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LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT: KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The USAID Local Health System Sustainability Project (LHSS) addressed immediate COVID-19 prevention, detection, and response needs while building the national health system's resilience.

FOCUS AREAS

- Strengthening the capacity of primary health care facilities and hospitals to appropriately manage and treat COVID-19 cases and enhancing infection prevention and control at health facilities
- Expanding epi-surveillance capacity at the primary health care level, and among the Ministry of Health (MOH), and the Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance
- Strengthening laboratory services
- Supporting comprehensive country readiness to administer COVID-19 vaccines, including efforts to ensure uptake and equitable access to vaccines
- Conducting risk communication and community engagement campaigns to address vaccine hesitancy and combat misinformation
- Procuring commodities and supplies requested by national partners

RESULTS AND IMPACT

- Trained over 1,500 health care workers on diagnosis, treatment, infection control, and other public health measures to combat COVID-19.
- Supported the Kyrgyz health care system to enhance its safety protocols and procedures for the safe collection and storage of COVID-19 specimens. Nearly 70 medical facilities and laboratories are now using enhanced operating procedures and safety protocols.
- LHSS supported the creation of multidisciplinary teams, comprised of health care providers who were trained to effectively manage COVID-19 cases. The project also introduced the Universal Nurse model which has created a cadre of fully trained nurses who can work with greater independence and provide comprehensive and efficient care. Both of these approaches optimized the use of existing resources and improved quality of care.
- As a result of demand generation activities carried out by two LHSS grantees, the percentage of vaccinated persons in three districts of the Chui region increased by 8 percent. The Kyrgyz Family Planning Alliance achieved increased vaccine uptake through its work with a broad range of stakeholders, a newly established referral system comprised of mobilizers, activists, and religious representatives, and a voucher system. Media Support Center reached over 3 million people with COVID-19 vaccination information campaigns.
- LHSS supported several IT interventions which increased the Kyrgyz Republic's ability to manage laboratory and epidemiological data; track COVID-19 diagnostic tests through an e-service portal, which provided timely information on hospital bed capacity for COVID-19 patients; and monitor the receipt and distribution of humanitarian aid to health care organizations. In collaboration with Republican Center for Immunoprophylaxis and E-Health Center, LHSS developed an online system for cold chain management of vaccines for safe and timely distribution to end users.
- USAID procured over \$1.4 million of priority laboratory testing equipment, personal protective equipment, medical equipment, and supplies, including high-capacity oxygen concentrators, mobile X-ray machines, video bronchoscopes, and IT equipment, to support hospital intensive care units and structural subdivisions of the MOH.
- LHSS supported key partners to conduct nationwide media campaigns and produced a series of media products and key messages, reaching over seven million people (older adults, healthcare workers, and high-risk groups of young adults), through targeted advertising and social media.
- The Activity developed training materials on interpersonal communication for medical workers to facilitate sharing of evidence-based information related to COVID-19 vaccines.
- LHSS incorporated gender-sensitive approaches in its training materials, communications, and media campaigns.

Duration: April 1, 2020 – November 30, 2022

Budget: \$6.05 million

Implementing Partner: Abt Associates

Key partners: Ministry of Health, the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute of Retraining and Continuous Education, Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance, E-Health Center, Republican Center for Immunoprophylaxis, Republican Health Promotion and Mass Communication Center

Activity Locations: Bishkek City, Chui region, Osh City, and Osh region

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