UNDP in Turkmenistan supports seminar of “Stop TB” Partnership

Ashgabat, 14 August 2015: The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) supported the seminar on the involvement of public associations and communities in support of the anti-tuberculosis program in Turkmenistan. The seminar held in Ashgabat on 12 – 13 August 2015 is organized by the TB Europe Coalition (TBEC) and “Stop TB” partnership with funding from The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund).

“In 1960s, people believed that tuberculosis (TB) was defeated. However, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), today, 9 million people around the world become ill with TB every year. That includes 3 million who are not diagnosed and do not receive any medical treatment. Meanwhile, 480,000 people have multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). Despite these figures, with your energy and effort, we can beat TB,” said Paul Sommerfeld, a member of the Steering Committee TBEC.

Representatives of the central units and all regional departments as well as volunteers of the National Society of the Red Crescent of Turkmenistan (Red Crescent), representatives of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan, WHO, State Medical University of Turkmenistan, non-commercial organizations Yenme and Keyik Okara took part in the event.

Participants considered the issues of the organization and the importance of the TB preventive activities at the level of the public associations and local communities, discussed global and regional situation with TB, funding model of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) and preparation of the conceptual proposal of Turkmenistan for the Global Fund grant.

“Red Crescent cooperates with UNDP in the framework of the Global Fund project since 2011. The project is implemented in accordance with the National Strategy for Prevention and Control of TB in Turkmenistan for 2008-2015. We are actively working to raise people’s awareness about the causes of disease and methods of treatment of TB. Red Cross also provides psychosocial support to patients and their families. Thus, with the support of our government, we have already achieved positive tangible results,” says Muhabbat Akyev, NRCST project coordinator.

The Global Fund finances a $16.5 million project in Turkmenistan, implemented by UNDP. Since 2013, the project has already achieved sustained reduction in the rate of spread of TB and significantly increased successful treatment of MDR-TB.