

WHO Uzbekistan Quarterly Newsletter

April-June 2024



Training of Trainers in Samarkand: Effective Perinatal Care



“After this training, I feel confident about my methods of nurturing newborns”, - Khabiba Oripova, participant of the subregional Training of Trainers on Effective Perinatal Care course.

Ms. Khabiba participated in a 7-day training in Samarkand alongside 30 other specialists to learn about innovative, cost-effective perinatal care practices.

The program, led by three international WHO trainers and three locally trained Uzbek trainers, included neonatologists, midwives, obstetricians, and gynecologists from various perinatal centers across Samarkand, Navoi, Gulistan, and Jizzakh.

This initiative aims to not only improve perinatal care but also to empower local professionals to become trainers themselves, thus expanding their impact and expertise.

The "Effective Perinatal Technologies" course is part of a joint UN program funded by the Ishonch Fund. The project is implemented by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA agencies.

#Youth4Health and for Immunization in Uzbekistan





Medical students of [KIUT](#) and [EMU](#) Universities led the European Immunization Week (EIW) 2024 campaign in Tashkent and Bukhara.

The volunteers reached over 1,700 school and university students and nearly 100 caregivers through interactive lectures, quizzes, social media, and group discussions about the critical importance of immunization.

They didn't just spread awareness; they also addressed and corrected common myths and misconceptions about vaccines, ensuring the community received accurate information.

WHO Representative in Uzbekistan Dr Asheena Khalakdina commended their work with certificates of appreciation.

This initiative is part of a broader project, jointly funded by the [European Union in Uzbekistan](#) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, aimed at strengthening immunization and digitizing health systems to advance universal health coverage in five Central Asian countries.

Uzbekistan joins the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines



Fourteen health-care facilities across Uzbekistan will receive an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured childhood cancer medicines with end-to-end support from selection to distribution, in line with the best possible care standards, thanks to Uzbekistan's participation in the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines.

The initiative, co-founded by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and WHO, brings together partners from across the globe to co-design a transformative model for the broader global health community.

[UNICEF](#) is the procurement partner of the GPACCM Platform for EURO. [Read more...](#)

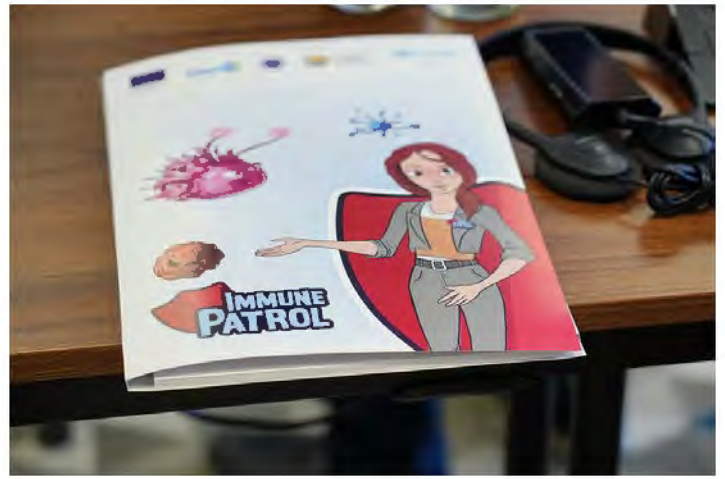
"The selection of Uzbekistan as one of the initial 6 pilot countries in the Global Platform is a testament to the prioritization of childhood cancer by Uzbekistan. Today's agreement will help to tremendously improve access to essential cancer medications for the 3500 children diagnosed with cancer each year across the country," - stated acting Minister of Health of Uzbekistan Mr Asilbek Khudayarov on signing the Letter of Agreement.

Presentation of the Immune Patrol

We introduced the "[Immune Patrol](#)" interactive game-based platform to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Sanitary-Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Committee of Uzbekistan and facilitated a detailed "hands-on" experience of the platform for selected teachers and officials from the two ministries.



The next step is to pilot the platform in selected schools and gather insights before full integration.



Diabetes Care and Prevention Training

It was a three-day training on diabetes care and preventing complications within World Health Organization and World Diabetes Fund's joint project. Led by the renowned Professor Simon Harding from the University of Liverpool, our dedicated team conducted these sessions at the Syrdarya branch of the Republican Specialized Eye Microsurgery Medical Center.



Focus on Diabetic Retinopathy

The training focused on the prevention and treatment of diabetic retinopathy, ensuring our healthcare professionals are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to tackle this issue effectively.

COLLABORATION WITH ZAMIN FOUNDATION LED BY UZBEKISTAN'S FIRST LADY

It Started with Memorandum of Underastanding



On May 29 we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with [Zamin Foundation](#). During the meeting, WHO Representative Dr. Asheena Khalakdina and Zamin Foundation's executive head, Tamila Aliyeva, delved into topics such as pediatric cancer care, enhancing newborn hearing screenings, and ensuring clean air and safe drinking water for everyone.

Zamin Foundation is dedicated to boosting Uzbekistan's sustainable development and improving living standards for all.

Went on with International Congress on Pediatric Oncology and Hematology in Uzbekistan

WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr. Hans Kluge made a video address for the congress. WHO Representative in Uzbekistan, Dr. Asheena Khalakdina, co-facilitated the opening session.

The "Evidence to Action" congress gathered over 300 participants, aiming to accelerate efforts to support Uzbekistan's goal for having the survival rate of children diagnosed with cancer up to 60%, as outlined in a presidential decree.



“With Uzbekistan's unwavering political commitment to greatly improve diagnosis and access to quality childhood cancer care, transformative changes in the healthcare system are within reach!”,
- said Dr. Asheena Khalakdina, WHO Representative in Uzbekistan.

Strengthened with the Meeting of Regional Director and the First Lady

During his visit to Uzbekistan, Dr. Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, met with Mrs. Ziroat Mirziyoyeva, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Zamin International Public Foundation, and had discussions about their shared commitment to:

- Fighting childhood cancer
- Promoting child mental health
- Addressing newborn hearing impairments
- Enhancing environmental health

The discussions also included potential collaboration on an international maternal and child health conference and health-promoting schools.



WELCOME TO UZBEKISTAN, DR HANS KLUGE

In late June , Dr. Hans Kluge, our Regional Director of the WHO European Office, arrived in Tashkent with an official visit.

The goals of the visit were:

- Regional Dialogue to scale up TB control
- Country Mission to enhance PHC reforms
- Start collaboration with Zamin International Public Foundation on maternal and child health



"Rakhmat, Uzbekistan! I am glad to be in Tashkent and to meet with Acting Minister of Health Asilbek Khudayarov ahead of the high-level regional meeting of the Stop TB Partnership, which Uzbekistan is hosting as a follow-up to last year's UN Global Dialogue on ending tuberculosis,"
Dr. Kluge noted on his X (Twitter) account.

Uzbekistan is the first country Dr. Kluge visited after being elected Regional Director.

WHO-StopTB Partnership: International conference gathered over 100 key stakeholders in Uzbekistan

Achieving the UN high-level meeting commitments on tuberculosis (TB): a high-level regional dialogue in Europe and Central Asia, jointly organized with the Stop TB Partnership and hosted by Uzbekistan, came nine months after world leaders gathered at the UN General Assembly in September 2023 and committed to new targets to end TB. Dr. Hans Kluge, the Director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, delivered a welcome speech and presentation at the conference.



Dr. Kluge emphasized, “We won’t end TB without strong political and financial commitments. Ending TB requires increasing investments in new diagnostics and treatments, prevention measures including a new vaccine, and reaching out to the most vulnerable groups and those with limited access to healthcare, such as migrants. It also requires engaging partners, especially civil society, in the health sector and beyond, including in social protection, human rights, immigration, and justice.”

HEPATITIS B: UZBEKISTAN HAS ACHIEVED THE TARGET

A proud moment for Uzbekistan and the WHO!

Uzbekistan has achieved the regional target for Hepatitis B control, bringing Central Asia closer to eliminating this public health threat. Dr. Hans Kluge, Regional Director for WHO Europe, handed over the Certificate of Validation to the Ministry of Health. This milestone is a testament to the power of vaccination and a significant step towards eliminating viral hepatitis in the WHO European region.

Other countries in the Region that have achieved these targets (click on the cards):

Belarus

Italy

Georgia

Kyrgyzstan

Netherlands

Republic of Moldova

Turkmenistan

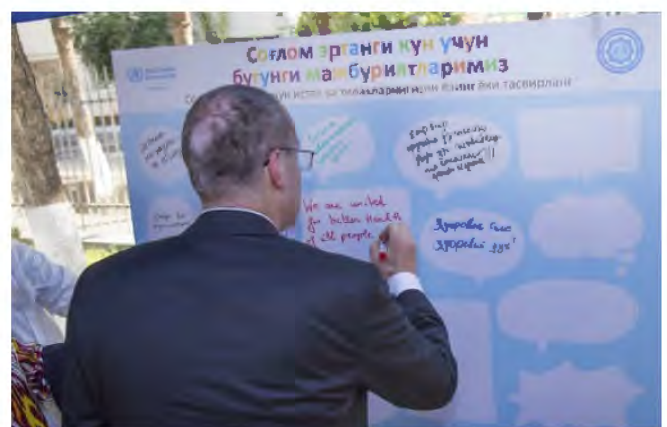
United Kingdom



Visit to Uchtepa Multiprofile Polyclinic

During his visit Regional Director for Europe witnessed some of the health reforms being rolled out at this PHC facility, inspired by the Syrdarya pilot:

- Enhanced role of PHC in the health system
- Nurse-led check-ups and triage before doctor consultations
- Greater autonomy for nurses in managing chronic diseases
- New clinical guidelines and protocols
- Stronger community and PHC team collaboration
- Advanced e-health information system



"It is necessary for each of us to follow a healthy lifestyle," – Dr Asilbek Khudayarov, a.i. Minister of Health of Uzbekistan.

"We are united for better health of all people of beautiful Uzbekistan without stigma nor discrimination", - Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe.

“Invest in HEALTH, invest in the future! For all people of Uzbekistan, leaving no one behind!”,
- Dr Asheena Khalakdina, WHO Representative in Uzbekistan.

These and other health commitments and wishes were made by the guests and patients of Uchtepa multiprofile policlinic during Dr Hans Kluge’s visit.

Health Investment Forum in Bishkek



Signing of the Outcome Statement

The first-ever International Health Investment Forum took place on June 26-27 in Bishkek, bringing together partners, development agencies, and health ministries to discuss and shape the future of health investment in Central Asia!

Over two days, participants engaged in:

- Panel discussions on health investment trends
- Strategic talks on strengthening primary health care in rural areas and tackling infectious diseases
- Networking opportunities with thought leaders and key influencers

This document encapsulates the collective commitment to improving health outcomes and driving sustainable investments in the healthcare sector.

Stay tuned for more updates: Follow us on Facebook

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