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SUCCESS STORY

USAID ensures continued rapid TB testing in Uzbekistan

GeneXpert is a revolutionary testing allowing tuberculosis test results in 90 minutes.



USAID TB Control Program

Dr. Kahramon and the GeneXpert machine he recently repaired to maintain uninterrupted access to rapid TB testing in Navoi region, Uzbekistan

“It is very important that USAID training delivers practical knowledge to laboratories,” says Dr. Kahramon, “Before, we waited for a reply and a site visit from the National Reference Laboratory for weeks, and now that I can take care of it myself, 12 new patients daily will know their TB test result.”

In October 2015, Dr. Otamurodov Kahramon, head of the tuberculosis (TB) laboratory from the Navoi region in Uzbekistan, encountered a malfunction in one of four GeneXpert machines supplied by USAID in July 2014.

GeneXpert machines accurately and reliably identify TB and multi-drug resistant TB in less than two hours, allowing patients to begin their treatment on the same day, drastically improving treatment outcomes for patients with drug resistant tuberculosis, and preventing transmission of TB and multi-drug resistant TB.

Dr. Kahramon is one of 12 laboratory specialists trained by the USAID TB Control Program to provide maintenance on the GeneXpert machines. Before the training, it could take weeks for a machine to be repaired, as the laboratories had to put in a request for maintenance to the National Reference Laboratory in Tashkent and wait for a technician to be available for an on-site visit to fix the machine. In the meantime, 12 patients a day waited for their test results.

By applying new knowledge and skills provided by USAID, Dr. Kahramon was able to immediately fix the machine in his laboratory and proceed with testing the rest of the samples the same day. USAID is continuing to support Dr. Kahramon as he shares his knowledge and experience with his colleagues as a trainer.

As part of USAID's continued commitment in support of the Government of Uzbekistan's efforts to reduce the burden of tuberculosis, the USAID TB Control Program will continue to ensure optimal use of the GeneXpert machines to rapidly, accurately, and reliably diagnose TB and drug-resistant TB.