



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

TAJIKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

USAID PROJECT HELPS TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF HIV POSITIVE CONVICTS IN TAJIKISTAN

I am sure that life keeps on and I will live!



Photo: Idimat after a release.

As part of the HIV PREVENTION PROJECT financed by USAID, convicts in two prisons of Khatlon Region in Tajikistan were trained on HIV prevention. In addition, convicts were offered a voluntary HIV pre-test counseling and further express tests.

Idimat, as many other convicts in Yavan prison, also could take part in the HIV training. Having interested with the information received, after training, Idimat expressed his will to get HIV counseling and express tests. Given that the outcome of his express test was positive, he was offered to make a blood test for a detailed examination. Further tests have confirmed that Idimat had HIV.

During the post-test counseling, Idimat calmly accepted his HIV-positive status since he understood very well that this was the result of the injecting drug use before imprisonment.

Few months before his release, Idimat agreed to participate in the START Plus program that provides multidimensional support to convicts to be released during the transition period, before and after their release.

After release in February 2016, Idimat was supported with the registration in the AIDS center at the place of his residence. He was prescribed AR therapy.

“Thanks to this project, I’ve learned about my HIV status. When I found out my HIV status, my life stopped for me. But, due to the moral support and advice of the social workers from the project, I realized that it is possible to live with HIV for a long time and accepted my status. While receiving the necessary treatment now, I am sure that life



Idimat (to the left) receives consultation from the project social worker (to the right)

keeps on and I will live!”- writes Idimat in his letter of gratitude to the project staff.

Presently, Idimat continues to take part in START plus program and receives support from social workers. He was provided support in receiving all necessary medical examinations before the treatment. The lawyer provided Idimat with the legal support for submission of application for unemployment allowance and discussed employment opportunities.

PO “AIDS FOUNDATION EAST WEST- TAJIKISTAN” is the executive partner for the “HIV prevention project” implemented in Khatlon Region of Tajikistan with financial support of USAID.

Due to this project, 927 convicts of two prisons were tests for HIV before and after release and as a result 10 new, 29 previously registered HIV cases were revealed/confirmed.