

# Developing the Role of Nursing to Strengthen Primary Care at the Institutional and District Level

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# Background

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**Narimanov District  
Health Administration  
Baku, Azerbaijan**



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Oregon, U.S.A.**

## Narimanov District

**Territory: 24.5 square km**

**Population: 147 000**

**Refugees and IDPs: 17 000**

**Nurses (total): 1 200**

**Area nurses: 890**

# Problem Description

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- Low prestige of nursing as a profession
- Low selection criteria
- Poor professional training
- Lack of financial motivation
- Low social status
- Lack of initiative
- Lack of interest in professional development
- Lack of basic equipment
- Lack of team work approach

# Our “Findings”

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## **Nursing in the U.S.**

- High level of professional training for nurses
- Wide range of responsibilities
- Advanced technology
- Ownership in decision-making
- Availability of standard protocols
- Teaching activities of nurses
- Participation of nurses in management of medical institutions
- High social status of nurses

# The Ways We Choose

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- To Expand the Role of Nurses in Primary Health Care



# Organizing the Work

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## Organizing the work of nurses in the Narimanov District

- Selection of leader nurses
- Formation of working group
- Developing the work plan
- Weekly meetings with nurses at the health administration office
- Statistics/reports on the work implemented

# Becoming Better Professionals

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## Improving professional skills and knowledge

- Organizing training sessions on a regular basis
- Providing nursing bags
- Providing educational materials and practical guidelines
- Expanding the scope of work
  - breast health
  - mental health
  - drug addiction among teenagers
- Experience exchange with colleagues from overseas
- Participation in seminars and conferences
- Acquiring computer skills
- Using Internet resources



# A Nurse as a Teacher

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## Active role of a nurse in an educational process

- Participation in developing educational materials
- Conducting training sessions
- Participation in other programs

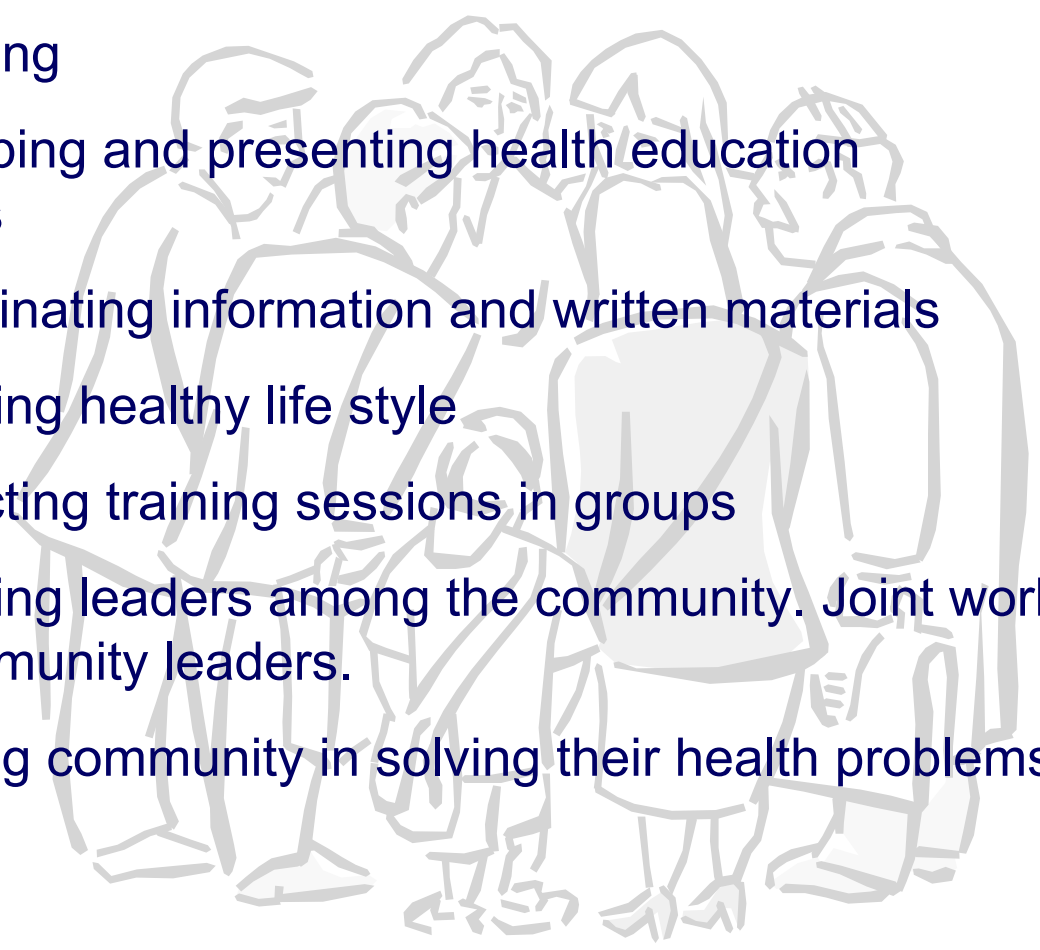




# Work in Communities

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- Screening
- Developing and presenting health education materials
- Disseminating information and written materials
- Promoting healthy life style
- Conducting training sessions in groups
- Identifying leaders among the community. Joint work of nurses and community leaders.
- Involving community in solving their health problems



# Gaining Respect

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## Increasing the status of a nurse

- Team work of nurses together with physicians
- Working independently with patients and making initial diagnosis
- Nurses' participation in activities of the district health administration office
- Opportunity of experience exchange at the international level
- Participation in educational processes
- Collaboration with the Republican Nursing Association

# Facts

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- 20 nursing bags provided
- 20 nurses are using stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, glucometers, urine strip tests
- During the last 2 months these 20 nurses have examined 1 548 people
- Nurses conducted 32 presentations for the target population
- 291 women were trained on breast self-exam skills
- 40 nurses learned computer skills as well as Internet using skills

# Obstacles

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## Obstacles in program implementation

- Lack of a conception
- Lack of adequate educational base for nurses
- Lack of educational materials
- Poor technological base
- Lack of financial motivation
- Lack of acceptance of the nurses' new role

# Perspectives

## Future plans

- Development and implementation of the “family nurse” concept
  - Establishment of the nursing faculty
  - Establishment of professional non-governmental organizations
  - Fundraising activities
  - Further expansion of activities:
    - a nurse and domestic violence
    - prevention of genetic defects
    - prevention of dental diseases/oral hygiene
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**Thank you for your attention!**