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July 14, 2008

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Contraceptive Technology Update In Tajikistan Evidence-Based Expert Meeting**

**Dushanbe, June 2, 2008** - The Ministry of Health (MoH) of Tajikistan, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its implementing partners John Snow, Inc. and the ZdravPlus Project, and UN Fund Population Agency (UNFPA) are holding a meeting, "Contraceptive Technology: Evidence-Based Facts." Key health care providers, medical professors and faculty, family planning trainers, and other stakeholders are gathering to obtain the latest evidence-based recommendations on the safe and effective use of modern contraceptive methods. Experts in the field of contraceptive technology—including the first author of the World Health Organization's and Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs' book, *Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers*, and the deputy medical director of an internationally recognized contraceptive service provision research organization, Family Health International—will present the latest scientific evidence on modern contraceptive use. This meeting is one of the first steps in helping improve the quality of family planning services offered to women and men throughout Tajikistan.

The Europe and Eurasia Regional Family Planning Activity, a program led by John Snow, Inc with support from USAID in Central Asian Republics is beginning activities aimed at improving the safety and effectiveness of modern contraceptive service provision. The project will assist the MoH of Tajikistan to increase the theoretical knowledge and clinical skills of providers regarding modern contraceptive methods, so that they can safely provide a wide array of methods to couples plan for healthy families.

The Europe and Eurasia Regional Family Planning Activity, funded by the USAID Europe and Eurasia Regional Bureau is a regional effort to enhance and complement family planning programs and create supportive policy environment for acceleration of existing and new family planning programs. The Activity is implemented by John Snow, Inc. and the Private Sector-*One* Partnership project.

The Europe and Eurasia Regional Family Planning Activity is one of the many assistance projects implemented in Tajikistan by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on behalf of the American people. Since 1993 the American people through USAID have provided about \$300 million in assistance programs that support economic growth, democratic institutions, health care, and education systems of Tajikistan.

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