



“Strengthen supportive environment and scale up prevention, treatment and care to contain HIV epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan”

Name of applicant:	AIDS Foundation East West – Tajikistan (AFEW-Tajikistan)	
Title of the action:	“Strengthen supportive environment and scale up prevention, treatment and care to contain HIV epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan”	
Location(s) of the action:	The Republic of Tajikistan	
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Total duration of the action:	12 months: February 01, 2014 – January 31, 2015	

PROJECT FINAL REPORT
(February 01, 2014 – January 31, 2015)

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RPO “AIDS Foundation East West – Tajikistan”(AFEW-Tajikistan) is pleased to report on the final results and achievements of the project “Strengthen supportive environment and scale up prevention treatment, and care to contain HIV epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan”, supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria.

The given report provides a description of implemented Project activities and final overview of achievements and accomplishments during the whole Project period including Quarter V (January 01 – 31, 2015)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary achievements of AFEW-Tajikistan under the project of “Strengthen supportive environment and scale up prevention, treatment and care to contain HIV epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan” from February 01, 2014 till January 31, 2015 are following:

Access to HIV/STI prevention, treatment, care and support for vulnerable and hard-to-reach individuals:

- 1377 vulnerable women including 690 or 50,1% sex workers were reached by client management and HIV prevention services;
- 58,0% or 798 women from total number of 1377 vulnerable women reached by the project were passed HIV testing and know their status;
- 1403 PLHIV received at least three types of project services and provided with quality treatment, care, prevention of co-infection services;
- 13615 informational-educational materials and 87755 prevention materials (condoms) were distributed among 12844 vulnerable women, sex workers, PLHIV and general population.

Training activities:

- 85 social specialists, outreach workers and peer consultants received 4 capacity building trainings.

Integration of specific services for key populations within general health system:

- Updated version of ‘Client management on HIV prevention among vulnerable groups of population’ Guide for social workers and consultants was approved by MoH of RT and distributed among local NGOs and health care providers.
- The booklet "Adherence to ART" for PLHIV was developed and approved by Ministry of Health of RT. Curricula was passed to Republican AIDS Center and non-governmental organizations working with or representing by PLHIV.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

Detailed activities report:

Result 1: NGO staff and selected health care workers increased the capacity to provide services on adherence and client management of people living with HIV.

Activity 2.1. “Client Management” trainings for NGO staff, counselors and healthcare providers.

- Three trainings were conducted on “Client Management work with PLHIV” for social specialists, outreach workers and peer consultants:

- *The regional training on “Client Management work with PLHIV” was conducted in Dushanbe on May 23-24, 2014. 20 social and outreach workers, peer consultants from 10 partner organizations participated in the training. % of post training correct answers among training participants was 28,8, instead of 70%. The low level of correct answers was caused by the fact that the questionnaires were in Russian language, and many participants do not know Russian language. Therefore taking into account this fact now all questionnaires are translated and used in both languages - Russian and Tajik.*

- *On August 21-22, 2014 the same aforementioned regional training was conducted in Qurghon-Teppa Khatlon province with participants of 20 social and outreach workers and peer consultants from 10 partner organizations. % of post training correct answers among training participants was 81,4.*

- *On November 20-21, 2014 the regional training was conducted in Khujand, Sughd province with participants of 22 social specialists, outreach workers and peer consultants of 16 AFEW partner organizations where % of post training correct answers among training participants was 71,5*

Client Management program is a key component in improving access to diagnostic, treatment, care and support to PLHIV and vulnerable women. This trainings was conducted by Republican AIDS Center’s specialists and included such topics as principles of client management, motivational interviewing, setting-up of self-help groups. The goal of the trainings was to enhance practical skills and knowledge of local specialists involved into provision of client management, low-threshold, peer counseling services for VGs including PLHIV and vulnerable women.

Activity 2.2. Adherence to ARV treatment, care and support for NGO staff, counselors and healthcare providers.

- *The national training of ‘Adherence to ARV treatment, care and support’ was organized in Dushanbe on March 3-14, 2014. This training was conducted for 22 social workers of NGOs and health care providers. The external (invited) expert of Republican AIDS Centre introduced participants with evidence-based information about ARV, methods of organization adherence support and prevention of co-infections TB/HIV and OI. % of post training correct answers among training participants was 79,2.*

Activity 2.5. Development and dissemination of Manual for local specialists working with PLHIV.

- *The Guide of the ‘Client management on HIV prevention among vulnerable groups of population’ was updated on June 25, 2014. The material was approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Guide was printed by UNDP Tajikistan with 400 copies which was distributed among health care providers.*

Result 2: Improved access and quality of health care and social services for people living with HIV within the pilot regions.

Activity 2.3. Sub-grants to CSOs working with PLHIV.

- *AFEW-Tajikistan provided methodological assistance and sub-grants to NGO “Guli Surkh” (Dushanbe), “Orzu+” (Qurghon-Teppa, Khatlon province), “SVON Plus” (Kulob, Khatlon province) and “Rohi zindagi” (Chkalovsk, Sughd Province).*
As results of Project activities:
- *1403 PLWH were covered by counseling on ARV-therapy adherence and prevention of co-infection*
- *642 PLHIV passed TB screening, as result 12 cases of TB among PLHIV are detected.*
- *870 PLHIV passed CD 4 screening and 503 patients started receiving ARV treatment.*

Table #1: Number of clients covered by services in NGOs working with PLHIV in Project period (February 01, 2014 to January 31, 2015)

Indicators	The number of PLHIV who received at least three types of project services	The number of PLHIV passed to CD4	The number of PLHIV diagnostic and/or treatment for TB	The number of PLHIV diagnostic and/or treatment for opportunistic infections	% of Client Management Program participants who positive evaluate the quality and access to services.	Number of people informed about HIV and available services	Number of IEC materials developed and disseminated among final
NGO ‘SVON Plus’	292	197	147	154	266 (91,0%)	1065	2070
NGO ‘Orzu+’	132	96	5	23	126 (95,55)	-	-
NGO ‘Rohi zindagi’	181	148	99	121	180 (99,4%)	-	-
NGO ‘Guli surkh’	798	429	391	581	798 (100%)	4083	2720
Total	1403	870	642	879	1370 (97,6%)	5148	4790

Activity 2.4. Sub-grant for one women’s center

- *AFEW-Tajikistan supported Women Support Centre of PO “Nakukor” (Kulob, Khatlon province). Together with NGO “Nakukor” two other NGOs ‘Orzu+’ (Qurghon-Teppa, Khatlon province) and ‘Rohi zindagi’ (Chkalovsk, Sughd province) have also worked on HIV prevention and client management of vulnerable women.*
As result of Project activities:

- 1377 vulnerable women including 690 sex workers or 50,1% covered by comprehensive package of HIV prevention services.
- 58,0% or 798 people from all vulnerable women passed HIV testing and 2 cases of HIV are detected.
- 20 vulnerable women passed TB screening and 2 cases of TB are revealed.

Table #2: Number of VWs covered by services of 6 NGOs during February 01, 2014 to January 31, 2015

Indicators	The number of VW who received at least three types of project including # sex workers	% of Client Management Program participants who positive evaluate the quality and access to services.	% of vulnerable women passed HIV testing and know it's status during reporting period	Number of condom distribution	Number of people informed about HIV and available services	Number of IEC materials developed and disseminated among final beneficiaries	
NGO 'Nakukor'	946	424 (44,8%)	946 (100%)	508 (54%)	26221	0	1480
NGO 'Orzu+'	209	123 (58,8%)	187 (91,0%)	144 (68,9%)	16714	540	3250
NGO 'Rohi zindagi'	222	143 (64,4%)	222 (100%)	146 (65,8%)	18800	1763	3737
Total	1377	690 (50,1%)	1355 (98,4%)	798 (58,0%)	61735	2303	8467

Activity 2.6. Development and dissemination of brochure for final beneficiaries.

- AFEW developed booklet of "Adherence to ART" for PLHIV. The booklet information was based on materials of 'Training of trainers on prevention of social-significant diseases' Manual which was approved by the Ministry of Health of RT (Letters # 1-6/1565-1753 of July 12, 2012 and # 1 - 6/1951-2129 of August 13, 2012). Material was printed by UNDP Tajikistan with 6000 copies and distributed among Project beneficiaries and passed to Republican AIDS Center.

Activity 2.7. Awareness raising activities on improving access to services for PLHIV.

- In May 2014 the Republican NGO "AFEW-Tajikistan" supported five initiatives of NGOs to celebrate the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and to raise awareness of communities about HIV. In close collaboration with regional AIDS and Healthy Life-style centers the local NGOs carried out awareness-raising campaigns along with dissemination of information materials among population of five cities (Dushanbe, Khujand, Panjakent, Kulob, Qurghon-Teppa). In the course of actions, the mobile units of AIDS center provided pre-/post-

test counseling and HIV testing for 156 general populations. Furthermore, food parcels and hygiene kits were distributed for three children living with HIV and 38 families affected by HIV infection. Overall 3109 people participated in the actions dedicated to the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. The information about the activities was broadcasted via radio in Penjikent city and published in newspapers "Payomi Chkalov", "Nabzi Qurghon-Teppa" and "Payk" with total 4700 circulation.

<http://www.afew.tj/ru/chm/news/meropriyatiya-priurochennye-mezhdunarodnomu-dnyu-pamyati-lyudey-umershih-ot-spida>

- During November 24-29, 2014 AFEW-Tajikistan in collaboration with the Republican AIDS Centre organized "HIV Testing Week in Tajikistan". HIV Testing Week was conducted in 5 regions of Tajikistan in cooperation with five local NGOs "Guli surkh" in Dushanbe, "SPIN Plus" in Vakhdat, "Pohi zindagi" in Khujand, "SVON Plus" in Kulob and "Buzurg" in Panjakent. During the campaign the population has an opportunity to receive VCT and informational materials on prevention and treatment of HIV, TB and Hepatitis. As result of joint activities of NGOs and Regional AIDS Centers- 6955 people received HIV related information and 3634 of them were covered by voluntary counseling and testing. 10 new HIV cases were detected.

Note: HIV Testing Week activities was co-funded by the project of "Bridging the Gaps" supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands.

Activity 2.8. Technical assistance and monitoring site visits

- AFEW provided technical assistance to partner organizations during ongoing site-visits. Project staff provided consultations and support local NGOs on improving their program, administrative and financial management. Two monitoring site visits are conducted: on April 17-23, 2014 and on November 21, 25 - December 2-4, 2014
- By results of the monitoring visits partners received the recommendations on proper program and financial/administrative management.

3. PROGRAM RESULTS AND INDICATORS

Below is the table with Project results and indicators achieved during the period of: January 01– January 31, 2015:

Table #3: Outputs and results (planned and fact) from February 01, 2014 – January 31, 2015

Activity	Planned	Fact Quarter V report	Actual (from the beginning of the Project)
Result 1 : NGO staff and selected health care workers increased the capacity to provide services on adherence and client management of people living with HIV			
2.1. Client Management trainings for NGO staff, counselors and healthcare providers	60	-	63 (105,0%)
2.2. Adherence to ARV treatment, care and support for NGO staff, counselors and healthcare	20	-	22 (110,0%)

	providers.			
2.5.	Development and dissemination of Manual for local specialists working with PLHIV.	400	400	400 (100%)
Result 2	Improved access and quality of health care and social services for people living with HIV within the pilot regions			
2.3.	Sub-grants to CSOs working with PLHIV (The number of PLHIV who received at least three types of project services).	1319	123	1403 (106,4%)
2.4.	Sub-grant for one women's center (The number of vulnerable women who received at least three types of project services).	1081	140	1377 (127,4%)
2.6.	Development and dissemination of brochure for final beneficiaries.	5500	6000	6000 (109,1%)
2.7.	Awareness raising activities on improving access to services for PLHIV (Number of people informed about HIV and available services)	3000	6955	10064 (335,5%)

Table #4. Indicators plan

Indicator	Targets		
	Plan	Quarter V Report	From the beginning of the Project
Number of trained specialists and NGO staff	80 (cumulative)	-	85 (106,25%)
% of post training correct answers among training participants.	>70%	-	65,2%
Number of manuals developed, approved and disseminated	1	400	400 (100%)
The number of PLHIV and vulnerable women who received at least three types of project services.	2400 (cumulative)	263	2780 (115,8%)
% of PLHIV passed to CD4, diagnostic and/or treatment for TB and opportunistic infections.	>80% (1055, cumulative)	344	1447 (103,1%)
% of Client Management Program participants (PLHIV and vulnerable women) who positive evaluate the quality and access to services.	> 90% (2160, cumulative)	278 (105,7 % of the total coverage of the target group)	2717 (97,7 % of the total coverage of the target group)
% of vulnerable women passed HIV testing and	>60% (649,	153	798

know it's status during reporting period	cumulative)	(109,2%)	
Number of IEC materials developed and disseminated among final beneficiaries	1	6000	6000 (109,1%)
Number of people informed about HIV and available services	3000 (cumulative)	6955	10064 (335,5%)

4. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- *Activity 2.8. «Technical assistance and monitoring site visits» (\$ 401.20) were not conducted according approved working plan, i.e. in the first and third quarter of 2014 since providing the monitoring of activities of partner organization is more effective when they started to work with the clients within the framework of Client management program (in the second quarter). The second program and financial monitoring of AFEW-Tajikistan sub-grantees was combined with the monitoring of HIV Testing Week activities planned in November. Both these changes in working plan were discussed with UNDP representatives and AFEW received UNDP's official permission to make these changes and reschedule these events*
- *% of post training correct answers among training participants was 65,2, instead of 70%. The low level of correct answers was caused by the fact that the questionnaires were in Russian language, and many participants do not know Russian language. Therefore taking into account this fact now all questionnaires are translated and used in both languages - Russian and Tajik.*

5. CONCLUSIONS

Result 1: NGO staff and selected health care workers increased the capacity to provide services on adherence and client management of people living with HIV.

- The analysis of learning outcomes and the opinions of program beneficiaries on the quality of provided services confirm that the project achieved its targeted objectives and contribute to the improvement of professional knowledge and skills of specialists providing services to PLHIV and populations affected by HIV.

The opinions of training participants:

“This training helped me to understand the types of Client Management, learn more about the legal and ethical aspects of working with PLHIV, the legislation in the field of HIV/AIDS and the social protection of PLHIV.”

"I have understood that self-help groups can be divided according to the attendance of their participants. This may be separate groups for PLHIV receiving ARV therapy, for women living with HIV or HIV-positive drug users".

- The project partners gained the trust of beneficiaries and this contributed for improving the coverage measures of voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) and the early detection of infectious diseases among vulnerable women.
 - The success story of the client: *"For 11 years I have been living with my husband and children in terrible conditions. We have one unprepossessing house in the village of Kul, Jamoat Dahan of Kulyab district. Last month, my husband's cousin came to our house and beat my husband, I with my children,*

wanted to do something to help my husband, but his cousin beat us s well, and chased us out of the house. He wants to renew our house in his name Thus; we did not know where to go and what to do? After all, we are poor, no one wants to talk to us, and solve our problem, and yet for the solution of the problem we need to go somewhere and for that we need money. And we do not have money. We arrived to Kulyab and decided to complain to the police. And there we learned about the NGO "Nakukor." And the police department invited the head of the NGO "Nakukor" Mr. Haitov Bahodur to help us. We went to the NGO "Nakukor", and there the staff of NGO "Nakukor" received us very well. They told us about domestic violence, about what to do in such situations and where to go; even we were informed about the ways of prevention from infection diseases. And there they found out that me and my children do not have either passport or birth certificate. That my kids never went to school, although my daughter should study in grade 4, and son in second grade. They want to go to school, but we cannot. Thus, the NGO "Nakukor" fully supported us in difficult situations: helped us with food packages, all of us were given shoes, they even began to prepare passport and birth certificate for my children. And my children will also be able to learn like other children. "

- The program sub-grantees could establish close cooperation with governmental health and social protection services, law enforcement agencies and other public organizations working with key populations in different regions of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Result 2: Improved access and quality of health care and social services for people living with HIV within the pilot regions.

- The increase in the quantitative coverage of beneficiaries and increase the frequency of customer requests for services of the program confirms that the project achieved its goals for expanding access and improving the quality of services for PLHIV provided by medical and social institutions.
- The project contributed to the implementation of the National Program on HIV RT in terms of increasing access to VCT, early detection and prevention of co-infections among people living with HIV.
 - Comment of client OLNA184: *"During 7 years I used heroin, and now 4 years I am living with HIV. I did not know what HIV is; that HIV can be treated; that people can live with HIV; what is ART and why we must be committed to the treatment. By the advice of my friends I came to NGO "SVON Plus". I am exhausted from addiction, my life had become unmanageable. My health was strongly damaged. By suggestion of social worker, I came into the program of Client Management. And there were changes in my life: Now I am taking ARV therapy and committed to treatment. I am the client of OST program and I hope that with the help of OST I will recover from drug addiction. And I realized that I can live with HIV and I hope to continue working in the NGO "SVON Plus" as peer consultant "*

- One of important achievements of the project is establishment of cooperation between POs (NGOs) and AIDS centers in ensuring adherence to ART among PLHIV receiving program services.

Recommendations:

1. Taking into account the importance of ensuring the continuity of services for people living with HIV, the further integration of services between civil society and NGOs and the need for regular capacity building activities for experts working with key populations – it is necessary to continue the work of program in this direction.
2. Given the direct dependence of the NGOs from external financing – it is too important to raise funds to support the activities of organizations of PLHIV community.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- *Detailed financial report is in Appendix #9.*

7. ANNEXES

- Annex 1.* Activity 2.1_Client Management trainings
Annex 2. Activity 2.2_Adherence to ARV treatment, care and support for NGO staff
Annex 3. Activity 2.3_Sub-grants to CSOs working with PLWH
Annex 4. Activity 2.4_Sub-grant for one women’s center
Annex 5. Activity 2.5_Manual for local specialists working with PLHIV
Annex 6. Activity 2.6_Brochure for final beneficiaries
Annex 7. Activity 2.7_Awareness raising activities
Annex 8. Activity 2.8_Technical assistance and monitoring site visits
Annex 9. Financial report