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BI-LATERAL BIOSECURITY PROJECT IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Canada's Global Partnership Program (GPP) has developed a comprehensive strategy to enhance biosecurity, biosafety and biocontainment capabilities in the Kyrgyzstan. The decision to launch the program in the Kyrgyzstan was based on many factors, including geography and the nature and types of pathogens found there. There are numerous biological facilities in the Kyrgyzstan that store and work on dangerous pathogens, including diseases of terrorist interest such as anthrax, foot and mouth disease and brucellosis. Ensuring that these dangerous pathogens remain safe and secure is the heart of Canada's cooperation with the Kyrgyzstan.

A key component of this strategy is the design and construction of a new human and animal health biological containment laboratory, which will consolidate currently vulnerable pathogen strains in one modern, secure facility. The new 6200 m² laboratory will house biosafety level 2 (BSL2) and BSL3 laboratories for the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and National Academy of Sciences. The co-location of animal and human health in a single building provides for enhanced security, the opportunity to share infrastructure and services, reduction in overall construction, operation and maintenance costs, and a greater ability for experts from diverse fields to collaborate with one another.

In addition to the construction of this new laboratory, a variety of complementary activities are underway. Canada is actively in encouraging and assisting the Kyrgyz Ministry of Agriculture with the development of modern standards and guidelines for working safely with animal pathogens. Scientists are being equipped and trained in the use of modern diagnostics for endemic animal diseases. Vehicles and shipping containers have been provided to facilitate the secure transport of samples to the laboratory from the field. Finally, a detailed transition and sustainment plan is underway to seamlessly integrate the new lab into national and international animal health programs.



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