



Welcome!

It is time again to share the WHO laboratory supported activities in the Kyrgyz Republic, provided during the months of July and August, 2022. Below, we will mention highlights of key activities. We would like to thank the Ministry of Health and all stakeholders and involved experts for their valuable efforts and well coordination.

Round table discussion on national mentoring program

In 2012, the WHO Regional Office for Europe launched the “Better Labs for Better Health” initiative aimed at improving laboratory services in the WHO Euro member states, where the key point is the implementation of a Quality Management System (QMS) based on the international quality standard ISO 15189:2012. Since 2017, the mentoring program has been implemented in 10 laboratories of the maternal and child health service, 4 laboratories for the diagnosis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), also since January 2022 the program was expanded to 8 COVID-19 PCR laboratories.



Round-table discussion on national mentoring, 8-9 August 2022, Jannat resort, Kyrgyzstan

From 8 to 9 August 2022, WHO held a roundtable discussion with Ministry of Health's officials, laboratory directors, national mentors. The purpose of the meeting was to track quality implementation in mentored laboratories, present results and discuss main achievements and problems of the mentoring program with all partners. As a meeting outcome, national partners expressed appreciation and recognition of the mentoring programme, and the value to continue and expand the national mentoring in Kyrgyzstan as the numbers showed the continuous increase of quality indicators in mentored laboratories.

Second National dialogue for COVID-19, Issyk-Kul region, Kyrgyzstan

Between 11 to 12 August 2022, WHO hosted the second national dialogue for SARS-CoV-2 laboratory professionals. Almost one year ago, WHO held the first national dialogue for SARS-CoV-2 laboratory professionals Between 26 to 27 August 2021, several recommendations were raised such as expansion of the structure of the national coordinating laboratory council, to finalize standardized set of standard operating procedures for COVID-19 laboratories, to prepare a template of a national contingency plan, and to support efforts at the Institute of preventive medicine to develop a national EQA programme for COVID-19; all recommendations were successfully achieved. Additional recommendation was the need to strengthen inter-laboratory communication by hosting the dialogue on yearly basis.

Objectives of the National dialogue

- 1- Strengthen coordination among lab professionals and exchange of knowledge and expertise
- 2- Support coordination of activities among international and national partners
- 3- Review of lessons learnt from COVID-19 and planning for maintenance of the built capacity

During the national dialogue, WHO facilitated SWOT analysis of the COVID-19 laboratory capacity in the country to help in identifying current capacities and future direction.





Fruitful discussions on next steps and recommendations took place. Based on the discussions, main outcomes can be summarized as follows:

- There is a need to review the national policy and strategy to reflect the current and future capacities and scope of activities.
- It is crucial that laboratories actively perform bio-risk assessment, specifically to review the waste management process, and to use a risk based approach to address the biosafety gaps identified.
- There is a need to enhance technical and leadership capacities of laboratory workforce, there was a consensus to start implementing Global Laboratory Leadership Programme GLLP in Kyrgyzstan to fulfil this need.
- National experts recognizes the significance of the mentoring programme and it is important to continue and expand it to cover two more COVID-19 laboratories in the coming year.



Second national dialogue, 11 - 12 August 2022, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan



WHO expressed the importance to review and update cost of laboratory testing, for more sustainable laboratory services in the country. In 2021, WHO provided five trainings on the use of WHO Laboratory test costing tool (LTCT) for almost 100 participants. Looking forward to continuing close coordination with national experts on this topic.



Maria Amante, consultant at WHO/EURO, and the main facilitator on WHO LTCT

A crucial component of an efficient laboratory system is having a comprehensive overview on laboratory expenditures and actual cost of tests. Better Labs for Better Health advocates for clear organization of laboratory systems at all hierarchical levels within a country, including the development of clear terms of references, tests and methods for each level.

To support this, Better Labs for Better Health has developed the laboratory test costing tool (LTCT) to help laboratories evaluate the cost of a specific laboratory test, justify this cost and produce pricelists for laboratory tests.

“Not only do the costing tools provide a standardized way of costing laboratory expenditures and costing the price of one test but it is a resource for both financial experts and laboratory experts to advocate for justifying and communicating their needs. We have learned a lot from the pandemic and one of those lessons learned is that communication of laboratory costs and coordination between financial department and laboratories are needed for laboratory system strengthening and creating sustainability”



Four trainings on the use of laboratory information management system (i-Lab), August 2022, Korumdu village, Issyk kul region, Kyrgyzstan

In August 2022, WHO held 4 back-to-back trainings on the use of the laboratory information system, nationally developed platform, called (i-Lab). Trainings were delivered between 15-16, 18-19, 22-23, and 24-25 August 2022, in Korumdu village, Issyk kul region. A total of 119 laboratory specialists from all districts of the country were trained.

Training focused on how to use different features of the platform, such as creating users and registration of patients. Participants also were trained on how to use digital barcode functionality for an enhanced sample traceability within laboratories. Each training was supported by trainers from E-health center, Ministry of health.



How do national experts find collaboration with WHO?

Esengeldieva Gulbarchyn Muratovna - Head of the molecular genetics and virological research laboratory, member of the Coordinating Laboratory Council, and national mentor for COVID-19 PCR laboratories

Digitalization of the health system is now a priority in the Kyrgyz Republic as we identify it as a crucial topic for the country to develop health services, and laboratory is part of this scope. Following the quality management system guidance, appropriate sample traceability is an integral component of the pre-analytical stage within laboratories, that is why we needed to enhance sample registration units with a digitalized barcoding system, and WHO provided support, as usual.

With WHO support, more than 130 sampling points are planned to be equipped with scanners, thermal printers compatible with the laboratory information system "I-Lab", also WHO trained more than 100 specialists of the public health laboratory services on the "I-Lab" platform in August 2022.

On another hand, WHO continued supporting quality management system implementation in laboratories to enhance services, within the framework of the WHO Better Labs for Better Health initiative, through the mentoring programme, and further expanded to support COVID-19 PCR laboratories, in line with ISO 15189:2012. COVID-19 mentoring was launched in 2022 for 8 PCR laboratories. In addition to the national mentoring support, three virological laboratories are also under the international mentoring programme by the WHO/EURO consultant Renata Szypulska.



Working closely with WHO provided us with a lot of support and exposure to international experience and allowed us to exchange expertise with experts from different countries. Sharing knowledge allowed us to successfully launch a national proficiency testing programme for SARS-CoV-2 PCR diagnosis, in which 25 laboratories of the country participated, this will help us to improve the quality control process of ongoing research and confirm the competence of PCR laboratory personnel.



Kyal Ormokoeva - Head of the clinical diagnostic laboratory (CDL) of the Endocrinology Center, national mentor, member of the Coordinating Laboratory Council

Since 2019, our laboratory increased testing capacity to test for the expensive glycohemoglobin for patients with diabetes mellitus, free of charge, which was previously available only in private laboratories. Such test is necessary to control the quality of treatment and compensation of carbohydrate metabolism in patients with diabetes. By providing such test in public health laboratories, testing became more accessible to citizens, with less out-of-pocket payments. This became possible with the technical support of the WHO and the World Bank.

Working closely with WHO allowed us to enhance laboratory services in the Kyrgyz Republic. Under the project "Better Labs for Better Health", I am a national mentor for quality management system implementation in three laboratories: clinical diagnostic laboratories of Bishkek City Perinatal Center, Jalal-Abad Regional Clinical Hospital and AMR laboratory of Osh City Center for Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance. Through such programme, we help laboratory staff to provide better quality of testing, and to provide reliable data.



I express my deep gratitude to Dr. Joanna Zwetyenga Laboratory Technical lead, WHO regional office for Europe for permanent support in quality management system implementation; "Better Labs for Better Health" project is our guide to improve laboratory services and learning new methods and practices. Also, through implementation of international standards, this leads to the improvement of laboratory staff and laboratory services of the Kyrgyz Republic.

National Laboratory service began to develop and improve, new horizons are opening. We put into practice the knowledge received from WHO.

Quality Corner

Digesting the Norm sessions on Quality Management System according to ISO 15189: 2012 standard resumed back since 7 September 2022, every two weeks, on Wednesday, 15:00 Bishkek time.

If you don't have access details, please contact us to receive the information.



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Better Labs for Better Health

webinar series in the context of COVID-19
DIGESTING THE ISO NORM: ISO 15189:2012

Thank you!