About STOP TB Partnership Tajikistan

The civil society organization, Young Generation of Tajikistan, started working in TB in 2013. Through a stakeholder analysis of TB organizations, gaps between the work of health workers and civil society were identified. The needs of patients were not always known to health care workers and other key decision-makers. To bridge this gap it was felt that there was a critical need for someone or a group to lead in this process. The seriousness of TB, especially multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB in the Republic of Tajikistan requires a joint, multi-stakeholder effort and collaboration to meet the full spectrum of needs of TB patients. As a result TB activists from Young Generation of Tajikistan initiated the creation and development of the STOP TB Partnership Tajikistan – we are a coalition of people affected by TB and organizations involved in the fight against TB.

TB in Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a high burden TB country. Approximately 5,000 people develop TB each year. 20% have MDR-TB. Every single person detected with TB is enrolled on treatment. There were 5,242 people living with HIV in the country in 2014. In the same year, an estimated 156 people living with HIV developed TB. Countrywide, about 75% of all the TB cases occur among the poor and those of considered to be of productive age (from 15 to 54).
Challenges faced by communities in Tajikistan in the TB response

The poverty rate in the rural districts of the country where a majority of the population inhabit is higher than in urban settings. Due to geographical barriers, many communities continue to be cut off from larger urban centers especially during Winter.

The Russian Federation is the usual destination of seasonal Tajik workers, who leave in Spring and return in Autumn. Among the “missing” TB cases are those who go to Russia in search of work. Some will revert to self- or incomplete or default treatment. Due to stigma and a lack of knowledge about TB, returning migrants with TB symptoms do not always visit a doctor until their health deteriorates, which leaves their family members at risk of infection.

Furthermore treatment transfer from correctional facilities to civilian hospitals is another area that needs improvement. Sometimes patients are not registered in their area of residence, which results in treatment interruption. Stigma remains dominant and a constant background barrier to all TB control efforts.

The Challenge Facility for Civil Society in Tajikistan

Stop TB Partnership Tajikistan aims to realize two main objectives working towards ending TB by strengthening and sustaining the existing national level TB constituency, and by estimating the size of key affected population and mapping to identify their needs and ensure their participation in the TB response.

With the support of the Stop TB Partnership’s Challenge Facility for Civil Society, the Stop TB Partnership, Tajikistan will build recognized civil society and community networks that represent, support and are accountable to communities and who can partner with one another and successfully engage in national tuberculosis responses.

The Challenge Facility for Civil Society Grant in Tajikistan will be implemented in two phases:

- **Phase I**: The Stop TB Partnership, Tajikistan will undertake a resource mapping exercise to identify existing resources, coverage gaps, and perspectives of stakeholders about the quality of existing services.
- **Phase II**: The Stop TB Partnership, Tajikistan will collaborate with existing resources to identify key TB-related issues to bring to the national level, develop plans to fill the coverage gaps, and reassess the perspectives of the stakeholders about the quality of the newly developed network.

Get involved

If you are a community or civil society organization or patient group (those working on TB or interested in working on TB) in Tajikistan and want to engage in the Challenge Facility for Civil Society work in Tajikistan please contact:

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For more information about Stop TB Partnership Tajikistan, please visit the [Stop TB Partnership Tajikistan Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/stoptb.org)