposal for CAAP, the monitoring and reporting issues. Being a member of the national TWG on social management, the specialist took part in the regional workshop held in Bishkek and aimed at sharing experience of Central Asian countries on the work of social bureaus and discuss the development of the technical manual.

Another area of his activity was to organize along with other representatives of international and civic organizations number of activities devoted to the World Day against Drugs. CAPACITY made small financial input as well for carrying out some of activities, and its promotion materials were used for prizes of contests. On this day the specialist took part in the national press conference as well devoted to the World Day against Drugs.

Communication specialist has been assigned by AIDS Unit to coordinate the online training course on HIV/AIDS. This course has been jointly designed and developed by three parties: AIDS Unit, Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for Continuous Training of Health Specialists, and InWent Capacity Building International. This long term course aimed at ensuring the non-medical workers involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and control at grass root level receive the proper knowledge on HIV infection and AIDS. Specifically, the specialist provided technical knowledge in installation of the course, recruited participants for introduction part of this course and did all the logistical support.

During the reporting period, she continued to update, edit information of all donors' activities and disseminate through Unit's website and took part in a series of events such as "Central Asian InterConfessional" conference and work meeting with journalists. At these events the specialist provided appropriate information on main sources and links to HIV/AIDS resources.

A.4. Tajikistan

Secondment

During the reporting period seconded specialists continued to provide technical assistance to NACM. Also seconded specialists took active part in arranging and conducting NACM major events (Conference on the Results of Sentinel Surveillance in Tajikistan, launching session of NCC TWGs on Information, Education and Communication, and on HIV Prevention Among Vulnerable Populations).

NGO Liaison Specialist took active part in arranging and conducting Republican Conference "HIV/AIDS Prevention – Lessons Learned and Perspectives" (for more details on the event see Strategy 2 section of the report). NGO Liaison facilitated the session on strengthening interaction between civil society organizations and NACM. During the discussion participants came to the conclusion that transparency and accountability of NCC should be strengthened via conducting transparent direct election of NCC members



representing civil society, annual rotation of them and accountability to their constituency – community of AIDS-servicing civil society organizations. This recommendation was included to the Resolution of the Conference.

NGO Liaison participated in development of RAC report to the European Center of Epidemiological Control on HIV/AIDS; provided TA in organizing the first meeting of TWG on HIV prevention among vulnerable populations, in particular on compilation of data submitted by partners for Implementation Plan of Objective 1 of the HIV/AIDS program of RT for the period of 2007-2010 (HIV prevention among IDUs, sex workers, MSM and prison inmates).

Routinely NGO Liaison Specialist assisted to ASOs in resource mobilization through dissemination of information on grant competition announcements, providing consultations to NGOs on development of project proposals.

Communication Specialist continued maintenance of key communication tools – NCC web-site and RAC monthly bulletin. After announcing web-site last quarter Specialist is working on involvement of partners to updating of information exchange tools, especially to providing information for calendar of events and partners' database to make the web-site an interactive instrument.

Communication Specialist also participated at the Republican Conference “HIV/AIDS Prevention – Lessons Learned and Perspectives” with presentation “Improving information exchange between NCC and NGOs in Tajikistan” introducing RAC monthly bulletin and NCC official web-site. Feedback on improving communication made by conference participants included recommendations on strengthening information exchange with oblast-level partners. Participants recommended all ASOs to use NCC web-site as single communication platform.

Communication Specialist started to draft Tajikistan HIV Communication Strategy to be used by NACM as methodological guidance for ensuring better communication among partners.

M&E Specialist participated in finalizing National M&E Plan, which is the part of the National Program on HIV. Final draft was presented at the meeting of NCC TWG on M&E. TWG members finalized the document and submitted it to the Government for approval. M&E Specialist worked on introduction of unique identification code (UIC) at national level with support of OSI/DDRP and RAC. Series of meetings with OSI/DDRP, RAC, Narcological Center, Medical Statistics Center, NGOs participation were arranged to discuss the details of UIC introduction. Partners agreed to develop classifier of services to be used for UIC database, for which a subgroup within the MoH is to be established.

Other Stewardship activities

Strengthening NACM regulatory framework and governance

Per NCC Secretariat's request to provide TA on NACM regulatory framework to strengthen integration of Three Ones Principles into the governance system and within the MoU between CAPACITY and CAAP Mr. Roman Denisov, CAPACITY-hired Consultant, revised NCC regulatory framework documents, namely NCC Constitution, Regulations on TWG and Draft Constitution of Local Coordinating Councils. The package of recommendations along with the revised documents was submitted to the NCC Secretariat and is being reviewed by



team of Local Experts. Amendments proposed by the Consultant addressed the following areas of concerns and needs for:

- Clearer procedures for election and rotation of NCC NGO members
- Mechanisms ensuring accountability of NCC members to their constituencies
- Regulatory document on local coordination mechanisms
- Clear legal status of NCC and its Secretariat
- Mitigation plan for conflict of interests

Currently the team of Local Experts hired by CAAP and led by NCC Secretary is reviewing the package of recommendations in order to ensure its compliance with local legislation requirements and specifics of National Stewardship. The activity was reported at the Second Central Asian Interparliamentarian Conference on HIV/AIDS arranged by CAAP in Astana on 7-8 June 2007.

Collaboration with partners

CAPACITY met with Dr. Philippe Creach, new GFATM Portfolio Manager for Tajikistan, to brief on past activities, discuss plans for future and collaboration with GFATM.

A.5. Turkmenistan

Project Office Establishment

The project office was established at the National AIDS prevention center and was operationalized.

UN extended HIV Thematic Working Group Meeting

CAPACITY has participated in UN-Family + USAID Partner meeting on HIV program collaboration. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a common strategic thinking between UN-family and larger partners on international stakeholder's work related to HIV in Turkmenistan. The meeting specifically was aimed to develop strategic plan that the international community will submit the MOH for consideration.

Meeting with International Partners

CAPACITY has held number of meetings with international partners to identify areas for collaboration.

UNODC- specific area for collaboration related to UNODC's plan to support government to undertake a baseline study to estimate 1) number of IDU population and 2) the HIV prevalence rate among that IDU population. Specific proposals included 1) CAPACITY providing technical assistance in the review of the study protocols, 2) CAPACITY supporting costs of researchers or trainings of organizations/individuals who will undertake the research or 3) other cost sharing or support of the process. CAPACITY agreed to discuss these issues internally and come back to UNODC with decision about possible cost sharing/involvement from CAPACITY side.



UNDP – possible areas for collaboration 1) strengthening the national M&E system (UNDP has supported introductory training on M&E and CRIS for the M&E thematic working group, CAPACITY can collaborate on follow up activities) 2) Education and empowerment of sex workers (UNDP has conducted KAP survey among sex workers and CAPACITY can collaborate on follow up activities in this area).

UNAIDS- is working in three directions in TM: 1) Three Ones, 2) Universal Access and 3) Coordination of UN system/family on HIV. There are some key areas of overlap, specifically on M&E, VCT, treatment, and donor support and collaboration.

UNFPA– the area for CAPACITY’s possible collaboration is development/printing out IEC (health promotion) materials. The UNFPA IEC/Advocacy adviser was interested in CAPACITY’s Youth power centers and expressed willingness to collaborate on it.

UNICEF- possible area for collaboration is development of HIV communication strategy and youth friendly clinics. In the past, UNICEF provided support to the MOH to establish youth friendly clinics based in several districts clinics and has provided equipments to those clinics, however, in the long term these models were not sustainable. Therefore, now, UNICEF’s focus is on institutional level. And, it provides support to the MOH in developing protocols/prikazes on national level for these services and has working group on this area.

WHO- following two events were of interest for CAPACITY:

- workshop on provider initiated counseling and testing
- workshop and round table on introduction of second generation surveillance

MSF– possible area for collaboration is VCT.

Meeting with National Partners

CAPACITY has met with the following national partners:

- With the chief of treatment and prevention department of the MOH to inform on initial plan of the project;
- Women’s union to identify needs for technical assistance; requested TA was for IEC materials and training modules;
- National red crescent society to learn about HIV prevention programs;
- Youth union to inform on Project’s plan on Youth power centers; and
- The director of the National AIDS Prevention Center to inform on initial Project plan and identify request for TA.

Site Visit to IRC

To understand work of the information resource centers organized by UNFPA under the auspices of the Women’s Union work, CAPACITY has visited IRC in May.

Participating in Partners Activities

CAPACITY has participated in the following partners activities:

- CDC training on laboratory diagnostics of viral hepatitis and HIV-infection
- UNDP training on M&E and CRIS system



- WHO training and round table about second generation surveillance

Supporting National's Activities

CAPACITY has provided financial support to the information center of the MOH to conduct multi-sectorial conference and issuance of collection of thesis devoted to the World Day to fight against drug abuse.

Preparation for Upcoming Round Table

CAPACITY initiated all preparation activities for upcoming round table meeting with the national and international partners, which will take place during next quarter.

Work Plan

Project work plan has been drafted and will be finalized next quarter.

A.6. Uzbekistan

Application Development for the 7th Round of GFATM

Within the reporting period, the CAPACITY Project, together with other government and international stakeholders, continued and completed a project proposal development for the 7th round of GFATM. The project proposal was considered and approved by NACM. Moreover, during CCM meeting, the chairman, Mr. Khakimov, expressed his gratitude to the CAPACITY Project and UNAIDS for development of recommendations on primary recipient and sub-recipients selection. The Operations Manual on CCM procedures related to GFATM requirements was developed based on these recommendations.

Seconded M&E Specialist's Participation in MAP Meeting and HIV Estimates Workshop/Moscow

In cooperation with UNAIDS, the CAPACITY Project seconded M&E specialist took part in MAP work meeting on epidemiological surveillance improvement and development a unified system for all CIS countries and workshop on HIV prevalence estimates and prognosis.

B. Strategy 2: Educating and Empowering Vulnerable Populations

B.1. Regional

Civil Society Mobilization

Under CAPACITY's civil society mobilization strategy, 40 ASOs have received funding totaling to over \$2 million for implementing state of the art HIV prevention activities among vulnerable populations. CAPACITY was instrumental in providing technical assistance to ASOs to apply for and win funds from the GFATM PIUs, CAAP, and CARHAP in 4 countries. At least another 39 ASOs, with TA from CAPACITY, have applied or are in the process of applying for grants, but have not yet received information about the status of those



applications. This marks a significant achievement under the CSMS, which was designed to create an “army” of organizations capable of and able to provide high coverage to vulnerable populations in the region. Planning for continuing capacity building activities among ASOs has already begun and will be implemented on an ongoing basis from the country offices.

Sustainability and Expansion of CAPACITY Youth Power Centers

Operation of the CAPACITY Youth Power Centers in Almaty (Rabpochii Poselok) and Bishkek (Leninski districts) is coming to a close during the next quarter. Therefore, alternative funding from CAAP has been found to sustain this activity. Both YPCs will be handed over to local NGOs which are going to be determined during a Tender process. The Call for Proposal was announced in June, 2007. Further operations of Capacity Youth Power Centers will be accomplished by local organizations who will manage the activity of Centers based on technical expertise and assistance from CAPACITY.

TOTs will happen accordingly during the next quarter and will be an integral part of the CAPACITY YPC sustainability plan. CAPACITY will also deliver Training Manuals, the Monitoring and Evaluation System to be applied, Alternative Activity Methodologies to be used by local partners, IEC materials and condoms for further distribution of Comprehensive Approach in HIV prevention targeting At Risk Youth living in the sites of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

At the same time, CAPACITY supported PSI (external to CAPACITY) to incorporate CYPC approach in Global Fund, Round 7 National Proposals in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan for further dissemination of the Model to new sites of both countries. The approach has also been taken up by UNICEF, which started the incorporation of the package of CYPC in their newly opened Youth Centers under Friendly Clinics program in Almaty.

During the next quarter, a follow-up study will be conducted to help determine the effect of the CYPCs on HIV risk behaviors.

B.2. Kazakhstan

Technical support to Umbrella NGOs

This quarter CAPACITY worked with the umbrella NGOs from the civil society mobilization strategy to collect and consolidate their proposals to be included to the GFATM 7th Round National Proposal. All proposals focus on state of the art HIV prevention programs for

Activities in South Kazakhstan Oblast

CAPACITY continues providing support to South Kazakhstan State Medical Academy (SKSMA). This quarter SKSMA instructors started their activities in increasing students' awareness in HIV/AIDS issues – conducting pre- and post-test to define young people awareness from different universities of South Kazakhstan Oblast, in cooperation with local “Healthy Lifestyle” involves mass media to broadcast videos on prevention of HIV/AIDS and drug addiction.



Upon the request of SKSMA and in order to open Students' Center, CAPACITY provided the center with all necessary stationery, information materials on HIV/AIDS prevention, modes of transmission and ways to protect, that were published on RAC funds.

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, 6,756 sex workers have been contacted (cumulative), due to migration of sex workers from neighboring countries and new, young sex workers joining the older ones. 519 sex workers were contacted during the Quarter. There are now a total of 9 outreach workers targeting sex workers in Almaty on the Saina, Seiphullina and Auezova, Kurmangazu, Arbat streets and Hotels.

This quarter:

- Trainings: 151 sex workers during 60 trainings;
- Mini-educational sessions: 950 sex workers during 385 mini-sessions (Themes were HIV and AIDS, STI, Communication skills, Responsible behavior, and Condom Use)
- Free Condoms distributed: 3,040
- Brochures distributed: 1,569 (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	47	92

Referral Systems on STI diagnostic and treatment

- Continued Referral work with CITY AIDS Center and Friendly Cabinet of Republican Skin and Venereology Institute: 135 sex workers were referred and actually visited. The results of diagnostics were: Syphilis – 6; Trichomoniasis – 8, Gonorrhoea - 5, Candida – 9;
- Mobile VCT was organized with help of City AIDS Center and Venereology Institute;
- Outreach workers and staff of Friendly Cabinet visited outreach field with Mobile Lab providing blood testing for STIs.

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

- PSI continued Referral Activity on VCT targeting SWs disseminating relevant information on demand creation and awareness. As result, 160 CSW were referred to FC in City AIDS and actually passed through VCT;
- 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. Totally during the Quarter 135 sex workers were tested and 8 were infected with Trichomoniasis, 6 with Syphilis, and 5 with Gonorrhoea.

Condoms Availability

- Continued outreach around New Hot zones in Almaty (Kurmangazu –Kunayev str.) by recommendation of City AIDS Center.



- During the Quarter 5,160 condoms were disseminated around Hot Zones where sex workers are concentrated (Saina, Seiphullina, Auezova and Kurmangazy streets);

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, however, 7,087 vulnerable youth (3,753 – males; 3,334 - females) have been contacted, due to migration of youth from surrounding areas. During the present quarter 916 (433 males, 483 females) vulnerable youth have been contacted during peer education, peer outreach, alternate activities and Youth Friendly Counseling. This Quarter:

- Peer education trainings: 248 (132 male, 116 female) vulnerable youth during 34 peer trainings conducted by 5 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: 697 (360 males, 337 females) vulnerable youth during 436 mini-sessions
- Alternate activities: 207 (150 males, 57 females) 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: 380 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: 157 (78 male, 79 female) 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: 708 condoms
- Brochures distribution: 608 brochures

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

Location	Pre Test %	Post Test %
Almaty	64	95

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, 37,781 (18,420 males, 19,361 females) vulnerable youth were contacted (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer trainings: 2,573 ARY (1,582 males and 991 females) vulnerable youth during 385 peer trainings
- Mini-sessions: 1,402 (851 males and 551 females) vulnerable youth during 422 Mini Sessions
- Events: 2,515 vulnerable youth during 5 event conducted together State Fund of Youth Affairs and City Police Department
- Free Condoms distribution: 1,761 condoms
- Brochures distribution: 1,275 brochures

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

Location	Pre Test %	Post Test %
Almaty	69	93

Karaganda city:

The target vulnerable youth population in this 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 2,959 vulnerable youth in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer trainings: 584 (261 male, 323 female) vulnerable youth during 115 peer trainings

Semipalatinsk city:

The target vulnerable youth population in this site totals 13,970 (City Statistic State Board on quantity of ARY at age 15-24 living in 1 administrative district). Project to date, NGO Istok trained by PSI educational modules contacted 1,326 vulnerable youth in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer trainings: 236 vulnerable youth during 9 peer trainings

Increasing access to Condoms through Social Marketing

- 15,707 units of condoms were disseminated during various events and educational activities;
- 487,915 condoms were disseminated through traditional channels (pharmacies and shops), hot zone distribution and free distribution during educational activities;
- 5,160 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 (new spot));

B.3. Kyrgyzstan

Support to National Application for GFATM round 7

After CAPACITY country staff was trained on technical expertise for developing the effective national proposal for the 7th round of GFATM in Almaty, it provided technical support in designing the sub-national proposal to the Partnership Network of NGOs working with IDUs. In particular, CAPACITY took a lead in designing and assisting to budget for a



component related to prevention of HIV among injecting drug users (IDUs). Thus, CAPACITY staff has organized a series of working meetings with NGO network to discuss the logical and strategic framework and design of the sub-proposal on IDU component of the national proposal. This work has resulted in accepting the sub-proposal by the pre-awarded competition for national proposal.

The second stage of this GFATM round 7 application process has been followed by the wider participation of all the interested national, international agencies and NGOs that are dealing with the IDU programs. In this regards, CAPACITY office hosted series of working meetings one of which gathered together representatives of Republican Dermato-Venerologic Dispensaries, Republican Narcology Center, Ministry of Justice, UNODC, AFEW, NGOs working with IDUs. As a result of these meetings and other advocacy activities undertaken by CAPACITY, three types of packages on HIV prevention, treatment and care for IDUs based on packages developed by WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS and CAPACITY have been set up. These minimal, expanded and comprehensive packages will serve as a basis for the activities envisaged in the national proposal for the 7th round GFATM.

As a result of the activities done by CAPACITY within the framework of CSMS, the Umbrella NGO SOCIUM has been awarded grant from GFATM national round for the implementation of a comprehensive one year project proposal aimed at high coverage of IDUs and based on the multi-sectoral approach. Thus in May, SOCIUM has organized advocacy campaign with strong support of Bishkek City Administration and organized conference where state and civic AIDS servicing NGOs, other business structures of Bishkek city and CAPACITY staff took part. At this meeting NGO SOCIUM was able to present the awarded grant which envisages the multi-sectoral approach and through consortium of several state and civic organizations will be combating the HIV spread among IDUs.

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 30,493 vulnerable youth have been contacted. This quarter:

- TOTs: 9 peers (4 males and 5 females) peer educators were conducted during 1 TOT
- Peer education trainings: 3,973 (1,704 males, 2,269 females) vulnerable youth during 2,062 peer education trainings.
- Mini-sessions: 3,591 (1,797 males, 1,794 females) vulnerable youth during 352 mini-sessions.
- Alternate activities: 729 (290 males, 439 females) vulnerable youth (Activities included English Lessons, Turkish Lessons, Computer courses, and Debate Club).
- Peer Outreach: 3,591 (1,797 males, 1,794 females) 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: 58 (16 males and 42 females) 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	70	93

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 92,388 (City Statistic State Board on quantity of vulnerable youth at age 15-24 living in mentioned administrative districts). Project to date, 45,187 vulnerable youth were contacted in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer education trainings: 3,893 (1,577 males, 2,316 females) vulnerable youth during 2,021 peer trainings
- Mini-sessions: 3,597 (1,767 males, 2,316 females) vulnerable youth during 352 mini-sessions
- Events: 1,421 (688 males, 733 females) vulnerable youth during 12 events
- Free Condoms distributed: 3,462

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

Location	Pre Test %	Post Test %
Bishkek	70	93

Increasing access to Condoms through Social Marketing

- 15,990 units of condoms were disseminated during various events and educational activities
- 149,190 condoms were disseminated through traditional channels (pharmacies and shops), hot zone distribution and free distribution during educational activities
- 59,430 units of condoms were disseminated around Hot Zone Streets

B.4. Tajikistan

Civil Society Mobilization

CAPACITY and CARHAP Projects co-funded the National Conference “HIV/AIDS Prevention – Lessons Learned and Perspective”. The event was arranged on 25-26 June 2007 in Dushanbe by the Harm Reduction Association of Tajikistan. More than 80 representatives of ASOs, government structures and international partners attended the event. The goal of the Conference was to discuss main achievements, obstacles, lessons learned and perspectives of scaling-up HIV prevention programs targeting the most vulnerable populations and the role of civil society organizations on that. Deputy Minister of Health, Deputy USAID Country Representative and DFID Head of Office opened the event. The Conference covered such topics as civil society mobilization and capacity building of ASOs, scaling-up HIV prevention programs targeting most vulnerable populations, interaction



between NGOs and NACM and governmental sector, communication and information exchange. Russian and English versions of the Conference Resolution are available at NCC web-site <http://www.ncc.tj/images/stories/resolution.pdf>

Collaboration with partners

CAPACITY issued a Letter of Agreement with OSI/CARHAP on co-funding of the HIV Prevention Conference. CAPACITY met with IOM to discuss possible collaboration on capacity building of AIDS-servicing NGOs. Preliminary agreement is that IOM within its GF grant will co-fund oblast-level organizational/institutional development trainings for NGOs to be arranged by CAPACITY within Civil Society Mobilization Strategy, while CAPACITY will involve to these trainings NGOs working with migrants. At NCC Secretariat request CAPACITY arranged meetings with key partners to discuss development of IEC/BCC 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 1,956 sex workers have been contacted (cumulative). This quarter:

- Trainings: 129 sex workers in 31 peer trainings
- Mini-educational sessions: 293 sex workers in 120 mini sessions (Themes were HIV and AIDS, STI, Communication skills, Responsible behavior, and Condom Use);
- Free Condoms distributed: 6,373 condoms
- Brochures distributed: 450 educational brochures (Themes were HIV and AIDS, STI, Condom is my protection, Assess Your Own Risk);
- Event: 30 sex workers during 1 edutainment event.

Pre and Post Test Results of BCC among sex workers

Location	Pre Test %	Post Test %
Dushanbe	27	54

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, 22,800 (13,755 males, 9,045 females) vulnerable youth were contacted in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer education trainings: 1,328 (810 males, 518 females) vulnerable youth during 335 peer trainings
- Mini-sessions: 1,367 874 (813 males, 544 females) vulnerable youth during 371 mini-sessions
- Events: 473 (298 males and 175 females) vulnerable youth during 7 events in target sites such as Discos.
- Free Condoms distribution: 256 condoms



- Brochures distribution: 1,152 educational brochures

Pre and Post Test Results of BCC among vulnerable youth

Location	Pre Test %	Post Test %
Dushanbe	63	94

Increasing access to Condoms through Social Marketing

- 8,731 units of free condoms were disseminated during various events and educational activities
- During this quarter the Stock Out of condoms continued due to entry tax problems.
- Willingness To Pay research was finalized this quarter.

B.5. Uzbekistan

Community Mobilization Strategy (CMS)

In June, CAAP announced the beginning of the second round of their grant program. The CAPACITY Project provided technical assistance to all interested organizations that took part in seven oblast trainings on project proposal development in November-December 2006 in submitting their letters of intent, giving consultations and specifications.

Interventions with Sex Workers

Tashkent (Chilanzar district)

The target sex worker population at this site totals 5,000 and to date 3,971 sex workers have been contacted (cumulative). This quarter:

- Trainings: 216 sex workers in 74 peer trainings
- Mini-educational sessions: 517 sex workers in 195 mini sessions
- Medical Consultations: 128 sex workers
- STI Treatment: 128 sex workers
- HIV Testing: 45 sex workers
- Free Condoms distributed: 2,066 condoms
- Brochures distributed: 1,899 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	44	98

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, 52,738 (27,520 males, 25,218 females) vulnerable youth were contacted in the site (cumulative). This quarter:

- Peer education trainings: 1,429 (799 males, 630 females) vulnerable youth during 429 peer trainings
- Mini-sessions: 5,261 (2,783 males, 2,478 females) vulnerable youth during 1,316 mini sessions
- Peer Education Event: 2,000 vulnerable youth during 1 event
- Condoms distributed: 2,163
- Brochures distributed: 2,692

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

Location	Pre Test %	Post Test %
Tashkent	33	98

Increasing access to Condoms through Social Marketing

- No Sales happened because of closing condom Sales Department due to government restrictions in Uzbekistan
- CAPACITY has successfully included social marketing of condoms in the National Strategic Program on HIV Prevention for 2007-2011 for all sections targeting vulnerable groups. Uzbekistan CCM will consider the Program and has already approved it in February 2007. Moreover, PSI is working on the Charter and is in the process of re-registration as a branch office in Uzbekistan. These two initiatives should support CAPACITY’s strategy to revive Social Marketing and legal condom sales in Uzbekistan.

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

C.1. Regional

TB and HIV Services Interaction

Ongoing Collaboration with National and International Partners

- Meeting with Gesa Walcher- International Center for Prison Studies from London to discuss activities on interaction of AIDS and TB services in Kazakhstan.
- Meeting with HIV/TB TWG members in UZ, TJ, KG to discuss and finalize the results of the models and M&E process.
- Meeting with national and international stakeholders during roundtables on the results of TB/HIV models.

TB/HIV models implementation

During this quarter, CAPACITY regional activities were mainly focused on monitoring of the TB/HIV models implementation in pilot sites of TJ, UZ, KG and making necessary adjustments. In addition, meetings with major stakeholders/TWG meetings were held to discuss results, make analysis, develop recommendations, and discuss further collaboration in TB/HIV directions in an effort to promote on-going collaboration/coordination with partners. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the progress and obstacles of TB/HIV model implementation. Monitoring team’s presentations on the results of monitoring visits to pilot



facilities demonstrated that interaction of TB/HIV structures was in place, the identified obstacles such as shortage of free X-ray films and co-trimoxazol were discussed and necessary recommendations developed. During this quarter period models implementation in KG, UZ, TJ were finalized, results were analyzed, necessary recommendations were developed.

Several discussions were held during the meetings with national and international partners on the issue of further TB and AIDS services interaction and TB/HIV model scale-up, during which participants agreed on the necessity of TB/HIV model expansion. The National partners are looking for partners' technical assistance in this direction. Since CAPACITY has the necessary experience it was requested that M&E activities be extended in the initial pilot sites. CAPACITY will continue ongoing collaboration in TB/HIV within the TWGs.

Final roundtable and TWG meetings covered the following topics:

- Major achievements of the TB/HIV model implementation
- M&E results in model sites
- Sustainability and expansion of TB/HIV models through the Institute of Advanced Medical Education Medical Academy
- Recommendations for amendments and additions to the technical protocols for diagnosis and management of dual-infected patients

Outcomes of the final roundtable and TWG meetings include: The M&E results were admitted to be successful by all roundtable participants and it was also noted that the Model goals had been successfully achieved, and the results show that the interaction between AIDS and TB services in pilot regions is performed on a very good level. The work performed in this direction by TWG and M&E team members joined with CAPACITY country teams was marked as an excellent work. It was also marked that the significant work and efforts undertaken in countries would have further support in the Model dissemination.

C.2. Kazakhstan

TB/HIV

In May CAPACITY met with General Director of National Center for TB Problems to discuss letter of agreement and cost-share budget for the activities on interaction of TB & HIV services in Kazakhstan. CAPACITY offered a project to implement such interaction - TB/HIV model on the example of Almaty city. Dr. Ismailov suggested considering Shymkent, Karaganda, and Pavlodar as pilot cities. On the following meeting Shymkent city was defined as pilot city to implement the model of interaction. CAPACITY noted that the Project's financial resources limited to one pilot city, however, it is ready to provide technical support in several pilot sites on financial support from GF. CAPACITY offered a step-by-step implementation of the model in Kazakhstan. Both parts agreed on the next meeting at the beginning of June (in connection with adjustment of GF financial flows) to proceed the negotiations on model's funding and defining sub-recipients of TB/HIV direction.

ARVT

Participatory Rapid, Qualitative Assessment to identify barriers to uptake and adherence of ART in Temirtau

While ART medical services have been successfully established in Kazakhstan, patient uptake of ART program has been alarmingly low. This response rate is typical in IDU populations globally and can be expected in neighboring countries as they continue to roll out ART 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 ART.

In collaboration with, and under the coordination of the Temirtau City AIDS Center, a team of researchers from CAPACITY, Boston University, and ZdravPlus conducted a participatory rapid, qualitative assessment to better understand barriers to ART uptake and adherence in Temirtau in May. Data collectors were volunteers from local AIDS and PLHIV support NGOs. Ten data collectors were trained in two qualitative research methodologies: Free Listing and In-depth Interviews.

Researchers conducted 42 free list interviews with three different groups of local women and men who were HIV positive and eligible for ART: 1) those who had not started ART, 2) those who had commenced ART but had since stopped, and 3) those currently taking ART, but having difficulty sticking to the appropriate regime. Free list interviews began with a single primary question designed to elicit responses in the form of a list. People in each group were asked a different question:

Group 1: What are the reasons that people with HIV do not start ARVT?

Group 2: What are the reasons that people with HIV begin ARVT but stop?

Group 3: What are the difficulties that people face in taking ARVT?

Responses were collated and analyzed on site by the interviewers. After a lumping and splitting exercise, 3 main themes emerged for further inquiry: what people currently know about ART, what people need to take their treatment regularly (i.e. adherence) and what people need in order to start treatment (i.e. uptake).

These 3 thematic areas were probed deeper in 29 interviews of key informants identified by local counterparts, interviewers, and free list interviewees. Common reasons for non-adherence among all groups included: doubts that ART is effective. No one has seen anyone improve on ART; concerns about side effects; concerns that missed doses and/or lack of nutrition while taking ART results in worse outcomes than taking ART; feelings of being experimented upon; concerns of running out of tablets; discrimination from doctors, family, society; lifestyles prohibit ability to take ART; lack of information provided; and mental illness.

The research team will work together with the CAPACITY staff and our local counterparts to use the results of this study to make recommendations for the design of interventions to improve uptake and adherence to ART in Temirtau, and perhaps in other ART sites in the region.



C.3. Kyrgyzstan

HIV/TB

In mid May, country office participated in Technical Review Meetings on health and following to them Health Summit devoted to “Manas Taalimi” health reform program. CAPACITY’s interest for participation in these events was determined by the excellent opportunity to promote models developed and tested by CAPACITY among wide range of national and international partners working in health area. Thus, during the meetings devoted to TB and HIV programs of Manas Taalimi, CAPACITY informed parties about the HIV/TB interaction model and its preliminary results and recommended this model for further scaling-up through its inclusion into Manas Taalimi’s Plan of Action. The idea was welcomed by MoH, since the Reform Program was lacking of any activity on HIV/TB and included into Review Summary Note among Priority Programs.

In June, CAPACITY organized two separate meetings: meeting of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on HIV/TB and Partners Meeting on the results of HIV/TB model. The main purpose of the TWG meeting was to discuss results of the model on interaction of HIV and TB services piloted in Chui Oblast of Kyrgyzstan since September 2005. TWG and M&E team members discussed data of evaluation and monitoring carried out on a quarterly basis and concluded that in general the model was successful and achieved its goal. As a result, they made out a report on model realization and recommendations for the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice for expansion the model to other oblasts of the country. At the partners meeting, TWG members and model implementers who represent FMC and hospitals of Chui oblast have the opportunity to present the results of the model to national and international partners. Head of Treatment and Prevention Department of MoH praised efforts done by CAPACITY in providing technical support for successful implementation of HIV/TB model and expressed readiness of MoH to scale-up the model to oblasts with a high prevalence of both epidemics and with subsequent expansion to the whole country.

Collaboration with partners

In April-May, CAPACITY initiated a series of meetings with the Head of the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for Continuous Training of Health Specialists and the Manager of PIU/TB of GFATM in Kyrgyzstan with the purpose to coordinate further activities for sustainability of HIV/TB model. Both sides welcomed the initiative of CAPACITY and, as a result, a agreement among CAPACITY, the Institute, and GFATM PIU/TB has been signed. The purpose of this agreement is to ensure sustainability of interaction of HIV and TB services. Inclusion of the training module on detection, treatment and management of patients with dual infection into the curriculum of the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for Continuous Training of Health Specialists will allow medical workers throughout the country to receive knowledge on interaction of HIV and TB services on a continuing basis.

C.4. Tajikistan

Meeting of TWG on HIV Treatment, Care and Support

CAPACITY co-facilitated Technical Meeting of NCC TWG on HIV Treatment, Care and Support arranged by NCC jointly with Ministry of Health and WHO. The main purpose of



the meeting was to develop the Implementation Plan on National HIV Program Objectives related to medical services (ARVT, TB/HIV, STI, PMTCT, blood safety). CAPACITY facilitated the work of TB/HIV subgroup. Recommendations developed during the discussions were incorporated to the draft Action Plan for the period of 2007-2010 and submitted on behalf of TWG to Ministry of Health for approval.

TB/HIV interaction model

National M&E monitoring team conducted final monitoring of TB/HIV services interaction model and final survey among HIV patients. The purpose of the monitoring and survey is to identify the results of services interaction as the model implementation timeline is coming to the end. The findings will be discussed at the open session of TB/HIV sub-group of NCC TWG on Treatment, Care and Support at the beginning of next quarter.

C.5. Uzbekistan

HIV/TB

M&E Activities on HIV/TB Model Realization in Pilot Sites

In the framework of realization of the Model of AIDS/TB services Interaction, in April, the National M&E team provided the 3rd stage of monitoring and evaluation visits in 122 health facilities of pilot regions of Uzbekistan (Tashkent city and Tashkent oblast). The M&E team members collected data using newly developed quarterly M&E forms, provided interviews with health care specialists and patients. During the M&E activities, some areas for improvement in terms of quarterly reporting forms and the whole M&E process were revealed and considered for future monitoring and evaluation.

Joint Plan

PIU/GFATM on TB, RAC and CAPACITY Project developed and signed a joint plan of activities on improvement of realization of AIDS/TB Model in pilot regions. Thus, in May, PIU/GFATM on TB under CAPACITY technical assistance, conducted two trainings on ART for TB specialists. In addition, an agreement on development of Guidance on HIV/TB dual infection and its integration into the Tashkent Medical Academy (TMA) Curriculum was signed by TMA, Republican DOTS Center and the CAPACITY Project.

TWG on M&E Results of HIV/TB Model Realization

In the beginning of June, M&E results of interaction of AIDS and TB services in pilot regions of Uzbekistan were discussed at the Thematic Working Group (TWG) meeting organized in collaboration with DOTS Center. After the M&E results were discussed, TWG members developed recommendations for the Ministry of Health (MoH). Besides, the meeting and the discussion helped provide additional in-depth analysis of the M&E results obtained, so that more accurate data could be presented to all interested partners during the upcoming roundtable.

RT on M&E Results of HIV/TB Model Realization

In June, a roundtable on M&E results of interaction of AIDS and TB services was held in Tashkent. The main goal of the round table was to analyze and discuss final M&E results of the Model realization in pilot regions of Uzbekistan and further Model dissemination to other regions of Uzbekistan. Mr. Seledtsov, the CAPACITY RO consultant on dual HIV/TB



infection, participated in the meeting and presented his expert analysis of the Model realization in Uzbekistan. The expert marked excellent work performed in this direction by Uzbekistan, creative attitude and high level of analytical Model analysis of M&E team and also outstanding project management and country team efforts, together with strong political support provided by MoH, AIDS and TB services management.

Overall, the results of the Model implementation were admitted to be successful by all roundtable participants. MoH, UNAIDS and WHO representatives specially noted that the Model goals had been successfully achieved, and that the Model is ready for dissemination to other regions of Uzbekistan. After negotiations with all donor organizations and partners, regions for the Model dissemination are to be selected and presented to TWG for discussion.

HIV/TB Model Sustainability - Guidance for Tashkent Medical Academy Students

In June, following the agreement signed in April by Tashkent Medical Academy (TMA), the Republican DOTS Center/PIU GFATM on TB, and the CAPACITY Project, the Guidance on dual HIV/TB infection has been developed by a group of national experts and approved by the Academic Council of TMA. After development of the Course for Tashkent Institute of Advanced Medical Education (TIAME), this is another step in creation of sustainable system of AIDS and TB services interaction in country.

VCT Manual

In the framework of VCT joint work plan developed by interested partners and following the GFATM on HIV request the CAPACITY Project in cooperation with AFEW provided technical assistance (consultant) in VCT Manual development. In its turn, GFATM on HIV provided technical support to a group of national experts. VCT Manual was developed and submitted for MoH approval. In the near future, in cooperation with GFATM on HIV, it is planned to provide a roundtable on VCT with participation of all interested stakeholders and ToT for specialists from all regions of Uzbekistan.

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

D.1. Regional

HIV Costing Study

The scope of work of a costing study proposed by CAPACITY Project, which could assist in better advocacy of the economic benefits of prevention over treatment, with specific numbers – especially among vulnerable populations, was agreed and finalized. The costing study was decided to estimate the costs for: (a) HIV Prevention for IDUs and sex workers, (b) Prevention per person through VCT, (c) Treatment per person with ARV – for people living with HIV, (d) Treatment of the opportunistic infections – for people living with HIV, (e) Care and support (counseling, community and family) for people living with HIV, and (f) One averted HIV infection through preventive services among IDUs, sex workers and through VCT.



However, implementation of the study was deferred, and ultimately depends on the final decisions emanating from the corresponding recommendations of the recently-concluded midterm evaluation of the CAPACITY Project.

D.2. Kazakhstan

Integration of outpatient ARVT in PHC system

In line with the Strategy 4 actions agreed within the CAPACITY Project in the February brainstorming meetings, negotiations were held with the Republican AIDS Center (RAC) to finalize the key concepts of a pilot model on integrating continuation of outpatient antiretroviral therapy (ARVT) within selected (accredited) PHC facilities in HIV/AIDS high-prevalence areas, with required adjustments in the organizational, logistic and financing systems.

On the basis of the initial discussions with RAC, a preliminary work plan for the Temirtau pilot was developed. Endorsing this work plan aside, RAC also proposed to implement a similar pilot in Shymkent – since South Kazakhstan oblast lately emerged as an HIV/AIDS high-prevalence area.

A field trip was arranged in April to Temirtau city and Karaganda oblast, with a view to detail out together with the local partners the concepts and activities of the proposed pilot. Karaganda oblast health department, oblast AIDS center and Temirtau city AIDS center were quite supportive of this pilot. Based on the intense discussions with them, a concept paper on the Temirtau pilot model, along with a detailed work plan, was put together, and some preparatory activities were initiated accordingly.

Following the recommendations about the implementation of Strategy 4 made by the midterm evaluation of the CAPACITY Project, next actions on the Temirtau and Shymkent integration pilots were put on hold since late-May.