

HIGHLIGHTS

- No outbreaks of infectious disease have been reported.
- The second round of a nationwide poliomyelitis (polio) immunization campaign started on 23 August 2010.
- A course to train trainers to professionalize and coordinate psychosocial and mental health support services in emergencies also started on 23 August.
- WHO and health partners are concerned that urgently needed health interventions remain unaddressed as a result of limited funding for health cluster activities.

OVERVIEW

The overall security situation in Osh and Jalal-Abad oblasts, in southern Kyrgyzstan, has further stabilized, but some tension remains.

Funding gaps persist, and WHO is working with the health cluster's partners to approach donors to ensure that priority activities – for coordination, surveillance, psychosocial support and mental health – can be sustained.

HEALTH IMPACT

No outbreaks of infectious disease have been reported, and there is no indication of acute or severe malnutrition. The number of cases of infectious disease reported this year remains low compared to that reported for the same period last year.

HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

WHO continues to work closely with the protection cluster to monitor and ensure access to health services for all ethnic population groups.

No members of the armed forces are present on the premises of or inside health care facilities; health cluster members closely monitor the situation.

Homes and businesses were damaged and destroyed during civil unrest in Kyrgyzstan

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WHO provided updated information on health service capacities and a detailed list of health care facilities in Osh oblast to the members of the gender-based violence (GBV) subcluster. Local and international partners working at the community level will use the list to identify victims of GBV and enable health care facilities to provide professional support to them. Estimating the magnitude of the problem and the number of victims remains a challenge. Many such people do not seek medical or psychosocial assistance, and cases go unreported due to cultural sensitivities and the fear of stigma.

WHO and all partners developed a strategy for the health cluster in close consultation with the Ministry of Health. The strategy is based on the health priorities of the revised Flash Appeal and all cluster members will use it as a fundraising tool.

WHO RESPONSE

WHO developed and agreed with the Ministry of Health a concept paper outlining WHO support to the Ministry in monitoring and improving access to health services and strengthening the capacities of health facilities.

On 23 August 2010, a team of experts from the Russian Social and Forensic Psychiatry Institute started a five-day course to train trainers to professionalize and coordinate services for psychosocial and mental health support in emergencies. The 20 participants are from Osh and Jalal-Abad oblasts and the capital, Bishkek.

The first part of a WHO expert mission to evaluate and strengthen the surveillance and early warning system for infectious diseases in southern Kyrgyzstan was successfully completed. The team made a list of recommendations for Osh oblast, and will continue in Jalal-Abad oblast. WHO will present the results and recommendations of the mission to the authorities.

WHO staff conducted a coordination meeting for the health cluster in Bishkek on 23 August; members gave updates on the status of current and planned activities. A request for in-kind donations (emergency health kits and equipment) and for further support of WHO emergency relief and recovery activities was submitted to Norway. WHO continues actively to support coordination of the GBV subcluster activities.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH RESPONSE

The Ministry of Health, supported by health cluster partners, started the second round of a polio vaccination campaign covering the whole country. The campaign is scheduled for 23–27 August 2010.

URGENT NEEDS

Filling the gap in mental health and psychosocial support for everyone affected by the conflict, especially children, remains a priority.

WHO is compiling and updating a list of priority needs for the health system of southern Kyrgyzstan. The list will be published on the Kyrgyzstan humanitarian response web site (<http://kg.humanitarianresponse.info>) in Russian and English. WHO will encourage all health partners to adhere to this list in initiating projects to support the health system.

Contacts

WHO Country Office, Kyrgyzstan

Dr Oskonbek Moldokulov

Tel.: +996 312 612677, +996 555 781162 (mobile)

E-mail: omo@euro.who.int

WHO Regional Office for Europe

Dr Gerald Rockenschaub
Regional adviser, disaster preparedness and response
Tel.: +45 39 17 15 51
E-mail: GRO@euro.who.int
Web site: <http://www.euro.who.int/emergencies>

WHO headquarters

Mr Paul Garwood
Communications Officer, Health Action in Crises Cluster
Tel.: +41 22 791 3462, +41 794755546 (mobile)
E-mail: garwoodp@who.int
Web site: <http://www.who.int/disasters>

Further information

WHO Regional Office for Europe web site (<http://www.euro.who.int/emergencies>)

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