



SUCCESS STORY

USAID HELPS TO DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRISONS WORKERS



Participants of professional development courses

With support of USAID at the end of 2015, 10 health workers from detention institutions of Tajikistan were trained on how to manage the cases of patients with HIV and heroin addiction.

Due to acute shortage of health workers, penitentiary system of Tajikistan faces problems in provision of medical care for HIV-positive prisoners. For example, 9000 convicts are served by 18 prison doctors with higher and secondary medical education. In addition, health workers in detention institutions do not have knowledge on management of cases of specific diseases. For example, 222 HIV positive prisoners receive help from civilian infection disease specialists, who visits 19 correctional facilities twice a year.

In November 2015, USAID HIV React Project has supported two trainings on "HIV and Opportunistic Infections" and "Drug Addiction, OST and Rehabilitation" for ten prison health workers in Tajikistan.

Trained specialists received diplomas from the Tajik Postgraduate Medical University

Trained specialists received diplomas from the Tajik Postgraduate Medical University and now can provide specialized services to PLHIV and drug addicts. What is important that specialists can claim for higher medical category and subsequent increase of wages



A.A. Sharipov, Head of the infectious disease chair, Postgraduate Medical University of Tajikistan

"Many international organizations conduct expensive and short-term workshops, which are ineffective and cannot significantly influence the level of professional knowledge of specialists. Professional development training courses allow doctors who work in detention institutions to



S.R. Sharipov, Head of the medical department of Penitentiary System of Tajikistan

improve their qualifications and get better salaries," - says A.A. Sharipov, head of the infectious disease chair, Postgraduate Medical University of Tajikistan.

Due to support from USAID, now HIV positive and drug addicted prisoners could get qualified medical assistance on a regular basis.

"USAID helped us to train our medical workers. Due to lack of funds, we ourselves could not train them. Given the shortage of medical specialists, we cannot always cover all HIV-positive prisoners with medical assistance," said S.R. Sharipov, head of the Medical Department of the Penitentiary System of Tajikistan.

The USAID HIV React Project interventions helped to improve the professional skills of the prison personnel and increased twice as much, the number of experts providing medical services to PLHIV and drug addicts.



S. Razykov, a surgeon of the detention facility

"I have been working as a prison surgeon for 12 years. Each doctor shall pass through qualification development training courses within 4-5 years. But these courses are very expensive and many doctors cannot afford them. Thanks to USAID, I received a training, which allowed me to learn about HIV at professional level," says S. Razykov, a surgeon at the detention institution.

Note: RPO "AFEW-Tajikistan" is the executive partner for the "HIV React Project" in Tajikistan and with support of USAID implements a number of activities aimed at development of knowledge of medical and non-medical personnel of the detention institutions to increase access and improve quality of HIV prevention activities among prisoners and social reintegration of former prisoners in Khatlon region of Tajikistan.

