



This press release is issued by UNHCR and UNFPA, Turkmenistan, under the joint project funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

Gender and HIV/AIDS seminars in Mary province under the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security Project

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 12 November 2007 –A series of interactive gender and HIV/AIDS prevention seminars under the UNHSTF Project successfully continued in Mary province from 9 November to 10 November 2007. Informative and interesting trainings were arranged in the settlements where former refugees and new citizens of Turkmenistan reside. Besides, the seminars were also conducted for the representatives of local authorities and medical staff involved in dealing with former refugee issues.

The seminars were fully supported by the Turkmen Government with assistance extended by MFA and local authorities.

The trainings were facilitated by qualified national experts from NGO Keik Okara and provided a good opportunity for over 60 participants to increase public awareness on gender issues and HIV/AIDS prevention.

The trainers covered different areas related to violence by sex and gender principles; various national and international laws were mentioned and explained to protect human rights with the focus on rights of women and children, and HIV/AIDS prevention in a very professional and practical to life way.

The participants worked in small groups; they were actively involved in situational and role games. A video film on the subject under the seminar was demonstrated.



The participants revealed deep interest and desire to learn and attend such kind of seminars in future to be aware of SGBV and HIV/AIDS issues to minimize the risks and tackle the problems.

The seminars facilitated increase of public awareness on gender issues and HIV/AIDS prevention along with the international Conventions and national Laws of Turkmenistan (Constitution of Turkmenistan, Labour Code of Turkmenistan, Criminal Code etc) with

reference to protection of women and children and their rights.

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**“Medical documentation maintenance by family doctors and nurses
in antenatal and postnatal periods” training for family doctors and nurses
organised in Mary and Lebap velayats**

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 19 November, 2007 – A series of three-day training-seminars on “Medical documentation maintenance by family physicians and nurses in antenatal and postnatal periods” started early November in Mary and Lebap velayats. The seminars hosted family physicians, nurses and medical assistants who are employed at the hospitals and health houses of Magdanly, Seydi towns, Beyik Turkmenbashy, Atamyrat, Hojambaz and Koytendag etraps of Lebap velayat as well as Oguzhan, Vekilbazar and Garagum etraps of Mary velayat, which are the settlements of new citizens, refugees and host communities.

The trainings were facilitated by certified UNFPA master trainers who applied different techniques of interactive methods of teaching.

Participants increased their knowledge on the basic aspects of the family principles of new citizens and rural population medical care. They will benefit by this in their day-to-day activity, particularly within health houses. Participants also enriched their knowledge on keeping medical documentation related to antenatal and postnatal observation and the rules of documenting maternity leave to pregnant women.



For the period of 21 November up to 5 December 2007, three seminar trainings more are planned to be conducted in each velayat. As a result, other 90 medical providers will obtain valuable knowledge and skills that will certainly raise their competence that, in turn, will positively affect the quality of medical care in the velayats.



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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 UNFPA/UNHCR Project funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security “Improvement of the quality of reproductive health and social services 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.