



Press release

Information:

CAPACITY: (007) 727-262-30-69/62/79

CAAP: (007) 727-244-73-17.

USAID-funded project helps to bolster HIV/AIDS prevention in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's organizations working on HIV/AIDS prevention will receive a series of trainings to increase their ability to organize prevention activities. These trainings are being conducted by the CAPACITY project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Central Asia AIDS Control Project (CAAP) from February 25 to April 18, 2008.

According to the Republican AIDS Center, by January 1, 2008, Kazakhstan had 9,378 registered HIV cases. Majority of these cases (73%) are among injecting drug users, but the sexual way of transmission is also increasing. To slow down the spread of HIV epidemic in the country, effective HIV/AIDS prevention activities should reach the majority of injecting drug users and sex workers. An analysis by the USAID-funded CAPACITY project shows that key barriers in reaching these target populations are a lack of experience and insufficient participation of civil society organizations in provision of such services.

CAPACITY actively addresses these deficiencies. Its activities have already helped 15 AIDS-service organizations across the country to raise about \$1 million for high-coverage HIV prevention activities among vulnerable populations.

The series of current trainings that the USAID-funded project and CAAP are implementing across Kazakhstan will also increase the skills of non-governmental and governmental organizations to provide AIDS prevention services. Over 150 specialists from Aktobe, Kostanay, South-Kazakhstan, Pavlodar, Karaganda, and West-Kazakhstan oblasts will participate in the trainings. Participants learned about advocacy, counseling, outreach work, and fundraising, discussed how partnerships and collaboration help to organize AIDS prevention.

Recently, such five-day training was provided for 25 representatives from local and national AIDS-service organizations in Uralsk.

The series of trainings by the USAID project and CAAP will help local organizations to develop a greater ability for effective prevention activities with vulnerable populations and, more broadly, to improved services for populations that are most vulnerable to HIV.

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USAID (the United States Agency for International Development) works on behalf of the American people to assist Kazakhstan in the development of economic sector, healthcare system, and democratic institutions. For additional information, see website: <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>.

The USAID-funded CAPACITY assists Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in launching large-scale responses to HIV/AIDS epidemics among vulnerable populations. The project is managed by JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. in partnership with Abt Associates Inc, Boston University, Howard University, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, and Population Services International (PSI). Web-site: www.capacityproject.info.

The CAAP Project, funded by the World Bank and DFID and under the auspices of EurAsEC, is aimed at prevention of generalization of HIV epidemics in Central Asia through the strengthening of capacity and cooperation between the public, nongovernmental (NGOs) and private sectors on the regional and national levels through the establishment of Regional AIDS Fund as a sustainable mechanism for financing of HIV counteraction activities. There main Project components: Improving the Regional Coordination and Institutional Strengthening, Central Asian Regional AIDS Fund, and Monitoring and Evaluation. Website www.caap.info