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**HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**
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Submitted to:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The comprehensive, USAID-funded HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM (Cooperative Agreement No. 176-A-00-09-00023-00 between PSI and USAID/CAR) is a strategic response to reduce the HIV and TB epidemics among most-at-risk populations (MARPs) in four Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Health Outreach Program will contribute to reducing these epidemics by achieving and maintaining improved health behaviors among MARPs in CAR, including increased use of HIV and TB prevention and control services. This annual report highlights the Health Outreach Program performance for Year One, from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

The Health Outreach Program uses a regional strategic approach in addressing HIV and TB issues among MARPs across all target sites in program countries. To ensure the unified program strategy supports National HIV and TB Prevention Strategic Plans, the program collaborates closely with government, local and international stakeholders. During the planning phase, gaps in existing prevention, care and support programs were identified in each country and the unified approach targeted to country-specific contexts to fill these gaps while avoiding duplication of existing services.

The first six months of the program were spent on start up activities: introduction of the program approach and gaining support of local government organizations (GO) and non-governmental (NGO) partners; finalization of the design of program interventions and MARP-specific models; selection of local NGOs as sub-grantees for activity implementation; establishment of voucher referral networks; establishment of a Regional Oversight Committee and Country Working Groups for technical expertise and support; facilitation of a series of Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for program activities; development of a program Management Information System; and design of baseline research surveys with initiation of data collection. Special events for World AIDS Day and TB Awareness Day were also conducted.

During the second half of Year One, the program: continued to conduct ToTs; launched outreach activity implementation; completed baseline data collection and data analysis; designed and pre-tested IEC materials based on research data results; and conducted routine M&E visits and round tables. Training for service providers, community leaders, case management and pharmacists were introduced. Special events were conducted to recognize Memorial Day for People Who Died from AIDS, International Day against Trafficking and Narcotics, Overdose Awareness Day and multiple edutainment events targeted to program MARPs.

The program faced several challenges and delays in program start up across the region. Due to political unrest and riots in Kyrgyzstan from April through July of the first year, several activities were interrupted and/or delayed. Outreach activities were revised to allow for continued implementation with minimal interruption, however, this was further complicated by the migration of many ethnic Uzbek MARPs from the southern to the northern part of the country. In Uzbekistan, the launch of the program was delayed until Year Two as the program awaited the required approval of the Ministry of Health and Cabinet of Ministers. The approval was received only in September 2010 after significant advocacy efforts. In Tajikistan, training for service providers had to be revised and scaled down to meet the Ministry of Health requirement limiting trainings for government specialist to two days. In Kazakhstan in June, a prison break in Aktau resulted in the

dismissal of the Chairman and all Executive Deputies of the Committee of the Penal System. This led to a one month suspension of program activities while prison access was restricted.

In the first 12 months of the program, the following key accomplishments were achieved:

- 10,044 MARPs were reached with program interventions, exceeding the planned coverage of 7465 MARPs
- 300 individuals were trained to provide prevention interventions
- 72 service providers were trained in stigma reduction, TB infection prevention and control, and use of the referral network
- 1389 MARPs were tested for HIV and know their results using program referral vouchers
- 490 MARPs were tested for TB using program referral vouchers

Close collaboration with existing prevention programs such as Global Fund resulted in donations of condoms and lubricant for distribution under the Health Outreach Program. MOUs and/or letters of collaboration were signed with national and local level governmental health structures in support of the program in all program sites to ensure support and active participation in the program.

The following Year One Annual Performance Report is structured first with a regional section followed by country-specific sections. The regional section provides detailed information on the Health Outreach Program regional strategic approach, activities that are consistent across all countries and summary of main results of the first 12 months. The country-specific sections highlight country-specific achievements, highlighted activities, challenges and first year results.



Health Outreach Program Regional Launch Event held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in April 2010.