U. S. CDC

Central Asia

Accessible link: www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/central asia

CDC established a Central Asia office in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1995 and expanded operations ten years later with funds from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. CDC now has offices in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. CDC Central Asia works closely with ministries of health (MOHs) and partner organizations to build and strengthen countries' core capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; and prevention and response to health threats. Program areas address global health security, HIV, One Health, and strengthen capacity to respond to disease outbreaks.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Data & Surveillance

- Established the National Center for Antimicrobial Resistance in Uzbekistan in 2017 where surveillance and antimicrobial susceptibility testing is conducted

Laboratory

- Facilitated 17 regional laboratories in achieving international standard accreditation (ISO:15189) in Kazakhstan and the first international standard accreditation (ISO:17043) for a laboratory in Kyrgyzstan

Workforce & Institutions

- Conducted over 400 epidemiological investigations,155 disease surveillance system evaluations, and over 200 outbreak investigations across Central Asia

Prevention & Response

- Established Public Health Emergency Operations Centers across four Central Asian Countries

CDC
U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Surveillance systems

CDC has led trainings on infectious disease forecasting, geographic information systems and advanced analytical methods, including spatial analysis. This technology and training improve regional public health capacity and increase collaboration and data-sharing among local, national, and international partners.

Laboratory strengthening

CDC is strengthening the capabilities of public health and hospital-based laboratories of the MOHs in Central Asia. CDC supports regional and reference-level laboratories with:

- Workforce development
- Improving quality management systems
- Biosafety and biosecurity
- Monitoring for and testing of SARS-CoV-2 variants
- Establishing laboratory testing algorithms for especially dangerous pathogens
- Laboratory equipment and reagents

Workforce development

CDC supports training public health professionals through the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). The Central Asia FETP was established in 2003 as a two-year residency program, with support from CDC and MOHs in Central Asia. FETP consists of three levels of training: frontline, intermediate, and advanced. About 80% of Central Asia FETP graduates hold influential positions in their government's MOH.

CDC started the Global Laboratory Leadership Program to support the development of human resources for laboratory services in Kazakhstan in 2023. Participants learn essential skills in laboratory leadership. Multidisciplinary and multisectoral participant cohorts are encouraged to support the integration of the One Health approach at all levels of national health laboratory systems. They are also encouraged to support the sustained development of communities of practice for health laboratory leaders. CDC provided technical support to establish a Laboratory Training Center at the Scientific Practical Center for Sanitary Epidemiological Expertise and Monitoring of National Center for Public Health.

Emergency reponse

The CDC Central Asia offices help strengthen emergency preparedness by training staff across government agencies, supporting cross-sectoral collaboration, and helping to develop emergency preparedness guidelines. CDC collaborates with partners to enhance border health management in response to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

HIV

CDC is a key implementer of PEPFAR. CDC works with the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan to build sustainable, high-impact national HIV response programs with the goal of achieving epidemic control. CDC's activities include:

- Scaling up HIV prevention and treatment services in areas with high infection rates
- Helping develop and implement evidence-based strategies and guidelines for HIV infection control.
- Supporting Republican AIDS Centers and Republican Narcological Centers in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan

ONE HEALTH

One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary public health approach. One Health seeks to achieve optimal public health outcomes by recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. Across several regions in Kazakhstan, CDC helped enhance Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever surveillance by investigating its occurrence among humans, animals, and ticks. CDC also helped develop a national One Health Program and implemented the One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization Tool in Uzbekistan.

COOPERATIVE BIOLOGICAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

CDC collaborates with the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency and its Cooperative Biological Engagement Program. Through this collaboration, CDC strengthens clinical and laboratory capacity to minimize biosecurity threats in the Central Asia region. CDC works with public health laboratories across Kazakhstan to build:

- A robust and reliable network of quality management systems
- A sustainable biosafety and biosecurity program for medical laboratories
- Disease surveillance and laboratory testing capacity
- A necessary legal and regulatory framework
- CDC and the Kazakhstan MOH partner with hospitals to improve surveillance and testing of especially dangerous pathogens and antimicrobial drug-resistant pathogens.