



# Strengthening Kyrgyzstan National and Subnational Public and Private Laboratories' Biosafety and Biosecurity Practices Through Train-the-Trainer Programs

## Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Disease Control and Prevention

## OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to achieve long-term and sustainable results by strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyz bioscience research community to reduce dependence on surrounding non-state actors, including Russia and the PRC. This was accomplished by building a sustainable, multisectoral training capacity in biosafety and biosecurity practices for laboratory professionals in both the public and private sectors, thereby enhancing the secure handling of infectious agents in Kyrgyzstan.

## REGIONS OF WORK

GHD collaborated with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Kyrgyz National Academy of Science, and other relevant partners (academic institutions, NGOs, etc.) to implement the project.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD engaged with the Kyrgyz government to support the Ministry of Health in Kyrgyzstan in strengthening biosafety and biosecurity measures at laboratories. The project aimed to reduce access to dangerous infectious agents, biotoxins, and other dual-use materials by unauthorized actors, while emphasizing the establishment of a sustainable national training system for trainers on biosafety and biosecurity. The project involved:

- 1) Conducting virtual and in-person coordination meetings with key stakeholders from the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, and other relevant partners to lay the foundation for a well-coordinated and harmonized implementation process and to foster an environment of open communication.
- 2) Developing the training curriculum package for Train-the-Trainer (TTT) workshops, including a virtual meeting with 50 experts and stakeholders from different sectors to review, discuss, finalize, and endorse the material.
- 3) Conducting two 5-day TTT workshops on biosafety and biosecurity best practices in laboratories, involving 50 bioscience researchers and health workers (25 participants per workshop) from public and private laboratories at the national and sub-national levels, thereby enhancing their knowledge and skills in biosafety and biosecurity practices to secure infectious agents in Kyrgyzstan.

## BENEFICIARIES

The project beneficiaries were 50 bioscience researchers and health workers from public and private laboratories at the national and sub-national levels.

## PROJECT PHASES

This project was implemented in three phases:

Phase I – Coordination meetings were conducted with key stakeholders (Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, and other relevant partners) to lay the foundation for a well-coordinated and harmonized implementation process and to create an environment of open communication.

Phase II – A training curriculum package for Train-the-Trainer (TTT) workshops was developed.

Phase III – Two 5-day TTT workshops on biosafety and biosecurity best practices in laboratories were conducted for bioscience researchers and health workers, with 25 participants in each workshop.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>December 01, 2023 – June 30, 2025</b>
<b>Partner Organizations</b>	<b>Kyrgyz Government, Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, the Kyrgyz National Academy of Science, and other relevant partners (academic institutions, NGOs, etc.)</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>U.S. Department of State (DOS) Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction's (ISN/CTR) Global Threat Reduction Programs, including the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) Biosecurity Engagement Program</b>

## Currently . . .

The joint external evaluation report and the Kyrgyz government's efforts in developing a national law on biosafety underlined the need for a sustainable national training system for trainers on biosafety and biosecurity. The absence of Train-the-Trainer (TTT) programs and formalized academic training on biosafety and biosecurity, in both the Kyrgyz public and private sectors, raised concerns about the national posture of biosafety and biosecurity intended to protect laboratorians and prevent malign actors from gaining access to dual-use biological research, samples, and expertise.

## What's next . . .

The project enhanced the country's overall capacity, ensuring a robust national posture in biosafety and biosecurity. It also strengthened the protection of laboratorians and helped prevent malign actors from gaining access to dual-use biological research, samples, and expertise.

## By Numbers

**2**

5-day TTT workshops on biosafety and biosecurity best practices in laboratories were conducted.

**41**

Bioscience researchers and health workers in Kyrgyzstan were trained to implement biosafety and biosecurity practices, strengthening national laboratory safety and protecting against unauthorized access to sensitive biological materials.

**GHD|EMPHNET Information:** Global Health Development (GHD) Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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