

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

The CDC Central Asia Region (CAR) office was formally established at the U.S. Consulate in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 1995 and began directly receiving PEPFAR funds in 2005. It supports programs for HIV, Tuberculosis, Global Disease Detection, Influenza, Global Health Security, and Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training.

### Strengthening National Public Health Programs for HIV and Tuberculosis

Through PEPFAR, CDC supports the National HIV Programs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to develop strategies, guidelines, and catalytic models for HIV/AIDS care and treatment. CDC also strengthens surveillance and laboratory systems working in partnership with the national Republican AIDS Centers. CDC supports the national Republican Narcology Centers to expand Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) and integrated HIV prevention and treatment through a “one window” approach.

Given the concentrated nature of the CAR HIV epidemics, CDC supports the national HIV programs’ focused approach to achieving their 90-90-90 targets: 90% of people with HIV diagnosed, 90% of them on ART, and 90% of them virally suppressed by 2020.

In 2016, the PEPFAR planning level for CAR is \$15.6 million, of which approximately one half is programmed through CDC partners. CDC provides critical support to the Ministries of Health for the rapid adoption of the 2015 WHO treatment guidelines for the immediate start of antiretroviral therapy (also known as Test and Start) for all persons living with HIV, implementation of new models of service delivery, and expansion of quality viral load testing. Previously, CDC supported the improvement and expansion of the national tuberculosis and blood safety programs across the region and has supported an injection safety program in the Kyrgyz Republic.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CDC supports the four regional countries to achieve their 90-90-90 targets through development of strategies, guidelines, quality assurance, and demonstration models of care, treatment, adherence and retention. In Kazakhstan, CDC assisted the Ministry of Health and Social Development to procure ARVs through a low-cost, bulk procurement system, thus doubling the amount of ARVs available at significant cost savings.
- CDC CAR assists the regional countries to conduct periodic Behavioral and Biologic Surveys to ensure that the survey protocols are in alignment with current international standards. CDC also supports development and use of an Electronic HIV Case Management System (EHCMS) for case surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of patient-level care and treatment indicators and outcomes. The EHCMS is currently the nationally recognized system for reporting HIV

### CDC-Central Asia Region Office Staff: 18

Locally Employed Staff: 15  
Direct Hires: 3  
Fellows & Contractors: 0

### Central Asia Region Includes:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan), Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

		COUNTRIES			
		Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Country Quick Facts	GNI Per Capita (2015)	\$11,390	\$1,170	\$1,280	\$2,160
	Population (2015)	17.544 Million	5.957 Million	8.482 Million	31.3 Million
	Under 5 Mortality (per 1,000 Live Births) (2015)	14	21	45	39
	Life Expectancy (2014)	72 years	70 years	70 years	68 years

Source: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country>

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic (2015)	Estimated HIV Prevalence (Age 15–49)	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
	Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15)	<1,000	<500	<1,000	2,500
	Estimated Orphans due to AIDS	3,800	1,900	6,000	27,000
	Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15)	5,906	1,722	2,638	8,611

Source: <http://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>

Global Tuberculosis Epidemic	Treatment Success Rate (2014)	90%	84%	89%	87%
	Estimated TB Incidence (Per 100,000 Population) (2015)	89	144	87	79
	Estimated % Who are HIV Positive (2015)	3%	3%	3%	6%

Source: <http://www.who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en/>



# CENTRAL ASIA REGION

indicators in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. CDC also supported the development and implementation of a national Electronic Methadone register which is currently used in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

- CDC CAR supports development and implementation of national guidelines and strategies to expand MAT, for example in prison settings in Tajikistan, community health settings in Kyrgyz Republic, and as a national program in Kazakhstan.
- CDC CAR supports the development of national laboratory guidelines for HIV testing and counseling, most recently in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, as well as national external quality assurance measures to ensure reliability of the HIV testing results.
- In 2016 CDC CAR began a distance learning and mentoring program called Project ECHO with the Postgraduate Institutions, ICAP/ Columbia University, and the Republican AIDS centers in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. Tajikistan is expected to launch ECHO in 2017. HIV clinicians across the country are able to connect virtually to the postgraduate institute hub for didactic sessions and case discussions for one hour each week and also build a community of interconnected clinicians sharing their questions and experience of treating HIV patients.

