



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

TAJIKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

USAID HELPS TO RESTORE THE FAITH INTO FUTURE



Murod Gurgaliev (client of the START Plus program) and Kurbongul Alimova (project social worker)

7 786 citizens of Tajikistan are in prisons of Russia. Murod Gurgaliev, a native of Khatlon Region has founded to be in one of the Russian prisons. While staying in prison, Murod has continued to get drugs. After release, Murod came back to his native country – Tajikistan, where he started to face only difficulties and challenges. Relative have not communicate with Murod, he had no permanent place to live, work, family and children. Murod was in desperate situation. Once, while buying another doze of drugs, Murod has learned about organization that supports former prisoners. He made up his mind to ask for assistance.

With support of the HIV React Project, financed by USAID Tajikistan, Murod could get free medical examination and started to get methadone substitute service program. With support of the project lawyer, Murod could restore his national passport. After all these positive changes in his life, Murod's relatives, who have previously ignored him, started to communicate with him. Murode

returned to his family.

«When I came back from Russia, I could not believe that I would be able to live in Tajikistan. Family did not accept me and did not communicate with me. No one was waiting for me here and I felt like I would bring no good to anyone. Due to this USAID HIV React Project and its staff, I got new friends, who are always here to help and I got back my faith in kindness and responsiveness. I am very grateful to them that I could get back my family again» – says Murod.

Only from September 2014 to March 31st, 2016 the HIV React project funded by USAID provided support to 36 former prisoners from Khatlon Region of Tajikistan with social adaptation after release. Two HIV positive prisoners have received a medical examination and continued their treatment after the release. With support of USAID HIV React Project, 100% of released prisoners of this region receive information support, voluntary counseling and HIV testing and if needed, social assistance after release from detention institution.