**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 objective of the State Program to Combat HIV epidemic in the Kyrgyz Republic during the period of 2017-2021 includes a range of measures to decrease stigma and discrimination level of key populations, implementation of programs in accordance with national legislation based on principles of respect for human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination (Sections 3.1, 3.2).*  *Action plan of the state program includes implementation of repeated stigma index research on key populations. Therefore the study will assess the changing situation and effectiveness of measures taken to reduce stigma and discrimination level.*  *Furthermore, action plan includes establishment of multisectoral working group to monitor stigma and discrimination cases, to run HIV-related national campaigns, to prevent and fight any form of violence, to decrease stigma and discrimination level towards people living with HIV and key populations. On regular basis members of the working group such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Prosecutor's office, local authorities, representative of penitentiary service) will study various cases and be able to promptly respond to it and improve the situation. Also the group will be able to monitor the execution of existing orders and other legislation documents to ensure rights of key populations.*  *On regular basis, violation of rights of people living with HIV and key populations will be monitored and documented within the "street lawyers" programme. This activity will reduce the number of HIV related discriminatory practices from law enforcement officers in the locations of clients of the program. The address will also be provided with legal support that will improve the level of knowledge among representatives of key groups. Collected of "street lawyers" data on cases of human rights violations will be promptly be submitted for consideration by the multisectoral working group mentioned above, which will react to systemic violations of rights in some regions. After the analysis the data will be presented at the meeting of CSOS of the Government, heads of power structures, the Ministry of health, the Ombudsman and members of Parliament.*  *In line with TRP recommendations, Committee on HIV and TB under Coordination Council of Public Health of the Kyrgyz Republic developed an action plan which includes series of successive steps to reduce penal and discrimination practices from law enforcement agencies with respect to sex-workers, men having sex with men and transgender people. The action plan was developed based on consultations with communities of sex-workers, transgender people, men having sex with men, people who inject drugs, people living with HIV with the support of Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic. This plan was reviewed and approved on Committee on HIV and TB of Coordination Council on Public Health under the Kyrgyz Republic Government. (Annex No.1)*  *With the support of APMG and Global Fund, the situation analysis was conducted and main legal barriers were determined: (1) violation of the human rights of key populations by law enforcement representatives in penalty system (prisons); (2) high level of stigma and discrimination in health care organizations; (3) low legal literacy and skills to protect own rights among communities of people living with HIV and key populations; (4) low access to legal services for people living with HIV and key populations; (5) failure to perform current legislation with respect to human rights of key populations; (6) high level of gender based violence associated with HIV or belonging to key populations.*  *A complex of measures was developed to address these barriers. Its implementation is partially included in the main application, and some activities were added in country’s request for counterpart funding to GF. Modules include programs to increase the awareness of legislators and law enforcement, capacity building of health workers on human rights and medical ethics of HIV programmes, activities to ensure legal literacy of key populations and the provision of HIV-related legal services. These activities include monitoring and reforming of HIV related laws, regulations and policies; and programme to reduce discrimination against women and girls in the context of HIV.*  *Based on results of legislation analysis conducted by APMG, the revision of drug use related laws and regulations will be initiated. This will improve access to harm reduction services and support development of safer behavior among people who inject drugs.* | |

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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. | |
| *In line with the results of legal barriers analysis conducted by APMG with the support of GF, country proposal includes a number of activities to reduce risks and discriminatory law enforcement practices against transgender people. These activities will be organized and implemented by representatives of transgender people community.*  *As it was mentioned above, the action plan with 6 main points was developed. It is important to note that capacity building of both service providers and legislators, law enforcement officials, prosecutors and courts. The plan includes regular monitoring of human rights of transgender people.*  *Important part of the plan is the provision of legal support of transgender people by the "street lawyers" and licensed lawyers. These programs involve establishment of cross-sectoral rapid response teams in cases of discrimination cases, involvement of decision-makers to improve the favorable environment and capacity building of transgender people community to protect their rights. Violations cases will be collected, widely disseminated and provided to the Government, Parliament and decision makers. In addition, within the framework of bio-behavioural study, scheduled for 2019, the size group estimation will be conducted among transgender people community. In order to optimize the funds’ expenditure the IBBS research will include issues of stigma and discrimination.* | |

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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 have developed an action plan to increase the quality of OST services. (Annex N2). The plan was based on previous assessment of barriers to OST service. The plan includes measures to overcome challenges related to OST services’ quality, with deadlines and requested budget. The action plan was reviewed and approved by the Country Coordinating Committee to Combat HIV and TB.*  *The plan also includes finance solution of OST service from state budge, support on documents re-issue, strengthening responsibility of medical institutions’ heads for the services quality at OST points, schedule changes of OST points, extension of "street lawyers" work in respect of OST clients, expansion of outreach with people who inject drugs to engage in OST programs, training of health professionals in work with drug users.*  *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.*  *In accordance with communities’ request, working day of OST center within the Republican Centre of Narcology was increased up to 18.00, in 2 OST centers there is a pilot algorithm of IDU inclusion into substitution therapy programs without registering them. Successful experience of this approach will raise the issue of changing the system of PWID’ registration. The country has already carried out the analysis of the regulatory framework and the list of documents that must be modified to allow cancellation of registration. Advocacy work to change the regulatory documents on inclusion of PWID in substitution treatment is included in proposal request for counterpart funding.*  *At the same time, the basic assessment of the legal barriers and other previously conducted assessments indicate that one of the key barriers to increase the participation of drug users in harm reduction programmes and substitution treatment is a violation of the human rights of people who inject drugs. Some cases were documented when PWID were detained at points of service provision, applied torture towards PWID by law enforcement representatives, and lose access to methadone and ART during detention in isolation facility.* *Communities are concern about Code on violations (administrative code), which includes high penalties for individuals arrested with small doses of drugs. Therewith, there are still barriers to service access, such as registering in narcological services for OST clients. Therefore this entails violation of civil rights, including the inability to obtain a driver's license and employment in certain positions.*  *To address these barriers in the country proposal and in the application for counterpart funding a set of measures are included: monitoring of HIV related legal regulations execution by law enforcement officers, training of law enforcement officers to observe and respect human rights of key populations, implementation of indicators for human rights during the Ministry of interior reformation. The proposal includes the legal protection for key populations in the case of violence by law enforcement officers will be provided; the creation of the precedent cases and handover it to the Centre to combat torture and the office of the Ombudsman; measures of continuity of programs between the public healthcare and penitentiary systems. Documented cases will be submitted to the multisectoral rapid response group within the Government for taking the decision.* | |

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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. | |
| *The State program on HIV and TB for the period of 2017-2021 includes increase of the national budget for HIV and TB activities. The government also approved a roadmap for the transition to state funding. In accordance with the budget cycle of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and requirements of the Global Fund to increase state funding for HIV and TB programs, in June 2017, the Ministry of health and the Coordination Council on Public Health sent a letter to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Minister of Finance about the need to include additional funds in the republican budget to finance HIV and TB programmes.*  *The public hearings on the budget of the Ministry of health with participation of Parliament, Government office, Ministry of Finance were conducted. Key issue was the need to increase funding for HIV and TB programs.* *According to preliminary information of the Ministry of Finance, for 2018 it is planned to increase funding for HIV programmes at 43 mln KGS (medicines and medical goods procurement), and for TB programmes at 64 mln KGS.*  *From 2016 state budget already covers cost related to procurement of TB drugs (1st line), drugs for opportunistic infections treatment and HIV tests for pregnant women. In addition, in the medium-term budget forecast for 2019-2020 provided the subsequent increase in resources for HIV and TB to meet the conditions of the GF. In July 2017 Coordination Council of Public Health sent a letter to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic about the need to increase funding for HIV and TB programs. The Council will make more efforts for further increase of state funding during the process of approving the national budget in Parliament.* | |

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