

## Welcome

Laboratory services are fundamental component of health systems and play a critical role in the detection, diagnosis, treatment and control of diseases. The World Health Organization has been providing continuous support to the health sector of the Kyrgyz Republic. One of the strongest areas of support to laboratories is under the Better Labs for Better Health Initiative “Better Labs”, many laboratories were mentored to implement quality management system through national and international mentoring support and trainings.

*“In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to promptly expand capacity building in laboratory services as demanded by the epidemiological situation and public health needs. WHO facilitated development and implementation of National Testing Strategy for SARS-CoV-2, and training of 24 laboratories and their branches across the country. We decided to issue this bulletin for updating health professionals in ongoing and upcoming laboratory issues and connecting all members of laboratory network”.* **Nazira Artykova**; Representative of the World Health Organization in the Kyrgyz Republic.



Dr Nazira Artykova; Representative of the World Health Organization in the Kyrgyz Republic

## Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to reflect main highlights of the WHO laboratory-related activities in the Kyrgyz Republic and share it with our national and international partners for better communication and coordination. This bulletin is developed on a bi-monthly basis, disseminated every two months during 2022.

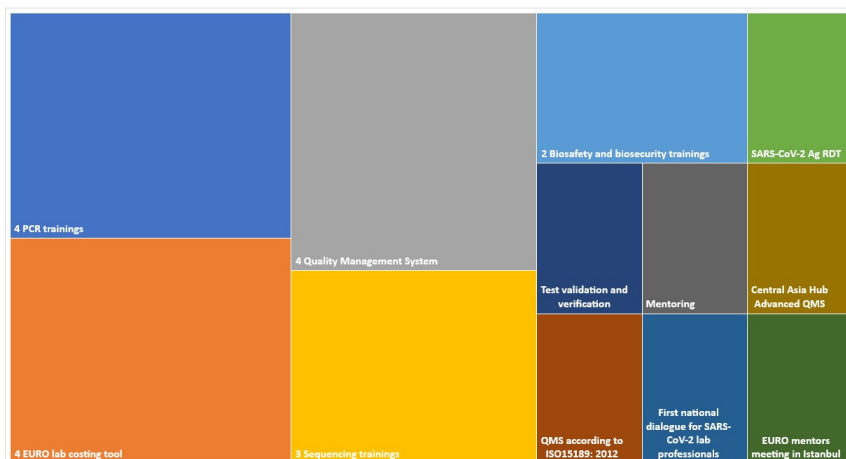
## 2021 main achievements

- Building national sequencing capacity to perform Whole Genome Sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- Supporting Laboratory Quality Management System (LQMS) implementation to enhance quality testing in 10 Mother and Child hospitals (MCH) and 4 Anti- Microbial Resistant (AMR) laboratories.



First national dialogue held by WHO for SARS-CoV-2 laboratory professionals at Issy-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic, August 2021

- Started mentoring programme in eight COVID-19 testing laboratories to implement Quality Management System (QMS).
- National testing strategy for SARS-CoV-2: Supported the development and endorsement of the strategy.
- Held the first SARS-CoV-2 national dialogue for laboratory professionals.



- Supported shipment of representative samples to SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratory for sequencing.
- Development and assisted the kick-off of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine effectiveness study.
- Supported the second round of sero-prevalence study in the country.
- Provided technical assistance to the Republican Center of Quarantine and Especially Dangerous Infections, to acquire ISO15189: 2012 accreditation; successfully accredited in August 2021.
- Provided a total of 24 technical trainings and meetings on SARS-CoV-2.
- Supported the calibration of 160 laboratory equipment (pipettes, centrifuges, thermometers, etc.) and facilitated the certification of 31 Biosafety Cabinets of SARS-CoV-2 laboratories.
- Technical support to develop national Laboratory Information System and unified database for all diseases of interest including SARS-CoV-2.



Advanced Quality Management System training  
Bishkek, October 2021



SARS-CoV-2 PCR training  
Bishkek, October 2021



SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic test training  
Bishkek, January 2021

## Funded activities in 2021

Activities and achievements in 2021 could not be performed without the generous funding of partners in success. We would like to thank the following partners for funding several of our activities:

- European Commission's Foreign Policy Instrument, under the umbrella of the CBRN Centers of Excellence Initiative, Governments of Canada, Germany, France, EURO member states and USAID.

## So, what is new for 2022 ?

### January 2022

#### COVID-19 national mentors started their first mentoring visits to eight COVID-19 testing laboratories

The purpose of the mentoring programme is to assist laboratories to implement quality management system modules in order to increase quality measures in laboratories for an enhanced, precise, reliable, and timely results.

COVID-19 laboratory of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (SSES)-Talas

COVID-19 laboratory of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (SSES)-Cholpon Ata

COVID-19 laboratory of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (SSES)-Jalal-Abad

COVID-19 laboratory of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (SSES)-Naryn

COVID-19 laboratory of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (SSES)-Issyk Ata

COVID-19 laboratory of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (SSES)-Karakol

COVID-19 laboratory of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (SSES)-Batken

COVID-19 laboratory of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (SSES)-Osh

*COVID-19 mentored laboratories*

### February 2022

On 3 February 2022, the WHO country office in the Kyrgyz Republic led by Dr Nazira Artykova, participated in a joint visit to the Republican Center for Quarantine and Especially Dangerous Infections, with the European Union Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, his excellency Dr Eduard Auer, and Minister of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, Prof Dr Alymkadyr Beishenaliev.

The visit was within the framework of the Central Asia COVID-19 Crisis Response Programme (CACCR), which is a joint effort of the European Union and WHO Regional Office for Europe to help prevent, detect, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and increase country capacities to respond to similar public health threats. The visit was to recognize the support provided to the laboratory which resulted in successful ISO15189: 2012 accreditation in August 2021.



*Joint visit of WHO, EU Ambassador, and Ministry of Health at the Republican Center of Quarantine and Especially Dangerous Infections Bishkek, February 2022*

## February 2022

From 14 to 18 February 2022, WHO provided two trainings in Bishkek. The first training on test validation and verification of examination procedures according to ISO15189: 2012 took place from 14 to 15 February. Participants showed a 14% of knowledge increase, the average pre test results was 49% and the post test increased to 63%. The second training was from 16 to 18 February on Quality Management System requirements according to ISO15189: 2012 standard for medical laboratories showed 16% increase of knowledge, where pre test results was 68% and the post test results increased to 84%. Trainings conducted by Dr Renata Szypulska, Consultant of WHO Regional Office for Europe.



Trainings on test validation and verification and Quality Management System according to the ISO15189: 2012 standard for medical laboratories, Bishkek, February 2021



Dr Joanna Zwetyenga, WHO Incident Management Support team for COVID-19 (IMST) - Laboratory Technical Lead, WHO Regional Office for Europe

### Quality Corner

*“Well-functioning, sustainable laboratory services operating according to international principles of quality and safety are crucial for strong health systems and improving public health therefore impacting individuals”*

**Joanna Zwetyenga**; WHO Incident Management Support team for COVID-19 (IMST) - Laboratory Technical Lead.

If you are interested to learn more on Quality Management System and ISO 15189: 2012 standard you can join Dr Joanna Zwetyenga, every two weeks on Wednesday at 16:00 Bishkek time in an online webinar series called "digesting the norms".

The first webinar started on 9 February 2022, with participation of more than 280 experts from the region. Every time to go through one topic, or chapter of the norm, and answers your questions. Russian translation is available.

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