

U. S. CDC Central Asia

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

CDC established a Global Disease Detection 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 (PEPFAR). Since that time, CDC has opened additional field offices in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. CDC has established strong partnerships with ministries of health (MOHs) and partner organizations in Central Asia to build effective collaborations to detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats. Program areas address global health security, HIV, One Health, and strengthen capacity to respond to disease outbreaks. CDC's work aims to protect the health of Americans and support public health around the world.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



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



- 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. In 2025, supported a Uzbekistan virology reference laboratory to achieve international accreditation (ISO:15189)



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



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

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Surveillance systems

CDC provides technical expertise and cooperates with the ministries of health in Central Asia on infectious disease forecasting, geographic information systems, and advanced analytical methods, including spatial analysis. These technology and training efforts 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
- Monitoring for and testing respiratory viral pathogens of pandemic potential
- Establishing laboratory testing algorithms for especially dangerous pathogens
- Laboratory equipment and reagents
- Whole-genome sequencing of priority diseases, including healthcare-associated infections (including antimicrobial resistance), zoonotic diseases, and diseases of pandemic potential

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's 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 the National Center for Public Health.

Emergency Response

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

As a key implementer of PEPFAR, CDC plays an essential role in the fight against HIV in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. With unmatched scientific and technical knowledge and long-standing partnerships with MOHs, CDC is uniquely positioned to advance HIV activities that keep Americans safe at home and abroad.

CDC's work in the region supports people living with HIV to access treatment, saving lives and preventing transmission.

Through PEPFAR, CDC provides critical support to countries' public health infrastructure and workforce, improving their ability to prevent, detect, and respond to not just HIV, but other infectious diseases, minimizing their risk from entering the U.S.

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, implemented the One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization Tool, and helped the country with a Prime Ministerial decree initiating a One Health coordinating body linking the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Ecology in Uzbekistan.

