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# STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES IN TAJIKISTAN

EXPERIENCES IN ENHANCING NATIONAL  
SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE THE  
SUSTAINABILITY OF GLOBAL FUND  
GRANT IMPLEMENTATION



## **Acknowledgements**

*UNDP Tajikistan would like to thank the management and staff of the Ministry of Health, the Republican AIDS Centre, the Republican Tropical Disease Centre, the Republican Centre of State Sanitary and Epidemiologic Supervision, the Republican Tuberculosis Control Centre, UNFPA, UNAIDS, IOM, and members of civil society in Tajikistan that were consulted as part of the development of this case study. With support from the Global Fund and UNDP, the many national and civil society partners have made a tangible difference in the HIV, tuberculosis and malaria response in Tajikistan.*

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IMPLEMENTATION**

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# 1 BACKGROUND

Tajikistan has emerged from a troubled decade in the 1990s. Independence was declared after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, but quickly thereafter the country fell into unrest and civil war. In 1997 a peace agreement was signed and the country could begin to address the severe challenges faced by the public sector in delivering services to its population.

With a gross national income (GNI) per capita of just US\$ 990 (only 14% of the average for Europe and Central Asia), Tajikistan is one of the poorest former Soviet republics. More than 1,000,000 Tajiks migrate seasonally in search of work and the country remains highly dependent on remittances that, according to some estimates, now constitute more than half of the country's GDP.<sup>1</sup> Limited resources seriously hamper the health budget- in 2012 public spending for health was just 1.7% of GDP, compared to an average of 7.2% in Europe and Central Asia.<sup>2</sup> Limited availability of qualified human resources is one of the key impediments to improved health outcomes- in 2011 2.1 physicians were available per 1,000 population, compared to 3.3 on average in Europe and Central Asia.<sup>3</sup>

## Global Fund Support to Tajikistan

In 2003, Tajikistan became one of the first countries in Central Asia to implement a Global Fund HIV grant. UNDP was selected by the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), called the National Coordination Committee (NCC) in Tajikistan, to be Principal Recipient (PR) for HIV in 2003 and, later in 2005 and 2007 for malaria and tuberculosis grants.<sup>4</sup> UNDP's support to the implementation of Global Fund grants is in line with UNDP's Strategic Plan, which defines overarching priorities for the organization for the period 2014-2017, and includes a focus on strengthening institutions to progressively deliver universal access to basic services.

Currently, UNDP is managing a total grant portfolio of more than US\$ 136 million. The grants for all three diseases are performing well, with an A1 rating for the tuberculosis grant, and A2 ratings for the HIV and malaria grants.<sup>5</sup>



1 World Bank (11 April 2014) Migration and Development Brief #22  
2 World Bank Databank (17 November 2014): <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx>  
3 Ibid.  
4 See more facts about the Global Fund grants here: <http://www.undp-global-fund-capacitydevelopment.org/home/country-impact/europe-the-cis/tajikistan.aspx#Tajikistan>  
5 The Global Fund grant rating scale: A1 - Exceeding expectations, A2 - Meeting expectations, B1 - Adequate, B2 - Inadequate but potential demonstrated, C - Unacceptable, NR - No rating available.

**Figure 1 - The 2104 Global Fund grant portfolio in Tajikistan**

Portfolio Overview				
Disease Component	Grant	Phase	Amount	Rating
HIV / AIDS	TAJ-809-G07-H	Extension TFM	\$47,642,371	A2
Tuberculosis	TAJ-809-G09-T	Extension TFM	\$47,642,615	A1
Malaria	TAJ-809-G08-M	Extension TFM	\$12,908,783	A2

The HIV epidemic in Tajikistan is classified as a concentrated epidemic. The main key populations (KP) are people who inject drugs, sex workers and men who have sex with men (MSM). An estimated 12,000 people live with HIV and the adult prevalence rate in Tajikistan is 0.3%.<sup>6</sup>

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Tajikistan is one of the 27 high multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) burden countries in the world. Currently, the Global Fund is one of the main donors providing significant support to the Ministry of Health, including essential life saving treatment services.<sup>7</sup>

Malaria is nearly eradicated in Tajikistan, with no new reported cases in the first half of 2014 and only 14 cases (of which three were local infections) registered in 2013. This is down from a high of more than 30,000 reported cases in 1997.

**“Malaria is nearly eradicated in Tajikistan, with no new reported cases in the first half of 2014.”**



6 See UNAIDS information on HIV in Tajikistan here: <http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/tajikistan>  
 7 See WHO information on tuberculosis in Tajikistan here: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/communicable-diseases/tuberculosis/country-work/tajikistan>

### UNDP Support Underpinning Global Fund Grants

UNDP has been interim PR for Global Fund grants in Tajikistan since 2003. During that time, UNDP has worked to support national and civil society organizations in the delivery of programme activities aimed at prevention, testing and counselling for HIV; implementation of the Stop TB Strategy, including TB services for prison population; and distribution of bed nets, spraying and awareness activities for malaria.

In addition to these activities UNDP has emphasized the need to strengthen the institutional capacities for managing and implementing Global Fund grants and improve management of national disease responses. As such, the strengthening of Government capacities for programme management, procurement, financial management and monitoring and evaluation has been a prime focus area of UNDP's support to the Government of Tajikistan and the national Sub-Recipients (SRs) of the grants.

Realizing that the long-term success and sustainability of the efforts to contain and combat the three diseases depends on the ability of the Government of Tajikistan to manage adequate disease responses, UNDP has provided additional resources to institutional strengthening every year since 2005, totalling more than US\$ 2.6 million.

UNDP Capacity Development Support for Global Fund Grants 2005 - 2014

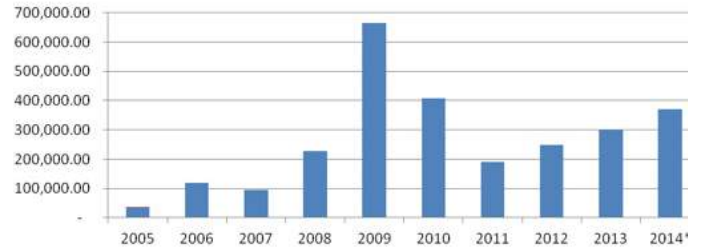


Figure 2 - Annual additional US\$ investment by UNDP to strengthen institutions concerned with Global Fund grant implementation

*"The **strengthening** of Government capacities for programme management, procurement, financial management and monitoring and evaluation has been a prime focus area of UNDP's support to the Government."*



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