



THE LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY TAJIKISTAN ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

The Local Health System Sustainability Project is a global initiative that helps low- and middle-income countries transition to sustainable, self-financed health systems as a means to support access to universal health coverage. The Tajikistan Activity addresses immediate epidemic prevention, detection, and response needs while building on the existing in-country national health system and health system resilience strategies. Project interventions aim to improve infection prevention and control, strengthen laboratory services, and support the Government of Tajikistan in the deployment and administration of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Since April 2020, the Activity has worked closely with national counterparts in Tajikistan to rapidly implement jointly agreed upon and nationally approved plans for preventing, detecting, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OBJECTIVES

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITY

- 1) To support the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population in implementing the Tajikistan COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan against COVID-19.
- 2) To improve detection and reduce COVID-19 incidence through targeted technical assistance to the national laboratory system.

VACCINE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- 1) To support the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population in implementing the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) against COVID-19.
- 2) To reduce mortality and social consequences of the outbreak through targeted technical assistance to the Republican Center for Immunization and Prevention and primary health care.

The Activity supports the government efforts to deploy and administer WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccines under the COVAX facility by 1) helping to resolve challenges associated with vaccine rollout, including assisting with surge and routine supply chain and logistics; 2) increasing health care worker capacity; and 3) addressing barriers to vaccine hesitancy. Tajikistan's NDVP identified major gaps and outlined capacity development needs, such as training health care workers to ensure effective deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine, combatting vaccine hesitancy, and addressing challenges in reporting systems. The Activity builds on relationships at the national and subnational levels, and USAID's deep understanding of health systems to provide technical support that accelerates and strengthens Tajikistan's COVID-19 emergency response.

RESULTS

ACHIEVED:

- Strengthened the testing capacity of laboratory specialists across the country to perform real time-PCR testing, training on biosafety and biosecurity management, infection prevention and control, and sputum collection and transportation.
- Procured consumables and equipment such as a Rotor-Gene polymerase chain reaction machines, freezers, centrifuges, laboratory and specimen transport materials, IT equipment, and commodities.
- Improved process of sample collection, storage, and transportation of samples in the target locations.
- Increased health care worker capacity to handle, store, track, and administer COVID-19 vaccines.

EXPECTED:

- Strengthen health care worker capacity to collect data and through interpersonal communication address vaccine information gaps and vaccine hesitancy.
- Update policies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures for cold chain systems, health care worker vaccine administration, and update an undergraduate and postgraduate laboratory curriculum so that it is aligned with national and international standards.
- Equip Tajikistan with state-of-the-art genome sequencing machines.

Project Duration

March 30, 2020 – August 31, 2022

Budget

\$3,022,000

Implementing Organization

Abt Associates, Inc.

Contact

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