

UNDP PROMOTES INTEGRATION OF EFFORTS FOR MASS MEDIA IN TB CONTROL

March 19, 2010

Dushanbe



Today the press conference on Integrating Efforts to Control Tuberculosis in Tajikistan was held in Merkuriy Hotel. Mr. Sohbnazar Rahmonov, Deputy Health Minister, Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Country Director, Mr. Jeffry Lehrer, USAID, Mr. Saleban Omar, Manager of UNDP HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Programme and Mr. Alexei Korobytsin, Project HOPE TB Program Manager

responded to numerous questions of the mass media.

The Press-Conference on covering TB and TB/HIV prevention issues in media of Tajikistan was conducted as part of the two-day training for journalists with financial support of UNDP and USAID and devoted to celebration of March 24 - World TB Day.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky mentioned that owing to contribution of international donors, particularly the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (TB grants with total amount of 40 mln USD), the country successfully implements the National TB Control Programme with its TB National Reference Laboratory set functional and MDR-TB Pilot Project successfully working. In the meantime, detection of TB/HIV co-infection cases has been started, and TB patients actively detected in the penitentiary sector. The programme also enabled to rehabilitate more than 80 TB facilities. However, despite the sufficient progress, certain gaps, which impede successful implementation of the National TB Program, are obvious. Among these, Mr. Vrbensky highlighted the shortage of qualified human resources and the lack of state funding on TB control.

In the course of the workshop, participants received information on TB epidemiology in the country and methods to prevent and control the disease in the country for further professional interpretation of the problem in press.

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