

## **MINUTES, MEETING OF UN JOINT TEAM ON AIDS**

Date: 18 April, 2008, 14.00 – 16.00

Venue: VEFA Business Centre, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, UNDP/GFAMT meeting room

### **List of participants:**

1. Maria Boltaeva, UNAIDS
2. Saleban Omar, PIU, GFAMT
3. Zebo Jalilova, PIU, GFAMT
4. Nisso Kasymov, UNICEF
5. Takhmina Karimova, ILO
6. Vladimir Kolchin, World Bank
7. Rukhshona Kurbanova, ILO
8. Boimourod Bobodjanov, UNFPA
9. Mutabar Vohidova, UNODC
10. Nargis Azizova, UNIFEM
11. Nasrullo Ramazonov, UNJAP

### **Agenda**

1. Plan of UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV for 2008 (annual report for 2007 and draft of the plan for 2008 attached), short information what has already been done in 2008.
2. NEW PAF proposal. Reviewing proposed activities.
3. Current situation with the submission of proposal on HIV component to GFAMT, 8<sup>th</sup> round.
4. Information on the current situation with UN Learning Strategy on HIV; survey among UN staff (draft of the report was shared with the team). New Learning facilitators and next steps.
5. Other business: Participation in UNDAF review process. High-level meeting on HIV etc.

### **Meeting**

- 1. Plan of UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV for 2008 (annual report for 2007 and draft of the plan for 2008 attached), short information what has already been done in 2008.**

New members from World Bank and ILO joined this team. The new UNJAP project for 2008 has been approved by UNDP. UNAIDS, UNDP and UNICEF pooled resources for the project in 2008. The members have already received annual report of the UN Joint Advocacy Project on HIV for 2007. In 2007, National Programme to fight HIV/AIDS was approved by the Tajik Government; For the first time, National Plan on Monitoring and Evaluation was developed and approved in the country and national goals for UA was approved. Development of all these documents became possible due to broad discussions with TWG and NCC. In 2007, with the technical support from UNJAP and separate donors, five thematic TW groups started their work under NCC. Considerable advocacy campaigns were conducted during the project implementation. Four studies were conducted with the support of co-sponsors, these studies were presented during round tables and their results were recognized by government sectors, including Ministry of Education and attempts to develop a national strategy on information and communication were made. Last year, UNJAP provided assistance to national partners in conducting various national HIV/AIDS campaigns and new partners, as well as, sport committee, mobile companies, were involved.

## **Constraints**

The implementation of the project has once more identified the lack of financial and technical support from other agencies; Duplication of activities exists and information sharing among partners still low; Difficulties to work with partners from government (NCC); Not all planned activities were carried out: for instance, HIV in workplace and gender aspect.

## **Plans for 2008**

In 2008, priority will be given to the following activities:

- I. High level advocacy and implementation of the “Three Ones” principles at country level
- II. Advocacy for and scaling up towards universal access to HIV prevention treatment, care and support and vulnerability reduction of targeted groups
- III. Greater involvement of PLWHA and breaking the barriers of stigma and discrimination
- IV. Increasing HIV awareness among the general population, including targeted groups
- V. New partners involvement in the national response
- VI. Addressing the growing feminization of the epidemic
- VII. Strengthening UN Joint programming on HIV as implementation UN delivering as one on UA

## **Activities have been carried out during four months of 2008**

The first study on the stigmatization and discrimination towards PLWH was conducted in the country. That was the first study in the former Soviet Union. The study covered representatives from governmental sector, SCO and PLWH. The UNJAP provided technical, financial support and advocacy campaigns. Results of the study, which were presented during a round table conducted in February 2008, were recognized by government and a national plan of action on this issue would be further developed in the country. It is planned that issues connected to stigma and discrimination towards PLWH would be a separate component in the 8<sup>th</sup> round of project proposal to be submitted to GFAMT.

UNGASS report was prepared and submitted. National team on introducing new project “Mainstreaming HIV into PRSP” was formed.

## **2. New PAF proposal**

It is time to mobilize additional resources for UNJAP. First round of PAF for USD 50,000 is to be submitted by 31 May 2009. Participants have already received PAF guidelines. Nasrullo Ramazonov is taking care of drafting PAF proposal. All members are welcome to submit their ideas for including in new PAF proposal. Some of participants suggested to focus on specific issue in new PAF proposal. Draft of PAF project proposal will be shared with the members of UN Joint Team on AIDS.

## **3. Current situation with the submission of new proposal on HIV component, 8<sup>th</sup> round to GFAMT**

New project proposal for the 8<sup>th</sup> round of GFAMT grant is going to be prepared. Technical working group was formed in the country. Manuella Grozdanova is coming to the country on 20 April 2008. She is from Bulgaria and hired by UNAIDS. Her visit consists of three missions. UNFPA and UNICEF are also providing us with their consultants in this process. Participants were invited to the broad meeting of TWG on the 8<sup>th</sup> round proposal to be conducted on 21 April 2008 to share their ideas with other participants in the presence of the consultant. In their turn, participants supported the idea of transparency process of writing the proposal. Some of participants hesitated about the transparency of writing process. It was noted that till present 14 suggestions were received from partners. Partnership Forum on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria is scheduled for 29 April 2008 where about 80 representatives will take part.

#### **4. Current situation with UN Learning Strategy on HIV, survey among UN staff and new learning facilitators**

Report of the survey was prepared by Strategic Research Centre under the President of Tajikistan. All team members received this report. All participants were requested to send their feedback on this survey. New Learning facilitators, Sayohat Hasanova – WHO, Nasrullo Ramazonov – UNJAP and Ulugbek Aminov - UNDP were trained in a regional workshop held in Istanbul, Turkey. It was suggested to conduct training on Learning Strategy for heads of UN agencies. Consultants would be involved if needed. Uzbekistani UNAIDS Coordinator may provide us with this training. ILO is going to organize a round table on HIV policy in workplace for national employers. UNICEF is planning to organize a workshop on stigma and discrimination among staff members.

#### **5. Participation in UNDAF review process and high-level meeting on HIV etc**

All HIV focal points are invited to participate in retreats on UNDAF. Some of UNDAF retreats coincide with Regional conference on HIV to be held in Moscow, Russia. Thus UNAIDS will join the last two retreats on UNDAF.

The 2008 high-level meeting on AIDS will take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 10 - 11 June. It will review progress made in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Official letters were sent to MIA and President. No official reply was received, but the presidential unofficially informed that only Tajik ambassador to UN Mr. Aslov would represent Tajikistan. It is informed that MIA appointed Health Minister and MoH has already approached UNFPA.

#### **Conclusion**

The members of the UN Joint Team on AIDS were requested to coordinate all activities with each other with the aim of avoiding duplication. The UN Joint AWP will be send to all Un Joint Team members for updating for 2008-2009, the information collected by Un Joint Team for UNDAF review process also will be send to members for using in the upcoming UNDAF workshops/training on the review of UNDAF

They need to go through plans and activities, particularly with PAF proposal. The next meeting of the team will be conducted probably in mid-May before submission of PAF proposal.

**Minutes prepared by Nasrullo Ramazonov**