



A new TB control project is being implemented in Tajikistan

In May of this year in Tajikistan was initiated a project for "Assistance in reducing the burden of tuberculosis in the Republic of Tajikistan", which aims to improve the access of vulnerable groups (labor migrants and their families) to diagnostics, adherence to treatment and patient support.

The Global Fund as a donor of this project, implemented by the Grant Implementation group under the Republican Center for the Protection of the Population from Tuberculosis (RCZNT). International organization of Project HOPE, as a sub-recipient of the grant, is responsible for the successful implementation of two important components of the project: the Small Grants program in order to attract non-governmental organizations and Incentives for patients with DR-TB.

«The Small Grants program has two areas: grants for innovative approaches to supporting adherence to treatment and grants to support various community-based activities to improve access to appropriate tuberculosis control services for migrants and their families. Information and educational activities on TB, MDR-TB, and TB / HIV among risk groups (labor migrants and members of their families) involving communities are also planned", explains the project manager Artur Niyazov.

The distribution of small grants to non-governmental organizations was carried out on a competitive basis. Eight grants for innovative approaches in support of adherence to treatment will be aimed at supporting patients in the community during outpatient treatment, where special attention will be focused on DR-TB cases. Another 4 grants aimed at increasing the detection of TB cases will support various community-based activities to improve access to appropriate tuberculosis control services for migrants and their families.

The commission has already selected the winners: 8 public organizations were selected in implementation of 12 small grants in 25 districts with the most prevalence to DR-TB. Representatives of public organizations underwent additional training and from August 1 has begun to work. In particular, meetings held with the heads of TB centers and responsible local officials "Hukumats", field training with the participation of social workers, representatives of local TB services, primary health care (family doctors).

As for the incentives component, this activity is envisaged to increase adherence to the treatment of patients with MDR / XDR-TB. In order to be included in the motivation program, TB patients should be registered in TB03U, sign an agreement that incentives are provided to ensure adherence to treatment and are aimed at the successful completion of the full course of treatment. It is expected that until March 2019, approximately 818 M / XDR patients (approximately 203 M / XDR TB patients per quarter) will be included in the program and will receive incentives.

The project "Assistance in reducing the burden of tuberculosis in the Republic of Tajikistan" will continue until March 2019. "Although this is a small, but very important project. As a result of the project, it is expected that with the joint efforts and use of innovative approaches will greatly improve access to diagnostic services and identify more cases of TB" said Artur Niyazov.