

# FUTURE International UZB

## Strengthening Clinical Management of COVID-19 Patients Using Telemedicine and Web-Based Learning

### Duration

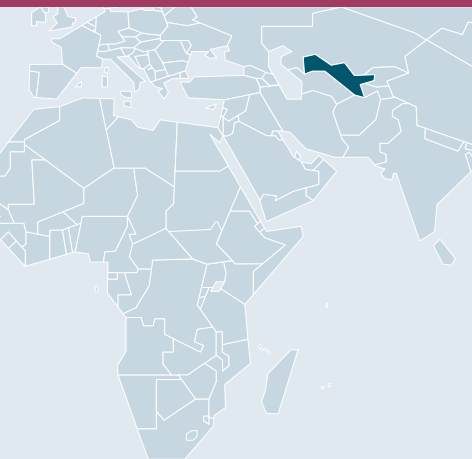
2021 – 2023

### Budget

approx. 560,000 EUR

### Partner countries

Uzbekistan



### Challenges addressed by the project

Digital tools such as telemedicine support and web-based learning opportunities have become increasingly important for clinicians to share up-to-date knowledge and their experiences in the treatment of COVID-19 patients. The availability of infectiological advice and modern intensive care treatment is crucial in the treatment of severe COVID-19 disease. Many countries are able to provide bed capacity and additional equipment, including Uzbekistan. However, the lack of experienced infectious disease specialists and intensive care physicians as well as specialized nursing expertise is difficult to solve in the short and medium term by recruiting personnel, as suitable personnel is extremely limited or unavailable. According to its own statements, WHO does not have sufficient capacity to significantly strengthen the clinical management in this area and asked the Robert Koch Institute for engagement in this area of expertise.

### Objectives

- » Strengthen the quality of intensive care treatment in selected clinics in Uzbekistan
- » Increase knowledge of treating clinicians on COVID-19 patient management and treatment

In order to:

- » improve patient care
- » reduce case mortality
- » reduce length of hospital stay
- » have a positive effect on overall standard of care
- » reduce “collateral damage” in non-COVID patients

### Overview of activities

The project FUTURE INTERNATIONAL, jointly led by the Robert Koch Institute and the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, gives selected hospitals with ICUs in partner countries the opportunity to be part of a telemedical intensive care network and to benefit from web-based learning. This digital approach will further improve patient care, improve case mortality, reduce length of hospital stay, and will have a positive effect on overall standard of care. Through Telemedicine, permanent on-site clinical technical support is achieved in the target country. Ward rounds are conducted jointly with the Telemedicine team on a daily basis. The German specialist accompanies the team on site via a mobile ward round robot. The robot is perceived by hospital staff and patients as a real expert - a service that would not be possible in reality due to the lack of specialists. Furthermore, it is possible to conduct in-depth

Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag



Inauguration of the mobile ward round robot  
(Photo ©RKI)

case discussions of other complex cases and to go into detail for some of the more rare COVID-19 disease courses. The telemedical support does not only improve the care for the individual patient but has a training effect, as doctors and nurses involved in the patient care benefit from the support by specialists and can pass this knowledge on to their colleagues. In addition to the telemedical support, web based seminars on COVID-19 and infection prevention and control measures (IPC) will be conducted for the local health care staff in order to share up-to date knowledge on the disease and patient management of critically ill patients. This digital approach of Telemedicine and web-based learning opportunities strengthens the health system by increasing the capacity of local health care staff in treating COVID-19 and other critically ill patients. It counteracts the effect of brain-drain experienced in many countries, since it enables the local clinicians to noticeably improve patient care with the given resources, benefit from the direct contact with experts and to further reduce nosocomial infections among staff by providing information on infection prevention and control measures. By fighting the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in different areas around the world, including low- and middle income countries such as Uzbekistan, it also reduces the likelihood of spread locally, regionally and internationally.

### Partner institutions

- » Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- » Republican Research Centre for Emergency Medicine (RCCEM), Uzbekistan
- » Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

### Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

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