

THE WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH

Health Services

Mission

To support the National Security Strategy of building coalitions to reduce threats from bioterrorism by working with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) in foreign countries to enhance their capabilities to comply with the World Health's Organization's International Health Regulations (WHO IHR), 2005.

Major Accomplishments

- Develop 6 one-week training courses on epidemiology with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Trained over 1,000 public health officials in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine on disease surveillance and outbreak investigation
- Taught analytical epidemiology to over 150 public health officials in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine.
- Worked with multiple US government agencies to design an electronic disease and laboratory reporting system, currently being used by Georgian and Azerbaijan governments.
- Collaborated in acute febrile illness studies conducted in Georgia and Azerbaijan to identify endemic diseases of bioterrorist potential. Q fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, and hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome were identified as diseases which were previously unrecognized within areas of these countries.

Scope of Problem

- Many low-resourced countries do not know what disease of bioterrorist-potential are naturally occurring within their borders
- Many countries lack the infrastructure and personnel with the necessary skills to detect, diagnosis, and report pathogens that could be used by bioterrorists
- Many low-resourced countries do not have personnel with analytic skills that would help them distinguish between man-made and naturally occurring outbreaks of diseases
- Most countries have agreed to institute the WHO IHR, 2005 which states they must develop and maintain the above skills and infrastructure

WRAIR

Walter Reed Army
Institute of Research

Soldier Health • World Health



ARMY MEDICINE
Bringing Value...Inspiring Trust