

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

TERMS OF REFERENCE Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) 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.

Effective monitoring and evaluation are crucial to ensure timely tracking of project performance, informed decision-making, and compliance with World Bank and donor requirements. The M&E Specialist will play a key role in the development and operation of a robust M&E framework aligned with project objectives.

Objectives of the Assignment

To develop, manage, and oversee the project's Monitoring and Evaluation system, ensuring that all project activities are tracked, results are measured against indicators outlined in the Project Appraisal Document (PAD), and consolidated reports are prepared for stakeholders and donors. The M&E Specialist will also support data collection coordination with country partners and the preparation of knowledge products.

Scope of Work

The M&E Specialist will report to the CAREC OH Project Coordinator and be responsible for the following tasks:

- Develop and **implement** the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the regional One Health program in alignment with PAD results indicators and CAREC's project objectives.
- Design and maintain a set of data collection tools, including forms, templates, and instructions for indicator tracking, covering both outcome and intermediate results.
- Coordinate with national partners to ensure regular data collection, verification, and timely submission of country-specific inputs for regional M&E reporting.
- Establish and manage a centralized digital system or database for capturing M&E data, in collaboration with the One Health Information Portal team.
- Lead the preparation of consolidated M&E reports, including progress against project indicators, outcome assessments, and emerging challenges.
- Prepare semi-annual and annual project performance reports for submission to the World Bank, integrating data from across all project components.
- Develop dashboards and visualizations to summarize project performance and share findings with technical teams and external stakeholders.
- Track the delivery and use of key knowledge products, learning materials, and outputs produced under the project.
- Conduct periodic field visits (as needed) to verify project progress and provide technical support to partners on M&E-related matters.
- Support the monitoring of gender-disaggregated and climate-sensitive indicators, in line with gender and climate actions described in PAD and project documentation.
- Lead or contribute to mid-term and final project evaluations, as well as any external reviews initiated by the World Bank or partners.
- Provide inputs and updates for donor briefings, thematic reports, and communications related to project results.
- Coordinate with the Communication, Procurement, and Technical teams to ensure integrated reporting of training, outreach, and implementation results.
- Build the capacity of project and national partner staff in M&E methods through targeted training and technical guidance.

Assignment Duration

The assignment will last for 24 months, beginning from contract signing. Extension may be considered based on project dynamics.

Reporting

The M&E Specialist will report directly to the CAREC OH Project Coordinator and work in close coordination with the World Bank task team and national focal points in partner countries.

Assignment Location

CAREC Headquarters, Almaty, Kazakhstan, with possible travel to project implementation sites across Central Asia.

Qualifications

Education:

- Advanced degree in public health, economics, development studies, data science, or related field with a focus on monitoring and evaluation.

Experience:

- At least 5 years of relevant experience in designing and implementing M&E systems for donor-funded or regional development projects.
- Experience working with World Bank or other multilateral organization projects preferred.
- Strong analytical skills, including indicator design, data visualization, and results-based reporting.

Skills:

- Proficiency in M&E software (e.g., Excel, Power BI, KoboToolbox, or similar platforms).
- Strong report writing and presentation skills.
- Fluent in English and Russian (spoken and written).
- Experience coordinating with multi-country teams and facilitating M&E capacity building.