

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Submitted by:**

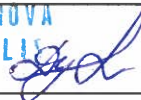
Dinara Duishenova, Programme Specialist  
Aida Karipova, M&E Specialist  
August 18, 2022

AIDA KARIPOVA  
HIV M&E SPECIALIST  
GF/UNDP

**Travel Dates:** July 13, 2022**Title of the event:**

Monitoring visit to Harm Reduction Network

DINARA DUISHENOVA  
HIVPROG.SPECIALIST  
UNDP

**Purpose of visits:**

Meeting with UBRAF project staff, reviewing of documentation, discussing of project implementation issues

**Brief summary.****M&E visit objectives:**

1. Meeting with UBRAF project staff,
2. Reviewing of documentation,
3. Discussing of project implementation issues,
4. Familiarization with developed project web-site.

The project coordinator, program specialist, 4 online consultants, 3 web-outreach workers and media content specialist participated at the meeting.

**Scope of services:**

1. Development of a website and software for the provision of web outreach services to stimulant users (SU) for the implementation of a pilot model.
2. Studying the needs of clients, drug use practices.
3. Development and promotion of harm reduction services for SU to implement of the pilot model.
4. Providing of harm reduction package web-outreach services on the HIV prevention in accordance with the clients' needs, and health products in types and quantity upon UNDP/FG project availability in accordance with UNDP instructions:
  - syringes, needles, napkins for safe injections
  - condoms, including female condoms
  - lubricants
  - HIV self-tests, COVID-19 self-tests
  - Naloxone
  - Informational materials – in printing and electronic formats - on HIV prevention, sexually transmitted infectious (STI), viral hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis (TB) etc.), safe behavior and sexual reproductive health
  - Any other available within UNDP/GF Project health or non-health products.
5. Providing online/offline psycho-social counselling in harm reduction topics, HIV prevention, STI, virus hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, , safe behavior and ect.
6. Providing online/offline counselling on gender oriented topics for female, including sexual reproductive health topics and rights.
7. Online/offline HIV pre-test counseling and online/offline HIV testing, HIV testing, assistance to clients on self-testing conducting, assisted HIV testing.
8. In case of preliminary positive HIV result motivation for getting a confirmation test in AIDS centers or Family Medicine Centers (FMCs) through the counselling or/and a personal escort upon client's needs.
9. Motivation and referral of to the Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST).
10. Training of clients in skills of providing aid in case of overdose, the possibility of providing aid in stimulant overdose.

11. Motivation and providing of online/offline consulting of narcologist // psychotherapist
12. Referring clients to get social services, examination for STI / TB / VHs and other available services based on clients requests/needs.
13. Counseling on human rights violations in relation to drug use and providing assistance in obtaining legal services on the basis of the organization or by referral.
14. Ensuring the functioning of forums, chats, online platforms for conducting thematic consultations, attracting new clients, receiving feedback from customers, etc.
15. Involvement of peer leaders from the SU community to expand access to a key group.

The project started implementing in April 2022. The project goal is to cover 100 PWID using psychostimulants till the end of 2022. During the visit day there were covered 37 clients (98% are PWID, other 2% use another ways of addiction), 27 of them received the harm reduction package (22 are male, 5 female) instead of 20 planned to cover according to Agreement. The harm reduction package includes 15 syringes&alcohol wipes, 12 condoms, 1 naloxone ampule and HIV test. The harm reduction package is supposed to be provided twice per months to each client. 26 clients declared to make HIV self-testing under consultation of online consultants&web-outreach workers (8/18) after providing motivational consultation and step-by-step instructions how to make self-test.

During reporting period 37 covered clients received following services:

- On harm reduction issues – 32,
- On STI – 20,
- On HIV prevention issues – 50,
- On VHC/VGB – 11,
- On TB and co-infection – 16,
- About access to services and referrals – 13,
- On safe injections – 9,
- On safe sexual behavior – 6,
- On problems of drug addictions – 4,
- On safe behavior – 8,
- On TB, STI, SRH issues – 1,
- On TB screening – 6.

13 clients were consulted by project narcologist.

As the day of visit there were developed the project web-site [www.weboutreachkg.org](http://www.weboutreachkg.org) which is under testing period. This site is supposed to be the platform to provide information about Harm Reduction Network and available services, such as online consultation, distribution of harm reduction packages, contacts of online consultants&web-outreach workers. All information related to contacts of consultants&web-outreach is open, but not for personal uses. Before the web-site all web-outreach workers and media content specialist distributed information about project activities via telegram and other channels where stimulant users gather and share information&drugs&ect. The Telegram bot is under development.

The algorithm of working with SU is the following: SU applies to online consultant via web-site and after consultation receives either referral to narcologist or web-outreach worker. Web outreach worker delivers harm reduction package to client to the place indicated by client. There is no any personal meeting. The personal face-to-face meeting is possible only upon client's wish. The web-outreach delivers package using public transportation or personal vehicle. According to the project staff they spent a lot of time to deliver 1 HR package as clients live in different city districts and there is no good system of public transportation system in Bishkek. So other alternative delivery methods are being considered, such as taxis, bicycles or electric scooters in the warm season.

Unfortunately, there was not done client' studying needs since the project starting, and it would be good to conduct studying the needs of clients, drug use practices on a regular basis by posting a short questionnaire on the site itself or using Google questionnaires platform.

In addition, it is necessary to understand the needs and expectations of the consumers of stimulants themselves in relation to the site, how attractive it is, how useful&friendly it is, what information they would like to see on the site, etc.

Also, a form for assessing the risk of infection for HIV can be placed on the site, and those who wish could pass a self-assessment, perhaps this would also contribute to a more willing testing / self-testing.

***Documentation:***

Logs are maintained according to standard reporting forms indicating the PEC, the date of service provision, type of service, consultations. There is a difficulty in registering those clients who received counseling services but did not indicate the UIC. This moment was discussed with the project staff, and it was decided to record them as follows: for example, the employee's name is Рената, respectively, the clients will be PEHA100, PEHA101, PEHA102, etc. The project was not tasked with referral and retention of clients to OST, but 16 PWID received motivational counseling and were referred to OST, with 2 of them enrolled in the program.

***Recommendations for the organization:***

1. Continue informing about safe injecting and sexual behavior through the online platform and the developed website.
2. Conduct an assessment of the needs of consumers of stimulants through the site itself or a Google questionnaire.
3. Obtain feedback from consumers of stimulants about the site and refine / revise the site taking into account the needs of the target group to best meet the expectations of the target group.
4. Post an HIV risk assessment form on the website for self-assessment of HIV testing/self-testing.
5. To indicate on the map of Bishkek the public transport system whose routes pass near the HRN office and determine the approximate time for delivery from the office to a client living in a certain area.
6. To discuss with respective UNDP/GF Project Finance Specialist how to make a contract with taxi service to deliver HR package in areas not covered by public transportation.
7. To provide short report from each staff member (account is exclusion) as attachment to the quarterly program report.

***Distribution:***

- ✓ Inga Babicheva, Deputy Programme Manager / HIV/TB Grant Coordinator.

UNDP  
HIV/TB COORDINATOR  
DEPUTY PROGRAMME  
MANAGER  
INGA BABICHEVA

