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**SUPPORT TO PEOPLE
WITH TB AND HIV IN
THE COVID-19
CONTEXT**





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Tuberculosis prevention:

UNDP project

"Effective control for tuberculosis and HIV in the Kyrgyz Republic"

Implementation period:
01.08.2018 - 31.12.2021

Geographic coverage:
Bishkek city.

USAID

project
"Cure TB" (JSI / USAID)

Implementation period:
10.12.2019 - 30.09.2021

Geographic coverage:
Chui province and Talas province.

USAID

project
"Support to TB patients"
(LON TB)

Implementation period:
15.01.2020-14.01.2023

Geographic coverage:
Naryn province and Jalal-Abad province



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Challenges, which faced TB and HIV patients during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Medical staff has been involved in responding to COVID-19, working in hospitals, observation zones, transborder checkpoints. It was difficult for patients to get a medical consultation, to reach contact TB doctor;
- From March 25 to May 10 the curfew was declared on the part of the Kyrgyz Republic for the period from 20:00 to 07:00, restricting the free movement of citizens and public transportation ban. Thereby, the patients had difficulties with moving and visiting medical facilities for examination and consultation;
- Many patients were in difficult economical situation due to lose a job. They didn't have enough food and money;
- Fear to get COVID-19 infection, the loss of loved ones, as well as self isolation conditions - all this has a difficult psychological experience for most of the patients;
- Lack of correct information about the COVID-19 disease caused panic among patients.

Assisting TB patients to reach medical services:



TB patients who could not reach medical facilities (lack of transport, living in remote areas) were provided with TB drugs and DOT at home;



Patients requiring medical examination (screening) or hospitalization were assisted with transportation to medical facilities and receiving medical services (screening, consultation, hospitalization);



Assistance was provided with the transportation of diagnostic material (sputum) from the patient to the medical facility.



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Assisting TB patients to receive medical services





Psychological support for TB patients



Patients and their family members were provided with individual psychological support during home visits by visiting nurses and volunteers. Furthermore, patients could also get personal qualified psychological consultations;



To improve communication with TB patients and provide “peer-to-peer” support in an online format, were created WhatsApp groups chats for TB patients, volunteers and project staff. In these chats, all participants were actively involved in daily discussions about tuberculosis, COVID-19, and sharing useful information, supporting each other.

Psychological support for TB patients



Social support for TB and HIV patients

- In the framework of the USAID project: "Support to TB patients" within the period April-May 2020: 250 TB and HIV patients in Naryn and Jalal-Abad provinces received food packages;
- With the support of the IFRC, in April 2020: 109 TB and HIV patients received humanitarian aid in the form of food packages;
- In May 2020, with the support of the Stop TB Partnership: 225 TB patients received a one-time humanitarian aid in the form of food and hygiene kits;
- Within the donation from charity boxes: 20 most vulnerable TB patients were provided with pharmaceutical vouchers with a nominal value of 1000 KG soms each (appr. 15 USD).



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Social support for patients living with HIV (dedicated to World AIDS Day)

- With the support of the IFRC, on December 1, "World AIDS Day", 60 PLHIV received food packages: 20 patients in Bishkek, 20 patients in Chui province, 20 patients in Osh province, 20 patients in Jalal-Abad province;
- 36 children with HIV status received bags with stationeries;
- Humanitarian support was provided to "Harm Reduction Network Association", for PLHIV people as food parcel.

Social support for patients



In addition, assistance was provided to medical facilities

National TB Center, Regional TB Center, Republic AIDS Center, Oblast and City AIDS Centers were provided with:



Hygienic sets (liquid and solid soaps, antiseptics, washing powders, paper towels, toilet paper);



PPE (respirators, suits);



Medical nitrile gloves

