Drug Abuse and Drug Dependence Treatment Situation

According to annual statistical data for the year 2008:

- The total number of registered drug users in the country made 20,111 persons (women make 4.7%)
- Heroin users made 13,732 persons, then follow 3,668 hashish users, 1,848 opium users,
- 181 marijuana users and others
- Quantity of drug users from rural areas made 46.6%
- Injecting drug users (IDUs) made about 46.5%
The total number of treated patients was 5,842 in Uzbekistan (16.3% got outpatient treatment and 82.9% got inpatient treatment), including 775 persons who got mandatory treatment. The ratio of patients who got outpatient treatment (in 2008 - 16.3% and 16.5% in 2007) and inpatient treatment (in 2008 - 82.7% and in 2007 - 82.9%) is almost the same. The number of patients who got day-time inpatient treatment is slightly increased - 1% (0.6% in 2007). 3,452 persons were first-time patients. The majority of them were opium users.

Specialized drug treatment institutions, which provide treatment services for drug users:

- Republic rehabilitation centre
- 17 drug dispensaries (13 of them have inpatient treatment)
- 3 rehabilitation clinics
- 12 drug departments in psychiatric hospitals

The total number of beds available for drug dependence treatment was 1,718 (including 704 for mandatory treatment). Drug treatment rooms are available in every rural region under the central regions polyclinics. Confidential help lines providing consultation are available in all regions of Uzbekistan.

The following drug treatment services are available in urban areas:

- mental healthcare services
- specialized drug treatment facilities (inpatient and outpatient treatment)
- psychiatric hospitals
- prisons
The following drug treatment services are available in rural areas:

- primary health care services
- outpatient treatment at specialized drug treatment facilities

Municipalities in Uzbekistan provide funding for the abovementioned organizations, excluding prisons. The Ministry of Health invests money in psychiatric hospitals and specialized drug treatment facilities which provide inpatient and outpatient treatment as well as mental healthcare services.

Primary health care services in Uzbekistan provide HIV testing and counseling as well as HCV testing. Mental healthcare services and psychiatric hospitals suggest referral for specialized services, counseling and HIV testing and counseling. Social welfare services in Uzbekistan include vocational training and job placements.

Psychiatrists and nurses in Uzbekistan provide primary health care and mental healthcare services, as well as services at specialized drug treatment facilities and psychiatric hospitals. Psychologists provide the same list of services as psychiatrists and nurses, but except primary health care services. However outreach workers and peers provide primary health care services in Uzbekistan.

In the course of the year 2008 20 patients in Uzbekistan died from using drugs. The majority of them were males.

HIV/AIDS Situation

According to annual statistical data for the year 2008:

- Cumulative number of HIV cases made 15 831 persons (3 134 among them were females).
- 7,373 of them were IDUs
- 3,404 new HIV cases were registered in 2008 (2 039 males and 1 365 females)
- 10,179 persons were HIV tested in drug treatment facilities of the country.

HIV prevention, treatment and care services for injecting and other drug users in Uzbekistan:

- needle and syringe exchange programs;
- HIV testing and counseling;
- antiretroviral therapy;
- prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections;
- condom programs for injecting and other drug users and their sexual partners;
- targeted information; education and communication for injecting and other drug users and their sexual partners;
- prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis;
- referral for drug dependence treatment;
- referral for other medical and social services
Training of Trainers

At the moment there is no elaborate training program for medical staff on the issue of drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation. However, medical staff and social workers can enrol for courses dealing with drug dependence and related issues, even though there is no distinct information about the duration of these programs. General practitioners, physicians and psychiatrists can obtain training at special institutions for advanced studies. The same applies to psychologists at Universities or pedagogical institutions and to nurses at medical colleges. In any case, the training includes drug screening and short-term intervention. Physicians and psychiatrists are furthermore entitled to prescribe psychoactive substances and to practice modern methods of detoxification. As for the assessment of patients, psychiatrists and psychologists make use of the Addiction Severity Index, as suggested by the Treanet training package. Training on psychological skills aims at the counteraction of stigma and discrimination, deals with the Emotional Burnout Syndrome and puts an emphasis on family counselling.

National Counterparts

- Ministry of Health
- National Information and Analysis Centre on Drug Control
- Institute for Advanced Studies
- Tashkent City Drug Dispensary
- Republic Rehabilitation Centre

Treatment Centre Details

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UN System

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