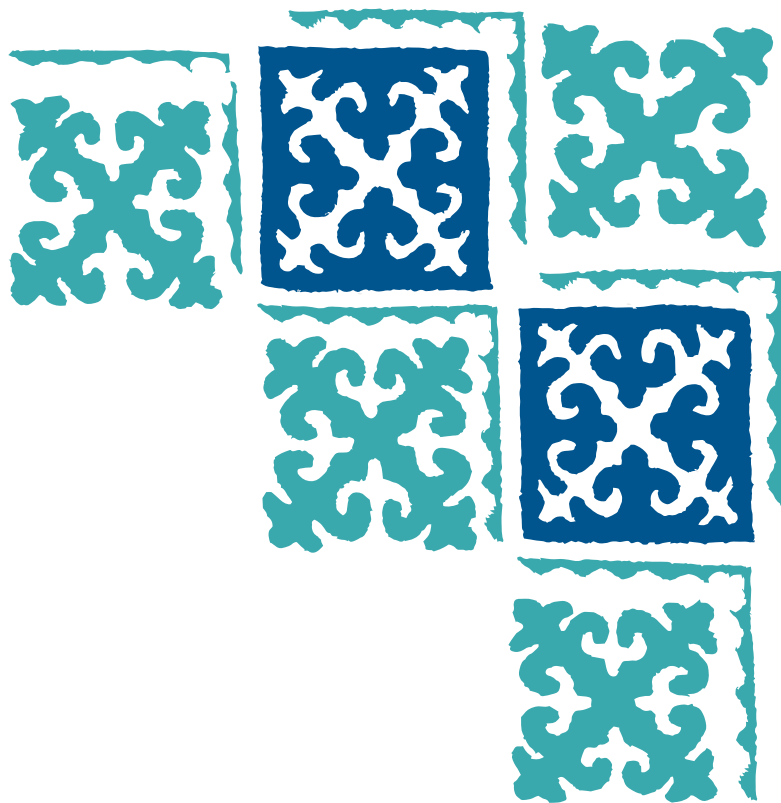




**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

The World Health Organization in Kyrgyzstan





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The World Health Organization (WHO) is the global authority on public health within the United Nations. We collaborate with the governments of 194 Member States to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all. WHO was founded in 1948. Currently, more than 7000 people work in 150 country offices, 6 regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva. Our work is guided by the principle that health is a human right that must be universally and equitably accessible, as stated in the WHO Constitution.

Kyrgyzstan belongs to the WHO European Region, which comprises 53 countries, covering a vast geographical area from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. WHO/Europe staff are public health, scientific and technical experts, based in the Regional Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 6 technical centres and in country offices in 29 Member States.

In Kyrgyzstan, we have supported the Government for over 25 years - since the country became a WHO Member State in 1992. Our goal is to build a better, healthier future for the people of Kyrgyzstan.



What we do

As part of the United Nations system, WHO's primary role is to direct and coordinate international health by:

- ❖ providing leadership on matters critical to health
- ❖ articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options
- ❖ setting norms and standards; promoting and monitoring their implementation
- ❖ stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of knowledge
- ❖ building sustainable institutional capacity
- ❖ monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends
- ❖ supporting emergency preparedness and response
- ❖ shaping the research agenda



Our partners

In Kyrgyzstan, we work in close collaboration with:

- ❖ national authorities and stakeholders
- ❖ civil society organizations
- ❖ health workers
- ❖ academic institutions
- ❖ governments and international organizations

WHO – saving lives and ensuring health for all



« Health is a human right. No one should get sick or die just because they are poor, or because they cannot access the health services they need.»

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
WHO Director-General



The World Health Assembly 2017

WHO's mission is to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

Since becoming WHO Director-General in 2017, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has renewed focus on moving towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Put simply, UHC means ensuring that everyone, everywhere can access quality health services without facing financial hardship.

Across all three levels of the organization, WHO supports countries to find their own way to UHC, in the context of their own social, political and economic circumstances.



Health 2020 – setting WHO’s regional priorities

In 2012, the 53 countries of the European Region approved Health 2020, a health policy framework that focuses on improving health for all and reducing health inequalities through improved leadership and governance for health.



« *The European policy for health and well-being Health 2020 is fully aligned with and instrumental to the achievement of the SDGs in our Region. We know that health in the 2030 Agenda means far more than SDG 3 on health and well-being. Health is an essential component and driver of other SDGs, reflecting the complexity, as well as the multidimensional and multisectoral nature of health and its determinants. The key strategic objectives of Health 2020 point the way forward.* »

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab,
WHO Regional Director for Europe



The Health 2020 framework identifies four priority areas for policy action:

- ❖ investing in health through a life-course approach and empowering citizens
- ❖ tackling Europe’s major disease burdens of noncommunicable and communicable diseases
- ❖ strengthening people-centred health systems and public health capacity, including emergency preparedness and response capacity
- ❖ creating supportive environments and resilient communities

WHO in Kyrgyzstan



« The WHO country team is in the forefront of providing support and facilitating knowledge exchange to transform the health system of the Kyrgyz Republic. We collaborate with national and international institutions on our path towards Universal Health Coverage for equitable health outcomes and sustainable development. Our continuous efforts concentrate on health system strengthening and building institutional capacity in the health sector, addressing future challenges of non-communicable diseases, investing in public health preparedness and supporting the vulnerable.»

Dr Jarno Habicht,

WHO Representative and Head of WHO Country Office



WHO country team in Kyrgyzstan, April 2018



Committed to improving health in Kyrgyzstan

WHO in Kyrgyzstan 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 UN agencies in the attainment of health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through close collaboration with regional and global technical units, the country team draws on the technical expertise on all three levels of the organization. Importantly, the 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 lessons learnt in Kyrgyzstan.



WHO's strategic role in Kyrgyzstan

Positioning health high on the agenda



Only by bringing the right partners to work together, are broad impact and improved health outcomes possible.

We convene and lead health policy dialogue to address the political, social, environmental and commercial determinants of health. We build networks, and promote health on the political agenda beyond the Ministry of Health and across government, advocating for public health priorities among professional associations, parliamentarians and civil society groups.

Kyrgyzstan seeks to harmonize its sectorial programmes with the new national sustainable development strategy 2040 and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These strategies aim to lift people out of poverty and fight inequalities ensuring no one is left behind. With WHO support, the health sector has spearheaded this trend and has been the first to adapt the SDGs and to develop specific related indicators.

As the global leader in health, WHO actively contributes towards the alignment and synchronization of the future health sector strategy 2019-2030 with high-level national programmes such as National Development Strategy 2040, the Government programme, and "Taza Koom" digital transformation of the country and government action plans.

Building institutional capacity



Limited capacity in the health system and public sector can hinder progress. We build the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Health and other key institutions to help them serve the population more effectively.

With our support the Mandatory Health Insurance Fund developed the first institutional strategy to strengthen its governance and increase purchasing capacity in 2016. The capacity building process is progressing and WHO continues to provide guidance and support, as we help shape a healthier future for the country.

In 2017, we assisted Kyrgyzstan in conducting a self-assessment of the essential public health operations that will serve as a foundation for strengthening public health services in the country.

Forming strategic partnerships for public sector reform



We partner with other organizations (such as the World Bank, the UN family, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria among others working on public sector reform) to address multiple constraints that limit people's ability to achieve optimal and equitable health outcomes. This ensures actions are coordinated, strategic and impactful.

As the leading global authority in health, we conduct joint annual reviews and convene thematic meetings to support health strategy implementation and consistent policy dialogue for strategic and evidence-informed decision making. For example, such dialogues allow the prioritization of important challenges, such as NCDs, through collective UN action.

In 2017, the national drug regulation agency, which plays an essential role in delivering medicine regulations to practice, conducted, with WHO assistance, a self-review to improve its capacity. In addition, the agency's staff was trained in different areas of pharmaceutical and medical devices regulation, such as quality assurance, WHO prequalification of medicines, price regulation and reimbursement of medicines, etc.

Looking east (and south) - from the crossroads of Europe and Asia



We work with all development partners in health with a view to build coherent positions on key issues of health policy and practice. The geo-politics of global health governance are changing and these changes are playing out in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan is part of multiple initiatives and regional bodies, such as the One Belt, One Road initiative, the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, all of which are also actively engaged with WHO. It is our role to mainstream health into these initiatives and WHO's country, regional and global presence allows for sustainable and coordinated approaches to be implemented.

In 2016, the first comprehensive evaluation of Official Development Assistance for the health sector in Kyrgyzstan was conducted with WHO support. The evaluation provides an overview of the relevant health topics, challenges and gaps and will inspire new partners to contribute to the health sector.

WHO's programmatic priorities in Kyrgyzstan

Priorities for joint work are set out in biennial collaborative agreements between Kyrgyzstan and the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Moving towards Universal Health Coverage

Countries that invest in UHC invest in the long-term prosperity of their people. Access to quality health services and financial protection enhances people's health and life expectancy, protects countries from epidemics, reduces poverty and the risk of hunger, creates jobs, drives economic growth and enhances equal coverage of health services. We promote and support high-level policy dialogue on UHC in Kyrgyzstan, which addresses the following areas:

- ⊞ governance
- ⊞ health financing
- ⊞ quality of health services
- ⊞ human resources for health
- ⊞ access to essential medicines
- ⊞ public health services
- ⊞ health information systems



WHO: Supporting governance

In 2017, Kyrgyzstan made significant progress on its path to UHC when the Parliament approved a new regulation package to make essential medicines more affordable for people. The protective mechanisms introduced to safeguard the market from poor-quality products and post-marketing controls monitor the effectiveness and side effects of drugs on the market. In 2018, the essential medicines list was updated and is planned to be adopted by the Government later this year.

WHO: Supporting health financing

To increase national health authorities' awareness of the need to ensure financial protection for the population, WHO has conducted studies on the financial burden of health care use. These studies provide a foundation for a policy dialogue on UHC.



Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), such as heart and lung diseases, cancer and diabetes are the leading cause of death among the Kyrgyz population. Combatting NCDs is one of the central items on the country's agenda.



In this area we work on

- ❖ promoting policy dialogue across government to address social, environmental and economic determinants of NCDs
- ❖ promoting regulations that protect people from being exposed to risk factors
- ❖ collecting evidence on and raising people's awareness of NCD risk factors
- ❖ improving the quality of services

WHO in action: Identifying risks and focusing on solutions

With WHO support, Kyrgyzstan has extensive data available on disease risk factors, treatment and care. We assist the country in piloting care models to address hypertension, one of the main NCD risk factors, in the primary care setting. In 2016, we reviewed the services for heart attack and stroke patients and are currently supporting the development of a roadmap for affordable and effective treatment and care.

WHO: Promoting regulations, saving lives

To help Kyrgyzstan combat tobacco use, we continuously support dialogue on implementing the national tobacco control programme and complying with the requirements of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control that was introduced in 2012.

Ensuring health security



Ensuring effective public health preparedness and response to emergencies is central to our work in Kyrgyzstan. Our priorities include:

- ❖ implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) to prevent and respond to epidemics in public health
- ❖ outbreak and disaster preparedness, including influenza pandemic preparedness
- ❖ vaccine preventable diseases
- ❖ prevention of antimicrobial resistance

WHO: Building laboratory capacity

Laboratories play an essential role in preventing, detecting and controlling disease outbreaks. In 2015, Kyrgyzstan began to implement the WHO Better Labs for Better Health initiative. Under this initiative we help build national laboratory capacity by contributing to the development of policies, introducing and implementing national and international quality standards, strengthening laboratory services and training laboratory specialists.

WHO: Addressing the preparedness for health emergencies

WHO promotes the widespread implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR) in Kyrgyzstan. 2016: a joint external evaluation of IHR functions was carried out; 2017: the country developed an action plan for public health emergencies; 2018: simulation exercises and capacity building are ongoing.

Reducing inequity and serving vulnerable populations



Kyrgyzstan is a country where health inequities are prominent. Ensuring that policy dialogue with government and development partners is informed about barriers to access, the dimensions of vulnerability and the nature of populations affected by exclusion, is our strategic programmatic priority.

WHO: Tackling inequalities

In 2015-2016, WHO piloted midwife training on medical abortions at the primary health level in rural and underserved areas to make medical abortions safer and more accessible. We utilised the positive results to persuade decision-makers to begin examining methods for expanding reproductive health services provided by midwives to women throughout the country.

WHO: Tackling communicable diseases

We assist the national health authorities in developing strategies on prevention and control of tuberculosis, hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, improving surveillance systems, and reviewing the protocols on testing and treatment. Thanks to comprehensive anti-malarial interventions and surveillance systems strengthening, WHO certified Kyrgyzstan as malaria free in 2016.

The WHO Regional
Office for Europe

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1948 with the primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is one of six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health conditions of the countries it serves.

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