## Raising patient voices in Tajikistan

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- Dushanbe, Tajikistan



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> "This SPARC grant will help us address advanced breast cancer patients' needs in Tajikistan, where women with breast cancer do not have sufficient support and lack the strength to even whisper their needs. We hope to improve communication by establishing dialogue between community leaders, doctors, journalists and policy makers. By doing so we hope to help metastatic breast cancer patients get access to improved care, support and quality of life."

## Read more on the SPARC MBC <br> Challenge at uicc.org/SPARC

## Short description

Improving communication and raising voices of patients living with metastatic breast cancer at local, regional and national level to address MBC patients' specific needs in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

## Abstract

Our goal is to empower Tajik women living with advanced breast cancer to lead productive lives with a higher quality of life at the patient level, the local level, and the system level. We will work in the capital city Dushanbe and also in four different regions of Tajikistan to support women with metastatic breast cancer. The project is designed to strengthen advanced breast cancer patients' voices. Women will meet Tajik parliament members and participate in parliamentary hearings. Increased parliament attention to MBC patients' needs should improve access to better care and develop a sustainability pathway to advanced breast cancer care. Women will also meet local activists, NGOs, health care system representatives and business representatives to share information about the problems of metastatic breast cancer in the region. They will also be able to access social media networks including a website and a Facebook page, and receive guidance about metastatic breast cancer via a dedicated hotline.

## Focus areas

Raising patient voices

## Stakeholders

Patients, parliament, media, local NGOs, health care system representatives, local business

