

SAVING LIVES: Stories from the Fight Fighting HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan – Transcript

Support for HIV-positive women and their children in Tajikistan

Shamsi

Project Coordinator

Shamsi, project coordinator at Guli Surkh, describes the problems encountered by HIV-positive women.

My name is Shamsi. Here I work as a project coordinator for the Global Fund, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project coordinator.

So I work at Guli Surgh and it's a nongovernmental organization (NGO) which is helping HIV-positive people we provide a different kind of help it's food packages, visits to specialists and self-helping groups.

The difference is that we are the only center which gives food packages and which have doctors who work for us for free.

Women because they can't breastfeed those kids and most of our clients live in regions in small areas villages they're living in very bad conditions they are very poor people so what we have done is we have started buying them formula milk after we understood that some women don't buy this milk for their kids.

One and half years back we started a huge project with World Food Programme (WFP) and under this project HIV-positive people but only those who receive their therapy get these food packages once in two months.

The food package includes 60 kg of flour, 4 litres of sunflower oil and some 8 kgs per person of beans as well as 1 kg of salt.

It is very important because again poverty is the major problem people have nothing to eat – especially in regions. In the city it's easier but in regions people have nothing to eat and this helps in half of the cases. In 50 percent it's the only food they get in the houses. We have really, really poor, poor families.

In regions we have clients like the lady with four kids and all of them are HIV-positive and their dad is a migrant and he works in Russia for seven or eight years and there is no news from him, there is no help from him, so the lady survives with four kids and she's like a lady from the region, no education no nothing – she doesn't work – maybe she works in the fields somewhere – so this kind of families they really need this help and it's very important for them.

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Story page: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/savinglives/tajikistan/hiv1/>