

HIV/AIDS Prevention in Turkmenistan

Programme Area: Poverty Reduction and MDG Achievement		
Budget:	Project Number: 00050892	Duration: 2005 – 2010
2006 – USD 132,626	Contributors: UNDP, UNAIDS	
2007 – USD 127,646	Funded by: Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), Women's Union, Youth organization	
2008 – USD 200,942	Executing Agency: Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, National AIDS Prevention Center	
2009 – USD 82,172		
2010 – USD 147,500		

Background:

The risk of HIV/AIDS is high in Turkmenistan, due to epidemic situation in surrounding countries. A lot of emphasis is therefore placed on preventive work in this area. In 2005 Cabinet of ministers approved National programme on HIV/AIDS/STI prevention for 2005-2010. The main goals of the programme are prevention of HIV/AIDS/STI prevalence among broad groups of population; prevention of HIV/AIDS/STI transmission through blood; prevention of HIV/AIDS/STI transmission through sexual intercourse; prevention of prenatal and antenatal HIV/AIDS/STI transmission; and reduction of STI morbidity. Sex-workers along with persons injecting drugs intravenously represent a significant part of the source for STI spread in the country. UNDP and Ministry of Health and Medical Industry jointly successfully implement HIV prevention work among the vulnerable groups.

Project objectives:

This project aims to support the Government of Turkmenistan in implementation of the national program on HIV/AIDS/STIs prevention 2005 – 2010 jointly with other UN agencies to ensure that HIV/AIDS prevention initiative are implemented in a coordinated and complimentary manner. More specifically, the project assists the Government of Turkmenistan to:

- i) Strengthen national capacity to coordinate national response to HIV/AIDS
- ii) Improve access to information and support services for HIV/AIDS prevention for vulnerable groups
- iii) Increase awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote safe behavior

Project achievements:

- In 2008 and 2009 the project supported procurement of HIV test-kits based on Cost-Sharing agreement with government. Procured HIV test-kits are used for the voluntary and anonymous examination of SWs/IDUs.
- Informational Training Centre with access to internet was used by 3,133 doctors, medical specialists and students for research, preparation of the lectures and reports.
- 670 policemen and healthcare specialists were trained in HIV/AIDS prevention issues, safe behavior methods, and methods of preventive work with vulnerable groups, particularly sex-workers, as well as human rights of SWs, stigmatization, tolerance and HIV prevention among the vulnerable groups.
- CRIS workshop was conducted in 2007, followed by M&E Workshop. 30 people were trained and gained practical skills working with computer based monitoring of country response.
- KAPB (Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior and Practice) Survey among vulnerable groups was conducted in all 5 velayats of Turkmenistan from 11 to 23 June, 2007. In total there was data collected from 273 respondents.
- Team of the doctors-trainers on HIV prevention was trained to conduct trainings on the base of velayat narcological departments and HIV prevention centers.
- Medical specialists participated in the Global and regional workshops and conferences on the related themes to strength national capacity.
- Furniture and technical equipment such as TV, DVD and video players and information materials were provided for Ashgabat and velayats AIDS prevention centers to strength preventive work among the vulnerable groups.
- During 2005 – 2009, the project has trained 1,570 representatives of the vulnerable groups on STIs/HIVAIDS prevention using "peer to peer education" approaches.
- 4 former representatives of the target group work successfully as outreach workers using peer to peer education approach.
- Outreach team, formed in 2008, conducted 7,852 contacts with SWs, distributed 93,688 condoms and shared 10,793 informational materials with the target group's representatives to date. .
- 16 informational events for target groups dedicated to relevant International Days, such as June 26, World day against Drug Abuse, August 12, International day of Youth, November 16, World day of Tolerance; December 1, World AIDS Day, were conducted .
- Drop-in Center is operational on the premises of the National AIDS prevention Center since 2008. Several medical specialists such as gynecologist, tuberculosis specialist, psychologist, infection diseases specialist, skin and venereologic specialist consult the representatives of the target groups on the regular base. 396 SWs were treated by Syndrome treatment.

Planned activities:

During 2010 Project will continue supporting to National AIDS prevention center in implementation of national program. More specifically, the project will support the following activities:

- Evaluation of current National program and develop of the new plan Project will provide technical support of Interagency Coordination Committee by organizing 4 seminars with invitation of UNAIDS consultant. Also project will support on preparation of UNGASS report on HIV;
- Coordination between stakeholders on HIV/AIDS prevention among the vulnerable groups in Ashgabat and Lebap 3 Round table meetings will be conducted with support HIV prevention project to analyze preventive work implemented by state organizations among the vulnerable work, develop together further work plans;
- Strengthening joint team of trainers-doctors from 2 medical services such as National AIDS prevention center and Narcology, and 15 future peer-to-peer educators from the target groups who were chosen during trainings on HIV prevention for SW and drug users, Project in collaboration with National AIDS Prevention Center will conduct ToT on "peer-to-peer education" who potentially will continue preventive work among the vulnerable group in 5 velayats through series of trainings and outreach work.
- Decreasing the level of stigmatization and discrimination to the target group from district policemen, to strength their tolerant attitude to SWs, Project looks forward to conduct 5 days trainings on observance of human rights of the target groups for the representatives of MoIA.
- Strengthening local capacity of trainers from narcology service ToT for 20 doctors from 5 velayat narcological departments will be conducted
- Organizing support groups for dependants of the target groups (parents of former representatives will promote and share positive experience of changing risk behavior) Project hopes to conduct seminars with support UNODC.
- Widening access of the target group to the medical services on friendly and professional manner UNFPA will support project in medical consulting on the base of the Drop-in center: 7 medical specialists will continue their work for the target group.



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