



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## SUCCESS STORY

# Strengthening Institutional and Human Capacity for Improved TB Diagnostics and Care in Tajikistan

### **USAID supports implementation of patient centered models of TB care in the Rasht District**



[Insert Photo Credit]

*Dr. Qudratullo Qodirov makes a home visit to a patient and her family*

*“There is no longer the need for patients to have to travel to Dushanbe for TB care. At our TB center we have the capacity to successfully manage their treatment from early diagnosis to complete cure.”*

Dr. Qudratullo Qodirov

When in 2012, merely one year after graduating with a medical degree, Dr. Qudratullo Qodirov was offered a position of the head of a TB center in the Rasht District, some 200 kilometers from Tajikistan’s capital city of Dushanbe, he was reluctant to accept the offer. “I was hesitant to take the job because the TB center was in terrible condition with only two staff members working in two small, unheated, and badly equipped rooms,” he remembers.

However, Dr. Qodirov’s enthusiasm, commitment, and excellent leadership and advocacy skills, coupled with support from local authorities, mosques and the USAID TB Control Program have propelled the TB center to become an exceptional TB diagnostic and treatment facility focused on patient-centered models of care.

“The first thing I had to do was to improve the center’s TB diagnostic capacity, find qualified staff, and get funding for TB prevention and control,” recalls Dr. Qodirov. Thanks to the assistance and guidance from the USAID TB Control Program and through advocacy with khukumats (local authorities), in 2013, the TB control funding from the district budget increased by 20%. The young doctor was able to hire nine additional staff members, including lab technicians, and renovate the TB facility with best infection control practices in mind.

Local authorities and religious leaders were also instrumental in not only providing the funding for the TB center but also advocating in their communities about the importance of TB prevention, detection, and care. Moreover, khukumats provided with tax and electricity cost exemptions, food, cash transfers, and assistance with transportation costs to more than 200 TB and MDR-TB patients-in-need in the district.

Furthermore, the USAID TB Control Program with international and national partners generated further opportunities to build and strengthen the capacity of Dr. Qodirov’s TB center by supplying GeneXpert technology for speedy and accurate TB diagnosis for early and appropriate initiation of TB treatment, and regular staff training and mentoring.

These collaborative efforts facilitated with the support of the USAID TB Control Program have resulted in significantly improved TB case detection and treatment outcomes in the district.

“There is no longer a need for patients to go to Dushanbe for TB care. At our TB center, we have the capacity to successfully manage their treatment from early diagnosis to complete cure. Today, more than 80 TB and drug resistant (DR) patients are receiving treatment at our TB clinic. Two years ago we were able to provide this support to only 35 TB patients” proudly declares Dr. Qodirov. In March 2016, the TB center diagnosed and immediately enrolled in treatment 12 patients with confirmed TB.

In addition to the Rasht District, establishment of linkages facilitated by the USAID TB Control Program where healthcare providers, community and patients work together for improved TB treatment outcomes will be expanded jointly with international and national partners to Tajikistan’s remaining seven districts.