

ONE HEALTH FOR PANDEMIC PREVENTION, FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN CENTRAL ASIA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Coordinator on development of the Regional One Health Action Plan(s) / Regional Specialist

Background

The Central Asian region faces complex challenges in public health, food security, and environmental protection that are transboundary and cross-sectoral in nature. Threats related to the spread of zoonotic diseases, the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and foodborne risks require a systemic, coordinated approach that goes beyond the capacities of individual countries or sectors. In response to these challenges, the governments of the five Central Asian countries signed a Joint Communiqué in 2022 and approved a Framework Programme of Action in 2023, initiating regional cooperation under the "One Health" concept. The One Health approach emphasizes the interconnections between human, animal, and ecosystem health, enabling more effective prevention, preparedness, and response to emerging threats.

Within this initiative, it has been recognized that sustainable progress is only possible with the presence of a regional coordination structure capable of uniting country efforts, facilitating dialogue, promoting knowledge exchange, and supporting joint decision-making. The role of this structure has been entrusted to the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), which has extensive experience in fostering inter-country and cross-sectoral collaboration in the region.

As the regional coordinator, CAREC plays a central role in establishing and operationalizing the coordination framework for the One Health concept. It is responsible for developing and aligning a regional action plan, coordinating technical working groups, and organizing regular consultations with participating countries. Additionally, CAREC will lead the development of strategies for establishing a laboratory network, enhancing the legal and regulatory framework, and strengthening communication mechanisms. It will also organize educational and training activities for relevant specialists. CAREC's efforts will contribute to the formation of a unified approach to managing sanitary-epidemiological and environmental risks in the region.

Objective of the Assignment

To support the implementation of the regional One Health project by coordinating thematic consultants, leading the development of strategic regional documents, overseeing analytical and regulatory assessments, ensuring regular communication and reporting, and facilitating stakeholder engagement to operationalize the One Health approach in Central Asia.

Scope of Work

1. Coordination of Thematic Consultants

- Develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) for thematic consultants in line with project objectives and timelines.
- Support the recruitment and onboarding of consultants, ensuring clarity of scope and deliverables.
- Supervise and coordinate consultants' activities to ensure quality and timely outputs.
- Review and approve consultant deliverables and provide technical inputs.

- Facilitate coordination between consultants, national focal points, and regional working groups.

2. Strategic Document Development

- Lead the development of the Regional One Health Action Plan:
 - Conduct regional situation analysis through desk review and consultations.
 - Organize national-level consultations and a regional workshop to identify priorities.
 - Draft the regional action plan, define monitoring mechanisms, and support final endorsement.
- Lead the development of the Regional Laboratory Network Collaboration Strategy:
 - Coordinate the collection of data on current laboratory capacities.
 - Organize stakeholder consultations and consolidate feedback into the draft strategy.
 - Facilitate regional validation and endorsement processes.

3. Coordination of Analytical Activities

- Coordinate regional risk assessment on priority threats (zoonoses, AMR, food safety):
 - Ensure the development and validation of regional risk assessment methodology.
 - Coordinate data collection and synthesis of national inputs.
 - Oversee preparation of the regional risk assessment report and its integration into strategy documents.
- Coordinate cross-country reviews of laws and regulations relevant to One Health operationalization:
 - Develop analysis methodology and identify review topics.
 - Synthesize national findings into regional reports highlighting patterns, gaps, and harmonization opportunities.
 - Facilitate validation workshops and stakeholder discussions.

4. Reporting and Communication

- Prepare descriptive reports, policy briefs, and communication materials for the One Health Information Portal.
- Ensure regular and timely donor reporting, including quarterly and final technical progress reports.
- Contribute to the preparation of thematic content for regional campaigns and stakeholder communications.
- Organize and provide inputs for regular regional consultations and project meetings, including agendas, minutes, presentations, and follow-up actions.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Knowledge Management

- Support the collection, validation, and reporting of M&E indicators, including disaggregated data by gender and sector.
- Maintain up-to-date data and documentation to track progress against project objectives.
- Contribute to the development of knowledge products (case studies, best practices, blogs, and policy notes) for internal and external dissemination.

Assignment Duration

The assignment will last for a maximum of 24 months, but will not exceed the project end date. Extension may be considered based on project dynamics.

Reporting

Reports to the CAREC OH Project Coordinator and collaborates with the One Health Coordination Group.

Assignment Location

CAREC Headquarters in Almaty, Kazakhstan or one of the Central Asian countries with the possibility of remote work, with occasional travel within Central Asia for event support and stakeholder engagement.

Qualifications

- Advanced university degree in public health, veterinary science, environmental science, or related fields.
- At least 7 years of experience in regional coordination, policy development, or public health/environmental programs.
- Strong experience in managing consultants and intergovernmental coordination.
- Knowledge of One Health principles and the Central Asia regional context.
- Fluency in English and Russian.