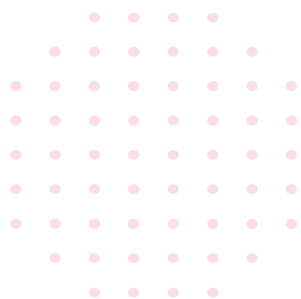




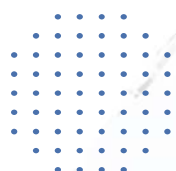
TOWARDS CHANGES

ANNUAL REPORT 2019
AFEW INTERNATIONAL



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WELCOME NOTE

Dear friends and colleagues,

This year's annual report was produced in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis. This new coronavirus pandemic represents an exceptionally serious global threat, with the virus spreading at an alarming rate and high numbers of people becoming infected within a short period of time. This rapid and high influx of sick patients challenges healthcare systems everywhere, including those in countries previously considered well-prepared for an epidemic outbreak. We are quickly learning that this pandemic carries a massive social and economic impact globally.

Anyone anywhere in the world may be affected. However, as we learned from HIV, this does not mean that people are affected similarly regardless of who they are and where they live. Vulnerable countries around the world and vulnerable groups within countries will be hit hardest.

Responding to HIV and tuberculosis (TB) over the years, *AFEW International* has accumulated a wealth of experience in addressing the needs of those most vulnerable to epidemics. Networks of nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), civil society and community-based organisations at the national and local levels have structured themselves across the Eastern European and Central Asian (EECA) region to address health threats, reach out to vulnerable populations and provide support to people. Already, we have heard many examples from the region of these same organisations rapidly mobilising around Covid-19.

AFEW International together with its partners has strengthened and supported community-based organisations and NGOs in EECA for more than 20 years. It is wonderful to see how strong, flexible and agile these organisations are.

Last year in 2019, the AFEW Partnership developed its Theory of Change with the vision that 'all people in EECA participate fully and confidently concerning their health and rights, in an inclusive and just society'. This translates into four directions for our work:

1. Access to quality health services;
2. Legal and social justice;
3. The power to voice, participate and decide;
4. And, an appreciation of diversity.

Each of these dimensions is crucial to responding to the HIV, TB and viral hepatitis epidemics, as well as to Covid-19. *AFEW International* continues its strong commitment to supporting communities in each and every one of the ongoing health crises in the region.

We are grateful to each of you for all you do in sharing our work and this commitment.

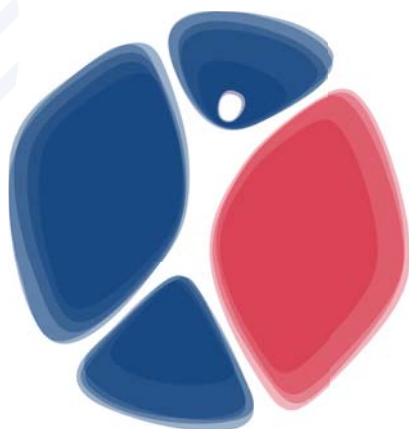
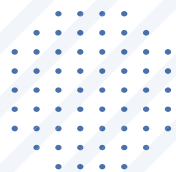
Stay healthy, stay safe.



Anke van Dam,
Executive Director of AFEW International



Michel Kazatchkine,
Chair of AFEW International supervisory board



INTRODUCTION

This annual report reflects the activities of *AFEW International* in 2019.

AFEW International is a member of the AFEW Partnership, a well-known international partnership in the Eastern European and Central Asian (EECA) region with a solid track record of activities with and for, and strong connections to, key populations at risk for HIV, TB and viral hepatitis. The AFEW Partnership gained extensive knowledge of the local contexts in all of the countries in the region. Together, *AFEW International*'s partners and key population groups contribute to a healthy society characterised by healthy individuals.

Currently, independent AFEW offices operate in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in the Netherlands. Over the years, working relationships developed and transitioned into equal and mutual partnerships. Members of the AFEW Partnership in EECA countries have become independent NGOs with their own solid track records and positions within local networks of civil society organisations. Thus, 'eastern leadership' has been achieved in the AFEW Partnership within a mere five years.

Given this shift, *AFEW International* focuses on three specific tasks:

- 1.** Advocating for political awareness and funding for public health concerns—such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV, TB and viral hepatitis—for groups at risk in Eastern Europe and Central Asia;
- 2.** Mobilising resources for activities to address and prevent the consequences of those public health concerns;
- 3.** Linking activists, policymakers, scientists, researchers and other experts from the East (the EECA region) with similar individuals in the West to ensure the exchange of experiences and information and to introduce innovative and good practices to the EECA region.



BRIDGING THE GAPS

health and rights for key populations

'Bridging the Gaps: health and rights for key populations' is a project that works towards a world where sex workers, people who use drugs and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people can enjoy their human rights as well as access quality HIV prevention, treatment and care services. This project is implemented by four Dutch-based organisations and five international networks in 14 countries. The AFEW Partnership is one of the partners, and implements activities in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine, as well as at the EECA regional level.

EECA is the only region in the world where the annual HIV rate continues to increase. According to UNAIDS in 2019, approximately 1.4 million people in the region were living with HIV.¹ The main factors contributing to the continued spread of the epidemic include unsafe injecting drug use, and the stigmatisation and marginalisation of vulnerable groups. In recent years, however, we have witnessed a slow but steady increase in sexual transmission compared to transmission through unsafe injecting drug use. In addition, new HIV infections are now also increasingly associated with transmissions within the general population. About one-third of new HIV infections occur amongst people who inject drugs.² Groups such as labour migrants in the EECA region, the partners of key populations and prisoners require close monitoring. Data suggest a transition is occurring, moving from a concentrated HIV epidemic to a general epidemic, which requires attention and adjustments in interventions and extending services to new target groups. *AFEW International*, thus, sees a need for a more evidence-based approach to HIV prevention and treatment programmes.



The Third Regional Autumn School 2019, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.



In 2019, *AFEW International* continued implementing the 'Bridging the Gaps: health and rights for key populations' project, by coordinating and overseeing activities in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Furthermore, we also implement activities directed at three regional approaches: rehabilitation standards, migration and the shrinking civil society space.

In what follows, we briefly summarise our primary activities under this project.

BRIDGING THE GAPS
Health and rights for key populations

**find the regional
report online!**



1. <https://www.unaids.org/en/keywords/eastern-europe-and-central-asia>

2. Key problems of sexual and reproductive health of women living with HIV in Tajikistan through the prism of human rights, Research done by Tajik Network of Women Living With HIV (TNW+), Dushanbe 2019.



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online!

Study tour for specialists in rehabilitation

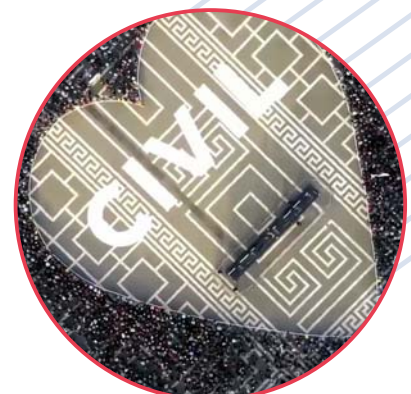
In April 2019, a study tour to the Netherlands was organised for rehabilitation specialists from Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine, during which participants visited local rehabilitation and treatment facilities. This visit aimed to allow regional specialists to learn more about evidence-based approaches. During the visits, participants discussed with local Dutch experts how different approaches to treatment and rehabilitation reflect the principles of the harm reduction approach.

During a capacity building training workshop that took place in May 2019 in Ukraine, local partners received information on approaches and rehabilitation instruments. AFEW-Ukraine developed a programme to address adolescent drug use in Kharkiv in 2019, scheduled for piloting in 2020. AFEW Kyrgyzstan is further developing these guidelines, and will continue by developing additional standards in 2020. In Georgia, results from the study visit featured in the development of the national concept and strategy on improving access to quality rehabilitation and treatment services in the country.

Crackdown on civil society

In 2019, AFEW International funded the production of the movie 'Crackdown on Civil Society', produced by the Rights Reporter Foundation. This movie results from the report, 'We Fight, We Hide or We Unite', which assessed the survival strategies of harm reduction-related NGOs. The film documents oppression, resistance and survival viewed through the eyes of human rights defenders who dedicate their lives to supporting the human rights of some of the most stigmatised and criminalised groups in EECA.

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A visit to Rostov-on-Don, 2019



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Labour migration

In June 2019, AFEW International and AFEW Kyrgyzstan visited two organisations that work with migrants from Central Asia in two Russian cities — 'Kovcheg-AntiAids' in Rostov-on-Don and 'Luna' in Yekaterinburg — with the aim of identifying the organisations' needs. As a result of these visits, both organisations initiated projects that include research and service delivery for labour migrants who use drugs or who are living with HIV.

In 2019, AFEW International funded several organisations to conduct research and deliver services to migrants and build bridges between Central Asian organisations and organisations in Russia. To better prepare Central Asian labour migrants who travel abroad to work, AFEW International and AFEW Kyrgyzstan developed information booklets in three languages: Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek. More than 6000 booklets were distributed in the cities of Bishkek and Osh. These booklets contain information on services available to migrants in Russia, including the contact details for Russian NGOs that provide services specifically for them. The booklet also provides practical advice on harm reduction programmes, and information on laws in the Russian Federation related to migration and drug policy.

In addition, an online database was developed detailing state and non-state organisations in Bishkek and Osh that provide assistance to individuals preparing to migrate, as well as the contact information for medical service providers amongst the Kyrgyz diaspora in the Russian Federation.

Migration in Tajikistan

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online!



The number of HIV cases in Tajikistan amongst people with a history of international labour migration has increased from 12.3% in 2013 to 14.6% in 2017.³ In Tajikistan, 42% of people who use drugs have experienced labour migration or plan to migrate for labour purposes.⁴ Notwithstanding these data, International Office of Migration (IOM) Tajikistan did not recognise a particular need for specific services for migrants who belong to key population groups, and did not provide targeted information for migrant who use drugs.

In 2019, for the first time IOM Tajikistan recognised the problem related to the lack of specific services available to migrating key populations. To address this, AFEW International has played a crucial role in convincing IOM Tajikistan that migrants who use drugs need tailor-made HIV services and information. This represents a significant change in awareness regarding the importance of targeting migrants who use drugs and a direct result of the increased cooperation between AFEW Partnership and IOM Tajikistan.

Better understanding the vulnerability to HIV amongst migrant workers who use drugs, in 2019 IOM Tajikistan launched a joint project with AFEW International, 'Improving migrants' access to HIV services in Tajikistan', which will monitor and improve the health-seeking behaviour of migrating key populations. In addition, a pilot programme was initiated on HIV diagnosis and treatment for migrants who use drugs in southwest Tajikistan, which will continue in 2020. This change established cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation between AFEW International, IOM Tajikistan, AFEW Kyrgyzstan, Russian service delivery NGOs and the relevant Tajik ministries, AIDS centres and NGOs.

3. Dr. Karimov Saifutdin, Director of the Republic AIDS Prevention and Control Center, Presentation 'Republic of Tajikistan: an overview of epidemic and impact of HIV program alignment with UNAIDS treatment target for 2016-2021', National HIV Conference, Dushanbe, (25-26 June 2018).

4. 'Findings from a needs assessment survey of labour migrants among people who use drugs in the pilot regions of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan', AFEW 2017.



The Third Regional AUTUMN SCHOOL in Bishkek

On 29 October 2019, AFEW International partners gathered in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, to take part in the Third Annual Regional Autumn School, which brought together 73 representatives the AFEW Partnership's local partners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Ukraine, as well as the Netherlands, including sub-recipients from Georgia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan within the 'Bridging the Gaps' project. In addition, partners and experts from Great Britain and the USA took part.

The 2019 autumn school served as a great opportunity for learning, exchange and establishing links. The four-day school was extensive and addressed new developments and challenges in the region, such as Chemsex, regional migration, the regional approach to rehabilitation standards and sustainable funding. One full day was dedicated to regional migration, where IOM Tajikistan and Russian service delivery NGOs presented on safe migration for key populations. As a direct result of this autumn school, IOM Tajikistan increased cross-border cooperation with Russian NGOs to provide HIV services to key population migrants. This cross-border cooperation will serve as a referral system through which migrants can more easily receive medical and legal support.



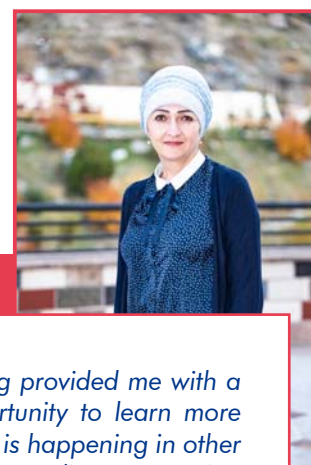
find more online!



In particular, I noted the session on new psychoactive substances. This topic is relevant for our country, since the sexual transmission of HIV continues to grow in Kyrgyzstan, and new psychoactive substance use impacts sexual behaviour. For us, this was a wonderful opportunity to understand the experience of those countries that have already faced similar problems, and to discuss more thoroughly effective strategies for preventative measures in our country.

The third day was remarkable given the pressing topic of the sustainability of civil society organisations. We all see the tendency towards decreasing donor support in our countries. This means that civil society should aim to ensure independent financial sustainability, whereby one opportunity lies in the development of social entrepreneurship. During this meeting, we shared experiences aimed at creating our own social enterprise - that is, a beauty salon. In particular, I would like to highlight the session by Fatima Yakupbayeva from the company 'Precedent'. She provided us with specific business ideas, which could be developed by an NGO in order to earn money independently and further direct it towards realising our statutory goals.

NATALYA SHUMSKAYA, DIRECTOR OF AFEW KYRGYZSTAN



This meeting provided me with a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening in other countries regarding promoting HIV prevention and treatment. I particularly enjoyed the session on Chemsex, since I had not previously encountered this issue. I was specifically interested in the presentation by Monty Moncrieff on Chemsex. In addition, I received answers to many questions on migration and, most importantly, exchanged contact details with almost all of the participants.

ZARINA SIYAKOVA, PROGRAM COORDINATOR OF THE TAJIK NETWORK OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

Amina

Tajik Network of Women Living with HIV, Manager of the 'Antistigma' project in Tajikistan, implemented within the 'Bridging the Gaps' project

find more online! 



My HIV diagnosis sounded like a verdict to me. What should I do? How should I live? Where can I get accurate information? My conversations with healthcare workers were not very informative. Nobody told me that one can live an absolutely normal life with the virus.

My mother ostracised me and my three-month-old daughter, who also had HIV and died of pneumocystis pneumonia. I hated myself so much that I even contemplated suicide. I took some gas oil, matches... If not for my brother, who saw me doing this, I would have burned myself. Then, I remember a handful of pills, an ambulance and another failed attempt to kill myself. I felt that I was completely alone on this dark road of life.

I ignored my status. But, after a while, I visited the AIDS centre to ask about antiretroviral therapy. Six months later, I already had an undetectable viral load! I believed in myself, in my results, so I wanted to share this knowledge with all of the people who found themselves in similar situations. That's how I started working at the AIDS centre as a volunteer and later as a peer counsellor. HIV helped me to start a new life. I am happy — I help people, I am doing something good for society working at the Tajik Network of Women Living with HIV. Recently, I served as the coordinator of the Photo Voices Project, a project that helps people living with HIV share their emotions and feelings through images. In this project, we aim to show the human face of people who live with HIV and to change societal attitudes towards HIV-positive people.



Thank you, Photovoices!

find more online! 

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUND for Key Populations



AFEW International implements the Elton John AIDS Foundation funded Emergency Support Fund (ESF), together with Aidsfonds. ESF aims to support organisations representing key populations at risk for HIV, TB and viral hepatitis in emergency situations including a lack of medications or surviving difficult situations they face. These situations may stem from legal barriers facing key populations, stigma and discrimination, as well as financial and social challenges and political restrictions.

find more online!

The Emergency Support Fund aims to:



Decrease the annual number of new HIV infections in the EECA region

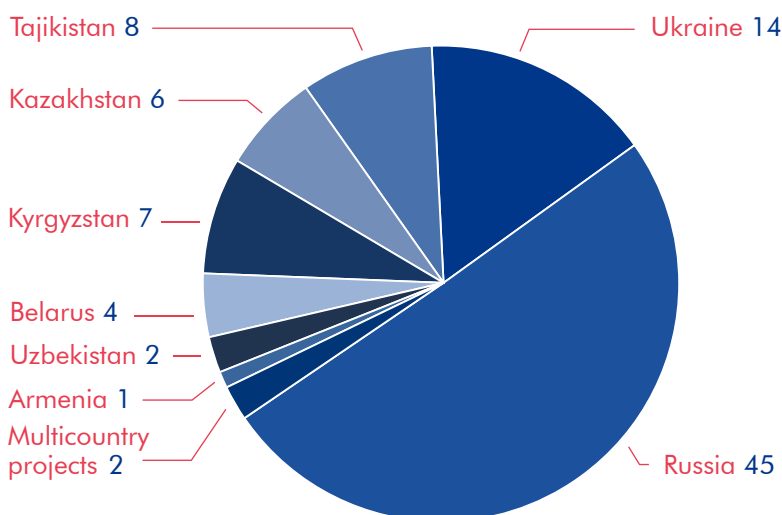


Ensure access to treatment for all people living with HIV in the EECA region



Offer better and more effective funding for the response to the HIV epidemics in EECA countries

In 2019, ESF received 239 applications and supported 89 projects in:



learn more from the ESF report



MIKHAIL STUPISHIN, PRESIDENT OF THE POSITIVE DIALOGUE NGO (ST. PETERSBURG), A GRANTEE OF THE EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUND OF THE ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION

After the Global Fund-funded programme in Russia for 2015–2018 ended, we along with many other organisations found ourselves in a difficult situation. We had problems both with securing funding and with acquiring supplies, in particular, condoms, lubricants and tests. At the same time, we realised and were worried about the fact that the suspension of our activities and the exclusion of prevention services from our work would aggravate the HIV situation amongst men who have sex with men (MSM) and would lead to a surge in new HIV cases.

The Emergency Support Fund was established at just the right time. With the help of the Emergency Support Fund for key populations in EECA, we procured condoms, HIV tests and lubricants and continued our work to deliver comprehensive prevention services for and to MSM. Some of the condoms procured were distributed to MSM clubs and saunas for further free distribution amongst their visitors as well as to our partner organisations who implement prevention activities amongst MSM and MSM sex workers.

find more online!

WORKING WITH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES



Fast-Track TB/HIV for key populations in EECA

Given that working with federal authorities typically carries special considerations, AFEW International considers work with municipalities more effective. One of the projects aimed at strengthening interaction with municipal authorities, 'Fast-Track TB/HIV for key populations in EECA cities', was completed in 2019. This project, initiated in 2017 and led by the Alliance for Public Health, developed effective and sustainable city models of HIV/TB responses aimed at reducing HIV and TB mortalities in five cities: Almaty (Kazakhstan), Balti (Moldova), Odesa (Ukraine), Sofia (Bulgary) and Tbilisi (Georgia).

On 6 December, a project concluding event took place in Kyiv, Ukraine. The EECA City Health Leadership Forum showcased the results of the Fast Track HIV/TB cities project (2017–2019). Within this project, AFEW International contributed to the development of a manual documenting the HIV and TB best-practice activities at the city level.

open experience handbook! 

The Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response (PITCH)

As a continuation of the experiences under the fast-track cities project, in 2019 AFEW International initiated the implementation of a project in St. Petersburg and Bishkek, 'Key Populations and HIV & TB prevention priorities', funded through Aidsfonds under The Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV Response (PITCH). Within the framework of this project, our partners in two cities — 'EVA' Association in St. Petersburg (Russia) and AFEW Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) — established a dialogue between key populations and municipal authorities aimed at strengthening cooperation between them and increasing their budgets to fund services for key populations.

As a result, the city of Bishkek has signed Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities, and joined Zero TB Cities international initiative, aimed at reducing the TB incidence in cities. Moreover, in 2019, AFEW supported development city programme on HIV, which doubles municipal funding for HIV for 2020–2021 and ensures that the Mayor's office engages in crucial interventions to halt the spread of HIV.

Within the framework of the PITCH project in St. Petersburg, our partner 'EVA' Association, with support from AFEW International, initiated a working group of NGOs that works with key populations and on HIV prevention to better coordinate activities. 'EVA' Association and other municipal NGOs have initiated a constructive dialogue with St. Petersburg municipal officials on a very sensitive topic: funding for HIV-related services for key populations.

find more online! 



A visit to St. Petersburg in the framework of PITCH programme.

Research direction of AFEW INTERNATIONAL

The EECA region lacks research providing the scientific evidence base for the implementation and development of effective programmes and projects in public health, for sound health policies and for health systems structures.

AFEW International is uniquely positioned to provide a bridge between the East and the West given its access to international experts, evidence-based standards, best practices and international funding to fill the gap in HIV, TB and viral hepatitis research in EECA. Thus, *AFEW International* affords the opportunity for knowledge exchange, builds scientific research capacity whilst simultaneously strengthening clinical, prevention and research networks across the EECA region. In 2019, *AFEW International* continued to develop its research direction via the Martine de Schutter Scholarship Fund and the EECA INTERACT workshop, both of which link experts, researchers, professionals and activists from the EECA region with various international institutes, agencies and organisations.



Martine de Schutter Scholarship Fund

At the end of 2018, a project funding agreement between *AFEW International* and ViiV Healthcare UK Ltd was signed to support the Martine de Schutter Scholarship Fund.

Overall, the Martine de Schutter Scholarship Fund aims to support researchers and other scientists and activists who have conducted research in EECA so that they may participate in international scientific fora and regional conferences, workshops and seminars. In addition, funds seek to support EECA researchers to publish their findings in the appropriate thematic magazines and scientific journals and keep the EECA HIV epidemic on the international agenda.

In 2019, a total of 12 individuals from 9 countries in the EECA region received support to attend various international conferences. These conferences included the 26th International Harm Reduction Conference, the Third European Chemsex Forum and the PrEP Summit amongst others. Given these opportunities, participants at these events were able to raise awareness regarding the HIV epidemics in the EECA region and to familiarise themselves with international best-practices.



DONIYOR KARIMOV, PARTICIPANT OF THE PREP SUMMIT IN WARSAW, POLAND

The PrEP Summit offered me the opportunity to learn about the situation in various countries from the EECA region and to understand the work carried out amongst the communities in related to PrEP. I also learned about the research being conducted that demonstrates the effectiveness of PrEP. After this summit, I organised a lecture on PrEP in the faculty where I am studying. I am also planning to introduce this lecture into the curriculum at my institution.



IGOR MEDVID, PARTICIPANT OF THE THIRD EUROPEAN CHEMSEX FORUM IN PARIS, FRANCE

The conference was extremely valuable, considering that we are now busy researching Chemsex. I now understand that we need to start mobilising people who are engaging in Chemsex. In addition, this forum allowed us to talk to various donors and to draw their attention to the situation in our region. To me, the Martine de Schutter Scholarship Fund is an extraordinary opportunity, not only for participating in various events, but also to practically apply the knowledge we acquire.

2019 EECA INTERACT

In November 2019, together with the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development, we organised the first research workshop on HIV, TB and viral hepatitis in EECA in Almaty, Kazakhstan. We brought scientists, clinicians, policymakers and civil society together to debate topics related to the three epidemics whilst building capacity and strengthening research and clinical networks. The workshop addressed topics specifically relevant to the EECA region and dived deeply into the particularities of both Central Asia in general and the host country, Kazakhstan, specifically, showcasing successes, the remaining challenges and responses.

In total, 200 applications from 14 different countries were received, 70 of which consisted of research abstracts and 130 applications from community projects, policymakers and clinicians. Most of the researchers were from Kazakhstan, followed by Ukraine, Russia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Georgia. From the 115 attendees, 45% were clinicians, 35% represented civil society organisations, 15% were researchers and 5% were policymakers. In total, 55% of the speakers were from EECA and 45% were from Europe and the United States.

find more online! 

EECA on youtube! 



BAUYRZHAN SATZHANOVICH BAYSERKIN, HEAD OF THE LOCAL 2019 EECA INTERACT WORKSHOP COMMITTEE; DOCTOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, DIRECTOR OF THE KAZAKH SCIENTIFIC CENTRE OF DERMATOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In Kazakhstan, research on HIV and TB is of great interest. Young scientists are actively involved in this process, representing our country on the world stage. Healthcare practitioners also await the results of research, since they can improve the quality of services. EECA INTERACT is a unique platform for discussions. This seminar allows us to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our work, share our experiences and outline our prospects.



BRANDON O'DELL, DIRECTOR OF THE AMSTERDAM DINNER FOUNDATION

It was a pleasure and inspiration to collaborate with AFEW International to organise the first EECA INTERACT workshop in Kazakhstan in 2019. In my former role as consulate at the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development, I worked with all levels of the AFEW International team. The road from idea to implementation is often full of unforeseen turns and unexpected bumps. With trust and open dialogue, we navigated this together to ensure the success of the workshop. We built a strong partnership that delivered a high-quality event. And, we made many friends along the way. The team at AFEW International was extremely thoughtful and dedicated at every step, and the journey was a highlight of my career in global health.

THEORY OF CHANGE

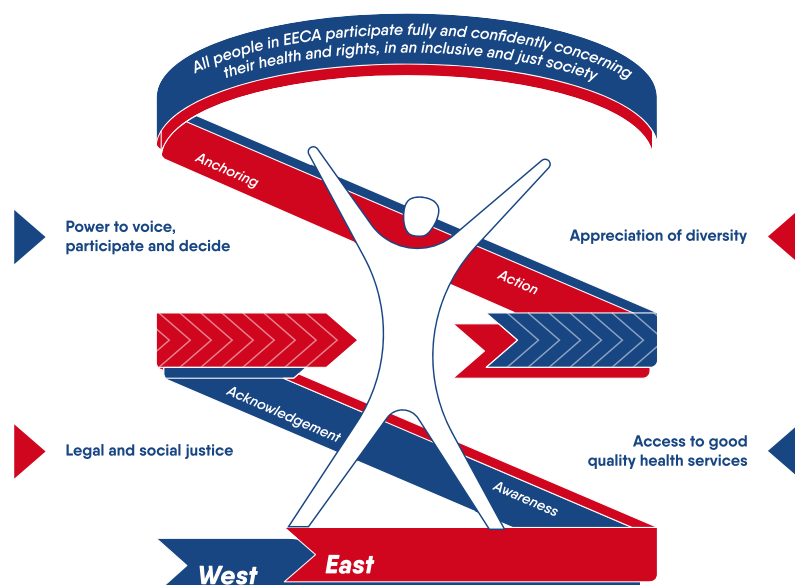
In 2019, AFEW International together with the AFEW Partnership developed its Theory of Change. This Theory of Change was developed with reference to the partnership's values, policies and priorities, as well as based on context analyses, strategic reviews and evaluations. The Theory of Change represents our big picture thinking about the change the AFEW Partnership wants to achieve and how it contributes to that change. **Our vision relies on the idea that all people in EECA participate fully and confidently concerning their health and rights in an inclusive and just society.**

The dimensions of our work are based on the following:

- 1) Access to quality health services
- 2) Legal and social justice
- 3) The power to voice, participate and decide
- 4) An appreciation of diversity.

The Theory of Change describes the role AFEW International, in collaboration with international, national and local community-based organisations, will play in driving incremental steps that ultimately lead to our end goals.

Based on the Theory of Change, the AFEW Partnership developed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) at the end of 2019. These indicators capture the outcome performance level along the dimensions of change and define AFEW International's roles at the organisational level. In addition, these KPIs allow for the transformation of data into insights, which can be visualised through dashboards. KPI data collection will be piloted in 2020. At the end of 2020, the KPI process evaluation will take place, allowing for any necessary adaptations. This process will help in discussions related to the focus of our work and adjustment to our strategies.



find more online! 



ANKE VAN DAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AFEW INTERNATIONAL

In order to succeed, we aim for all people in EECA to fully and confidently participate in matters related to their health and rights in an inclusive and just society. To do so, we work to ensure that individuals can access services that meet their needs, have the capacity and opportunity to voice their needs and be heard, are not limited by inequitable laws and policies and can influence policies and society through their contributions.

WORK IN RUSSIA

With the help of AFEW International in 2019, under new leadership, AFEW Russia has returned as a member of the AFEW Partnership. Since February 2019, Victoria Dollen, a former member of AFEW Russia who has worked on HIV prevention for about 20 years, has led the organisation in Moscow.

In 2019, AFEW Russia participated in various international events organised as a part of the AFEW Partnership. AFEW Russia helped facilitate the attendance of 13 Russians in the Autumn School organised under the 'Bridging the Gaps' project. These attendees delivered three presentations and organised a discussion on the study of the cost-effectiveness of HIV prevention projects amongst key groups.

Through EECA INTERACT, held in Almaty in November, professionals and researchers from Russia took part in the evaluation of manuscripts sent to the programme committee. The executive director of AFEW Russia supported in organising the attendance and presentation of V. Y. Rosenberg, the Deputy Chief Physician, Federal Clinical Institution 'Republican Infectious Clinical Hospital' within the Ministry of Health of Russia.



AFEW Russia has always been perceived as a professional organisation, building its work on the values of respect for key populations. Rebuilding an organisation carries an enormous responsibility, it is an honourable job, and not at all an easy job; I will put all my efforts into achieving it.

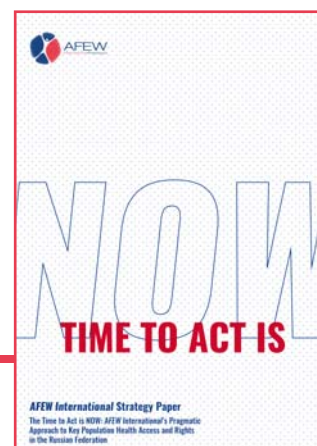
**VICTORIA DOLLEN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AFEW RUSSIA**

Time to Act is NOW

In 2019, AFEW International presented the 'Time to Act is NOW' strategy, developed to guide work in Russia, aimed at strengthening and building the capacity and resilience of local key population civil society organisations. This strategy envisions working with local civil society organisations to build advocacy and influence their skills and service delivery capacity, whilst enabling civil society to effectively engage with key decision makers at the municipal level.

The strategy aims to expand services and advocate that local authorities fulfil their obligations and fund cost-effective key population-specific HIV and health programming whilst helping to institutionalise cooperation between city governments and the communities they serve.

**find the
brochure online!**





Meeting of EU Civil Society Forum on HIV, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis, 2019.

ADVOCACY

AFEW International actively advocates for upholding the human rights of people living with HIV, people living with TB and hepatitis, people who use drugs, sex workers and LGBTIQ communities. *AFEW International* is a member of the European Union (EU) Civil Society Forum on HIV, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis, the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs and the EU–Russia Civil Society Forum.

In 2019, *AFEW International* contributed to the development of the fact sheet for the ‘EU–Russia Bilateral Dialogue on Drugs’ under the framework of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs. This contribution provided the EU with recommendations highlighting key issues of concern as well as constructive examples of best practices on drugs policies and harm reduction within the EU to guide discussions.

Factsheet ‘EU–Russia Bilateral Dialogue on Drugs’

find more online! 

AFEW International also participated in a seminar organized by Civil Society Forum on Drugs members and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels on 5 December. *AFEW International* has established contacts with Dutch MEPs, and will continue involving them in its advocacy activities in the EU, thus keeping the needs of the EECA region firmly on the agendas of EU-based fora.



TUBERCULOSIS ACTIVITIES

‘Building Models for the Future’



In September 2019, the ‘Building Models for the Future’ project on strengthening engagement with the private sector to provide quality patient-centred TB/HIV services ended. The framework of this project, launched by KNCV and AFEW International together with AFEW Kazakhstan, provided technical support to and strengthened the capacity of local NGOs and civil society organisations to improve healthcare services, to facilitate collaboration between private healthcare providers and civil society organisations and reduce stigma and discrimination. Kazakhstan, specifically the city of Almaty, is part of a larger project implemented in Nigeria and the Philippines based on KNCV’s and the AFEW Partnership’s in-country presence, capacities and perceived needs to strengthen engagement with the private sector. This project facilitated the involvement of private healthcare providers in TB and HIV care, developed the leadership of key TB stakeholders in Almaty, granted access to the Guaranteed Volume of Free Medical Care (the Kazakh health insurance system), increased engagement amongst NGOs, created a dialogue between NGOs, providers, patients and the government and embedded TB specialists at the primary care level.

TB Photo Voices

Within the framework of ‘Building Models for the Future’, the TB Photo Voices project in Kazakhstan was developed in order to understand, measure, assess and effectively address TB stigma at its roots.

To do so, 12 professionals participated in a ‘Training of Trainers’ course to learn how to implement the TB Photo Voices project. The TB Photo Voices project intervention itself was implemented with 9 (former) TB patients – with drug-susceptibility and with drug-resistant TB – some of whom were still on treatment at the time.

The final products (photos, quotes and stories) were launched in 2019 and shared with the broader Almaty community via advocacy exhibitions and were also reproduced on banners, desktop calendars, T-shirts and postcards for use in healthcare facilities when counselling new TB patients. An event took place in The Hague in the Netherlands in February 2020 to mark the close of the project.

find more online!



When I was invited to take part in the TB Photo Voices project, I was still receiving my TB treatment. I said yes straight away since I thought that photos could somehow provide psychological support and motivation to people who just learnt that they have TB.

In the project, I experienced a lot of emotions. Before the photo is taken, you remember your past and drag the disease through yourself again. In the beginning, it was difficult to focus on the details. But, then, I felt better and learned to openly talk about my disease.

Our group consisted of patients who had already completed their treatment. Talking to them, I heard how they were able to overcome the disease. Gradually, I felt confident that I would also be able to successfully complete my treatment.

I want to thank this project. It really helps patients who isolate themselves after diagnosis with the disease and who lose their self-esteem.

SHOLPANATA KALDAROV, STUDENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL IT UNIVERSITY, PARTICIPANT OF THE TB PHOTO VOICES PROJECT AND THE SELF-STIGMA PROJECT, VOLUNTEER AT THE ‘SANAT ALEMI’ NGO

ON THE AGENDA 2020

1. Fundraising

One of AFEW International biggest goals for 2020 focuses on fundraising. AFEW International will organise donor meetings to revive, re-establish and consolidate our donor relationships. Resource mobilisation for the EECA region has been a challenge for quite some time, becoming even more difficult as additional EECA countries assume the middle-income country status. Local governments have not (yet) filled the funding gap that remains from the withdrawal of international donors.

2. Health Promotion and Assistance for Migrants

In 2020, AFEW International together with IOM Tajikistan and local partners in Tajikistan will enhance key population migrants' access to HIV services within the project on safe migration, 'Improving migrants' access to HIV services in Tajikistan', launched in 2019. This project aims to raise awareness amongst migrant workers regarding the risk of sexually transmitted infections including HIV, to improve health-seeking behaviour amongst key population migrants, to assist in improving the understanding of their vulnerabilities to HIV and to provide recommendations for more effective approaches to address the specific health needs of key population migrants. In addition, this project will also focus on increasing cooperation between Tajik, Kyrgyz and Russian agencies at the governmental and community levels to improve services for key population migrants. Within this project, IOM Tajikistan will monitor and work to improve health-seeking behaviour regarding HIV diagnosis and treatment for migrants who use drugs in the Kulob and Khatlon Oblasts.

3. AFEW Autumn School

In autumn 2020, AFEW International will organise its annual Autumn School for partners from the EECA region. This school will take place in Kyiv (Ukraine), providing an ideal opportunity to share the lessons learnt and to look towards the future in the region following the conclusion of the 'Bridging the Gaps' project. Project partners, policymakers and community leaders from the region will be invited to the Autumn School.



4. Linking East with West

2021 EECA INTERACT

At the beginning of 2021, following the successful first INTERACT Workshop held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2019, *AFEW International* in collaboration with the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development will organise the second EECA INTERACT and link researchers and scientists from the East and West. The event will take place in Minsk, Belarus. The workshop will address topics that are specifically relevant to Eastern Europe and Central Asia and will dive deeply into particularities of the host country, Belarus, showcasing successes, remaining challenges and responses. Preparations start in 2020.



find more online!

5. European HIV Nurses

In 2020, *AFEW International* will continue its role in linking experts, activists, researchers, policymakers and healthcare providers from the East to those in the West, with a specific focus on HIV nurses and primary care providers. Together with the European HIV Nurses Network and the Dutch HIV Nurses Network, *AFEW International* will explore opportunities for study visits and facilitate the exchange of experiences. Furthermore, *AFEW International* will seek funding to develop modular trainings and advocate for the position of an HIV nurse in the existing healthcare structure.

6. ICAP Project

In 2020, *AFEW International* and ICAP at Columbia University will partner to implement the 'Technical Assistance to Central Asian National HIV Programmes to Achieve and Sustain HIV Epidemic Control under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)' in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, a project funded by PEPFAR through the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

AFEW International will serve as the lead agency working with its in-country partners — *AFEW Kyrgyzstan* and SPIN Plus, with technical support from *AFEW Kazakhstan* — to implement this project.

find more online!



7. European Forum for Primary Care

In 2019, Anke van Dam, Executive Director of *AFEW International*, became a member of the advisory board of the European Forum for Primary Care.

find more online!

The European Forum of Primary Care aims to improve the health of the population by promoting strong primary care. This is accomplished through advocacy for primary care, by generating data and evidence on primary care and by exchanging information between its members. In 2020, *AFEW International* will facilitate advocacy activities for primary care in the EECA region and link primary care providers from the East to those in the West.

8. Emergency Support Fund for Key Populations in EECA

In 2020, the Emergency Support Fund for Key Populations in EECA will continue distributing small grants to both registered and unregistered NGOs and community-based organisations in EECA that work in the field of HIV and human rights. These projects also relate to the realisation of emergency projects in various areas – from advocacy and HIV prevention to treatment and services in relation to HIV co-infections. In 2020, the fund will focus only on emergencies and will specifically welcome applications from first-time applicants and applications that introduce innovative approaches to tackle emergency situations.

9. AIDS 2020 and HIV 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2020) will be organised and take place virtually. *AFEW International* will participate, ensuring that the state-of-the-art HIV in prevention, treatment and care will be shared with its partners in EECA.

HIV2020, the alternative conference to AIDS 2020, was cancelled due to Covid-19 and will not take place in Mexico. HIV2020 was intended to serve as an inclusive, international community-led event centred around the communities most affected by the HIV pandemic. This initiative was launched by the global key population-led networks: the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights, the International Network of People who Use Drugs Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP).

10. Empower young people

In 2020, *AFEW International* and Dance4Life will implement the joint initiative 'Journey4Life Plus', a project in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. The main goals of this project focus on empowering young people, strengthening their self-confidence in order to make healthy sexual choices and promoting access to healthcare services related to sexual and reproductive health, HIV and drug use.

The project in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine adopts the Journey4Life approach of Dance4Life. This approach involves an impactful curriculum aimed at empowering young people, integrating critical thinking, experiential learning, emotional intelligence, music and dance to build socio-emotional learning skills. Through their complementary strengths, Dance4Life and the AFEW Partnership will together help make available integrated services related to prevention, treatment and care. These services include an accessible referral system for youth at risk of dropping out of society, systems, and focus on sexual and mental health development.



find more online!



FINANCIAL RESULTS

Balance Sheet

(As of 31st December 2019, after appropriation of the year-end surplus)

		2019		2018	
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Tangible fixed assets	1	4.163		5.160	
			4.163		5.160
Inventory					
For Immediate and full use in the context of the objective					0
Accounts receivable and deferred assets					
Donors	2	1.551.270		4.637.900	
Other	3	58.699		168.861	
			1.609.970		4.806.761
Cash and cash equivalents	4		1.447.798		209.245
TOTAL ASSETS			3.061.931		5.021.166
Reserves and funds:					
Reserves	5				
Continuity reserve		259.743		169.303	
Restructuring reserve		0		0	
Restructuring reserve Central Asia		0		0	
			259.743		169.303
Funds					
Special purpose funds	6		6.274		6.274
Long-term debts					
Subsidy commitments	7			1.344.512	
Short-term debts					
Subsidy commitments	7	2.642.765		3.430.286	
Other liabilities	8	153.149		70.790	
			2.795.914		4.845.588
TOTAL LIABILITIES			3.061.931		5.021.166

Statement of Income and Expenditure for 2019 (x1€)

		Actual 2019		Budget 2019		Actual 2018	
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
INCOME	10						
Income from own fundraising:	A						
- Grants from international Foundations/NGOs		0		0		6.463	
- Grants from Businesses		0		0		0	
- Other donations/Collections		66.017		28.304		27.423	
		66.017				33.886	
Income from joint activities	B	133.251		145.000		217.496	
Subsidies from governments	D	2.876.210		2.725.696		2.411.648	
Other income/loss	E	27.103		0		(7.860)	
TOTAL INCOME		3.102.582		2.899.000		2.655.170	
EXPENDITURES	11						
Spent on objectives	A						
Capacity Strengthening		1.968.111		1.971.043		1.811.025	
Advocacy		492.028		492.761		452.756	
Research/Assessments		192.101		65.761		60.422	
		2.652.239		2.529.565		2.324.203	
Costs of raising income:	B						
Cost of own fundraising		100.226		85.800		70.834	
Costs of obtaining governmental grants							
		100.226		85.800		78.834	
Management and administration:	C						
Costs Management and administration		240.784		228.800		210.225	
Human Resource Development		16.554		15.835		14.550	
		257.338		244.635		244.775	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		3.009.804		2.860.000		2.627.812	
Balance of income and expenditure		92.778		39.000		27.358	
Allocation of Year–end result:							
Continuity reserve		92.778		39.000		27.358	
Continuation reserve Russia 2012							
Restructuring reserve, additions							
Restructuring reserve, expenditures							
Restructuring reserve, Central Asia							
Special pupose funds, additions							
Special purpose funds, expenditures							
Total allocation of Year–end result		92.778		39.000		27.358	

AFEW International closed the financial year–end 2019 with a positive balance. Based on the Board's decision, the amount of 92 778 EUR have been added to AFEW International's reserves.

KG

Bridging the Gaps: health and rights for key populations.

Key population: PWUD (women and adolescence).
Budget: 290 998 EUR.

Research of labour migration to Russia among people who use drugs in two cities of the Kyrgyz Republic: Bishkek and Osh. Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.

Key population: PWUD (migrants).
Budget: 10 000 EUR.

Introduction of the Dance4life new empowerment model for HIV prevention among vulnerable youth in Kyrgyzstan. Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.

Key population: vulnerable adolescents.
Budget: 20 320 EUR.

PWUDs and labor migration: awareness and access. Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.

Key population: PWUD, migrants, other key populations and local communities.
Budget: 29 734 EUR.

TJ

Anti-stigma project. Bridging the Gaps, regional approach, implemented by Spin Plus and Tajik Network of Women living with HIV.

Key population: PWUD, PLWH.
Budget: 75 000 EUR.

Research "Sexual and reproductive Health, gender equality and human rights, gender-based violence, economic and political opportunities for women living with HIV in Tajikistan. Bridging the Gaps, country project.

Key population: women living with HIV.
Budget: 23 093 USD.

Improving migrants' access to HIV services in Tajikistan. Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.

Key population: PLHIV, migrants.
Budget: 18 726 EUR.

TJ

KZ

AM

BY

Emergency Support Fund for Key Populations.

Key population: all key populations in the EECA region.
Budget: 618 000 USD.

RU

KG

KZ

Co-creating progressive and supportive enabling environment for civil society and local government in St. Petersburg, Bishkek and Kazakhstan, PITCH program.

Key population: adolescent girls and young women, LGBTI, PWUD, prisoners and SWs.
Budget: 256 195 EUR

UZ

UA

RU

KG

Rehabilitation, Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.

Key population: PWUD.
Budget: 18 000 EUR.

GE

KG

UA

UA

Bridging the Gaps: Health and rights for key populations.

Key population: Adults and adolescents using drugs.
Budget: 259 227 EUR.

Improving access to integrated HIV services for adolescents most at risk in Ukraine. Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.v

Key population: adolescents (14-19 y.o.) who use drugs and their sexual partners.
Budget: 9 420 EUR.

Capacity building of youth workers and peer educators in Ukraine for raising youth awareness about healthy relationships and HIV prevention. Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.

Key population: youth and adolescents, including most-at-risk adolescents.
Budget: 31 503 EUR.

TB/HIV Fast-Track Cities Project.

Key population: all key populations.
Budget: 53 421 USD.

GE

Bridging the Gaps: Health and rights for key populations.

Key population: PWUD.
Budget: 155 443 EUR.

Tanadgoma, Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.

Key population: PWUD.
Budget: 12 145.

RU

Beyond Resistance — aka Against All Odds.

Key population: PWUD, MSM.
Budget: 235 000 USD.

Bridging the Gaps: health and rights for key populations, regional approach.

Key population: migrants, PWUD.
Budget: 60 000 EUR.

Holding a strategic and organizational planning session of the Coalition "Outreach", Bridging the Gaps, regional approach.

Key population: PWUD.
Budget: 15 000 EUR.

KZ

Improving TB/HIV prevention & care — building models for the future.

Key population: PLHIV, internal migrants, TB patients, ex-prisoners, PWUD.
Budget: 82 249,00 EUR.

EECA REGION

2019 projects

This map illustrates AFEW International's projects, including projects within the AFEW Partnership, implemented in 2019. All AFEW partners also had their own separate projects, which are described in their annual reports.

Belarus

BY

Uzbekistan

UZ

Tajikistan

TJ

Turkmenistan

TM

Kyrgyzstan

KG

Ukraine

UA

Azerbaijan

AZ

Kazakhstan

KZ

Russia

RU

Armenia

AM

Georgia

GE



TOWARDS CHANGES

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