

DPHSWD in Central Asia



Accomplishments in Central Asia

- Approximately 85% of CAR FETP graduates continue working within their Ministry of Health.
- CAR FETP outbreak investigation of measles in children in the Kyrgyz Republic prompted the government to support a local vaccination campaign.
- Two CAR FETP residents direct Kazakhstan's National Surveillance Department.
- CAR FETP residents made recommendations to the MOH on proper food processing methods following two foodborne outbreak investigations in Tajikistan.
- In May 2011, CAR FETP residents and graduates were invited by the World Health Organization European Office to monitor polio control activities in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan following the occurrence of a polio virus outbreak in the Central Asia region in 2010.

Overview and Goals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through its Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development (DPHSWD), has been working in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) since 2003 to build regional capacity and strengthen public health systems. DPHSWD supports the participating countries' ministries of health (MoH) in training public health officers through a two-year regional Field Epidemiology Training Program, located in Almaty, Kazakhstan, that focuses on applied epidemiology, disease surveillance, outbreak response, and program evaluation. To improve capacity for effective and timely response, DPHSWD also provides technical assistance and training in laboratory management, and develops integrated and standardized information systems for data collection, tracking, reporting, and exchange.

Program Description

Building Workforce Capacity

Over the past nine years, a total of 61 public health officers from Central Asia have graduated from the Central Asia Regional Field Epidemiology Training Program (CAR FETP). Twenty-three residents are currently enrolled in the program. To date, residents have conducted 132 outbreak investigations, 61 surveillance system evaluations with specific recommendations for improvements, and 38 epidemiologic research studies to understand disease burden and prevention. While enrolled, residents continue working in their respective country's health system and are well-positioned to serve as first responders to outbreaks. In 2010, with support of the Asian Development Bank, Ministry of Agriculture veterinarians from the Kyrgyz Republic were included in CAR FETP training for the first time. CDC experts have also trained 360 epidemiologists and health workers in Kazakhstan who work with disease surveillance and surveillance data on EIDSS (Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System) Module 6 AVR (Analysis, Visualization, and Reports) to improve disease surveillance, data analysis, and reports.

Strengthening Public Health Systems

CDC trains local leaders and managers and equips them with skills to improve national and regional laboratory networks, surveillance systems, and quality management systems. By providing the skills necessary for leaders and managers to better coordinate, plan, and implement their strategic objectives and manage projects designed to enhance their countries' biosurveillance and response systems, CDC strengthens the management capacity for lab workers and epidemiologists. CDC also provides targeted technical assistance to the MOH on integrating new and existing laboratories into a more robust laboratory network and on integrating data systems through EIDSS. As of April 2012, EIDSS has been deployed in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, which has resulted in more than 350 cases of Especially Dangerous Pathogens (EDPs) such as... and National Notifiable diseases being reported.



Sekerbayeva Lyazzat, CAR FETP resident, interviewing study participants for a planned investigation on "Determinants of delay in attendance to treatment among pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Karaganda city, Kazakhstan, 2012."



CAR FETP resident, Mirhamiddin Kamolov, conducting an interview during Anthrax outbreak investigation in Faizabad district of Tajikistan, 2012.



Anthrax patient during outbreak investigation in Faizabad district of Tajikistan, 2012.

Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure and Institutions

Residents from CAR FETP are acknowledged as leaders and mentors for future in-country specialists in field epidemiology, and the program is recognized by the MOHs as a major trainer of the next generation of public health leaders in Central Asia. About 85% of CAR FETP residents work in their respective government's health system. Several have been appointed to high-level positions in the MOH where they can influence public health practice throughout their country.

Future Plans

In late 2012, a Regional Field Epidemiology Training Program based in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, will begin training public health officers from Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Through this new regional program and the existing CAR FETP, plans are to continue training and mentoring Central Asian epidemiologists and laboratorians from the human health and veterinary health sectors. In the fall of 2012, the regional Field Epidemiology Training Program based in Almaty will enroll additional laboratorians into the program and develop a robust laboratory curriculum. Support from the Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) has made it possible to hire a Senior Laboratory Advisor in 2012 who will be based in Almaty and who will train and mentor laboratorians, work with Ministry officials to achieve in-country laboratory system reform, develop laboratory quality management systems, and work across CDC programs in Central Asia to improve laboratory-based surveillance. DPHSWD will continue to work closely with other divisions within CDC, especially the Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections, the Division of Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response, and the Division of Global HIV/AIDS.

Key Partners

- CDC Division of Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response
- CDC Division of Global HIV/AIDS
- CDC Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections
- CDC National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
- U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- U.K. Ministry of Defense
- Kazakhstan Ministry of Health
- Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture
- Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Health
- Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Agriculture
- Tajikistan Ministry of Health
- Tajikistan Ministry of Agriculture
- Turkmenistan Ministry of Health
- Uzbekistan Ministry of Health

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