UNDP is a key partner and the Principal Recipient to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in Tajikistan. UNDP provides support to the National Programmes on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan. The overall goal of the projects is to prevent deaths caused by diseases, to reduce the burden of HIV and Tuberculosis, to interrupt transmission of malaria, to reduce morbidity, and to contain and prevent malaria outbreaks.
WORKSHOP ON HIV IN THE WORKPLACE

The first national workshop to consider issues of HIV in the workplace for ILO tripartite partners comprising of government, employees and trade unions took place in Dushanbe May 11-13, 2011. The given activity conducted in line with the ILO/UNDP joint project entitled “Development of policies on HIV and Workplace” was aimed at capacity building of national experts in Tajikistan and the elaboration of appropriate measures for the workplace in accordance with ILO recommendation #200.

Mr. Sanginov E., First Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Mr. Beknazarov M., Secretary of NCC, Mr. Mirzoev A., Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Salihov M., Chairperson of Independent Trade Union Federation, Mr. Ruziev M., Director of the National AIDS Centre, Mr. Sharipov A., Chairman of Employee Association as well as representatives from ILO and UNDP opened the workshop with welcoming speeches.

During three days, the participants were familiarised with information on HIV and the workplace; HIV epidemiological situation; roles of the Ministry of Labor, Employee Association and Independent Trade Union Federation in Tajikistan. Also, the participants considered active legislative labor articles, HIV/AIDS post-contact prevention in the workplace and specific efforts in cutting stigmatization and discrimination. The workshop was followed by learning sessions on the international approaches of ILO, IOM and UNAIDS to HIV in the workplace and access of labor migrants to prevention services.

According to the agenda, to facilitate better mastering of the covered topics, each learning session was followed by interactive work in small groups.

EXPANSION OF TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS C IN HIV-INFECTED PEOPLE IN TAJIKISTAN

Today, liver disease, particularly Chronic Viral Hepatitis C has a leading, global role in the structure of morbidity and mortality in HIV-infected people. Co-infection with Hepatitis C and HIV is widespread, largely as the viruses share common routes of transmission.

With a view to expanding the range of services to HIV-infected people in Tajikistan, at the end of 2010 a pilot program was started for the treatment of Hepatitis C in HIV-infected patients. The programme was successfully implemented, with support from UNDP / GFATM, by a team of specialists who were trained on infectious diseases at Botkin Hospital, St. Petersburg, Russia. Currently, more than 20 HIV-infected patients with HCV co-infection are receiving a course of complex antiviral therapy. To expand this pilot program, from 16 to 20 May 2011 training on infectious diseases was organized in Dushanbe hospital, “Modern aspects of treatment of Hepatitis C in HIV-positive people” for specialists from Khorog, Kulyab, Kurgan-Tube and Khujand. It is expected that by the end of this year, the project will be extended to these cities.

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On May 11, 2011 in Dushanbe the National AIDS Center (NAC), in partnership with its local PO Guli Surkh, PO Spin Plus and international partners CARHAP and PSI, and with technical support from UNDP and USAID, organized an event under the slogan «LIVE TO REMEMBER», devoted to the International AIDS Memorial Day.

The event started with the organizing parties and guests making speeches. This was followed by a minute of silence to honor the lives lost, a thematic video, theatrical performance staged by volunteers, quiz and other activities. Also, current information on HIV progression worldwide and in Tajikistan, prevention and treatment, as well as cooperation with the international community was presented to the audience.

Note: Started in 1983, the Candlelight Memorial takes place every third Sunday in May. The Candlelight is also much more than just a memorial. It provides opportunities for leadership development, policy advocacy, partnerships, and improvements in community mobilization skills. Over the last 30 years, since the start of HIV epidemic, more than 25 mil. have died of AIDS worldwide. According to NAC statistics, over 391 people have died of HIV in Tajikistan since 1991.

FAMILIARIZATION OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS WITH ACTIONS ON AWARENESS RAISING AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION IN TB CONTROL

19 May 2011 - A roundtable meeting was held on the role of NGOs in awareness raising and community mobilization to control TB in the office of UNDP HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control Programme in Tajikistan. Managers of public organizations who cooperate with the programme took part in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize NGOs with the objectives of the program, community work mechanisms and cooperation with local executive authorities, to fight tuberculosis. During the meeting, the important role of public organizations in the support of TB treatment control and their close collaboration with medical services at community level was highlighted. NGO managers received clear information on existing financial instruments of the programme, the rules and standards of financial reporting and program indicators and objectives.

Working with public organizations is an important component for communities' awareness and mobilization to control TB. Since 2010, the programme has been working with local public organizations as their work is a key mechanism for informing the population about TB as well as the identification of TB patients.

TRAINING ON EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TUBERCULOSIS WAS CONDUCTED IN DUSHANBE

26 - 28 May 2011 - With the support of UNDP HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control Programme in Tajikistan, training on TB epidemiology was conducted at the RTBC offices. The purpose of the training was to introduce specialists from anti-TB institutions across the country to the epidemiological situation in Tajikistan and in the world. Participants were informed on a variety of subjects, including one-dimensional data incubation, the importance of TB prediction and the insertion of epidemiological data in the database. The workshop was conducted by the international consultant on epidemiology, Epko Husker (Netherlands).

From 29 - 31 May 2011, similar training was held in Sughd Region, Tajikistan.
THE TRAINING ON OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS OF TB

23 - 27 May 2011 - With the support of UNDP HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control Programme in Tajikistan, a workshop was conducted in Tajikistan, a workshop was conducted “Development of projects on operational analysis” for TB specialists of the country.

The purpose of the workshop was to train participants on the methodology of conducting operational research in order to improve TB control processes in Tajikistan. Specialists from RTBC and City TB Center, pulmonologists of medical university departments and TB specialists from TB departments took part in the workshop. The workshop was conducted by Saskia den Boon, an international health consultant from the KNCV tuberculosis foundation.

By the end of the workshop, the participants had gained skills in the theoretical and practical aspects of operational research, and designing the protocols of scientific operational research.

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STUDY VISIT ON COMMUNITY BASED MDR-TB MANAGEMENT

1 - 7 May 2011 - National Specialists of the National TB Control Program had a best practice study tour of Karachi, Pakistan. The tour was organized with financial support from UNDP HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control Programme in Tajikistan and Project Hope.

The purpose of the event was to demonstrate to national specialists, best practice on MDR-TB management programme at a community level. In the future, this model will be used for the implementation of community based MDR-TB in Tajikistan. During the educational event, participants had an opportunity to visit the outpatient and inpatient facilities of Pakistan and learn the management skills of MDR-TB patients’ control through their communities.

The Pakistani model also included an electronic monitoring system for volunteers work. Every volunteer, after each visit to a TB and MDR-TB patient, enters data on the pills taken by patients into an electronic database.

Information: Karachi started its experience in treating patients with MDR-TB through their communities in 2007 through the support of Indus Hospital, which began piloting the program in some areas of the city. Currently more than 400 MDR-TB patients have been reached, who are receiving the treatment through their communities, which is a great achievement.

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INFECTION CONTROL COURSES FOR TB SPECIALIST

21 April - 19 May and 16 - 18 May 2011 - With the support of UNDP HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control Programme in Tajikistan, two infection control trainings were conducted at the RTBC offices for professional and epidemiologists from district TB control institutions of Tajikistan.

The purpose of the training was to increase the knowledge of specialists on infection control. The training was conducted by national trainers and UNDP specialists. By the end of the workshop, the participants had clear information on administrative control measures, the environment control and individual protecting measures. Also participants were made familiar with national plans for infection control. Based on this plan, further plans will be developed for infection control at the regional level.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR MALARIA TRANSMISSION INTERRUPTION IN TAJIKISTAN

3 - 7 May 2011 - The Republican Tropical Diseases Centre (RTDC) with the financial support of UNDP HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control Programme in Tajikistan, conducted the training “Implementation of the National Programme for interruption of malaria transmission in Tajikistan for 2011-2015 in practice.”

The purpose of the training was to familiarize the managers of tropical disease centers with the goals of the National Programme for the interruption of malaria transmission in Tajikistan for 2011-2015, and its further implementation at the national level.

20 managers from tropical diseases centers in the Soghd region, GBAO, RRS and Dushanbe took part in the workshop.Training was held by national specialists of Dushanbe Republican Centre for Tropical Diseases: Professor Rafiev K, doctor of medical sciences; Sherkhonov T, Deputy Director of RCTD; Kadanova D, Head of the Entomology Department of RCTD; and Saomutdinov T, Head of the center’s Prevention and Treatment Department. From 10 to 14 May 2011, a similar training was held in Kurgan-Tube, involving managers of Khatlon Region tropical diseases control centers.

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