

Brief Report on the Regional Conference

“One Health for Pandemic Prevention, Food Systems Resilience, and Health Ecosystems in Central Asia”

Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, 29–31 October 2025

From October 29 to 31, 2025, Dushanbe hosted the Regional Conference on the project “*One Health for Pandemic Prevention, Food Systems Resilience, and Health Ecosystems in Central Asia*”, which brought together representatives of government agencies, international organizations, academia, and civil society to discuss practical steps for implementing the multisectoral “One Health” approach in the countries of the region. The conference became a key regional event aimed at strengthening cooperation between the health, agriculture, environment, and education sectors, as well as developing sustainable systems to prevent pandemics, enhance food security, and protect ecosystems. The event gathered **160 participants** from five Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan — as well as international experts and representatives of donor organizations. Over **35 speakers** delivered presentations during the conference.

Opening of the Conference

The plenary session opened the event on a high note of cooperation and political support. Mr. **Sino Tokhirzoda**, Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), welcomed the participants and emphasized CAREC’s commitment to strengthening intersectoral collaboration in the region. **Ms. Dilrabo Mansuri**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, noted that the government considers the One Health approach as an essential tool for sustainable development, food security, and emergency preparedness. **Mr. Najy Benhassine**, World Bank Regional Director for Central Asia, underlined that implementing the One Health approach is not only a social but also an economic necessity. **Mr. Agasi Harutyunyan**, representative of the Quadripartite Alliance on One Health, confirmed the readiness of international organizations to provide technical support to the countries of the region. **Dr. Batyr Mammedov**, Executive Director of CAREC, outlined the key priorities of the program — the establishment of a Regional Coordination Council on One Health, the development of a regional knowledge platform, the implementation of training programs, and joint investments in zoonoses prevention, food system resilience, and climate adaptation.

Panel 1. Central Asian Perspective on One Health

The first panel focused on national priorities and country experiences in integrating One Health principles. Representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan shared achievements and plans to strengthen interagency coordination. Kazakhstan presented its **National Coordination Platform** uniting data on human, animal, and environmental health, as well as its digital biosecurity system. Kyrgyzstan highlighted the establishment of permanent interagency mechanisms that helped manage the anthrax outbreak in 2023 and continue field training programs. Tajikistan, as the host country, emphasized integrating One Health principles into national strategies and programs, laboratory modernization, and climate-sensitive monitoring. Turkmenistan presented priorities from its **National Health Strategy 2030**, focusing on veterinary diagnostics and cross-border cooperation. Uzbekistan shared progress in digital disease-tracking systems and expanding its laboratory network.

The panel concluded that institutionalizing coordination mechanisms, sharing data, building human capacity, and boosting regional collaboration are key to success.

Panel 2. Knowledge, Governance, and Financing for One Health

The second panel addressed governance, knowledge management, and financing issues within the One Health framework. Representatives from **FAO, WHO, WOA (OIE), the World Bank**, and the **Pandemic Fund** stressed the importance of practical implementation at the national level. Panelists emphasized that initiatives should begin with specific diseases where data sharing is already established. Deepening intersectoral collaboration, joint investments, and public awareness were highlighted as essential for program sustainability.

Panel 3. From Complexity to Results: Lessons from the Field

This panel showcased field-level experiences of One Health implementation. Experts from Central Asia and international partners shared lessons from zoonotic disease control, preventive programs, and laboratory capacity building. Examples from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan demonstrated tangible results of integrating veterinary, health, and environmental services — from early detection to joint outbreak response. It was emphasized that community-level capacity building is crucial for rapid and coordinated responses to human and animal health threats.

Panel 4. National Commitments and Priority Areas

The final panel focused on national commitments and future priorities. Countries reaffirmed their readiness to strengthen coordination at national and regional levels, enhance legal and institutional frameworks, and integrate One Health into education and research programs. Panelists highlighted that political will, funding, and regional knowledge exchange are decisive for the success of the initiative.

Scientific Seminar

The scientific seminar *“Pathways to One Health in Central Asia”*, held on October 30–31, 2025, in Dushanbe, served as an important regional platform for knowledge exchange and scientific discussion on implementing the One Health concept in the region. The event gathered representatives of ministries of health, agriculture, ecology, academic institutions, international organizations, and development partners.

The seminar opened with welcome remarks from **Mr. Holger Kray (World Bank)**, presenting the Regional One Health Program, and **Mr. Dilorvarsho Dustzoda**, Advisor to the CAREC Executive Director. In his keynote speech, **Mr. Carlos das Neves (OHHLEP, EFSA)** stressed that successful One Health implementation requires recognizing the interdependence of human, animal, and ecosystem health and building resilient and equitable socio-ecological systems.

Session 1 – Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Participants discussed integrating One Health approaches in Europe and Central Asia, Uzbekistan’s AMR Center, the national surveillance system, the MPTF project in Tajikistan, and Codex Alimentarius standards for antibiotic control in food. AMR was identified as a major regional challenge requiring a laboratory network and harmonized monitoring methods. Participants called for stronger coordination among medical, veterinary, and food safety services.

Session 2 – Prevention and Detection of Health Threats: This session presented examples of cost-effective programs on rabies control, H5Nx avian influenza studies in Kazakhstan, plague risk assessments among wildlife, and brucellosis control programs in Turkmenistan. Experts emphasized unified data-sharing protocols on zoonotic threats and strengthened interagency surveillance with a focus on early warning and joint response.

Session 3 – Climate, Biodiversity, and Health: Speakers highlighted the impact of climate change and ecosystem degradation on disease spread, Mongolia’s experience in sustainable pasture management, Kyrgyzstan’s wildlife pathology research, and the use of IUCN One Health guidance in protected areas. Discussions also addressed human-wildlife-livestock conflicts and Kazakhstan’s saiga conservation experience. Adaptation to climate change, it was noted, must integrate One Health principles and institutionalize ecological-epidemiological data exchange.

Session 4 – Digitalization and Data Integration: Participants discussed animal identification systems in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan’s state biosecurity information system, and Georgia’s unified human-animal disease monitoring approach. While digital tools greatly enhance interagency cooperation, standardization, interoperability, and cybersecurity remain crucial.

Session 5 – Education and Capacity Building: This session focused on integrating One Health into education. Presentations covered CDC and FETP regional initiatives, SEAOHUN’s academic experience, and examples from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in embedding One Health modules into medical, veterinary, and environmental curricula. Participants supported developing a regional learning module and continuous professional training.

On the second day, participants learned from China’s interagency One Health integration and tools such as **OHHLEP Inventory, ANIMUSE, ATLAS, JRA, and GLLP**, discussing their use in risk assessment and national planning. A proposal was presented to establish a **Regional “Science for One Health” Platform** under CAREC to foster regional scientific cooperation and knowledge sharing.

During the closing session, themed *“From Evidence to Action”*, **Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda (CAREC)** emphasized the need to institutionalize One Health in national policy and strengthen coordination between the health, agriculture, and environment sectors. Representatives from **FAO, the World Bank, and the Food Security Committee of Tajikistan** confirmed their readiness to support countries in implementing the regional program and advancing scientific collaboration.

Key directions for further action include:

- Strengthening national and regional One Health coordination structures;
- Developing integrated digital surveillance systems;
- Mainstreaming One Health into education and climate programs;
- Enhancing research collaboration and professional training;
- Building a sustainable regional platform for joint health and environment initiatives.

Regional Coordination Council on One Health

As part of the second day of the Regional Conference (October 30, 2025), the **First Meeting of the Regional Coordination Council (RCC)** for the One Health Initiative in Central Asia took place. The RCC was established as a key mechanism to coordinate regional efforts in protecting human, animal, and environmental health. Its goal is to ensure coherent interagency and cross-border collaboration, strengthen prevention of zoonotic and transboundary diseases, combat antimicrobial resistance, and

monitor climate and environmental impacts on health. The creation of the RCC reflects the region's commitment to move from fragmented actions to an integrated, coordinated management system in line with the global One Health vision.

Participants reviewed the **Terms of Reference** of the RCC, the draft **Action Plan for 2026**, and the concept of a **Regional Information Platform** for data and knowledge exchange. The meeting resulted in decisions to finalize the RCC Terms of Reference and Action Plan, develop the platform, form technical working groups, and convene biannual meetings under CAREC coordination.

The RCC leadership was elected as follows:

- **Chair:** Mr. Daulet Yesmagambetov (Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan)
- **Co-Chairs:** Ms. Manar Smagul (Ministry of Health, Kazakhstan) and Ms. Bubuzhan Arykbaeva (Ministry of Health, Kyrgyz Republic).

In closing, **Dr. Batyr Mammedov**, CAREC Executive Director, emphasized that the establishment of the RCC marks an important step toward institutionalizing cooperation in Central Asia under the One Health framework and building a sustainable regional mechanism for biosafety, public health, and environmental protection.

Key Outcomes and Recommendations

The conference reaffirmed strong political support and practical commitment of Central Asian countries to advancing the One Health concept. Key conclusions include:

- Countries have made significant progress in institutionalizing One Health but need to further develop legal and regulatory frameworks.
- The immediate priority is the operationalization of the Regional Coordination Council (RCC) and the development of a **Regional Action Plan 2026–2030**.
- Data sharing and joint research should be enhanced through the regional knowledge platform.
- Capacity development and integration of One Health modules into university curricula are critical.
- Investments should focus on prevention, monitoring, and the resilience of health and agriculture systems.

Conclusion

At the closing session, representatives of the **World Bank**, **CAREC**, the **Quadripartite Alliance**, and the **Government of Tajikistan** emphasized that the conference marked a major step in strengthening regional cooperation and scientific foundations for the One Health initiative. The event demonstrated the region's readiness for joint action, knowledge exchange, and sustainable solutions for human, animal, and ecosystem health. Future efforts will focus on operationalizing the RCC, launching the knowledge portal, developing educational and research initiatives, and mobilizing financial resources for joint programs. The conference concluded with a shared commitment to make *One Health* a practical reality for Central Asia — ensuring the health and well-being of people, animals, and the environment for years to come.

More information is available at: <https://carececo.org>