HEALTH RESEARCH CAPACITY AND WATER-RELATED DISEASES

: Improving Risk Assessment Strategies for Public Health Care in Uzbekistan

(HEALTHCAP)

(January 2014 – December 2016)

OBJECTIVES

HEALTHCAP aims to be fundamental in strengthening the health research capacity for improving public health as a basis, explain the interconnections between socio-economic, epidemiological, and ecological factors influencing health risks, and explore different strategies, methods and tools for comprehensive assessment of risk from WRD. The objectives of the project are:

Objective 1: To identify opportunities for strengthening health research capacity building.

Objective 2: To understand the intrinsic and extrinsic socio-economic and ecological factors influencing the water-related diseases with two case studies (rural and urban district) within the Tashkent Province of Uzbekistan.

Objective 3: To identify tools and policies as instruments for improving risk assessment strategies for public health policies and programs, specifically related to WRD in the Tashkent Province.

These objectives have working objectives under each work package:

Working Objectives under Objective 1

a. To review national and international water quality regulations and its effectiveness for strengthening public health care system in Uzbekistan.

b. To assess the existing health research capacity in Uzbekistan in offering multidisciplinary perspectives on health, and their ability to train researchers for coping with health risk. This will contribute towards the health research policies and priorities in Uzbekistan.

c. To identify opportunities to enhance health data base management for effective surveillance and monitoring and to promote efficient policy-making system in Tashkent Province.

d. To actively interact with stakeholders to design and validate the research findings.

e. To identify and equip a cadre of health-related professionals from public health by offering graduate training, learning by doing, summer schools and to enable environment for setting up a Center of Excellence in Public Health.

Working Objectives under Objective 2

f. To develop integrated database that builds on the existing data sets related to health and water management through application of GIS techniques in the province.

g. To comparatively analyze the human health parameters and environment-related indicators in the rural and urban wards in the Province. This will analyze the historical background of the disease; define the risk group population, and environmental settings to understand the endemic and epidemic potential of the diseases in the case study

h. To analyze the socio-economic, health, ecological and institutional environment facilitating the growth and exposure of humans to WRD in the province. In specific it will produce public health maps, social hygiene behavior, socio epidemiology of the diseases, and institutional analysis to identify preventive actions and adaptive strategies for the control and surveillance of water related diseases.

Working Objectives under Objective 3

i. To map the disease 'hot-spots' based on combination of ecological, health-related and socio-economic factors on the water-related diseases in the province, and its likely spread to neighboring continents.

j. To identify integrated risk assessment strategies at various levels. This will be identified given the relative importance of key factors influencing disease risk and the effects of societal responses on this risk through integrated models and different methodologies. It aims to couple Regional level analysis with intensive studies in case study countries to identify the preventive and curative actions to address water related diseases.

k. To improve existing approaches, methods and tools for the comprehensive and integrated risk assessment of water-related diseases. This will be achieved through comparative participatory analysis of risk from water-related diseases across rural and urban regions of the Province, application of integrated models and different methodologies.