**Applicant’s reply form**

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| **Section 1: Overview** |
| **Applicant’s Information** |

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| **Country** | Kyrgyzstan | **Currency** | USD $ |
| **Applicant’s Type** | |  | | --- | | Country coordination mechanism | | **Component(s)** | |  | | --- | | TB/ HIV | |
| **Expected date of grant commencement** | |  | | --- | | January 01, 2018 | | **Expected date of grant expiration** | |  | | --- | | December 31, 2020 | |
| **Primary recipient 1** | |  | | --- | | Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic | | **Primary recipient 2** | |  | | --- | | UN Development Programme | |

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| **Section 2: Matters subject to review upon grant implementation and/or grant provision** | |
| **Matter 1:**  **Lack of response onto changing conditions for the key population groups that are increasingly limited with pressure on the part of state and non-state actors** | **Agreed:** TRP  TRP |
| **Entry and requested actions of TRP**  **Problem:** Lack of response onto changing conditions for the sex-industry workers, men having sex with men and transgender groups, which are increasingly become victims of state and non-state actors (nationalistic groups).  **Action:** TRP is requesting applicant to settle the following problems:   To develop an action plan that is focused on increase of targeting onto sex-industry workers by the law enforcement agencies, and targeting men having sex with men and transgender groups, by state and non-state actors   To develop a response plan for the potential introduction of punitive and discriminating laws that are focused on sex-industry workers, men having sex with men and transgender groups (specifically, penalty for the sex-work and law on prohibition of propaganda of LGBT)   Think about, how associated foundations may additionally stimulate corrective measures for the existing barriers in the sphere of human rights, specifically, restrictive actions on the part of law enforcement agencies against sex-industry workers, homophobic and transphobic attacks on the part of state and non-state actors and similar violations of human rights with respect to persons who use drugs | |
| *The third strategic orientation of the State Program to Combat HIV infection epidemic in the Kyrgyz Republic for the years of 2017-2021 includes a range of measures focused on recession of stigma and discrimination level of key groups of population, implementation of programs in accordance with regulations of national legislation based on principles of respect for human rights, gender equality and nondiscrimination (Sections 3.1, 3.2). Action plan of the state program in these sections provides as follows: carrying out of stigma and discrimination level research with respect to key groups, including sex-industry workers, men having sex with men, transgender people, with a subsequent extended coverage of research results. Furthermore, there was provided creation of cross-sectoral working group focused on monitoring of stigma and discrimination acts, carrying out of national campaigns on matters related to HIV, for counteracting violence, reduction of stigma and discrimination with respect to PLHIV and key groups of population. Additionally, there will be performed an analysis of barriers available with legislation, those preventing friendly environment for provision of services, and changes to legislation will be initiated. Monitoring and documentation of violation of rights of PLHIV, as well as key groups of population, based on “street lawyers” program, will be on a permanent basis.*  *At the same time, in connection with recommendations of TRP, Committee on HIV and TB under Coordination Council of Public Health under the Kyrgyz Republic Government, while relying on offers of communities of sex-workers, transgender people, men having sex with men, IDU, PLHIV with the participation of Kyrgyz Republic Ombudsman there was developed an advocacy action plan, the one providing a series of successive steps on reduction of penal and discrimination practices on the part of law enforcement agencies with respect to sex-workers, men having sex with men and transgender people. This action plan was reviewed and approved at Committee on HIV and TB of Coordination Council on Public Health under the Kyrgyz Republic Government. (Annex No.1)*  *At the same time, communities’ organizations with the assistance of EU projects, “Soros-Kyrgyzstan” Foundation, Aids Fonds and USAID conduct activity focused on overcoming discriminating law enforcement practices with respect to sex-workers, men having sex with men and transgender people. This activity is being performed by Shahaim sex-workers networks, “Tais plus” and transgender people, MSM organization “Kyrgyz Indigo”.* | |

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| **Matter 2:**  **Lack of problem-oriented programming for transgender groups of population** | **Agreed:** Secretariat  Registry |
| **Requested actions of TRP**  **Problem:**  Lack of problem-oriented programming for transgender groups of population.  **Action:**  TRP is requesting ССМ, with the support of transgender communities representatives and associated organizations, to develop a problem-oriented programming that responds to specific risks, with which transgender groups are coming across, such as violence, homelessness and illegal detentions on the part of law enforcement agencies. | |
| *Please, provide brief description of actions taken:*  *While relying on developed advocacy plan on improvement of positive environment and reduction of discriminating practices level with respect to sex-workers, men having sex with men and transgender people, in a country request and additional financing from GF, provided for overcoming of legal barriers, measures for TG will be carried out in 2 directions: (1) problem-oriented measures for TG; (2) response to necessities of TG in the course of general measures for training of health workers, working with the law enforcement agencies on creation of positive environment for the reduction of stigmatization and discrimination of PLHIV, as well as key groups of population. In the first instance, due to absence of evidentiary information on group size and assessment of their necessities, research on estimation of transgender people quantity will be performed, including estimate of necessities, observance of rights and level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, for the purpose of subsequent planning of measures. Besides, grant will make provision for as follows: support for transgender people shelter, support for “street lawyers” dedicated to protection of rights of transgender people, monitoring and documenting of discriminating law enforcement practices with a subsequent coverage (Annex No.2). Interdepartmental working group will also be supported with the participation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs representatives for the reduction of discrimination with respect to transgender people, MSM and sex-workers, provision is made for seminars for communities, health workers and law enforcement agencies with respect to peculiarities of TG group, legal issue of TG, mitigation of HIV infection risk.* | |

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| **Problem 3:**  **Improvement of services quality with respect to opioid substitution treatment (OST)** | **Agreed:** TRP  TRP |
| **Entry and requested actions of TRP**  **Problem:**  TRP is alarmed with the quality and coverage (18%) of services related to opioid substitution treatment (OST).  **Action:**  TRP is requesting opioid substitution treatment (OST) services to comply, in terms of quality, with an international standards (WHO/UNODC standards). Applicant is offered to make a detailed implementation plan that clearly reflects a specific mechanism for quality assurance. | |
| *In 2017 Republican Centre of Narcology under the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic jointly with UNDP, non-government organizations and IDU communities, recipients of OST, relying on previous assessment of accessibility barriers of OST services, have developed an action plan dedicated to increase the quality of OST services. (Annex N3). This plan covers matters of problems/limitations that affect quality of OST services, there were provided measures to overcome limitations, including determination of settlement terms and required financing. This plan was reviewed and approved by the Country Coordinating Committee to Combat HIV and TB. In addition to it, the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic has approved Provision “On conditions and procedure for carrying out of Methadone supporting therapy for people injecting drugs in the Kyrgyz Republic” (Order of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic No.625 dated July 17, 2017) (Annex No4.) This Provision introduces positive changes into previously existing approaches upon provision of services of Methadone substitution therapy, for stabilized patients there is possibility to receive 5 daily doses. Moreover, there was provided an algorithm for provision of patients with Methadone, those not having possibility to visit OST center by themselves, are at medical in-patient facilities, shelter-care facilities and under other circumstances.*  *Simultaneously, while relying on communities requests, daily working hours of OST centers was increased by 2 hours, in 2 OST centers there is a pilot algorithm of IDU inclusion into substitution therapy programs without placing on narcological record. Proven experience of this approach will make possible to raise an issue on changing narcological record system of drugs users.*  *Plan also includes settlement of issues related to financing of substitution therapy services from government budget funds, provision of support in restoring of documents, enhancement of liability of health facilities administrators with respect to OST centers performance quality, changing of operating schedule of OST centers, expansion of “street lawyers” work with respect to OST recipients, expansion of information work with IDU for the purpose of involvement into OST programs, carrying out of trainings for medical professionals related to working peculiarities with drugs users.* | |

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| **Problem 4:**  **Overcoming of insufficient funds** | **Agreed:** Secretariat  Registry |
| **Entry and requested actions of TRP**  **Problem:**  While taking reduction of allocated funding into account, TRP is alarmed with that the government will not be able to bridge the funding shortage since government approval of TB-NSP and HIV-NSP in accordance with technical guidance and objectives of WHO and UNAIDS has not been received yet.  **Action:**  TRP is requesting CCM to invoke the government to approve NSP, and to provide with necessary funding for their implementation. Overcoming of insufficient funds is a high-priority task for the support and expansion of Programs to combat tuberculosis and HIV in Kyrgyzstan, and, if otherwise, reprogramming will be required. | |
| *In accordance with the budget cycle of the Kyrgyz Republic Government and requirements of GF about necessity to increase financing of HIV and TB programs on the part of the Kyrgyz Republic Government, in June of the present year the Ministry of Health and Public Supervisory Board under the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic a letter has been sent to the Prime-Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic about necessity to include additional means into republican budget for the purpose of HIV and TB programs financing. Besides, increase of HIV and TB programs financing is provided in HIV and TB government programs for the period of 2017-2021. At the same time, Committee on HIV and TB in July of the present year has sent a letter in care of the Prime-Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic about necessity to increase HIV and TB programs financing. There have also been conducted public hearings of the Ministry of Health budget with the participation of parliament deputies, apparatus of the Kyrgyz Republic Government, Ministry of Finance, whereat among the key issues the necessity to increase HIV and TB programs financing was reviewed. Upon preliminary information that was obtained from the Ministry of Finance, republican budget estimate for the year of 2018 provides an increase of HIV programs financing up to 40 mln. KGS for procurement of pharmaceutical preparations and health care products, with respect to TB – 64 mln. KGS. Out of these funds, since the year of 2016 procurement of antituberculosis drugs of 1st line is taking place, as well as pharmaceutical drugs for opportunistic infections treatment, pregnancy tests. Besides, in a medium-term forecast of budget for 2019-2020 provision is made for the subsequent increase of funds for HIV and TB, for the purpose of compliance with GF terms and conditions. In addition to the above, taking into account the fact that formed and coordinated estimate of republican budget the Ministry of Finance passes to the Parliament of the country for review during the first decade of September, then more precise, documented volume of financing increase on the part of the Government we will be able to trace in September. At the same time, during the process of republican budget adoption in the Parliament of the country, Committee on HIV and TB will make efforts for sufficient increase of programs financing on the part of the Government.*  *Projects of Government HIV and TB programs for the period of 2017-2021 provide the increase of republican budget funds, and at the present moment, after having received approval of all ministries and departments, is at the final signing stage.* | |

Your responses for the requested explanations shall be provided to Foundation Portfolio Manager.