



# Assessment of the Legislation and Drug Policy in Tajikistan

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## The goal of assessment

- To identify problems/gaps in current legislation of RT in terms of PUDs right on health as well as ways of improving of regulatory legal acts in this area.

## Rationale

- Injecting Drug Use was the main driving force of HIV epidemic in Tajikistan during more than ten years.
- Current legislation, procedures and practices often leads to discrimination of people with drug dependence and might make barriers for preventing programs/activities. It warrants analysis and developing recommendations for their improving.

# Methodology

- The current Regulatory Legal Acts of the Republic of Tajikistan were explored
- The reports of earlier surveys in this area were studied
- The latest steps toward Drug Policy changes were analysed
- Consultations with the representatives of Governmental (MoH, DCA) and Non-Governmental Organizations were conducted

## Findings

- Discrepancies in legislative statements
- Barriers for PUDs to access health and other services
- Terminology problems
- Limits on rights and discrimination on grounds of using drugs
- Shortcoming of mechanisms and procedures of legislation implementation

## Recommendations

- Unify the Laws terminology according with International standards.
- Develop the Law on Alternative treatment of dependence instead of the Law on Compulsory treatment.
- Remove any statements discriminating people on grounds of using drugs.
- Remove all statements on compulsory medical measures towards drug dependent people.
- Remove statements on dispensary observation of drug dependent people.
- Add to legislation statements giving legal basement for realization of HIV preventing Programs for PUDs.

## Outcomes

- Findings and recommendations were presented to the Drug Control Agency under the President of the RT
- The working group was developed to review the results of Assessment
- The Ministry of Health and Social Protection is developing the new clinical protocols of drug treatment containing OST and detoxification with opioid analgetics
- PUDs were included into At-risk population according with new version of the law “On the counteraction against AIDS in Tajikistan”.



## Prospects/Opportunities

- During the Hi-level Conference on Drug issues in Dushanbe on May 27-th, 2015 the aspect of Drug Policy enhancement was discussed. Director of the DCA declared the readiness toward the dialogue with the Civil Society in this issue.
- The recommendations of Assessment are taking into account in the process of development of:
  - The National Plan on Advocacy for diversification and sustained funding of Harm Reduction Programs for the period of 2016-2018yy.
  - The National Program on the counteraction against HIV epidemic in Tajikistan for the period of 2016-2020yy.

**Thank you for attention!**

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