

**UNAIDS PROGRAMME ACCELERATION FUNDS - 2007/08
PROPOSAL**

Country: Uzbekistan

Total amount requested (US\$) :75,000

Proposal summary

Recently, Uzbekistan has showed a sharp increase in the number of HIV-positive population. This caused a large number of international organizations, including UN agencies, international monetary institutions and foreign governments, to invest significant financial, human and other resources in assisting the country to prepare national response to the epidemic.

A UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS was formed to coordinate and mobilize efforts among UN agencies and efficiently distribute resources in the country. Meetings of the UN Theme Group are open to representatives of PLWH community – the only in country Association of PLWH, NGO “Ishonch va Hayot”.

NGO “Ishonch va Hayot” was established with help of Ministry of Health and UNAIDS and it has been operating for 3 years in the country since its formal registration. The NGO consists of PLWH and people committed to fight against the epidemic. Currently, the NGO is registered to carry out activities in Tashkent city, but it has established PLWH initiative groups in 10 regions of the country (out of 14) and is getting prepared for registration as a nationwide network of PLWH.

GIPA (Greater involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS), a UN-supported policy, has been in operation for the past two years in the country. PLWH are being involved in activities implemented by various national and international partners, take participation in meetings of thematic working groups, CCM etc. However, the involvement of PLWH in AIDS prevention activities is insufficient.

Currently, from the minimum of 6 offered by UNAIDS GIPA policy types of involvement only few take partial places, they are:

-Support group members and leaders:

PLWH take leadership of HIV support groups, seek external resources, encourage participation of new members or participate by sharing their experience with others;

-Program developers and implementers:

The NGO is currently implementing 2 projects itself; it provided expertise and skills and participated in implementation and evaluation of UNAIDS PAF projects, and took part in technical working groups facilitated by National AIDS Center/GFATM project, UNODC, UNICEF and some other organizations.

-Speakers/Contribution PLWH are not spokespersons in campaigns or, they are not well-known in the public arena yet, but very few of them take a part as spokespersons in trainings, conducted by the NGO for the medical personnel, initiative groups, local and international organizations and authorities.

One of the main challenges/obstacles in PLWH wider and more effective involvement is lack of their knowledge and skills in the spheres of organizational, program and policy development, advocacy, experience in working with international and donor organizations and local authorities. Despite the fact that the NGO is a member of Country Coordination Mechanism and takes part in the sessions of the UN Theme Group and local initiatives - the organization mostly operates on the basic level, concentrating on provision of consultations, organization of mutual support groups, trainings, social adaptation.

Lack of PLWH organizational and human resource capacity is cause for the fact that :

- PLWH are almost not involved in Advocating for better access to services including treatment, care and support and for resource mobilization

- PLWH are not actively involved in own health and welfare (active role in decisions about treatment, self education and therapies) due to the lack of information and service deliveries).

- PLWH are only beginning to become involved in development of HIV-related policies at all levels.

As a result, the involvement of PLWH in the processes of decision making and policy development on different levels remains extremely low, and their participation is oftentimes tokenistic.

Recently, the country has started the process of scaling up the universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, defined the milestones and developed a road map, which became the basis for the new National HIV Strategic Program for 2007- 2010.

Challenges to achieving universal access identified by PLWH:

- limited access to accurate and updated information about availability of resources;
- limited access to information;
- inadequate care and support programs for PLWHA (like lack of treatment literacy, adherence support, and substitution therapy);
- limited funding for achieving universal access;
- insufficient recognition by donors and government agencies of the important role PLWH can play in increasing access to services and responding to all aspects of the epidemic.

In order to achieve the determined targets it is clear that it is vital to increase the PLWH knowledge and skills level and scale up the involvement of PLWH in HIV prevention activities on the strategic level.

“GIPA. When we talk about universal access and a sustainable response, we focus on long-term funding and health systems. But also important are community capacity and empowerment of PLWHA. I’m convinced that for long-term support this is just as important. I would say that my first message is that we will not be able to

deliver universal access without creative empowerment and support for groups of PLWHA. We don't need to be defensive in our efforts, but we need to present the case in a clear way.
 Funding for PLWHA groups. "The second point I'd like to make is that if we accept the first message – that no sustainable large-scale response is possible without PLWHA – then we must provide core funding for organizations run by and organized for them. We have heard from some donors that they can only supply money for projects. But how can you run a project if you don't have the money to establish a system?"¹

It is obvious that it is a mission impossible to have a sustainable long-term and large-scale response to HIV/AIDS without the involvement of PLWH, and one of the PLWH community greatest needs for now is their capacity building, financial assistance and organizational support that can be provided by UN and donors.
 Without support, PLWH organizations will find it difficult to consistently and effectively contribute and implement the specific projects.

One of the existing mechanism that can increase the potential and capacity of PLWH Network/community and promote GIPA principle is the UN Joint Team:

"One strategy that the Secretariat has identified is to use the UN System as a conduit to promote the GIPA Principle within the system and beyond. In order for this to materialize, it is necessary for the UN System to agree on a strategic framework to promote and implement GIPA. The Secretariat has started a process that will culminate in the organization of a consultation with Cosponsors and other interested UN to work out the framework. The framework covers both policy and programmatic levels".

The project is targeted on building the capacity of Uzbek PLWH network, improvement of PLWH involvement at all levels of decision-making, increase the important role and involvement of PLWH in achieving Universal access through the integration of PLWH in UN Joint team HIV programs.

Activity Title	UN RC mech	US\$	UN exec. Agency	Impl. UN agency
Strengthening of the capacity of Uzbek PLWH network and support of involvement of PLWH at all levels of decision-making	Yes	75,000	UNDP	UN Joint Team, Network of PLWH

Signatories

1. **Theme Group Chair** Mr. James Callahan

(This proposal was reviewed and approved by the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS on 1 December 2006)

2. **UN executing Agency representatives**

Mr. Fikret Akcura, UN RC, UNDP RR

(the UN executing agency or the UN implementing partner agency undertakes to provide technical and administrative back-up, to monitor implementation and to report on the activity's status to the UN Theme Group Chair)

3. **UN implementing partner agency representatives**

UN Joint Team members, namely:

1. WHO, Mr. Michel Tailhades, Head of agency
2. UNICEF, Mr. Reza Hossaini, Head of agency
3. UNODC, Mr. James Callahan, Regional Representative
4. UNESCO, Mr. Barry Lane, Head of agency
5. UNAIDS, Mr. James, Callahan, Head of agency

3. **UN Resident Coordinator**

Mr. Fikret Akcura, UN RC, UNDP RR

(in cases where funds for one or more activities are to be channelled through the UN RC mechanism)

¹ Dr. Peter Piot speech; PLWH and achieving Universal Access to AIDS treatment, Care and Prevention by 2010. Donor consortium conference, 16-17 May, 2006.

For each discrete activity within the proposal

Country : Uzbekistan
<p>Activity i. <i>title</i> Strengthening of the capacity of Uzbek PLWH network and support of involvement of PLWH at all levels of decision-making <i>budget</i> \$ 75,000 ii. <i>duration:</i> from December 2006 to December 2007</p>
<p>Executing UN Agency – UNDP Implementing UN partner agencies: UN Joint Team <i>(the agency which reports on the activity to the UN Theme Group Chair)</i></p>
<p>Implementing national partner <i>(entity that will be implementing the activity and reporting to the executing or implementing UN partner agency)</i> : The Republican AIDS Centre, Network of PLWH, local administration</p>
<p>Activity description <i>(brief overview of context, rationale, geographical scope, linkages to broader activities, to national priorities and/or to the UN ISP) :</i> - Preparational trainings for volunteers - representatives of the PLWH community/network (potential GIPA consultants – 2 times) - Selection, recruitment and placement of GIPA consultants from among of the trained volunteers in respective UN agencies (UN Agencies contribution – award of fellowship to its GIPA consultant in head office in Tashkent). - Selection, recruitment and placement of GIPA consultants in UN/HIV programs on oblast level - Follow up Workshop for UN /HIV programs, national partners agencies and their GIPA consultants on development of joint UN AWP and development of joint Universal access strategies - Study tour for GIPA consultants to country with advanced GIPA experience - Workshop/retreat on mid-term outcomes for UN agencies/HIV programs, national partners agencies and their GIPA consultants, development of follow-up steps - Training for PLWH oblast level initiative groups and national partnering organizations and NGOs - Organization of the National Forum with participation of international and national and donor organizations providing AIDS services to reach common consensus on building up of the strategic framework/development of further strategies for achieving Universal Access with involvement of PLWH - Presentation of the project outcomes - Support of Nationwide World AIDS Day - Support to initiatives of the Network of PLWH - Development of unified information exchange and management system/space</p>
<p>PAF criteria which the activity principally meets <i>(state briefly how or why this is the case)</i> - promoting the Greater Involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) - assisting and promoting the Universal access achievement processes with increased role of PLWH - supporting national AIDS campaigns in the context of the World AIDS and AIDS memorial campaigns; - targeting thematic and programme areas that represent important gaps in a country's overall response, esp. sensitive and/or neglected issues - strategic information exchange and management; - increase effectiveness and strengthen the UN Joint Team and UN Theme group activities; - Civil Society empowerment and partnership</p>
<p>Main objective (s) <i>(expected outcomes of the activity) :</i> The projects targeted on building the capacity of Uzbek PLWH network, improvement of PLWH involvement at all levels of decision-making, assisting the country processes and increasing the important role and involvement of PLWH in achieving of Universal access through the integration of PLWH in UN Joint team/HIV programs. As the outcomes of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLWH will have the capacity to be widely involved in HIV activities and decision making and policy development processes • The PLWH Network will be strengthened and will reach more people in the regions, provide with knowledge and skills and build the capacity of both PLWH themselves and their national partners (medical personnel, teachers, armed forces etc.) • The PLWH community will have the capacity to contribute into the UN agencies/donor/national partner organizations, HIV programs effective implementation and consult international organizations, state bodies and non-government actors in their work in the field of HIV/AIDS. • The UN joint information exchange system will be established • UN Joint Team operation will be strengthened
<p>Monitoring and evaluation <i>(brief account of aspects of the activity to be monitored and evaluated – i.e indicators and targets) :</i> 1. Mid-term project meetings 2. Expert site visits 3. Regular reports of technical group on implementation of the planned activities 4. All forms of reports on the implementation of deadlines on M&E</p>

PAF budget (summary breakdown by the following broad categories) :

Implementation costs (**please specify**)

1) Workshops/ trainings/presentations/forum	17 090	
2) Material development/documentation	1 000	
3) Transportation	3 840	
4) Monitoring and evaluation	2 000	
6) Administrative/programme support costs	2 700	
7) PLWH/GIPA consultants on local and oblast level	18 000	
8) National partners assistance	4 800	
9) Project Manager	11 700	
10) Study tour	4 800	
10) National World AIDS Day Campaign	1 000	
11) Support of PLWH initiative	2 000	
12) Expert visits to regions	1070	
13) 2% fee to UNDP and UNDP Office support	5000	
TOTAL :	75,000	US\$

Complementary resources (additional financial and technical inputs directly or indirectly linked to the activity – indicate entity, nature and level):

- The Republic AIDS Center, Women's Committee, local municipalities/mayors will provide advocacy support, provide national specialists as consultants.

- UN Agencies/Joint Team will support with in-kind technical assistance - jointly build the PLWH network capacity in area of expertise; provide with work space, specialists and technical materials;

Make a joint pool of financial resources, together with PAF funds, in order to provide a fellowship award to PLWH group and involve/integrate them into UN agencies HIV program activities and implementation;

UNFPA and World Bank will support the project with other technical aid.

- PLWH NGO will provide trainers/facilitators and consultants; will conduct trainings and seminars

- GFATM will support organization of the National Forum on building up of the strategic framework/further strategies for achieving Universal Access with involvement of PLWH