

«Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society», PU
Protection the rights of medical workers in Kyrgyzstan in the context
of the COVID-19 pandemic

QUARTERLY REPORT

Quarter IV: 01.04 – 30.06.2021

Submission Date: July 26, 2021

Award Number: SKG 10020GR0012

Total Award Amount: \$ 48 645

Grant POC Name: Erik Iriskulbekov

GOR Name: Begaiym Turdalieva

Grantee Authorized Representative: By signing below, I certify to the best of my knowledge and believe that this report is correct and complete and that all outlays and unliquidated obligations are for the purposes set forth in the award.

Erik
Iriskulbekov

President

12/04/2021

Print Name

Title

Signature

Date

Amendments to program: (if applicable)

I. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

I.1 Overall assessment of the program's progress (please check the appropriate box):

Ahead of schedule

On track

Behind schedule

Comments, if necessary:

I.2 Summary of activities during this period:

Provide a short (1-2 sentence) description of each major activity carried out during this reporting period. Add or delete rows as needed.

During this reporting period, medical workers were provided with free legal advice via a hotline. Medical workers contacted the hotline on such issues as:

- Receiving compensation payments in connection with coronavirus infection (COVID-19);
- Mandatory vaccination of medical and other employees of healthcare organizations;
- The correctness of the calculation of salaries for medical workers;
- Challenging the actions of the health organization.

Our lawyers have provided legal assistance in representing the interests of medical workers in courts, law enforcement offices and health authorities on compensation payments, appeals against the actions of the employer and the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In this reporting period, we developed brief guidelines for medical workers on the issues of receiving compensation in connection with infection with coronavirus infection (COVID-19), as well as on the issues of the procedure for appealing against the actions of the employer, which were subsequently given to medical workers at the training sessions.

We conducted a number of offline and online training for medical workers on the protection of their labor and social rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in which we gave for medical workers an information about their basic professional rights and obligations, the procedure for receiving compensation payments and about the ways of protection their labor rights in state bodies.

Also, within the framework of the project, an analysis of the regulatory legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic regulating the status of a medical worker, their compliance with international norms and standards, as well as the practice of their application in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Kyrgyz Republic was carried out, the analytical report was developed jointly with the involved expert and project staff and was published in the printing house.

2. PROGRESS TOWARDS AWARD OBJECTIVE(S)

2.1 Short-Term Objectives:

- **Step 1:** Copy/paste each objective from section 4.2.3 of Proposal
- **Step 2:** For each objective listed above, provide 2-3 examples of how this quarter's activities advanced this objective. Are there any results, success stories, lessons learned, or challenges to report? If not applicable, please list why.

1. Ensure legal protection of the rights of medical workers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting crisis in the country's health sector.

In this reporting period, our lawyers provided free legal assistance in representing interests in state and law enforcement offices, as well as in the courts. As a result, 101 medical workers who had previously applied to us for legal assistance approved the payment of compensation regarding to COVID-19 disease in the amount of 200,000 (two hundred thousand) som.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, in order to implement the payment of compensation to medical workers who infected with coronavirus infection (COVID-19) in 2020, issued the Order No. 798 of June 14, 2021, which is currently being implemented.

2. Raise the awareness of the beneficiaries/target audience about the rights of medical workers in order to ensure decent working conditions for them.

Our lawyers have developed guidelines on the issue of receiving one-time monetary compensation for medical workers due to coronavirus infection (COVID-19), as well as guidelines on the procedure for appealing against the actions of an employer in case of violation of the labor rights of medical workers.

Also, in order to raise awareness about the rights of medical workers, we held 3 (three) trainings for medical workers, one of which was conducted online via Zoom Conference.

We conducted and held offline trainings for medical workers of such health organizations as:

The Centre of Family Medicine #2 (Bishkek) – 17 participants;

The Centre of Family Medicine #17 (Bishkek) – 34 participants.



The Centre of Family Medicine #17 (Bishkek, June 24, 2021)



The Centre of Family Medicine #2 (Bishkek, June 24, 2021)

During the trainings, medical workers were familiarized with the legal status of medical workers and the authorized body in the field of healthcare, the system of regulatory legal acts in the field of medicine, issues of labor regulation in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as ways to protect the rights of medical workers.

During the trainings medical workers raised such issues as: problems with the payment of compensation and exceeding the working time during the day.

Due to the deterioration of the epidemiological situation associated with coronavirus infection (COVID-19), a training for medical workers was held on June 30, 2021 in the format of a discussion on the topic "Protecting the rights of medical workers in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic". A total of 47 participants took part in the online training.

In total, 98 medical workers took part in the organized offline and online trainings.

3. Advocate for the interests of medical workers within the relevant state authorities.

During this reporting period, our lawyers conducted an analysis of legislation in the field of healthcare, in particular on the issue of compensation to medical workers. On January 11, 2021, a new procedure for the payment of monetary compensation to medical workers affected by coronavirus infection (COVID-19) was approved by a decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In the new procedure, our lawyers have identified a number of contradictions and gaps that infringe on the rights of medical workers. In particular, contradictions were identified with laws that have a higher legal force on the following issues:

- Lack of deadlines for consideration of applications of medical workers for compensation;
- Inconsistency of the grounds for refusal to pay compensation;
- Lack of the procedure for appealing the actions of the employer.

In order to eliminate the contradiction to the laws that have a higher legal force, our lawyers appealed to the prosecutor's office. As a result, appropriate changes and additions were made to the Procedure for paying monetary compensation to medical workers. In particular, the following were determined:

- The deadline for considering an application for compensation is 14 working days;

- Legal grounds for refusal to pay compensation;
- The procedure for appealing the commission's decision and the employer's actions.

Also, 2 informal working meetings were organized and held with Ms. Gulnaz Azimambetova, a representative of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, coordinating the work of nurses. The meetings were held on 05/18/2021 and 06/08/2021 in order to provide information about the project targets and organize information and educational trainings (online) for medical workers in order to increase their legal capacity.

On 6 July 2021, the head of the Coalition E. Iriskulbekov also met with the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Zhalalidin Rakhmatullayev, at which the existing problems in the health care system of the Kyrgyz Republic were voiced, and, in particular, the violation of the rights of health workers.

Also, within the framework of the project, an analysis of the regulatory legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic regulating the status of a medical worker, their compliance with international norms and standards, as well as the practice of their application in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Kyrgyz Republic was carried out, the analytical report was developed jointly with the involved expert and project staff and was published in the printing house.

2.2 Indicators: *List the specific, measurable, changes (indicators) that the award will track to know if the program is contributing to the objective(s). (copy/paste from section 4.2.6 of the proposal)*

Indicator	Quarterly Results	How Tracked	Notes, if necessary:
1. Providing free 24-hour advice by a lawyer (hotline)	410	Register of consultations	
2. Representation of rights and interests of a health worker in law enforcement, judicial and other competent state bodies	86	Register of cases	

2.2 Summary of beneficiaries reached during this period:

Provide a description of the beneficiaries reached out during this reporting period. Identifiable information is unnecessary, but please describe occupation, age-range, etc.

During this reporting period, our organization were providing free legal assistance to represent the interests of medical workers of such healthcare organizations as family medicine centers, psychiatric hospitals, specialized hospitals, groups of family doctors, united regional hospitals, as well as medical workers who applied individually.

The main problems faced by medical workers were the following:

- Non-payment of compensation in connection with coronavirus infection (COVID-19);
- Violation of the reduced working hours for medical workers;
- Non-payment of salaries and illegal departure on vacation without social payments.

2.3 Media Coverage or Success Stories

Publications, success stories, photographs, beneficiary stories, or other documentation to share with the GOR and GO that shows the program's progress and impact. Please see Appendix A for information on writing success stories.

Awareness-raising and educational activities among the population during the reporting period include the following:

a) prepared and distributed on social networks Infographics as part of the developed brief Guidelines on the rights of health workers, links: <https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4707064199307112>
<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4702074109806121>

b) developed and posted on the social network information and educational and analytical materials, links:

Links to Facebook:

June

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4738095692870629>

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4727405393939659>

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4707064199307112>

May

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4702074109806121>

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4574378295909037>

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4565434993470034>

April

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4544242195589314>

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4514747961872071>

<https://www.facebook.com/coalitionkg/posts/4505639579449576>

Links to Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1390187908443869185>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1390187811052138496>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1390187694089805825>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1390187339234820097>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1390187214890491905>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1389117425401180160>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1389117331729698817>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1389117042402463744>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1386527832067694593>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1382948311968145408>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1382947708223295490>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1381813533130756096>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1381812252555247616>

<https://twitter.com/twicoalition/status/1381811991413731329>

c) Video materials / TV reports with the participation of the head of the Coalition Erik Iriskulbekov on issues of education and protection of the rights of medical workers.

- News. #Пятый_канал . Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK70g9rSTSo> (the material is indicated because it was not included in the previous report, E. Iriskulbekov's speech at 1.16 minutes).
- TV Program "Glavnye Itogi". #Пятый_канал. 07.02.2021. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDUSszQvsQ> (the material is indicated because it was not included in the previous report, E. Iriskulbekov's speech at 40 minutes).
- TV Show "Achygyn Aitkanda". #HTC. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iRfc-qju1o> (due to the relevance of the topic, the program was repeated on the NTS on July 20, 2021.).

3. LEARNING:

3.1 Adapting:

From your experience thus far, does the award need to adapt or change to better reach the program's goals/objectives? Why or why not?

As a result of the implementation of this project, we believe that the conditions for granting the grant and the implementation of the project itself need to be changed taking into account the results obtained.

For example, during the implementation of this project, we found that it is necessary to pay more attention to the legal analysis of legislation in the field of healthcare and to develop recommendations for improving the system of regulatory legal acts in this area of relations. This is due to the fact that when providing medical professionals with consultations and providing legal assistance, we have encountered legal gaps and conflicts that state bodies cannot properly provide an official explanation for the application of legal norms.

At the same time, we are faced with the problems of organizing trainings and seminars on legal issues for medical professionals. In order to effectively achieve the goals and objectives set to raise awareness of the rights and obligations of medical workers, it is necessary to pay special attention to the educational aspects in the field of medicine on legal issues. We consider the most effective method to be conducting trainings and seminars for medical professionals on a regular basis on the basis of educational medical institutions that have a material and technical base, as well as the likely possibility of including legal disciplines in the training program for students of future medical professionals.

In the future, special attention should be paid to conducting social surveys and research, as well as analytical activities in the field of protecting the rights of medical workers, since the collected statistical data will allow obtaining comparative information and comparing the results of achieving the set goals.

Budget Deviations or Items for GO Consideration (if any)

Provide explanations of any budget deviations (cost overruns or savings). List any changes needed to the award (period of performance extension, changes in key personnel changing or plans to change key personnel)?

n/a

3.2 List of Appendices (if any)

Grantee may submit agendas, participant lists, proceedings, pictures, testimonials, news clippings, Internet/radio links, electronic video files, etc. from any events held during the quarter, or copies of any products developed.

n/a