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UZBEKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Systematic Monitoring Raises Quality

A doctor leads the effort for continuous quality improvement in the health care of children.



Doctor Uraz Aralov trains Kasbi district, Kashkadarya Region, pediatricians in WHO-recommended methods for treating childhood illnesses. Photo: Project HOPE

A USAID-trained doctor helps medical facilities in his district apply the strategy for Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses and reduce the rates for children's morbidity and mortality.

Kasbi District enjoys an exemplary record on the introduction of World Health Organization (WHO)-recommended health management strategies not only in the Kashkadarya Region, but throughout the entire country, thanks to the efforts of USAID-trained doctor. Pediatrician Aralov Uraz has helped the district set up an effective system for continuous improvement on the use of the new health strategies.

USAID and its grantee Project HOPE have been helping medical facilities in Kasbi District, Kashkadarya Region apply WHO strategies in patient care since 2003. Pediatrician Aralov is one of the specialists trained by USAID program on the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses, a strategy promoting evidence-based methods to treat common illnesses in children under five years of age. Like many other doctors, Aralov first regarded this program with mistrust. But as he began applying the new methods in the care of throat infections, diarrhea, and other illnesses, Aralov soon became convinced of their effectiveness.

To help his colleagues in the district overcome their mistrust for the new strategy and capitalize on its benefits, Aralov took another USAID-funded course and learned to monitor the use of these methods. Now Aralov not only teaches other doctors in the use of the Integrated management of childhood illnesses methods, but helps them improve the quality of their application. He organized a group of doctors and trainers participating in introduction of these new strategies to monitor how these strategies are implemented and address revealed problems.

Despite a large catchment area with a high number of hospitals and primary health care units, Uraz and his team have organized regular visits to all of them. "It was very hard to ensure adequate monitoring schedule: it required additional financial expenses, besides, we all have our other duties," says doctor Aralov. "But we have solved this problem." The Kasbi health department has agreed to include one of the USAID-trained specialists in all monitoring visits to the district's health facilities. During the visits to the health facility, this specialist analyses the use of the Integrated management of childhood illnesses strategy and advises to the facility's manager and the pediatrician how to solve the revealed problems. "Additionally, we discuss the findings from the monitoring visits at the district's medical council."

Since Aralov has established regular visits to the district's health facilities, the Integrated management of childhood illnesses strategy has dramatically improved the district's health indicators. Kasbi has had a stable decrease in children's morbidity and mortality from catarrhal and diarrheal diseases. Aralov and his team are very glad to contribute to the improved quality of medical services in the district. They are also sharing their experience with other specialists in the region, so that children not only in Kasbi, but beyond have better medical care.