



## FINAL REPORT

**United Nations Development Programme**

**Kazakhstan**

**KAZ-H-RAC/1913 “Ensuring sustainability and continuity of services for key populations and people living with HIV in the Republic of Kazakhstan”**

**December 5, 2022**



Reporting Period	July 2021 - December 2022
Project Title	KAZ-H-RAC/1913 “Ensuring sustainability and continuity of services for key populations and people living with HIV in the Republic of Kazakhstan”
Project ID (Atlas Award ID)	Atlas project ID 00137353
Outputs (Atlas Project ID and Description)	Atlas output ID 00127883
Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	Outcome 1.1.: By 2025, effective, inclusive and accountable institutions ensure equal access for all people living in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, to quality and gender-sensitive social services according to the principle of leaving no one behind
Implementing Partner(s)	RSE on REM "Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases" of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Project Start Date	July 13, 2021
Project End Date	December 31, 2022
Project Budget:	USD 2,347,462

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## I. Executive summary

The project succeeded in the procurement, delivery, and installation of 15 PCR machines in regional AIDS centers. The yearly stock of test kits (262 PCR Kits, 262 HIV DNA/RNA Isolation Kits) was successfully procured and delivered in addition to the PCR equipment; 40 laboratory employees were trained to work on the new PCR analyzers. Overall, 4,990,320 male condoms and 2,947,000 lubricants were procured and delivered to 15 regional AIDS centers for free distribution among Vulnerable groups and key populations at increased risk of HIV. All the outputs and target values specified in the project document have been achieved. The main factors that contributed to the success were good planning and continuous monitoring by the project team, working in close contact with partners and key stakeholders.

The lessons-learned activities due to minor errors in the distribution of cargo during the delivery of the first batch allowed the second delivery to proceed smoothly and without disruption.

The total budget of the Project was USD 2,347,462 including 2,121,439 for the year 2021 and 226,023 for year 2022. The total expenditure to date is USD 2,321,993.50, total balance to date is USD 25,468.82. thus, the project achieved cost savings. The balance will be returned to the Donor in accordance with the rules and standards of procedures of the UNDP.

## II. Background

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is one of the world's most serious public health challenges. There were approximately 38 million people across the globe with HIV/AIDS in 2019. Of these, 36.2 million were adults and 1.8 million were children (<15 years old). An estimated 1.7 million people became newly infected with HIV in 2019. In 2019, around 690,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses worldwide.

According to official statistics, in 2019 the morbidity rate of HIV infection in Kazakhstan was 19,1 per 100,000 population or 3,518 of newly diagnosed patients. The overall incidence rate of HIV infection in the republic was 0,25%. Prevalence among key populations: Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID) – 7.9%; Sex Workers

(SW) - 1.4%; Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) - 6.5%.<sup>1</sup> 69% of MSM have ever had sexual contact (anal or vaginal) with a woman at any time<sup>2</sup>, which means that the MSM population may have a potential impact on the overall HIV epidemiological situation in Kazakhstan. In 2019, the diagnostic laboratories of the AIDS centers conducted 3,069,199 tests for HIV, of which 3,518 people (0.11%) were found to be positive among the citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Testing coverage of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 12 months of 2019 amounted to 14% (2018 13.6%).

Being one of the largest procurers in the UN system and building on long-term experience in procurement and supply management for health and non-health projects and programs, UNDP effectively and efficiently responds to challenges in procurement and supply management that are being exposed to an increasing degree of scrutiny and demand on quality assurance and risk management, overall value-for-money achieved, and ultimately on how cost-effectively it supports efficient and sustainable delivery of related programs and projects.

UNDP procures health and non-health products for Global Fund grants with UNFPA and through a wide range of corporate LTAs with commercial entities established at the global level. Recognizing the best value-for-money of products and services delivered by UNDP, the Project was aimed at procurement of novel PCR equipment and test kits and contraceptives required for the diagnosis and prevention of HIV infection to provide the population of Kazakhstan with improved access to services among different populations groups of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including vulnerable groups.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/KAZ\\_2019\\_countryreport.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/KAZ_2019_countryreport.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Готов ли Казахстан к ПрЭП? Результаты исследования, AFEW. – Режим доступа к ресурсу: <http://www.afew.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/07/Study-findings-fact-sheet-Kazakhstan-RU.pdf>

### III. Progress Review

Expected outputs	Output indicators	Data source	Baseline		The target for the reported period			The actual value for the reported period
			Value	Year	2021	2022	Final	
<p><b>Output 1</b> Supporting Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases in the procurement of health products as per approved Procurement and Budget Plan: organization of goods supplies on annual basis with respective transfer to Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases upon goods arrival to Almaty International Airport, after their customs clearance and respective quality/quantity check. Supplied goods will help the key populations and people living with HIV in the Republic of Kazakhstan and thus contribute to better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Kazakhstan.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> National medical facilities lack medicines to provide effective uninterrupted preventive, diagnostic, and treatment of the populations at the greatest risk of getting HIV infection and patients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases require a capacity-building port in the field of procurement of goods and services.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1:</b> All planned shipments are organized in line with the approved Procurement and Budget Plan; the goods are checked by quantity and quality and transferred to the Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases</p>	<p><b>1.1 Procurement and delivery of Condoms*</b></p>	Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases	Low stock	2020	1,829,667 packs	3,160,615 packs	4,990,282 packs	4,990,320 packs
	<p><b>1.2 Procurement and delivery of lubricants*</b></p>	Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases	Low stock	2020	1,148,546 packs	1,798,375 packs	2,946,921 packs	2,947,000 packs
	<p><b>1.3 Procurement and delivery of PCR Equipment in 14 weeks after placing the PO **</b></p>	Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases	Low stock	2020	15 machines	-	15 machines	15 machines
	<p><b>1.4 Procurement and delivery of PCR tests in 14 weeks after placing the PO *** (RT-PCR Kit A test system for the quantitative determination of HIV virus DNA in blood serum and plasma samples).</b></p>	Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases	Low stock	2020	262 kits	-	262 kits	262 kits
	<p><b>1.5 Procurement and delivery of PCR tests in 14 weeks after placing the PO*** (Viral DNA / RNA Kit - A set for isolation, DNA/RNA).</b></p>	Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases	Low stock	2020	262 kits	-	262 kits	262 kits

The project focused on the following:

- Conducting competitive bidding at the international and national levels.
- Placing orders for goods, freight, and insurance.
- Monitoring of orders.
- Exchange of information on the progress of purchases and expected deliveries.
- Maintaining all records and reports on purchases.
- Registration of incoming goods.
- Processing payments under concluded contracts in accordance with UNDP regulations and rules based on completion certificates or receipt reports duly signed by the recipients of the goods and/or services.
- Support the review and exchange of information on technical specifications, scope of work, and/or other terms of reference.
- Ensuring equal rights of women and men to prevention, as well as timely and effective prevention and diagnosis of HIV/AIDS.

#### Results:

Procurement and delivery of health products and medical equipment as per Section V and Annex 5 of the Project Document and AWP 2022 confirmed by bills of lading and goods acceptance acts signed by the Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases representatives:

- 15 novel automatic DNA/RNA extraction station universal molecular diagnostic systems were procured, delivered, and installed in 15 regional AIDS centers. Pieces of training for lab staff were conducted.<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>
- 262 test systems for the quantitative determination of HIV virus DNA in blood serum and plasma samples were procured and delivered to 15 regional AIDS centers;
- 262 sets for isolation DNA/RNA of viruses were procured and delivered to 15 regional AIDS centers;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ainews.kz/health/umnaya-tehnika--3116724>

<sup>4</sup> <https://zhardem.kz/news/17456>

<sup>5</sup> <https://innovamed.kz/ru/news/1752>

<sup>6</sup> <https://vecher.kz/v-laboratoriyakh-tsentrov-spud-poyavilos-novoe-oborudovanie>

- 1,836,000 male condoms (53 mm, standard, natural) in 2021 and 3,154,320 in 2022 were procured and delivered to 17 regional AIDS centers respectively.
- 1,149,000 lubricants (Water-based, packed in sachets) in 2021 and 1,798,000 in 2022 were procured and delivered to 17 regional AIDS centers respectively.

Overall, it has been calculated that approximately 7,660 and 11,986 MSMs were provided with free condoms and lubricants in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

It was also estimated that within the project, 13,740 Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID) in 2021 and 27,126 PWID in 2022 gained access to free condoms, which contributes to better prevention of the spread of HIV infection

In addition to the above, it should be noted that the project achieved cost savings of over 25 thousand dollars. The balance will be returned to the Donor in accordance with the rules and standards of procedures of UNDP

#### IV. Project Risks and Issues

Project results depended on the availability of health products and medical equipment of sufficient quality in local and international markets and the delivery could be affected by possible disruptions in the supply chain due to blockages and other restrictive measures related to COVID-19. So, during the implementation of the Project interruptions in the supply chain were faced due to the air-freight options shortages as anti-COVID-19 measures consequences and resulted in slight delays and cost rises in the delivery of lubricants. More information on risks is provided in the Risk Log attached to the Project Document in Annex 2. Despite all the risks, the well-coordinated work of the project team and support from all the Project Partners made it possible to complete all the planned work without serious disruptions and delays.

##### a. Updated project risks and actions

###### Project Risk 1:

Supply delay/failure to supply

Actions taken:



1) Timely and regular monitoring of all contractual dates and deadlines was ensured by project staff. Proactive contract management was maintained.

Project Risk 2:

Devaluation, price increase

Actions taken:

1) The Project received funds from the Donor in USD and aimed to sign contracts with the suppliers in USD to mitigate potential currency losses.

2) There was a buffer (COVID-19 contingency fee) in the project budget

Project Risk 3:

Frequent turnover of key decision-making personnel

Actions taken:

1) Engagement of mid-level personnel

Project Risk 4:

Tight deadlines. Some activities need to be completed in a short period of time

Actions taken:

1) UNDP and the IP worked closely to ensure the timely implementation

## **V. Gender-Related Activities**

The project supported gender equality between men and women by providing equal access to up-to-date and qualitative technologies for the prevention and diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, and access to a better quality of lifestyle through the procurement and delivery of goods and services. The project benefited from UNDP Kazakhstan CO Gender Specialist support throughout project implementation by improving monitoring and evaluation. During the project implementation, the project document, progress reports, and other project-related documents were thoroughly revised by the International Gender Mainstreaming Expert in the

framework of CO's gender audit. The audit highlighted positive outcomes achieved against project activities 1.2 and 1.4. Based on gender analysis, the Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) categories were identified as the most vulnerable and highly risk-averse categories who received male condoms and lubricants. Also, for better HIV diagnosis, the project procured innovative PCR equipment which is available for women and men. Major post-project insight for future interventions in similar initiatives is to explore deeper roots of inequalities faced by women and men with HIV, address gender-specific barriers and ensure proper collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to inform project implementation strategy. Studies reveal that the mere availability of equipment doesn't imply positive outcomes to prevent diseases. Raising awareness among risk categories, including rural youth and women, and breaking stereotypes concerning HIV should be prioritized. The additional focus might be given to persons with disabilities who face dual discrimination and at times don't have an opportunity to clinics. Thus, future projects might consider using the above-mentioned approach to widen the scope of activities and beneficiaries.

## **VI. Cross-Cutting Themes**

The relationship between HIV and human rights is profound. Vulnerability to HIV feeds on violations of human rights, including discrimination against women and violations which create and sustain poverty. In this regard, the content of the right to health has been increasingly defined and now explicitly includes the availability and accessibility of HIV prevention, diagnostics, and treatment. According to the law, the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan has the right to voluntary anonymous and (or) confidential medical examination and counselling on HIV infection within the guaranteed volume of free medical care. Providing key populations with treatment and preventive services at trust points includes conducting HIV testing and HIV prevention activities with free medical products, including condoms, and lubricants. According to the order of the Ministry of Health, testing coverage for key populations should be at least 80% of coverage of prevention programs. Prevention service coverage for PWID, which includes the distribution of condoms, and syringes should be at least 60% or more of the estimated number. Thus, the Project supports the government in the implementation of the program to combat HIV and respect the basic human rights

to health by providing support in providing access to better diagnostics and prevention of HIV. Moreover, recent studies show that the issue of public health, including HIV/AIDS, is closely intertwined with environmental issues. Social determinants such as poverty, and low levels of education lead to an increase in the number of people vulnerable to HIV. On the other hand, HIV infection exacerbates the problem of poverty and marginalization of those who become infected. Thus, the project, contributing to better diagnostics and prevention of HIV, applies the core principles of human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability by improving the access of vulnerable groups to medical services and products.

## **VII. Lessons Learned**

The project succeeded in procuring, delivering, and installing 15 PCR machines in regional AIDS centres. The yearly stock of test kits (262 PCR Kits, 262 HIV DNA/RNA Isolation Kits) was successfully procured and delivered in addition to the PCR equipment; 40 laboratory employees were trained to work on the new PCR analyzers. Overall, 4,990,320 male condoms and 2,947,000 lubricants were procured and delivered to 17 regional AIDS centers for free distribution among the vulnerable groups of the population.

The main factors that contributed to the success were good planning and continuous monitoring by the project team, working in close contact with partners and key stakeholders.

There were minor errors in the distribution of contraceptives across the regions of Kazakhstan during the first batch delivery. The following solutions were recommended and applied during the second delivery:

- double-check the distribution table with the Donor upon arrival of the cargo in Kazakhstan,
- prepare in advance and coordinate with the recipients the acts of acceptance of the transfer of goods, indicating the exact amount of goods,
- strictly instruct the transport company not to transfer the goods without signing the act of acceptance of goods indicating the exact amount of goods by the responsible person on the part of the recipient.

## Conclusions and Way Forward

The main objective of the project for UNDP was to support the capacity development of the Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases by organizing the smooth process of procurement of health products and medical equipment as per UNDP rules, regulations, policies, and procedures as required as per project's prodoc and AWP. The project has set up a high standard of conducting procurement in terms of a balance of price and quality in a timely manner.

The project successfully procured equipment and goods which considerably improved the Center's infrastructure and as a result added to the improvement of health status and socio-economic well-being of Populations at the Greatest Risk of getting HIV, through improved access to qualitative health products and medical equipment, timely diagnostics, and prophylaxis. Through this, the project supported the MoH RK in the full-scale realization of the national healthcare strategy and promoting fighting against HIV/AIDS.

The lessons learned during the implementation of the Project will be used in the framework of the current project on the procurement of medicines for the treatment of socially significant diseases implemented by UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as in future similar projects.

## VIII. Financial Status

The total budget of the Project was USD 2,347,462 including 2,121,439 for the year 2021 and 226,023 for the year 2022

The total expenditure to date is USD 2,321,993.50, total balance to date is USD 25,468.82.

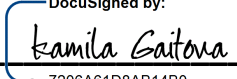
### Budget Overview (as of December 2022)<sup>7</sup>

Activity	Approved budget	1 <sup>st</sup> -year expenses, CDR	2 <sup>nd</sup> -year expenses, interim,	Total
Procurement of Water-based lubricants and Male condoms	344,175.00	450.72	323,725.11	324,175.83
Procurement of PCR Equipment	1,058,460.00	1,058,460.00	-	1,058,460.00
Procurement of PCR Kit	602,495.20	602,495.20	-	602,495.20
Procurement of HIV DNA/RNA Isolation Kits	109,804.20	109,804.20	-	109,804.20
PSO Handling Fee	57,550.00	53,122.78	-	53,122.78
Insurance	2,299.00	2,293.17	-	2,293.17
Contingency fee	22,382.00	-	8,061.00	8,061.00
Internal logistics (local transportation of condoms and lubricants)	17,513.00	19,206.41	30,093.91	49,300.32
DPC	5,900.00	218.22	39.02	257.24
Salary	12,600.00	-	3,887.06	3,887.06
Office rent, equipment,	2,500.00	49.21	1,459.70	1,508.91

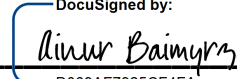
<sup>7</sup> The project expenses for 2022 are estimated. The accurate figures are to be provided upon 2022 FY closure.

stationery and utilities, travel expenses, etc.				
GMS (5%)	111,783.92	92,305.73	18,363.29	110,669.02
VAT reimbursement	-	-	-2,041.23	-
Total	2,347,462.32	1,938,405.64	383,587.86	2,321,993.50

**Prepared by:****Signature****Name****Designation**

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