



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

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WORLD BANK

Kazakhstan

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Country Situation

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The 2006-2010 National AIDS programme is coordinated by the National Health Council and chaired by the Minister of Health. The council consists of high level officers from the ministries of health, culture, education, internal affairs, labour and social protection, military and penitentiary sectors, parliamentarians, international organizations. The AIDS Centre guides the programme and serves as a working body of the council. The programme is funded both by the Republican budget - US\$ 23.2 million and by donors - US\$ 32.7 million. The country won the 7th round of the GFATM and another US\$35 million. Due to governmental commitment and donor support Kazakhstan managed to keep HIV at a low level. From 1997 to 2008, 9378 HIV cases were reported in Kazakhstan, reaching rates of 54.0 per 100 000 population.

Approximately 30% of people with HIV are aged between 20-29 years; 68% of them are males, although incidence among women is on the rise. Official data report that 72.7 % of HIV cases occurred due to unsafe drug injection practices, 19% account for sexual transmission. Officially, 640 people developed AIDS (including 41 children), 506 of them died (including 3 children). Although HIV cases have been registered in regions of Kazakhstan, three oblasts are most severely affected by the epidemic: Karaganda oblast, Pavlodar oblast and Almaty city, which account for about 56% of HIV cases. The estimated coverage of IDUs, SW and MSM by HIV prevention is 24%, 50% and 5% respectively.

Only 50% of those in need received antiretroviral therapy and compliance with antiretroviral therapy is low. HIV coordination must be still strengthened by providing senior level leadership. There is a need to monitor and evaluate the national programme regularly (once a year) in order to exclude overlaps and focus on areas that have been neglected. There is a specific need to concentrate on quality of prevention, treatment, care and support, to increase the coverage and to widen the spectrum of services.

UNAIDS Support to the National Response

UNAIDS activities at country level during 2007

In order to achieve the strategic priorities UNAIDS has conducted the following:

- 1) Partners are regularly informed about best practices and new strategies.
- 2) Technical support and advocacy is provided to:

- ▶ Implementation of the National AIDS Programme.
- ▶ Drafting and approval of oblast and sectoral programmes.
- ▶ Review of and update of treatment and PMTCT protocols.

3) Improvement of national testing policy, alignment of existing regulations with the latest WHO/UNAIDS recommendations.

4) Work in technical evaluation committees of the Central Asian AIDS Project (funded by the WB).

5) Support further improvement of the existing surveillance system, including the 2nd generation component.

6) Support the existing M&E system, advocacy for the creation of a national M&E unit.

7) Working relationships with the private company Mittal Steel established (funding of the regional AIDS programme in Temirtau).

8) Partnership with Kazakhstan network of PLHIV is strengthened (WAD supported - UNESCO, UNDP and UNAIDS).

9) Technical support to the development of a proposal to the 7th round of the GFATM is provided. The proposal is approved and Kazakhstan has received the grant in total that amounts to US\$ 35 million.

10) Support to the organization of the 4th National NGO Forum is provided (UNDP, UNAIDS)

The United Nations system support to implementation of the National AIDS Programme in Kazakhstan. UNDP focuses efforts on improving governance on a local level. Three effective models of coordination on the levels of provincial town, oblast centre and capital city will be developed and presented to the government for replication.

UNICEF operates projects aimed at expanding access to youth friendly services, on prevention of mother to child transmission; providing care, treatment and psychological support for children and mothers living with HIV.

UNESCO focuses on HIV prevention in educational settings and through mass media.

UNODC supports HIV prevention primarily focused on IDUs and prisoners.

WHO is working on increasing access to antiretroviral therapy, comprehensive care and support for PLHIV.

UNAIDS achievements at country level during 2007

Technical assistance and capacity building

UNAIDS has provided significant assistance in the development of a strategy in Kazakhstan. The National AIDS programme, which was developed with assistance from UNAIDS as a five year programme, was approved. The National AIDS programme includes a commitment to develop sectoral HIV/AIDS programs for the Ministry of Justice, Education, military/uniformed services and others. UNAIDS continued to work with governmental authorities and facilitated drafting, developing and publishing the sectoral HIV/AIDS counteracting program for prisoners.

Important progress has been made in responding to the outbreak situation in Shymkent (South Kazakhstan oblast), where more than 100 infants and children were infected with HIV through contaminated blood and medical equipment. Political leadership in the country has expressed serious concern about this situation. The Ministry of Health and local authorities have requested the assistance of international organizations, UN, to provide technical expertise in developing an action plan at a local level. UNAIDS took the lead in mobilization of UN system, the joint UN plan of urgent support has been drafted, discussed within the UN system and with the government, agreed, approved and its implementation has started.

UNAIDS also provided technical support in the developing and approval of a 5-year HIV/AIDS Programme for the South Kazakhstan region.

Resource mobilization and tracking

Budget allocation is one of the clearest expressions of a government's priority. The Kazakhstan Government demonstrated the depth of its commitment by financing the National AIDS Programme implementation through the Republican budget. However, there is still a difference between resource availability and resource needs for capacity building of the non-governmental sector in Kazakhstan. The country proposal for the 7th round of the Global Fund invests in the capacity of Kazakhstan NGOs through technical assistance, training and the building of a system to support government-non-governmental partnership on local and national levels. UNAIDS was actively involved in discussion, drafting and submitting the 7th Round Global Fund project proposal of Kazakhstan. Later on, UNAIDS took part in an overview of the 7th Round Proposal by responding to the Technical Panel Review of the Global Fund. Recently, the Kazakhstan project proposal has been approved and the country will receive a grant for the total amount of US\$ 35 million.

Main challenges / activities for 2008

To achieve the results of the National Strategic Programme and universal access targets there is a need to further improve technical, institutional and managerial capacities of national counterparts, providing technical assistance to the government and civil society organizations with the involvement of multiple sectors, development of coordination tools, monitoring, evaluation and re-programming. It is necessary to focus on strengthening of the "Three Ones" principles; to commit key sectors to ensure universal access; reinforce delivery of diagnosis, treatment, care; ensure qualified prevention programmes for the most-at-risk population; mitigate the consequences of HIV among children, women and other members of families infected and affected in the South Kazakhstan oblast; deliver high quality prevention programmes to UN staff and dependants; to implement the Joint UN Programme of support.