

# PRESS RELEASE

## BASIC SITE SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

**June 25, 2015 – Shurab, Tajikistan**

**Background:** Following the collapse of the Soviet Union approximately two thirds of the residents of Shurab town left, in most cases removing anything of value from houses and other infrastructure. Abandoned buildings, which contain a lot of hazardous material posing an immediate threat to neighbors and likely to collapse under minimal seismic activity due to improper dismantling of buildings by its previous residents.

UNDP Tajikistan in cooperation with Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) conducted a two-day training on “Basic site safety and hazardous waste management”. The main objective of the training was to apply good management principles to health & safety on deconstruction site and to raise awareness about the dangers and exposure of asbestos and its process of removal to sixteen (eleven men and five women) training participants from the local population. Trained individuals will be further engaged in deconstruction waste management in Shurab jamoat, Isfara district.



Trained individuals learned about the measures need to be taken to reduce the risks of accidents and ill-health prevention. Process chain importance of risk assessment, implementation and consistent monitoring were emphasized to the trained individuals. The training participants acquired knowledge about hazardous substances with an accent on asbestos. *“I had no idea that roofing sheets that are in my house and which are used all over the town are hazardous before attending this training. Information on safety disposal and risk assessment were very useful and I will share them with my friends and relatives,”* said Jaborova Rano, training participant from Shurab.

The training was followed by practical exercise on asbestos removal from the deconstruction site and its classification. In particular, participants learned about the problems inherent to asbestos, its types, properties and potential materials that

contain asbestos. Participants were instructed on methods of work with asbestos contaminated waste, removal and safe disposal of asbestos. *“Thank you for initiating deconstruction works in Shurab. I will do my best to see my town as prosper as it was during the Soviet times,”* said training participant Kakhorova Matlyuba.



To initiate deconstruction of abandoned buildings that cause threat to local population, UNDP Tajikistan has transferred to the State Enterprise “Center of Technical Maintenance” of Shurab Jamoat one hydraulic excavator-loader, one tractor Belarus, dumping trailer, and many other small accessories along with

11 (eleven) tons of diesel fuel that are being used for deconstruction works and safe disposal of hazardous waste. Also, collected debris is used for strengthening the dam and stretching Shurab’s flood barrier. Transferred assets will be engaged in further deconstruction of waste management. Once the demo site is cleaned from debris, local jamoat is planning to establish an orchard and allocate the land for families living in damaged buildings. .

**Contact Information:** Ilhom Safarov, UNDP, tel: 44600592, [ilhom.safarov@undp.org](mailto:ilhom.safarov@undp.org)

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