

CDC/CAR Tuberculosis Laboratory Improvement and Electronic Surveillance

Background

CDC, working with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in the five countries of the Central Asia Region (CAR), the World Health Organization (WHO), Project HOPE, and other USAID partners is strengthening tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control efforts by assisting in the successful development and implementation of WHO's approved, cost effective Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) strategy.

Objectives

- Strengthen surveillance for TB through the improvement of national TB statistical systems and implementation of a computer-based software system to collect and analyze the information necessary to monitor and evaluate key program activities (TB Electronic Surveillance and Case Management, ESCM)
- Improve the diagnostic capacity of TB laboratories by training laboratory personnel in smear microscopy techniques and implementing quality assurance programs

Regional Results

- Technical assistance is being provided to National TB Control Programs by
 - * Analyzing data for national aggregated and case-based TB statistics
 - * Developing the MOHs TB Control and Surveillance Orders, Forms, and Guidelines
 - * Adapting TB control and surveillance software in accordance with local regulations and WHO requirements
- TB ESCM has been successfully implemented countrywide in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and piloted in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan
- Country-wide technical support is being provided to improve the Kazakhstan National TB Surveillance System by including new analytical functions based on



standard statistical analysis software (EPI-INFO)

- A modern Training Center for Tuberculosis Control and Prevention was established at the National Phthysiology and Pulmonology Institute in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
 - CDC/CAR developed a multilevel training process to continually improve the professional knowledge and skills of local specialists
 - * TB ESCM basic and advanced courses
 - * TB ESCM data analysis training conferences
 - * Acid Fast Bacilli Smear Microscopy for TB Laboratory Diagnosis (basic course)
 - * TB Laboratory Quality Assurance and Quality Control (advanced course)
 - CDC/CAR provides technical support in the development and implementation of national programs for TB laboratory quality assurance allowing laboratory staff to become familiar with the scientific principles of external quality assessment for smear microscopy:
 - * Pilot projects on TB smear microscopy quality assurance/quality control are being implemented in Samarqand oblast, Uzbekistan, and Chui oblast, Kyrgyzstan
- The Uzbekistan MOH has approved the National Methodical Recommendations on Smear Microscopy Quality Assurance/Quality Control developed under CDC/CAR technical support



Contact Information

For more information contact Matt Morrison at mmorrison@usaid.gov.