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SUCCESS STORY

Keeping patients and health care workers safe while treating TB patients in Uzbekistan

Infection control addresses the spread of tuberculosis within the healthcare settings



Nilufar Abdieva, USAID TB Control Program

Dr. Radjabova conducts on-the-job supervision on the use of UV-C meters for UV lamps in Bukhara region in Uzbekistan

“People who work or receive care in TB facilities are at higher risk for becoming infected with TB,” says Dr. Gulnara, “therefore, it is necessary not only to implement proper prevention measures, but also to monitor them. USAID supports our on-the-job supervision, which is very effective in correcting systematic errors.”

In Uzbekistan, Dr. Gulnara Radjabova heads the epidemiologic department of the National Centre of the Sanitary Epidemiological Control, a government agency dedicated to improving the safety and well-being of patients and health care workers, where a crucial focus of her daily routine is infection control in health care settings regarding tuberculosis (TB).

Dr. Radjabova participated in an USAID-supported study tour in the United States to observe infection control practices in hospitals and prisons according to World Health Organization standards and is applying those standards in the Bukhara and Khorezm regions of Uzbekistan.

The USAID TB Control Program supports Dr. Radjabova in assessing infection control practices in TB facilities and providing on-the-job support to health care workers and managers to practice good infection control measures like correctly using respiratory protection equipment, using UV-C meters for timely replacement of UV lamps, and improving disinfection.

These visits have even lead to changes in construction and renovation of buildings to comply with TB National Guidelines on Infection Control. In Bukhara, a new hospital was designed to physically separate potentially infectious TB patients from other patients. In Khorezm, the visits resulted in renovation of a TB facility.

USAID has effectively established collaboration between TB facilities and the Sanitary Control. Under the USAID TB Control Program, this initiative continues to deliver on-the-job training and supervision to TB doctors in Uzbekistan to reduce TB transmission from patient to patient and from patients to doctors, making health care safer for all.