

One Health for Central Asia

Infectious diseases do not respect borders—but regional coordination can stem them at source.



THE CHALLENGE

Central Asian countries face the interlinked challenges of emerging infectious diseases, food insecurity, and land degradation exacerbated by climate change.

A multisectoral, regional approach is the most cost-effective way to safeguard the region's animal and public health, strengthen food system resilience, boost trade and competitiveness, and protect ecosystems.

THE ONE HEALTH SOLUTION

One Health is an integrated framework for multisectoral collaboration. It is designed to develop monitoring, prevention, and response systems and deliver more effective results than single-country strategies.

Aligned with national priorities and planning processes, One Health offers a practical approach to enhancing the health of the region's people, animals, and environment while fostering sustainable development and resilience.



Diseases of animal origin cause more than **1 billion** human infections globally each year, with significant losses to livestock productivity and trade opportunities.



Each year there is a **2% chance** of a COVID-19-like pandemic. Climate change is increasing this risk.



Globally, an investment of **US\$1.9–3.4 billion** per year in One Health is estimated to result in an annual rate of return of **44–71%** and prevent **half or all** mild pandemics.

THE BENEFITS OF ONE HEALTH



Prevent infectious diseases

In Central Asia, the annual cost of brucellosis and echinococcosis, to mention only these two, is estimated at US\$76.2 million and US\$223 million, respectively.

The adoption of a **One Health** approach for echinococcosis substantially improves the cost-benefit ratio of interventions: from 3.2 in a business-as-usual scenario to up to 6.8.



Strengthen regional food systems and boost trade

Agriculture forms a significant proportion of regional gross domestic product and is a key asset in Central Asia's extensive rural areas.

One Health can support the sustainable expansion of domestic agriculture production, boosting exports of livestock and agri-products and creating economic opportunities in rural areas.



Safeguard biodiversity and productive landscapes

In Central Asia, deforestation and land degradation threaten endangered species and force humans and livestock to share pastureland with wildlife, heightening the risk of disease transmission. Pollution and misuse of antibiotics pose additional risks.

One Health can improve wildlife health and reduce the presence of antimicrobial residues in the environment.

WHAT COUNTRIES CAN DO WITH ONE HEALTH SUPPORT

Uzbekistan

Establish animal movement control, improve laboratory testing capacity, standardize clinical practice guidelines, and accelerate implementation of food safety regulations.



Kazakhstan

Harmonize regulations to prevent and control diseases of animal origin, reduce food safety risks, and become a significant global exporter of cattle and sheep.



Turkmenistan

Strengthen its epidemiological alert systems, build laboratory capacity to efficiently monitor zoonotic diseases, and establish efficient methods to control air quality near the Aral Sea.



Tajikistan

Establish joint surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases in livestock, wildlife, and human populations, and train health personnel to address antimicrobial resistance.



Kyrgyz Republic

Strengthen its national strategy to ensure the health of people, animals, and the environment and become an exporter of high-value meat and dairy products.

