



UNDP / Global Fund Project May Update: Adapting our response to the new context

May 2020

Under the Global Fund grant, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) continues to support efforts to end tuberculosis and HIV in Kyrgyzstan. Our work consists in providing best quality and free drugs for all patients on treatment and in need, improving diagnosis, organizing education and prevention activities, supporting NGOs, communities and patients. Here's an update of our May activities.

The UNDP/ Global Fund adapts activities to the Covid-19 pandemic



The UNDP / Global Fund Project continues to adapt its activities to the new context of the Covid-19 pandemic, **ensuring uninterrupted prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB and HIV** amidst this crisis.

The project and its partners are continuously adapting to the new situation, finding solutions (mainly, digital) to continue providing prevention activities, education, support and care for patients and key population groups. For example, the number of TB patients on **video observed treatment** has increased from 130 in February to 386 in April.

Peer consultations continue to **conduct consultations via online platforms**, and national programs are distributing preventive medical equipment and treatments for longer periods of time, to guarantee a **safe access to health** for vulnerable groups.

In addition, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has allowed beneficiary countries to **reallocate savings** and programmed activities to Covid-19. To this end, the project **purchased medical equipment for more than 400,000 USD** to support the country's efforts to eradicate Covid-19. Part of this aid has already been handed over to the Ministry of Health (50,000 surgical masks and 2,000 FFP2 masks), while the rest of the order (10 ventilators and 6550 rapid tests) is expected to be delivered early June.

Blog: Our project's clients are excessively **vulnerable to the Covid-19 crisis**



"The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to change our lifestyles. Working from home, withholding on family visits, cutting down our time outside, keeping distance with other people and our loved ones... Changes that are hard on everyone, but harder on some people," wrote **Dinara Duishenova**, program specialist for the UNDP / Global Fund project in her blog.

*"Under the Global Fund project to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, we implement programs for prevention and treatment of HIV and TB. And in these times of global pandemic and self-isolation, **my colleagues and I are genuinely worried about our patients.**"*

*"A lot of clients of our programs are **not only physically vulnerable to the new disease, but also socially and financially vulnerable.**"*

Read the full blog to learn what problems **TB patients, people living with HIV and key population groups** are facing during the Covid-19 pandemic, and **how the UNDP / Global Fund is adapting its response accordingly:** <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/blog/2020/why-i-m-worried-about-our-patients-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>



1 - Dinara Duishenova

How to **protect children** from HIV, TB and Covid-19: our advice



Under the Global Fund grant, the UNDP works to provide timely prevention, accurate diagnosis and effective treatment for HIV and tuberculosis, including for children. The UNDP / Global Fund team shared advice for parents on how to protect their children from HIV, TB and Covid-19 infection in this article : <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/06/how-to-protect-children-from-hiv-tuberculosis-and-covid-19-.html>

Some main points to remember:

- Learn more about these diseases
- Educate your children about these diseases yourself, and don't rely only on Internet
- Build a relationship of trust with your children
- Show the example
- Explain why health matters
- Strengthen your children's immune systems
- Seek medical help if needed and don't self-treat

How to protect children from tuberculosis?



Tell your children about tuberculosis

Don't refuse BCG vaccination

Strengthen your children's immune system

Take a yearly Mantoux test

If your child has lost appetite, has a dry cough, has night sweats, seek medical help

Let doctors know if your child was in contact with a TB patient

How to protect children from HIV?



Learn more about HIV

Tell your children about HIV yourself

Show the example by getting tested for HIV regularly

Regularly talk about the importance of health

Conduct sexual and reproductive education with your children

Create a relationship of trust between yourself and your children

Teach your children to be tolerant



How to protect children from Covid-19?



Wear a mask if you cough

**Teach children how to correctly
wash their hands**

Practice social distancing

**If you visit public places, use a
mask, gloves and hand sanitizer**

Don't practice self-treatment

**Respect all prevention measures
for Covid-19**

**Strengthen your children's immune
system**

Blog: **Stigma is still a barrier** to end HIV, TB and Covid-19



*"When a person is sick, **what they need the most is support**. They need to feel that they are loved, needed, and that they are important to others. Only then will that person want to live, to get back on their two feet, to fight and to take treatment, however difficult it may be. But stigma, on the contrary, leaves a person alone with their illness and their dark thoughts,"* write **Tolkun Mambetova and Svetlana Lim**, UNDP/ Global Fund project specialists, in their blog, where they explain what is stigma, how it affect patients and how we can stop it.

"Stigma and discrimination cause late diagnosis and treatment interruptions. That's why we can only stop HIV and TB when we stop stigma and discrimination."

Read the full blog: <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/blog/2020/why-stigma-is-keeping-us-from-ending-hiv-tb-and-other-diseases.html>



2 - Svetlana Lim



3 - Tolkun Mambetova

Interview: How we help **children living with HIV**



The UNDP / Global Fund project and its partners provide **education, medical and psychological support and financial help to children living with HIV** (most of whom were infected in hospitals in the south of the country in the early 2000s). In an interview, **Ravshan Mazhipov**, director of the partner NGO "Plus Center", explains what work is being conducted and how they are **adapting to the Covid-19 pandemic**.

It's very important to work with these children - who are now teenagers - to enable them to build a bright future and live a healthy life, regardless of their disease. As Ravshan pointed out, **the main obstacle remains stigma**:

*"We learned about 12-year-old Adyl through one of our volunteers. She came to us in tears and told us that **he didn't take ART treatment because his family was scared someone may learn he was sick**. Adyl was so sick he couldn't stand, he had stage 4 HIV and other illnesses. As she continued talking about him, I started feeling anger, pity, indignation, and I wanted to put an end to this,"* he said. Thanks to the NGO's help, this boy was saved and can now play soccer like he had always dreamed of.

Read the full interview here:

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/05/interview--how-we-help-children-living-with-hiv--.html>



4 - Ravshan Mazhitov

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