

Ensuring Safety and Security during Mass Gatherings



Enhancing Preparedness and Response to Health Risks during Mass Gatherings in Central Asia



Funded by the EU

SDGs



- This project funded by EU and implemented by ISTC aims to improve health security in Central Asia, namely in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, by preparing for and responding to different threats during mass gatherings. It focuses on food and water safety, handling chemical incidents by setting up Toxicology Information Centers, and enhancing public health Command, Control, and Communication (C3) systems.



Safe food



Enhancing public health Command, Control, and Communication



Clean water



Establishment of Toxicology Information Centers

Introduction

Purpose

Scope Of Activities

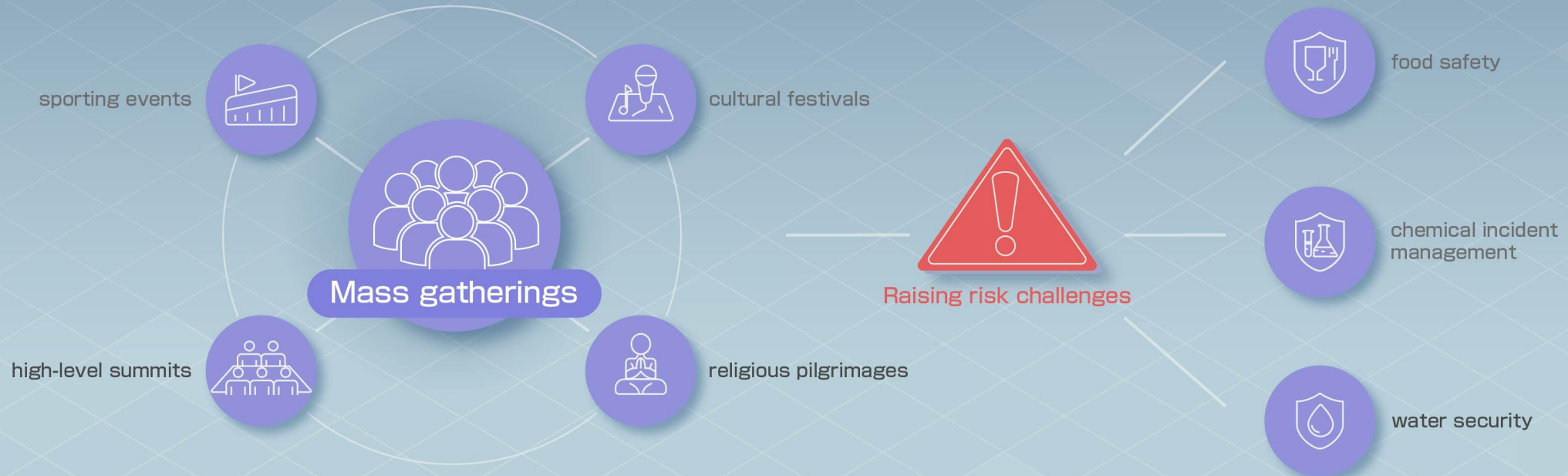
Outcome

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The definition of Mass gathering & the risk posed by mass gathering

- As globalization accelerates and international travel becomes more accessible, the need to ensure public health and safety at large-scale events has grown more urgent. Mass gatherings—whether sporting events, cultural festivals, religious pilgrimages, or high-level summits—present a range of complex challenges, particularly in the domains of food safety, chemical incident management, and water security. Mass gatherings also cause overwhelmed emergency services due to high demand for medical, security, and logistical support.



The main goal of this project is strengthening preparedness and response to health risks during mass gatherings in Central Asia through Capacity Building.



Train-the-trainer programs enhanced mass gathering preparedness, training 1,000+

- Training programs were conducted to train doctors and clinical toxicologists from emergency hospitals and public officials such as experts from Ministries of Health, Ministries of Emergency Situations, who deal with food and water safety, chemical incident response, and public health command, control, and communication systems. These programs followed a "train-the-trainer" model, enabling participants to pass on their knowledge at the national level.
- Newly trained experts organized and led national-level training sessions, ensuring the widespread adoption of best practices and enhancing local expertise on mass gathering preparedness and response. Over 1,000 people were trained and began applying the knowledge they gained in their work.



"train-the-trainer" model



Activities and measures

Simulation Exercises



Practical exercise were conducted to assess response and preparedness national plans of partner countries, ensuring that systems and personnel were ready for real-world mass gathering scenarios.

Resource Provision



Rapid tests to check quality of water and food, portable chemical contamination control devices, digital devices, personal protection materials, and other equipment were supplied to partner countries to enhance the capacity for effective preparedness and response during mass gatherings.

Poisons Information Centers



This activity plays a critical role in the partner countries and supports reducing emergency hospital workloads by offering immediate guidance for managing poison exposures. These Centers are especially vital during mass gatherings to address potential toxic incidents promptly, and people can access their services through dedicated hotlines or online platforms.



Simulation exercise of Mass Gathering incident in Islamabad, Pakistan



Train the Trainer Workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Regional practical exercise for government officials



Opening ceremony of the Poisons Information Center in Astana, Kazakhstan

International collaboration and networking

International collaboration



The project facilitated creation of a strong network of experts (Regional Working Group) from governments and hospitals across participating countries, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.



Regional Working Group meeting



Study Visits to Ireland and Germany



provided project members from the partner countries with firsthand insights into effective regulatory frameworks, emergency response strategies, and best practices in risk mitigation. These events further expanded international collaboration, connecting participants with leading institutions like the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Technological University Dublin, Irish Water, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Berlin's Robert Koch Institute.



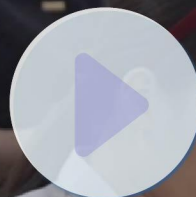
Study Visit to Ireland



The project strengthens public health by ensuring safe mass gatherings and improving societal well-being.



暫停



Kyrgyzstan



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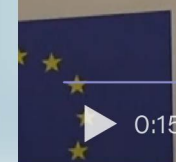
...eats in Central Asia

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