

Minutes No. 4 / 25-27
of the Meeting of the National Coordination Committee to fight AIDS,
TB and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan (NCC)

November 25, 2021. Dushanbe

Chaired by:

Matlubakhon Amonzoda Sattoriyon – Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan,
Chairperson of the National Coordination Committee

Attended by (22 NCC members):

J.A. Abdullozoda – Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, NCC Deputy Chairman, G. Abdufatohzoda – Head of the Social Development Department of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, A. Amirzoda – Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, Chief Public Health Inspector of the Republic of Tajikistan, N.R. Mahmadullozoda – Deputy Minister of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan, G.S.Ganizoda – Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, M.Umarov – Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan - Head of the Main Penal Corrections Directorate of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan, N.Ibrohimzoda – Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, R.S. Safarzoda – Deputy Minister of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan, R.Kh.Nasriddinzoda – Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, N. Gafforzoda – Deputy Chairman, Committee for Women's and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, D.Ahmadzoda – Deputy Chairman, Youth and Sports Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, A.F. Mirzozoda – Deputy Chairman, Committee on Religion, Regulation of Traditions, Celebrations and Rites under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Sona Orbelian – Program Manager, HIV, TB and Malaria Program, UNDP Tajikistan, P. Makhmudova – National Officer, Office of the World Health Organization in the Republic of Tajikistan, Christopher Barrett – Director, Health Department, USAID Mission in the Republic of Tajikistan, T. Khaidarova – Director, NGO "Tajikistan Network of Women Living with HIV", F.Gulova – Director, NGO "Equal Opportunities", S.Naimov – Director, Association "Stop TB Partnership in Tajikistan", D.Egamberdieva – Director, NGO "Buzurg" and G. Karimova – Director, NGO "Zukhal".

Attending non-members:

N. Alizoda – First Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan, S.Talbakzoda – Deputy Director, State Financial Control and Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan, J. Abdurakhmonzoda – Deputy Director, Social Insurance and Pensions Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, S. Kholov – Health Project Management Specialist, USAID in the Republic of Tajikistan, N.Nazarova – Administrative and financial analyst, Project "HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control in Tajikistan", United Nations Development Program in the Republic of Tajikistan, Dilshod Ali-Zade - Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project "HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control in Tajikistan", United Nations Development Program in the Republic of Tajikistan, A. Rajabzoda – Director, State Institution "National TB Center", R.Nurov – National AIDS Prevention and Control Center, Z.Avgonov – Executive Secretary of the NCC and Odil Nasibov - Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the NCC.

Agenda:

1. Implementation progress of the Global Fund grant to fight HIV and TB in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2023.
2. Implementation progress of the National Program to combat TB in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025.
3. Implementation progress of the National Program to Combat the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025.
4. Review and approval of the Work Plan of the National Coordination Committee to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2022.
5. Review and approval of the Work Plan of the NCC Supervisory Commission for 2022.

On opening the meeting of the National Coordination Committee, the Deputy Prime-Minister introduced the agenda to those present. She thanked the Global Fund, USAID, WHO and other international organizations for their support extended to the Government of Tajikistan in its efforts to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the country. She announced the agenda of the NCC meeting, which was then approved by the NCC members unanimously.

Ms. Sattoriyon noted that in accordance with clause 5.1 of Rules and Procedures for Resolving Conflicts of Interest approved by the decision of the National Coordination Committee dated 10.07.2012, No. 21, all elected NCC members and staff of the NCC Secretariat are required to fill out and sign the Form of Consent with the Rules and Procedures for Resolving Conflicts of Interest (Appendix No. 1 to the Rules) once a year. She asked all NCC members to sign and submit this form to the NCC Secretariat. She also added that if any of the NCC members had or might have an actual or perceived conflict of interest with regard to the issues on the agenda they were required to acknowledge the fact, fill out a Declaration of Interest, in accordance with the form attached to the above Rules (Appendix No. 2 to the Rules), and withdraw from the conference room for the time while the relevant items on the agenda were being discussed and decided upon.

Speaking on the first item of the agenda, Sona Orbelian reported on the progress during the first half of 2021 under the GF grant to fight HIV and TB the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2023 implemented by the HIV / AIDS and TB Control Program of UNDP Tajikistan. In particular, she spoke about the goals and objectives, the implementation mechanism, the main achievements and difficulties faced in the implementation of the Project. She added that, during the reporting period, key populations were covered with a basic package of prevention services, including people who inject drugs (PWID) 91% (14,215), sex workers (SWs) 78% (8,497), men who have sex with men (MSM) - 83% (5,861), and prisoners - 97% (6,388). Testing coverage: PWID - 69% (8,656), SW - 58% (4,998), MSM 56% (3,175), prisoners 117% (6,150). Also, as part of the Project, measures were introduced to promote and protect the rights of PLHIV and key populations: 186 people took advantage of the hotline to receive legal advice or report crimes against people living with HIV (PLHIV). She added that, in June 2021, UNDP had also supported the process of developing a national request to the Global Fund for additional funds to strengthen the national response to the COVID-19 epidemic in the country. The Global Fund approved the request and allocated \$ 6,279,000 for 2021-2023 to address the impact of COVID-19 and to support HIV and TB services. Ms.Orbelian also discussed some problems encountered during the project implementation including the lack of infrastructure (storage facilities) at the central and regional levels, insufficient technical equipment of AIDS and TB centers, high

turnover and shortage of medical personnel, etc. She also noted that out of the total amount of grant funds allocated for the first half of 2021 (\$ 7,343,847.55.) \$ 1,780,842 was spent during the reporting period.

A.Rajabzoda reported on the second item of the agenda, namely on the implementation progress of the National Program to combat TB in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025. He noted that in recent years, the situation with the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in the country was steadily improving. In 9 months of 2021, the total number of officially registered TB cases in the country was 3,448. There is a trend towards a significant decrease in the number of new TB cases – from 60.6 per 100 thousand in 2016 to 40.5 per 100 thousand in 2020. There is also a decrease in the mortality rate from tuberculosis in the Republic of Tajikistan – from 3.7 people per 100 thousand population in 2016 to 1.4 people per 100 thousand population in 2020. He added that the National Implementation Plan for the above Program consisted of 19 items and 105 sub-items, of which 89 sub-items should be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Tajikistan in partnership with other ministries, departments, public and international organizations, and the remaining 16 sub-items by other ministries and committees. He emphasized that, during 9 months of 2021, 70 sub-items of the Program Implementation Plan had been implemented, which constituted 78.6%.

Speaking on the third item of the agenda R.Nurov informed the meeting participants about the implementation progress of the National Program to Combat the HIV Epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025. He noted that the National Implementation Plan for the above Program consisted of 31 items and 178 sub-items, of which 161 sub-items should be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Tajikistan in partnership with other ministries, departments, public and international organizations, and the remaining 17 sub-items by other ministries and committees. Overall, during the first 9 months of 2021, 102 sub-items of the Program Implementation Plan had been implemented, which constituted 63.4%. He added that the number of people living with HIV in the country was 9,947, 86.0% (8,557) of whom continued to receive appropriate ART. The prevalence of HIV infection among the key populations, in particular, people who inject drugs (PWID) was 11.9%, which constituted an 8% decrease compared to 2014. The same indicator among sex workers (SW) amounted to 3.2%, which was 9% less than in 2014, however, it still remained at a fairly high level making it imperative to continue preventive activities among these population groups. The HIV prevalence rate among prison population was 3.1%. During the first 9 months of 2021, as part of the National Program, 14,215 PWID received preventive services, including distribution of 3,244,978 disposable needles and syringes, 479,105 condoms, 32,920 pieces of information and educational materials. Over the same period, 8,679 sex workers were tested for HIV. Also, 13,021 various thematic information materials and 1.6 million condoms were distributed among SWs. Prevention programs in prisons were able to reach 9438 inmates. He also noted that in the first 9 months of 2021, 20,602 labor migrants had been tested for HIV infection, which only amounted to 3.1% of all tested persons in the country. The most prevalent transmission route among migrants was through sexual contact. There has been some progress in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission in recent years. All diagnostic tests for HIV testing of pregnant women are purchased from the state budget. In 2021, 4.5 million somoni were allocated for this purpose, which was 500 thousand somoni more than in 2020. To provide artificial nutrition (milk formula) to children born of HIV-positive mothers in 2021, 780 thousand somoni were allocated, which is almost 1.5 times more than in 2020. However, no funds for the purchase of infant formula were allocated from the local budget in five cities and districts of the country where children born from HIV positive mothers live.

The speaker emphasized that the coverage of children living with HIV with out-patient observation, care and treatment services in the country significantly exceeded the rates among all people living with HIV. Thus, as of September 30, 2021, out of 1,101 children living with HIV, 1,063 (96.5%) were covered with antiretroviral therapy. As of September 30, 2021, 893 children under the age of 16 living with HIV regularly received monthly state benefits in the amount of seven calculation factors (TJS420).

Speaking on the fourth item of the agenda, Z. Avgonov noted that on the basis of clause 16 of the Regulations on the National Coordination Committee, the NCC Secretariat had developed a draft NCC Work Plan for 2022, which had been submitted earlier to the NCC members for their consideration. He asked the NCC members to review and approve the Plan.

With regard to the fifth issue of the agenda, Z. Avgonov noted that on the basis of clause 6 of Appendix 1 of the Supervision Plan, approved by the decision of the NCC dated July 10, 2012, No. 21, the NCC Secretariat had developed a draft Work Plan of the Supervisory Commission for 2022, which had been submitted to NCC members earlier. He asked the members of the NCC to review and approve the Work Plan of the Supervisory Commission for 2022.

The meeting of the National Coordination Committee resolved as follows:

1. Take under advisement the report submitted by the UN Development Program in Tajikistan "On the implementation progress of the Global Fund HIV and TB grant in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2023" with allowance for NCC suggestions and comments.

Request the United Nations Development Program in the Republic of Tajikistan to:

- take the necessary measures to build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental organizations to ensure a sustainable transfer of the role of Principal Recipient from UNDP to national institutions;

- submit to the Global Fund a proposal to ensure coverage of young people as part of the GF consolidated grant to Fight HIV and TB for 2021-2023;

- take the necessary action to use the financial resources allocated for the first year of the grant implementation.

2. Take under advisement the report submitted by the National TB Control Center under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Tajikistan "On the implementation progress of the National Program to combat TB in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025" with allowance for NCC suggestions and comments.

Request the National TB Center to:

- take the necessary steps, in conjunction with the Main Penal Corrections Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and other partners, to reduce the level of TB morbidity in the country's penitentiary system;

- step up awareness building and TB prevention activities aimed at labor migrants in conjunction with the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of Tajikistan;

- step up awareness building and TB prevention activities aimed at general population including those living in remote areas, in conjunction with other partners active in the sector and with the involvement of the media,

3. Take under advisement the report submitted by the state institution "National AIDS Prevention and Control Center" of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Tajikistan "On the implementation of the National Program to Combat the HIV and AIDS Epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025", with allowance for NCC suggestions and comments.

Request the National AIDS Prevention and Control Center to:

- take the necessary action in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance to allocate funds to local executive bodies of cities and districts that have failed to provide funds for the purchase of milk-containing artificial nutrition products for children born to HIV-infected mothers;

- strengthen awareness-raising work on HIV prevention among labor migrants and youth in conjunction with the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment, Youth and Sports Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and other partners,

4. Approve the NCC work plan for 2022 (Appendix 1).

5. Approve the work plan of the NCC Supervisory Commission for 2022 (Appendix 2).

M.A. Sattoriyon

Deputy Prime Minister,

NCC Chairperson

Annex 1
 Approved
 at the Meeting of the National Coordination
 Committee to Fight AIDS, TB and
 Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan
 Minutes dated 25 November 2021, Ref.No 4 / 25-27

Workplan
 of the National Coordination Committee to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria
 in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2022

№	Activities	Responsible Agencies	Implementation Timeframe
I. Issues to be discussed in meetings of the National Coordinating Committee to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan			
1	On the progress of the USAID Project "Achievement of Targets and Continuation of Epidemic Control Measures (EPIC) "	Project EPIC	First half of the year
2	On the activities of the Republican public organization "Afif" in the Republic of Tajikistan	Republican public organization "Afif"	First half of the year
3	On the progress of the implementation of the National Program on Counteracting the HIV Epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025	Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan,	First half of the year
4	On the implementation of the National Program for the Protection of the Population from Tuberculosis in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025	Committee on Television and Radio under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan	Second half of the year

5	On the progress of the implementation of the National Program on Counteracting the HIV Epidemic in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025	Committee for Youth and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	Second half of the year
6	On the work plan of the National Coordinating Committee to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2023	NCC Secretariat	Second half of the year
7	On the work plan of the NCC Oversight Commission for 2023	Oversight Commission, NCC Secretariat	Second half of the year
II. Core activities			
1	Organization and holding of NCC meetings	NCC Secretariat	In accordance with the NCC Regulations
2	Provision of induction training for new members of the National Coordination Committee	NCC Secretariat	First quarter
3	Conducting a coordination meeting with members of the Coordination Council for the prevention and control of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Kulob area of Khatlon Region	NCC Secretariat	First quarter
4	Conducting a coordination meeting with members of the Coordination Council for the prevention and control of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Sughd region	NCC Secretariat	Second quarter
5	Conducting a coordination meeting with members of the Coordination Council for the prevention and control of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Khatlon region	NCC Secretariat	Third quarter
6	Conducting a coordination meeting with members of the Coordination Council for the prevention and control of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in GBAO region	NCC Secretariat	Fourth quarter

7	Posting of information on the NCC website and dissemination of NCC materials to government, non-governmental and international organizations and through the media	NCC Secretariat	On an ongoing basis
8	Organization of events on the occasion of: -World Tuberculosis Day; -World Malaria Day; -World AIDS Day	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan	March 24 Third Sunday in May December 1

NCC Executive Secretary

Z.Avghonov

Annex 2
Approved
at the Meeting of the National Coordination
Committee to Fight AIDS, TB and
Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan
Minutes dated 25 November 2021, Ref.No 4 / 25-27

Workplan
of the Oversight Commission under the National Coordination Committee to Fight AIDS,
TB and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2022

№	Activities	Responsible Agencies	Implementation Timeframe	Budget
1	Overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund's HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis grant by the United Nations Development Program in Tajikistan	Oversight Commission, UNDP Tajikistan	First quarter	Not required
2	Overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund's Tuberculosis grant for the period 2021-2023 by the Republican Center for Tuberculosis Control under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan	Oversight Commission, Republican Center for Tuberculosis Control	First quarter	Not required
3	Overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund's HIV grant for the period by the Republican AIDS Center under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan	Oversight Commission, Republican AIDS Center	First quarter	Not required

4	Overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund's HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis grant in the Khatlon Oblast	Oversight Commission,	First quarter	450 USD (Daily allowance for 2 people x \$ 65 x 3 nights = \$ 390 Travel expenses: 2 people x \$ 30 = \$ 60)
5	Overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund's HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis grant in the GBAO	Oversight Commission,	First quarter	USD 728 (Daily allowance for 2 people x \$ 98 x 3 nights = \$ 588; Travel expenses: 2 people x \$ 70 = \$ 140)
6	Overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund's HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis grant in the Sogd oblast	Oversight Commission,	First quarter	450 USD (Daily allowance for 2 people x \$ 65 x 3 nights = \$ 390 Travel expenses: 2 people x \$ 30 = \$ 60)
7	Overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund's HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis grant in the districts of republican subordination	Oversight Commission,	First quarter	USD 660 Daily allowance for 4 people x \$ 45 x 3 nights = \$ 540 Travel expenses: 4 people x \$ 30 = \$ 120)

NCC Executive Secretary

Z.Avghonov