

The Global Fund contributes to improving the quality of life of HIV-positive women in Tajikistan.

"HIV-positive women primarily need psychological and social support. Usually the relatives of husband and the parents of HIV-positive women kick them out of the house, once they got to know about their HIV status. Cooperation efforts with the public services we provide women with demanded social and legal services in crisis situations"- says Takhmina Khaydarov, the head of the "Tajik network of women living with HIV ":

Stories of women

HIV positive Kurbonbi, 34-year-old young woman, after divorcing her husband, left without support, without job and house and had to return with her five-year son to her parents' house, where nobody was waiting for her. Her relatives did not know about her HIV status.



On picture: Takhmina Khaydarova

Difficult situation, the fear of dying from HIV and leaving the child as an orphan forced Kurbonbi to ask social workers to find her HIV –positive man as herself and to get married with him.

Coming back home was another test for Kurbonbi. She had a hard time because of the constant conflicts with her relatives who did not need dependents. She hid receiving the ARV because she was afraid that the family get to know of her HIV-positive status and will kick her out of the house. Hiding the treatment and taking the medicines Kurbonbi do not take them in time disrupting her treatment. And regular visits for getting medication at AIDS center was another stress for her.

During a visit to the AIDS center Kurbonbi met with the consultant of "Tajik network of women living with HIV" and told her about her problems of living with HIV. Consultant invited Kurbonbi to their organization, where they discussed the issues of adherence to

ART and provided her with legal advised.

Social workers continuing to provide support for treatment adherence; found an HIV-positive man, who responded to the request of Kurbonbi. It turns out that he also wanted to start a family with HIV-positive woman, but was afraid to talk about it to anyone. Young people met each other and at the first meeting realized that they could trust to each other. After a while they got married

With the help of consultants and social workers in the life of Kurbonbi appeared a man who supports her and her child. Now they live separately from Kurbonbi's relatives. Kurbonbi is happy to take ARV without fear and grateful for that meeting, when an employee of the organization handed her a helping hand. Kurbonbi began to attend self-help group and is always ready to help others.

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"Before, it was difficult to me to fight for life. There was no one whom I could trust, and there was not strong shoulder to rely. Meeting with women with the same problems as me, I found a loving man and start a family. I am very happy"- says Kurbonbi.