

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Central Asia Region (CAR) office was formally established at the U.S. Consulate in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 1995. It began directly receiving U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funds in 2005 to strengthen national public health programs for HIV and tuberculosis (TB).

Through PEPFAR, CDC’s Division of Global HIV & TB (DGHT) is working alongside people and governments in the Central Asia Region (primarily Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) to accelerate their progress toward achieving HIV/AIDS epidemic control and reach the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90-90-90 targets. The 90–90–90 targets are ambitious treatment targets – to diagnose 90% of all HIV-positive persons, provide antiretroviral therapy for 90% of those diagnosed, and achieve viral suppression for 90% of those treated, by 2020.

In the Central Asia Region, CDC supports the use of high-quality epidemiological data to develop and scale high-impact HIV prevention and treatment services that reach and support key populations in high-burden regions, including persons who inject drugs. CDC provides direct financial technical assistance to Republican AIDS Centers and Republican Narcology Centers in all three countries, and supports these government organizations to develop and execute strategies, guidelines, and catalytic models for HIV/AIDS treatment that reach and support key populations.

Given the concentrated nature of the CAR HIV epidemics, CDC supports the national HIV programs’ focused approach to achieving and sustaining their 90-90-90 targets by:

- Supporting the use of real-time surveillance and program monitoring data to ensure that program activities reflect the changing epidemics and match the needs of those at risk of or impacted by HIV;
- Working with indigenous and local partners to develop and implement effective and scaleable prevention, case finding, and treatment programs for people who inject drugs and among their sexual partners;
- Expanding harm reduction and targeted case finding among key populations in priority provinces;
- Increasing HIV treatment uptake among people living with HIV and support efforts to ensure those on treatment achieve viral suppression; and
- Supporting the development of national guidelines and the adoption of service delivery models that reach and serve key populations.

CDC provides critical support to the Ministries of Health for the rapid adoption of the 2015 World Health Organization (WHO) treatment guidelines for the immediate start of antiretroviral therapy (also known as Test and Start) for all persons living with HIV, as well as supporting implementation of new models of service delivery, and expansion of quality viral load testing. Previously, CDC supported the improvement and expansion of the national TB and blood safety programs across the region and has supported an injection safety public private partnership in the Kyrgyz Republic.

CDC-Central Asia Region Office Staff: 17

Locally Employed Staff: 12 DGHT and 2 cost-shared staff  
Direct Hires: 3

Central Asia Region Includes:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan

		COUNTRIES			
		Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Country Quick Facts	GNI Per Capita (2016)	\$8,800	\$1,110	\$1,110	\$2,220
	Population (2016)	17.8 Million	6.08 Million	8.73 Million	31.85 Million
	Under 5 Mortality (per 1,000 Live Births) (2016)	11	21	43	24
	Life Expectancy (2016)	72 years	71 years	71 years	71 years

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

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic (2017)	Estimated HIV Prevalence (Age 15–49)	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
	Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15)	<1,000	<200	<1,000	1,900
	Estimated Orphans due to AIDS	4,500	1,600	6,300	N/A
	Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15)	11,037	2,792	4,275	14,745

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

Global Tuberculosis Epidemic	Estimated TB Incidence (Per 100,000 Population) (2016)	67	145	85	76
	TB patients with known HIV-status who are HIV-positive (2016)	5%	3%	3%	4%
	Treatment Success Rate (2015)	91%	82%	89%	89%

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



## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CDC assists all three countries to conduct periodic epidemiological surveys of key populations to ensure that data drives programmatic decisions, and that the survey protocols are in alignment with current international quality and ethical standards.
- In 2018, CDC worked with the Republican AIDS Center in Tajikistan to conduct an integrated bio-behavioral survey of persons who inject drugs. A similar survey is planned in Kyrgyzstan in 2019.
- CDC and its implementing partners provide technical assistance and implementation support to the Republican, Oblast and City AIDS Centers and their laboratories, and City Narcology Centers in all three countries to strengthen HIV treatment and medication-assisted therapy (MAT) services for people who inject drugs.
- CDC supports Republican AIDS Centers in all three countries to develop and use 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 indicators in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. CDC also supported the development and implementation of a national electronic methadone register that is currently being used in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
- CDC provides technical direction and guidance on the development and implementation of national guidelines and strategies to expand MAT in various settings, such as prisons in Tajikistan and community health settings in Kyrgyz Republic, and as a national program in Kazakhstan. In 2018, CDC played a significant role in successfully working with the Government of Kazakhstan to expand MAT beyond the pilot phase.
- CDC works with Republican AIDS Center laboratory counterparts to develop and update national laboratory guidelines for HIV testing and counseling, most recently in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, as well as to expand national external quality assurance measures to ensure reliability of the HIV testing results.
- CDC supports Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), which is a distance education model that provides an opportunity for less experienced health specialists in the field to manage complex HIV and other chronic diseases cases by enabling them to communicate with expert health care providers at training centers.
- CDC is working with ICAP and the Republican AIDS Centers to implement Support4Health in all three countries. Support4Health is a nurse-led model of home-based care developed to improve ART retention and adherence to those people living with HIV.

