



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

## FIRST PERSON

# Giving Up Drug Abuse for Good

### USAID Dialogue on HIV and TB Project Assists a Person Who Injected Drugs in Quitting His Addiction



Photo: USAID Dialogue on HIV and TB Project

Nurilo, USAID Dialogue on HIV and TB Project volunteer

***“Thanks to the help and support of the USAID outreach workers, I stopped using drugs.”***

“I am a drug user with 20 years of experience injecting drugs. Several times I tried to give up my drug addiction by reducing the amount of drugs I was using, but it never worked. One day I met a friend, Stas. He used to take drugs, but he had stopped. He told me that I would not be able to overcome drug addiction on my own, and he told me about the USAID Dialogue on HIV and TB Project’s community center. I received medical and psychological assistance to break my cycle of addiction and am now sober and helping others.”

Nurilo’s story is like so many of the 7,240 people in Kyrgyzstan who have participated in outreach activities sponsored by the USAID Dialogue Project. In 2011, 1,420 clients were connected with HIV testing through a voucher referral system set up by the project. USAID has provided overdose prevention messaging for injecting drug users, facilitated access to services for female injecting drug users, and fostered productive collaborations between the health care system and organizations run for and by people living with HIV/AIDS. USAID has assisted with scaling up methadone assisted therapy, which helps people like Nurilo to overcome addiction.

“Thanks to the help and support of the USAID outreach workers, I stopped using drugs. I was supported when I needed it, and I want to give something back and to help other people. I visit my old friends, drug users, to inform them about HIV, TB and drug abuse prevention, and invite them to the USAID community center. It is great that there is a place where people who inject drugs can receive reliable information on HIV, TB and drug abuse prevention, and also receive assistance on overcoming drug dependence.”