



Ministry of Health of the  
Republic of Kazakhstan

# ***Strengthening Public Health Emergency Management Workforce Capacity in Kazakhstan***

**Dr Zaure Akhmetova, c.m.s.**

Adviser to the Chair of the Board of National Center of Public Health  
of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan,  
Emergency Project Coordinator.

# Strengthening the Public Health Emergency Management System Project

## Partners:

- ❑ National Center of Public Health of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- ❑ ICAP at Columbia University (USA)

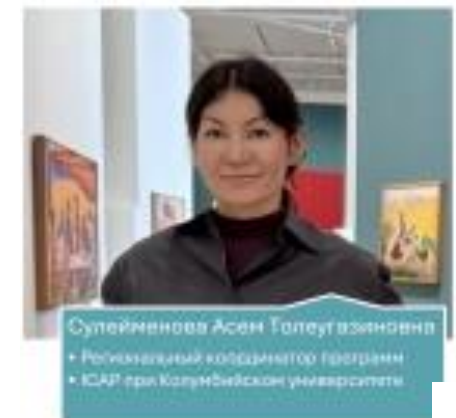
## Project goal:

to improve regional (oblasts) preparedness to respond to biological and man-made emergencies, to strengthen intersectoral coordination, and to promote the development of sustainable healthcare systems.

## In cooperation with:

- ❑ WHO Country Office in Kazakhstan;
- ❑ The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Country Office in Kazakhstan

## Project coordinators:



# Workshop "Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned in Responding to Public Health Emergencies"

**Main goal is to** systematize the experience of responding to the spring floods of 2024, to analyze the effectiveness of the measures taken, and to develop proposals for further strengthening the emergency management system.

The workshop interactive format included regional presentations, group assignments, and practical introduction to WHO tools.

**The results of the event laid the foundation for the development of a program to improve the qualifications of emergency response specialists.**



Almaty city, 23-24 April 2025

# Training program for representatives of regional operational headquarters for responding to public health emergencies

## Comprehensive training program - 60 academic hours.

1. The curriculum was approved by the Academic Council of the National Center for Public Health as a Professional Development Program (Protocol of the NCPH AC #3 as of August 29, 2025);
2. **Target audience:** specialists in sanitary and epidemiological fields, healthcare, veterinary medicine, and emergency situations.
3. **Training format:** hybrid
  - Self-paced online learning on World Health Organization platforms;
  - interactive online sessions (2 hours each, 5 days);
  - in-person simulation exercises (3 days).

# **Training program for representatives of regional operational headquarters for responding to public health emergencies**

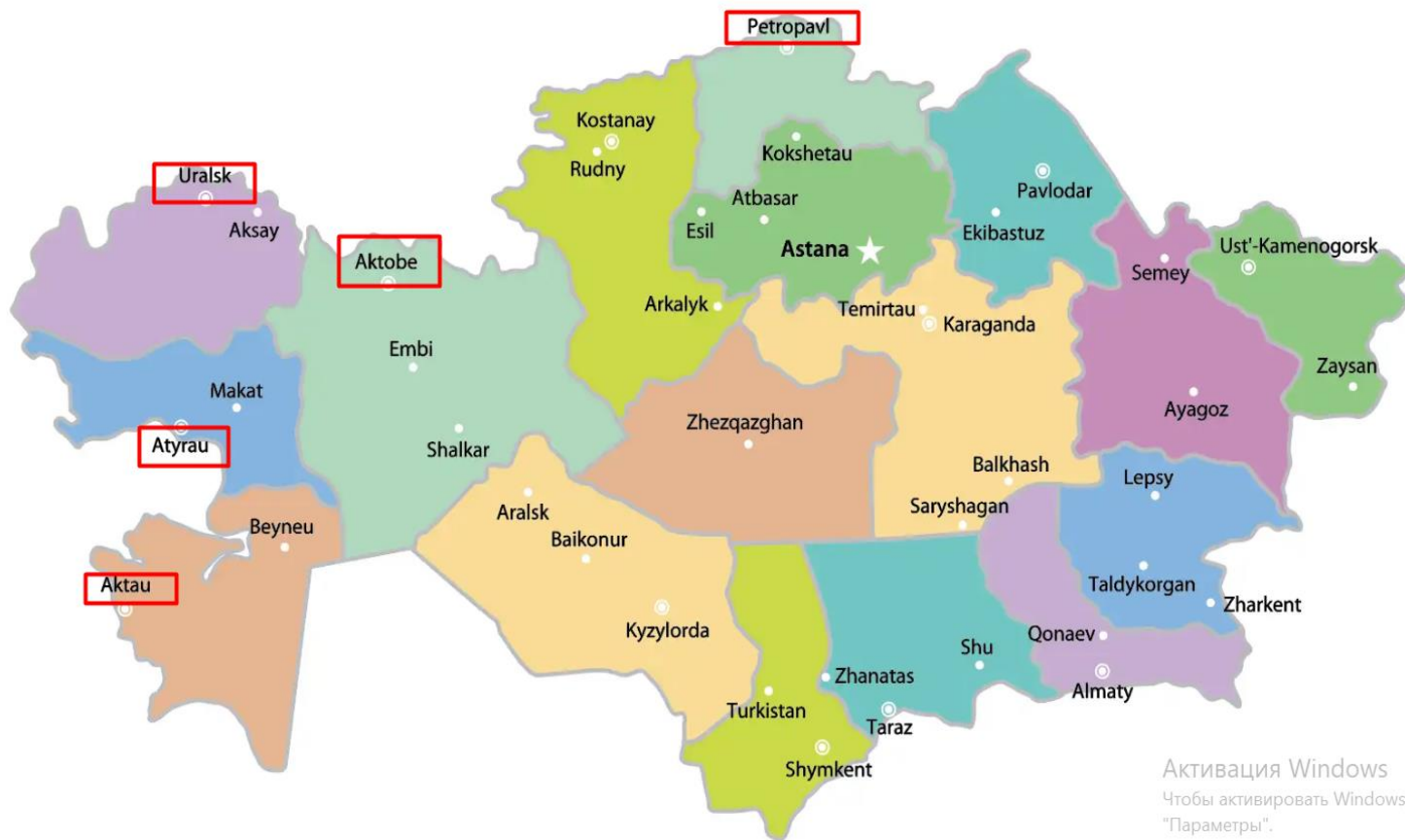
## **The theoretical part covers the following topics:**

- Regulatory framework and international recommendations for emergency response;
- Principles of the Incident Management System (IMS);
- Methods of threat analysis and risk assessment;
- Risk communication and community engagement, etc.;
- Key stages of vaccine procurement and transportation;
- The 7-1-7 approach – a global goal for early detection and response to outbreaks;
- Priority infectious diseases in the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- Review of SOPs for emergency management in the healthcare system.

## **Practical part – the following skills were developed during simulation exercises:**

- Interagency cooperation, activation of task forces, formation of rapid response teams;
- conducting epidemiological investigations;
- organizing briefings for the media and residents of affected communities;
- responding to natural, biological, and man-made threats (flooding; infectious disease outbreak; flooding of anthrax burial site; man-made accidents (chlorine release/liquid chlorine spill/fall of a rocket launch vehicle fragment containing residual rocket fuel (heptyl))).

# Strengthening the Public Health Emergency Management System Project



Region	City	Number of participants
Aktobe	Aktobe	32
West Kazakhstan	Uralsk	42
North Kazakhstan	Petropavlovsk	26
Atyrau	Atyrau	36
Mangystau	Aktau	29
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>165</b>

- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MoH), Committee of Sanitary and Epidemiological Control of the MoH (CSEC), Territorial Departments of SEC, Anti-plague stations, Department on transportation;
- Local executive bodies (LEBs): Health Departments;
- Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MoES) and their territorial departments;
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MoAg) and their territorial departments;
- Petrochemical and oil production enterprises

# Simulation exercises (September 2025 - February 2026)



Aktobe city



Uralsk city



Petropavlovsk city



Aktau city



Atyrau city

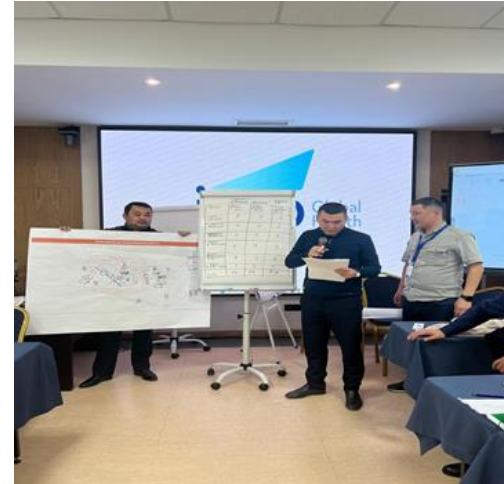


Uralsk city

# Strengthening the Public Health Emergency Management System Project



Facilitators: NCPH, ICAP, WHO CO Kazakhstan, Ministry of Emergency Situations; in Petropavlovsk city, North Kazakhstan region



Aktobe city



Petropavlovsk city

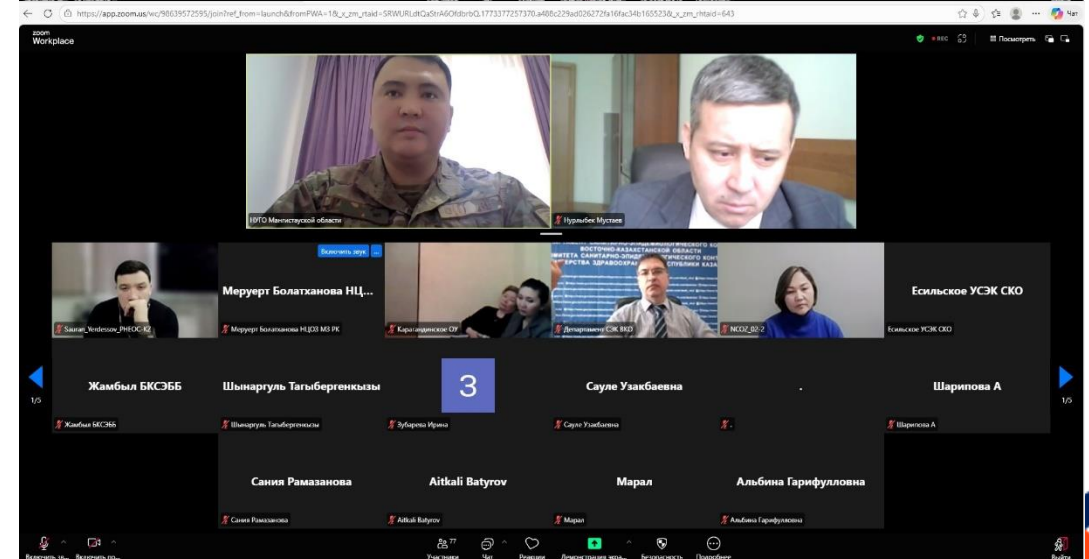
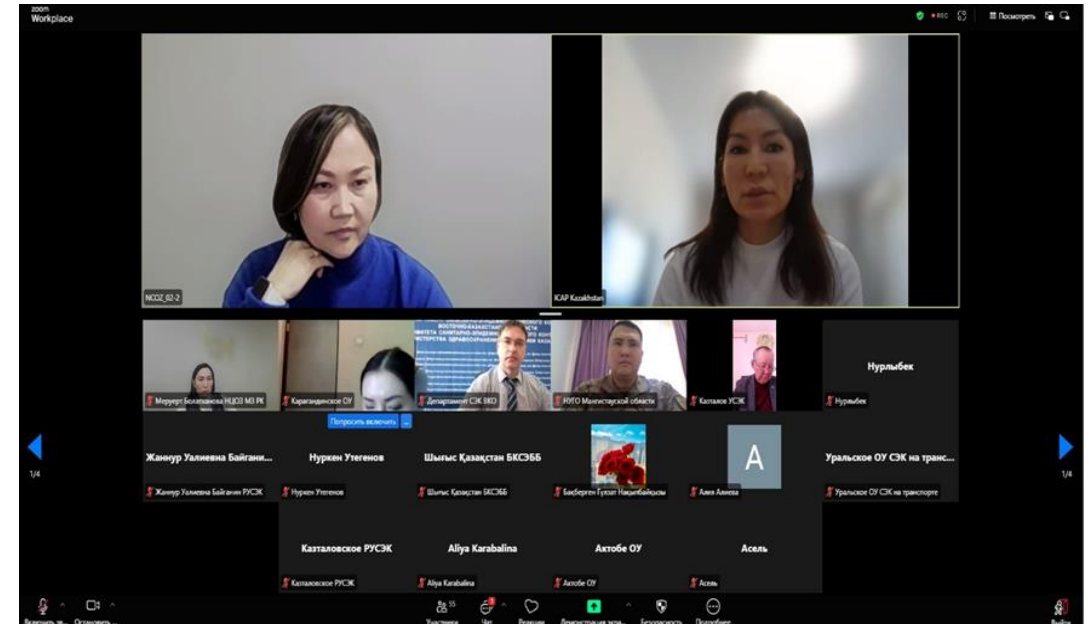


Facilitators: NCPH, ICAP, WHO CO Kazakhstan, Ministry of Emergency Situations; Uralsk city

# Webinar "Improving Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans"

Webinar participants were presented with:

- a list of regulatory legal acts; requirements for the structure of an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan; departmental responsibilities;
- a tool for updating plans – a checklist (developed by the National Center for Public Health in collaboration with experts from ICAP, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the WHO Country Office, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Kazakhstan);
- an overview of the structure of one of the regional plans;
- recommendations for improving Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans.



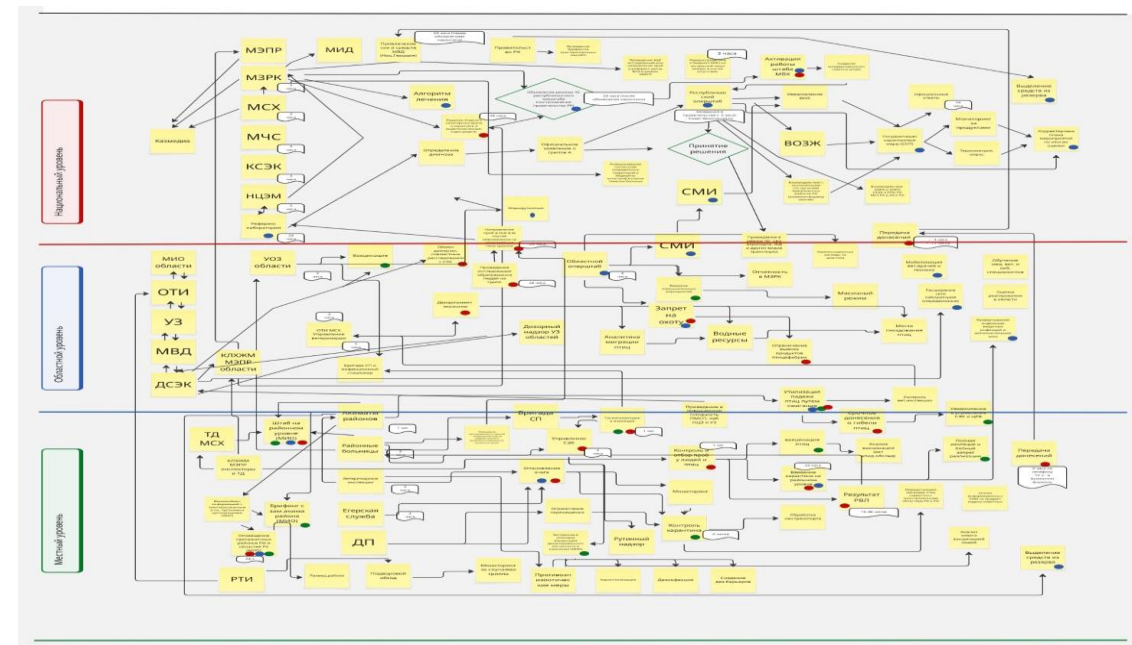
# Workshop "Systematic Mapping of Public Health Emergency Response" in Almaty city

## Workshop goal:

To study mechanisms for intersectoral information sharing, coordination and authority during emergency response in the field of public health



Following the seminar, visual maps of the response system's functioning were created, reflecting the sequence of actions and interactions between the structures involved.



**Simulation exercise on  
intersectoral response to  
zoonotic infections using the  
One Health approach  
(October 9-10, 2025, Astana)**



**Pilot workshop on planning and mobilizing intersectoral One Health workforce for effective preparedness, detection, assessment and response to zoonotic diseases (22-24 January 2024, Almaty)**



**Workshop on sharing surveillance data for more effective risk assessment and policy development/implementation using the TZG OT on Surveillance and Information Sharing in Kazakhstan (14-17 October 2025, Astana)**



# Key results for 2025-2026

- ❑ Approved program of the advanced training course;
- ❑ SOPs have been developed – Emergency Risk Assessment; Activation and Interagency Cooperation; Basic RCCE Actions;
- ❑ 165 trained specialists, including 118 healthcare specialists;
- ❑ The course materials package - online presentations, offline training, videos of simulation scenarios, texts of informational messages and assignments for groups, a guide for facilitators, district maps, and rosters of specialists for forming rapid response teams;
- ❑ Register of specialists who have completed training in public health emergency management (PHEM);
- ❑ Quarterly webinars for the practitioners' community who are participating in the training program on emergency preparedness and response in the healthcare sector;
- ❑ Analysis of regulatory acts with the formation of a structured table by types of threats to identify duplicate provisions, clarify the distribution of powers and the need for digitalization of processes.

# Strengthening the Public Health Emergency Management System Project and One health approach\*

## Plans for 2026

- Conducting a tabletop exercise (TTX) focused on testing the functionality of regulatory and procedural documents;
- Creating an online training platform for emergency preparedness and response;
- Considering the possibility of conducting full-scale field simulation exercises to test coordination and response to zoonotic disease outbreaks in Kazakhstan (in collaboration with the veterinary sector);
- Institutionalizing the implementation of the One Health approach by strengthening the formalization of the intersectoral coordination process (Intersectoral Order);



**THANK YOU**