



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION in
KAZAKHSTAN





Welcome from the Regional Director

Welcome to WHO. Health is our most precious asset. WHO's goal is to ensure better health for everyone, everywhere. We touch people's lives – making sure the air we breathe, and the food and water we consume is safe; ensuring all have access to effective health systems; safeguarding the quality of medicines and vaccines; combatting diseases and protecting people from health threats. WHO works with governments, organizations, communities and individuals to promote health throughout our lives. We all benefit socially, economically and environmentally from a world that seeks health for all and nowhere is our work more critical than at country level. We look forward to working with you to make this our common goal.

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
WHO Regional Director for Europe



Who we are

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the global authority on public health within the United Nations. Founded in 1948, we collaborate with the governments of 194 Member States to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all. Currently, more than 7000 people work in 150 country offices, 6 regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The Organization's work is guided by the principle that health is a human right, and we seek to extend universal health coverage, protect people from health emergencies, and ensure that all people enjoy better health and well-being.

Kazakhstan is part of the WHO European Region, which comprises 53 countries: this Region covers a vast geographical area reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. WHO staff in the Region are public health, scientific and technical experts, based in the Regional Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, in five technical centres and in country offices in 30 Member States.

WHO has worked with the Government of Kazakhstan since the WHO Country Office was established in Almaty in 1994. Since 2009, the Country Office has been located in Astana, the country's capital.

Kazakhstan has also hosted and funded the WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care since 2016 in Almaty. This technical centre is responsible for collecting evidence and providing technical advice to support Member States in the design, organization and management of primary health care, integrated services, quality-of-care governance, and performance of services.

How we work

As part of the United Nations system, WHO's core function is to direct, coordinate and provide leadership on international health. We articulate ethical and evidence-based policy options, and set norms and standards, promoting and monitoring their implementation. WHO also stimulates the generation, translation and dissemination of knowledge, builds sustainable institutional capacity and monitors and assesses health trends. One of our core functions is to support emergency preparedness and response.

Working in countries, WHO plays an important role in advocating for health at the highest political level, communicating about important health issues and motivating actors across sectors to take action for better health. We bring partners together and lead among United Nations agencies working towards attaining the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In Kazakhstan the country team draws on the technical expertise of all three levels of the Organization. Our strong presence and capacity at country level ensures that our support is relevant and effective. WHO's global network also enables other countries to learn and benefit from the experiences and expertise in Kazakhstan.

Partnerships and collaborations

As part of our role to direct and coordinate international health work, WHO promotes collaboration, mobilizes partnerships and galvanizes the efforts of different health actors to respond to national and global health challenges.

In Kazakhstan our primary partner is the Ministry of Health. WHO is also an active member of the United Nations Country Team and we collaborate closely with national authorities and stakeholders, as well as civil society, health workers, academic institutions and international organizations




Kazakhstan in brief

Population size
17.5 million



Average life expectancy

 **68**

 **76**

Maternal mortality rate

12

deaths per 100 000 live births

Top three health challenges in the country:

- 1** improving access to high-quality, people-centred primary health care services and building overall capacity in handling data and promoting innovations in health
- 2** addressing the high burden of NCDs
- 3** improving health emergency preparedness

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) account for

86%
of all deaths

Message from the WHO Representative

Forty years ago, Kazakhstan played a pivotal role on the world stage as the 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata was signed. The Declaration marked a major milestone of the 20th century in the field of public health by identifying primary health care as the key to the attainment of the goal of health for all. In October 2018, world leaders came together again in Astana to recommit to these shared aspirations.

WHO's work in support of the Government of Kazakhstan follows in the footsteps of the Declaration of Alma-Ata. It involves collaboration on a wide range of initiatives to improve the health and well-being of the population, reduce inequalities, and strengthen public health and people-centred health systems. Our work is guided by the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals and Health 2020, the European health policy framework.

One of the challenges Kazakhstan will need to tackle on its path to universal health coverage is investing more resources in health, especially in addressing the high burden of NCDs. Revenues from tobacco and alcohol taxation could provide a solution for directing more funds towards health promotion and NCD management.

Kazakhstan is vulnerable to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods and mudslides. Ensuring that both people and institutions are better equipped to manage and respond to health emergencies is one of the priorities for our work in the coming years.

In building a stronger health system with the principles of universal health coverage and primary health care as its foundation, I am committed to working with the Government of Kazakhstan to make everyone in the country healthier, leaving no one behind.

Dr Oleg Chestnov
WHO Representative in Kazakhstan



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oleg Chestnov'. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with loops and flourishes.

WHO – saving lives and ensuring health for all

Tackling NCDs requires action from all parts of society. WHO works closely with the Government of Kazakhstan and other partners in addressing one of the key challenges for the health sector – how to provide better access to quality services that help prevent and manage NCDs.

The United Nations Country Team in partnership with the Ministry of National Economy launched the joint programme “Expanding the opportunities of the Mangystau and Kyzylorda regions in achieving sustainable development and socio-economic modernization” in 2014. During the three-year project, WHO, a key project partner, focused on improving the health and well-being of the population in the pilot regions.

WHO-supported trainings, models and recommendations have also served health services outside the pilot regions to create improved and more efficient care practices. For example, after just three

years, mothers and newborns with tuberculosis (TB) are receiving better care, women are better protected by law from domestic violence, and patients have more opportunities to voice concerns over their own health and the care they receive through better engagement and communication with health-care professionals.

The pilot projects also helped create a shared understanding of different actors’ responsibilities for improving the quality of care. Each sector and part of the health system plays a unique role, but also contributes to the work of others in making the population healthier. Importantly, the project helped establish a culture of learning through the exchange of ideas and practices.

This multisectoral project offers many best practices in policy-making for other countries with a similar, centralized governance system to learn from. It was jointly financed by the Government of Kazakhstan and the participating United Nations agencies



Making our work possible

As Kazakhstan works towards achieving the SDGs, investing in WHO will help protect and promote the health of the poorest and most disadvantaged.

In addition to receiving support from WHO's regular budget based on contributions from Member States, our work in Kazakhstan is made possible thanks to contributions from the Government of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Russian Federation that support the NCD and TB prevention and control programmes. In addition, the Government of Japan supports activities to promote universal health coverage. The WHO Country Office in Kazakhstan also collaborates closely with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on HIV/AIDS prevention and control; with the Stop TB Partnership; and with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on issues of child and adolescent health.

Currently, the collaboration between WHO and Kazakhstan is transitioning from one in which Kazakhstan is a recipient country to one in which it is a partner with growing donor capacity. The country provides in-kind support as well as monetary donations for regional and global activities, in particular in the area of primary health care as the basis of universal health coverage. Kazakhstan is also one of the top 10 government contributors to WHO's programme budget base segment. Another prime example of Kazakhstan's commitment and support to WHO's work is the Government's funding of the WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care.

However, as the development landscape continues evolving in Kazakhstan, WHO requires additional resources to continue improving the health of its people. There are significant **funding gaps** that exist for long-term health priorities, including:

- progress towards universal health coverage and the development of people-centred health services within primary health care;
- NCD prevention and control through intersectoral and whole-of-governmental approaches; and



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Programme
Budget Portal for
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- the strengthening of health emergency preparedness.

Globally, WHO is transforming to make the Organization more effective and efficient, placing country work even more at its centre. Predictable and flexible funding from our partners for global, regional and country level priorities will be crucially important to our success. A full breakdown of the financing and implementation progress in Kazakhstan can be found on the WHO Programme Budget Portal: <http://open.who.int/2018-19/home>



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