

Kyrgyzstan

Capital: Bishkek

Infant Mortality Rate:
29.73/1,000 live births

Population:
5,548,042 (July 2013 est.)



Overview

Kyrgyzstan is located in Central Asia and gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. During Soviet times, Kyrgyzstan conducted routine influenza surveillance as part of a universal syndromic disease surveillance system with mandatory registration of all acute respiratory viral illness (ARVI) cases without laboratory confirmation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, this system was interrupted due to lack of logistical support and trained personnel. Currently, universal surveillance for influenza and ARVI is ongoing, but the system continues to face serious challenges.

Since 2008, Kyrgyzstan has conducted sentinel surveillance for ILI and SARI at two sites, the cities of Bishkek and Osh. Data from the sentinel system is reported to EuroFlu on a weekly basis during the flu season. Also in 2008, the Virology Laboratory at the Department of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (Republican SES) in Bishkek was recognized as a National Influenza Center by WHO.

In September 2013, Kyrgyzstan was awarded a capacity building cooperative agreement, *Surveillance and Response to Avian and Pandemic Influenza by National Health Authorities outside the United States*. The overarching goal of the project is to mitigate the effects of a future influenza pandemic by enhancing preparedness and response capacity in the country. With cooperative agreement funds, Kyrgyzstan aims to improve laboratory capacity, strengthen surveillance for seasonal influenza in clinics and hospitals, revise the national pandemic preparedness plan, and enhance capacity for early warning and rapid response.

Highlights

- Awarded Capacity Building Cooperative Agreement.
- Shared seasonal influenza viruses with WHO Collaborating Centers.
- Submitted weekly virologic data to EuroFlu and FluNet during the influenza season.
- Participated in the WHO External Quality Assessment Project.

The Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Capital: Sarajevo

Population: 3,875,723

Montenegro

Capital: Podgorica

Population: 653,474

Macedonia

Capital: Skopje

Population: 2,087,171

Albania

Capital: Tirana

Population: 3,011,405

Overview

The countries of South East Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia) have been collaborating in the field of communicable disease surveillance since the Dubrovnik Pledge in 2001, within the framework of the South-eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN). Following upon this collaboration, the South East European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID) was established in 2013 near the Institute of Public Health in Tirana, Albania to support the countries of South East Europe (SEE) in the field of surveillance and control of infectious diseases, including influenza and International Health Regulations (IHR) implementation.

In September 2013, SECID was awarded a capacity building cooperative agreement, *Surveillance and Response to Avian and Pandemic Influenza by National Health Authorities outside the United States*. The project aims to strengthen influenza surveillance and response and pandemic preparedness in SEE countries. Revision of pandemic preparedness plans, IHR core capacity development, and support to ensure NICs in the region are fully functioning are the main goals of the five year agreement. The project will focus on the priority countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania, with support for other countries in the region to address specific problems and further enhance collaboration in the region as a whole.

Highlights

- Awarded Capacity Building Cooperative Agreement.
- WHO recognized NICs in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Romania and Serbia.
- Collaborated with WHO Regional Office for Europe and European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) on laboratory trainings and pandemic preparedness activities.