## STRATEGIC FOCUS

The partnership between the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Government of Kazakhstan began in 1995 with the goal of strengthening the capacity to detect, prevent and control disease and respond to public health threats in Central Asia. In 2005, CDC began implementing activities supported through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). To help Kazakhstan achieve HIV epidemic control, CDC supports the Ministry of Health's Republican AIDS Center (RAC) and Republican Narcology Center (RNC) to implement interventions and activities that are focused on key populations.

CDC's support for epidemic control in Kazakhstan includes strengthening HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs and health systems capacities. CDC implements evidence-based demonstration programs to identify cost-effective modes of service delivery and expands prevention and treatment services for high-risk populations. It provides support to the Ministry of Health in the following areas: HIV prevention, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) of opioid addiction; HIV counseling and testing; laboratory strengthening; HIV care and treatment; and strategic information systems.

### KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In Kazakhstan, CDC supports five HIV treatment Centers that provide care and treatment services to over 3,024 people living with HIV (PLHIV). In these sites, CDC supports interventions to improve treatment effectiveness (e.g., continuous quality improvement of adult HIV care and treatment services and routine clinical mentoring visits to the PEPFAR sites) as well as nurse-led case management at the community level. CDC also supports weekly national training to infectious disease specialists through the Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model, which links expert specialist teams at an academic "hub" with primary care clinicians in local communities and together, they participate in weekly teleECHO™ clinics that are like virtual grand rounds combined with mentoring and patient case presentations. The RAC plans to scale-up these proven interventions to sites outside of PEPFAR-supported regions.
- In the 12 months from March 31, 2018 to March 30, 2019 in the CDC-supported regions, the estimated percentage of PLHIV diagnosed remained at about 90 percent, the percentage on antiretroviral treatment (ART) improved from 53 percent to 64 percent, and the HIV viral load suppression rate among PLHIV increased from 82 percent to 89 percent (Source: EHCMS report, April 2019).
- CDC supports six narcology centers that provide methadone treatment services to
  people who inject drugs (PWID). This helps to prevent HIV among PWID, improve
  linkages to care and integration of services, and increase PWID's adherence to ART
  through an integrated "one-window" approach. On May 8, 2019, the Minister of Health
  signed a Road Map to expand MAT services from 13 to 22 sites, use the one-window
  approach in all the MAT sites, and purchase methadone from the government budget.
- CDC developed an Electronic HIV Case management System that is used by all AIDS
   Centers nationwide to have reliable real-time data on HIV epidemics and make informed decisions.
- CDC developed an Electronic MAT Register that is used by the narcology centers for monitoring the quality of the MAT services.
- CDC supports the RAC in developing national treatment guidelines and in quantifying a sufficient supply of quality antiretroviral drugs.
- Through the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, CDC has been providing technical assistance to HIV/AIDS laboratories in Kazakhstan on implementation of laboratory quality management systems in order to prepare them for national accreditation that meets international standard.

#### **Key Country Leadership**

President: Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

Minister of Health: E.A. Birtanov

U.S. Ambassador: William H. Moser

CDC/DGHT Director: Clint Liveoak

<u>Country Quick Facts</u> (worldbank.org/en/wherewe-work)

Per Capita GNI: \$7,830 (2018)

Population (million): 18.28 (2018)

Under 5 Mortality: 10/1,000 live births (2017)

Life Expectancy: 73 years (2017)

# Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic (aidsinfo.unaids.org)

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 0.2% (2018)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): <500 (2018)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 4,300 (2018)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 14,519 (2018)

### Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic (who.int/tb/country/data/ profiles/en)

Estimated TB Incidence: 66/100,000 population (2017)

TB Patients With Known HIV-Status Who Are HIV-Positive: 4% (2017)

TB Treatment Success Rate: 88% (2016)

TB Mortality: 0.89/100,000 population (2017)

# **DGHT Country Staff: 6**

Locally Employed Staff: 5 Direct Hires: 1 Fellows & Contactors: 0



