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Conference Highlights Moldova's Efforts to Stop TB

Experts to Share Results of US Government-funded Tuberculosis Control Project, Discuss Future TB Prevention and Treatment Plans

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA, and WASHINGTON, DC, September 25, 2007 — The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) and the Ministry of Health of Moldova are conducting today a national conference on tuberculosis control at the Convention Centre "Leograd" in Chisinau. The conference will commence at 9:00 a.m. with welcoming remarks from representatives of the Ministry of Health, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and AIHA. Members of the press are invited to attend this event, which is supported by USAID through its Strengthening Tuberculosis Control in Moldova Project.

Titled *Coordination of TB Control Activities: Results, Possibilities, Perspectives*, the conference serves as a forum for healthcare providers, public health specialists, policymakers, and representatives of national and international organizations to discuss best practices in tuberculosis control in Moldova, as well as efforts to expand and coordinate prevention, treatment, and surveillance activities in the coming years.

The conference also marks the completion of USAID's Strengthening TB Control in Moldova Project, which was launched by AIHA in 2003 and concludes this month. Over the past four years, USAID and AIHA have worked in close collaboration with Moldova's Ministry of Health, the Institute of Phthisiopneumology, and the National TB Program, as well as the World Health Organization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and other national and international organizations to implement tuberculosis control activities in target regions throughout Moldova.

Key accomplishments of the Strengthening Tuberculosis Control in Moldova Project include building capacity to safely and accurately diagnose TB by renovating Moldova's network of tuberculosis laboratories and improving surveillance capabilities to track TB and the spread of multi-drug resistant strains of the disease. In addition, the Project greatly improved the nation's ability to deal with tuberculosis at the primary care level by providing targeted training on TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to more than 1,800 general practitioners. It also increased public awareness about TB symptoms, treatment, and prevention through a highly successful national education and outreach campaign, "Tuberculosis Can Be Treated! See the Doctor."

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