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Joint UNHCR and UNFPA mission with the Charge d’Affairs of the Embassy of Japan in Turkmenistan under the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security Project

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 30 May 2008 – From 14 May to 16 May 2008 a joint UNHCR and UNFPA mission with the Charge d’Affairs of the Embassy of Japan in Turkmenistan took place in Lebap province to make the assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security Project. The mission consisted of Ms. Annika Linden, UNHCR Representative, Mr. Shigehiro Mimori, Charge d’Affairs of the Embassy of Japan in Turkmenistan, Ms. Jennet Appova, UNFPA Assistant Representative/ Officer-in-Charge and other UNHCR and UNFPA staff including the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security Project staff in Ashgabat and Turkmenabat.

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The activities of the UNHCR part of the Project in Lebap province are being implemented through involvement of Women’s Union of Lebap Velayat (province), one of the Project Implementing Partners, in close coordination with MFA of Turkmenistan and local authorities.

The mission visited state vocational school in t. Atamurat where former refugees/new citizens are currently enrolled for the vocational training to get the occupations of tailors, seamstresses and tractor operators.



Vocational school in town Atamurat



Upon completion of the training the graduates will practice their vocational skills in their settlements where sewing and welding workshops were constructed under the Project.

Several welding and sewing brand new constructed workshops in the remote and dispersed settlements were visited where former refugees/new citizens apply their recently acquired skills to cover life needs as well as to support their families.

Mr. S.Mimori, Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Turkmenistan, with a spouse watching the work of a seamstress at a sewing workshop in Taze Durmush

The newly constructed workshops consist of two rooms equipped with sewing machines for girls and second room - for men with various kinds of machinery equipment: electro and gas welding apparatus, instruments for carpenters, car mending keys sets, metal turnery instruments and etc.

Ms. Annika Linden, UNHCR Representative, Ms.L.Mimori and Mr. S.Mimori, Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Turkmenistan, at the car repair workshop in Denau



In autumn 2007 over 80 students completed vocational trainings in dress making, motor mechanics and electro/gas welding in the framework of the Project at Atamourat town lyceum. Now the graduates are involved in business at the workshops located in former refugee/new citizens settlements of Lebap province - women make school dresses, different dress embroidery and men repair the cars, make agricultural tools and repair of other home utilities.

The mission at the Taze Yurt adolescents' centre



“Taze Yurt” adolescents’ centre is one out of 15 adolescents’ centres opened, fully equipped and furnished under UNTFHS project by UNFPA in Lebap province in 2007. All repair work to prepare premises for opening adolescents’ centres were covered at the expense of the Government of Turkmenistan as in-kind contribution. Every month 15 adolescents gain knowledge on adolescents’ reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention, hygiene and nutrition and family-life education. The centre is led by Ms. Ereshova, a feldsher of “Taze Yurt” Health House trained by UNFPA master trainers within the frameworks of the UNHSF project in 2007. In 2008, it is planned to have 180 adolescents gained knowledge on reproductive health, hygiene, prevention of unplanned pregnancies, of abortions, HIV/AIDS prevention and healthy nutrition, which will be added to 120 adolescents trained in 2007 in this settlement.

Also, each centre includes separate premise with equipment supplied under the UNHSF project to train adolescents on computer literacy. Every month 2 graduates of the secondary school are trained on computer literacy carried out by certified trainer Ms. Eresheva. This training course provides not only opportunities for youth to have skills and knowledge on accessing the global information resources but also opportunities to be enrolled into Higher Educational Establishments which then improve their career perspectives. Nowadays, one of recruitment requirements in any state or private organizations in our country is applicants’ computer literacy.

Ms. Jennet Appova, UNFPA Assistant Representative/Officer-in-Charge, explains how the centre functions



The centre in Seidi central hospital allows to train 30 adolescents per month splitted into 2 groups: one group is studying courses on adolescents’ reproductive health and another one simultaneously is developing practical skills and gaining theoretical knowledge on healthy nutrition to prevent anemia. The trainings are carried out with application of interactive methods of teaching with further broadcasting of films developed jointly by “Health” studio under the Ministry of health and medical industry of Turkmenistan and

UNFPA to make the course very informative and enjoyable. In 2008 under these training courses, 360 adolescents will increase their knowledge on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention, hygiene, prevention of unplanned pregnancy and its complications, anatomical-physiological issues

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during pubertal period of young people and modern contraceptive means. Gained knowledge helps adolescents prepare for healthy life in the future.

The centre is functioning under the leadership of Ms. Orunova, the central hospital's family physician and Ms. Saidova, a head of UNFPA Reproductive Health centre.

In addition to increasing healthy life skills of adolescents, the training courses to strengthen the capacity of healthcare providers particularly family physicians and nurses, gynecologists and obstetricians were carried out in 2007. During these training courses health care providers improved considerably their theoretical and practical skills in reproductive health counseling, selection of methods of contraceptives and its precautions considering fertile age and health state. Improved quality of medical services rendered in RH area raised access not only to services of local population and new citizens but also to information on RH issues at all levels of health services (Health Houses, Etrap hospitals, reproductive health centres, Central velayat hospitals of mother and child care). Knowledge of medical personnel on HIV/AIDS and STI prevention were also improved by helping adolescents, refugees, and other vulnerable groups to increase their awareness. These courses will be continued throughout 2008.

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Secondary school №23 of Hojambaz etrap, UNFPA

The population of Hojambaz etrap is 57701 people out of which about 752 are ethnic Turkmen new citizens fled from Tajikistan. The settlement has 4488 adolescents and the adolescents' centre was opened and fully equipped under UNTFHS project by UNFPA at the premises of the secondary school №23.

Computer class at school #23



Reproductive Health Centre at school #23



The centre was fully equipped for conducting computer literacy training course (left side picture) and trainings on adolescents reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and STI prevention,

breast feeding, healthy life skills and healthy nutrition (right side picture). This year 360 adolescents will be enrolled in training courses on healthy life style and reproductive health area, and 24 on computer literacy. Taking into account that investing in young people's health, education and skills development was made through introduction of life-skills education lessons (extra curricula) at the secondary schools, the centre is led by Ms. Polatova, head of etrap reproductive health centre and Ms. Charyyeva, a biology



Computer class at Nowruz Pagtachi

teacher, certified master trainer in family life education.

Mr. Shigehiro Mimori from the Embassy of Japan in Turkmenistan and other members of the mission visited the computer literacy training course at the “Nowruz Pagtachi” adolescents’ centre organized under UNTFHS project by UNFPA. This training course is carried out by certified master trainer

The Head of the Health House in Nowruz Pagtachi is Mr.Saidov who took special training in Reproductive Health as well as in HIV/AIDS. He is a certified trainer and enriched his teaching skills during the training of master-trainers conducted under UNTFHS project in collaboration with UNFPA and UNDP “InfoTuk” project. In 2008 it is planned that 24 adolescents especially of 9 -10 forms of the secondary schools of this settlement will enjoy their computer knowledge and skills.

The Trust Fund for Human Security was established in the United Nations Secretariat in March 1999 on the initiative of the Government of Japan. Since then, total contributions have reached approximately 31.5 billion yen (US\$ 279.7 million). The Trust Fund has supported more than 160 projects from UN agencies, each one addressing various threats to human life, livelihood and dignity, from the perspective of human security.

The joint UNHCR and UNFPA Project funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security “Improvement of the quality of social services and infrastructure and reproductive health for refugees and host communities” is implemented by the UN agencies and the Government of Turkmenistan. The agencies are working on the enhancement of the quality of reproductive health and better access to social services for new citizens, refugees and host communities through improved infrastructure, developing their skills and implementing up-to-date reproductive health protocols mainly relating to construction of boreholes and purifying water systems, rehabilitation of roads and rehabilitation/construction of Medical aid posts, as well as establishment of Vocational Training Workshops and conduction of Reproductive Health trainings.

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