

Priority Assistance Project to Help Kazakhstan Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #1. Improving Accounting and Control of Radioactive Sources

Project Purpose	To develop further Kazakhstan’s radioactive source registry and regulatory infrastructure in the regions.
Kazakhstani Recipient	State Disease Control Committee of the Ministry of Health Care (Gossannadzor)
Need	The Kazakhstan Atomic Energy Committee (KAEC) is working with Gossannadzor and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to develop a registry of ionizing radiation sources (IRS) currently in use in Kazakhstan. This has been done by compiling inventory records and then conducting inspections to verify those records. Kazakhstan currently has registered more than 7,000 radioactive sources, but it lacks a comprehensive system for maintaining and updating this registry. KAEC has overall responsibility for maintaining the registry and developing and enforcing Kazakhstan’s regulatory infrastructure, but it has no representatives in Kazakhstan’s regions. Gossannadzor has radiological control offices in all oblasts of Kazakhstan, and these offices were instrumental in helping KAEC compile the inventory records and conduct inspections to establish the radioactive source registry (many of the radioactive sources in use in Kazakhstan are used in medical applications). KAEC and Gossannadzor need to continue working closely together to maintain the source registry and improve radioactive source control throughout Kazakhstan. U.S. NRC is working with KAEC to develop a system to update and maintain the registry. A similar effort is needed to work with Gossannadzor in the regions to develop procedures to conduct regular inspections and help KAEC maintain the source registry.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand existing Gossannadzor regional offices into oblast centers responsible for conducting inspections, collecting information, and enforcing national regulations about IRS. • Adopt inspection procedures developed by the KAEC for use by Gossannadzor. • Conduct training of Gossannadzor personnel on modern methods of carrying out inspections. • Share the information Gossannadzor collects on IRS with KAEC to incorporate into the national registry. • Provide technical support and resources for local contractors to revise regulations, if needed.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accounting and control of radioactive sources throughout Kazakhstan. • Better monitoring of the availability, movement, and characteristics of IRS throughout Kazakhstan. • Inclusion of all IAEA Category 1, 2, and 3 sources in Kazakhstan in the registry in line with IAEA standards. • Regular inspections by Gossannadzor to support the maintenance of the source registry and enforcement of Kazakhstan’s nuclear regulatory system.
Project Status	Seeking international donors

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Priority Assistance Project to Help Kazakhstan Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #2. Securing Orphaned and Unregistered Sources

Project Purpose	To remove vulnerable radioactive sources from circulation and ship them to secure storage so that they cannot be trafficked.
Kazakhstani Recipient	Kazakhstan Atomic Energy Committee (KAEC)
Need	Kazakhstan continues to discover a significant number of “orphaned” (abandoned) radioactive sources. Unregistered and improperly secured sources no longer in use may exist at oil and gas facilities, the coal industry, and other industrial enterprises. These sources could be dangerous if smugglers discover them before they are appropriately secured. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through its Search and Secure Program, provided the Kazakhstan Atomic Energy Committee (KAEC) with equipment and training to identify facilities most likely to have large numbers of disused radioactive sources, conduct targeted searches, and safely dispose of the prioritized vulnerable sources. DOE and KAEC have identified several sites likely to have disused sources, and DOE funded Search and Secure missions for two of these sites. Additional resources are needed to fund searches at the remaining sites.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund missions to proactively search for and secure radioactive sources at high-risk facilities in Kazakhstan. This would likely include funding for local salaries, transportation costs, travel, and per diem, as well as administrative support for developing an effective search plan for each facility. • Provide support for one or two western experts to accompany Kazakhstani teams and share valuable experience. • For interested donors without existing implementing mechanisms for such assistance, partnering with DOE and/or the IAEA could provide a mechanism to support these activities in Kazakhstan. • Work with Kazakhstan to identify any additional facilities with high-risk sources and support additional search and secure missions, as needed, to such sites.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously identified high-risk facilities searched and any radioactive sources removed to a secure storage facility. • Targeted sweeps and statistical sampling provide a high level of confidence that these facilities remain free of radioactive sources. • In the long term, all significant sources identified and placed under regulatory control or removed to a secure storage facility. • Search missions conducted regularly and integrated into the regulatory infrastructure.
Project Status	The Netherlands is contributing funding for this project. Additionally, France is in discussions with the Government of Kazakhstan to determine how it can help to find, register, and secure orphaned and unregistered radioactive sources in the country. Additional donors may be needed in the future.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help Kazakhstan Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #3. Improving Radiation Detection Capability at Points of Entry

Project Purpose	To reduce the risk of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials at airports and border crossings.
Kazakhstani Recipient	Customs Control Committee (primary recipient); Border Guard Service (possible additional recipient)
Need	Kazakhstan is the ninth-largest country in the world in area and the only Central Asian country bordering Russia. Its extensive borders, limited radiation detection equipment at border crossings, and limited training of border security personnel in detecting nuclear and radioactive materials presents a significant vulnerability. Several USG programs are active in Kazakhstan, including the Department of State’s Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program, the Department of Energy’s Second Line of Defense (SLD) Program, and the Department of Defense’s WMD Proliferation Prevention Initiative (WMD-PPI). Nonetheless, there is still a great deal of work to be done to secure Kazakhstan’s borders.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide equipment and training at specific points of entry (POEs). Generally this equipment includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Portal monitors, related communications equipment, and central alarm stations ○ Handheld radiation detectors for secondary inspections ○ Barrett radios ○ CT-30 inspection kits • Provide funds for training Customs personnel to learn how to properly use the equipment, if they are not already proficient from indigenous or USG training on similar equipment. • Coordinate specific priorities with Kazakhstani Customs and Border Guards and ongoing assistance programs from the U.S. and international donors to ensure equipment is up to international standards and compatible with existing communication links.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded and sustained capacity of the Customs Service to detect illegally trafficked nuclear and radioactive materials and other contraband goods. • Increased percentage of traffic scanned for radioactive contraband.
Project Status	Norway, New Zealand, and South Korea have contributed to this project, but additional donors will still be needed.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help Kazakhstan Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #4. Improving Security at Green Borders

Project Purpose	To reduce the risk of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials along green borders.
Kazakhstani Recipient	Border Guard Service
Need	Green borders are land borders that lie between official border crossing points. Many areas between established points of entry have little or no security, which presents a significant vulnerability that could be exploited by smugglers. Border guard patrols are usually the only means to detect any illicit trafficking. The flat terrain along the Russian border and gaps between established points of entry that in some cases are more than 100km offer significant opportunities for illegal crossing, and make this area a particular concern. The U.S. State Department’s Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program has successfully pilot-tested a modular shelter, which can be deployed to remote border areas to provide a base of operations for patrolling the green border. This is particularly valuable in the winter, when the lack of adequate shelter often limits the border guard’s ability to leave major bases and conduct regular patrol operations. The Kazakhstanis have requested additional shelters. The U.S. will provide more shelters, but additional assistance is needed to provide adequate coverage of all priority border areas.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide modular structures to monitor small border posts and provide a base of operations to patrol the surrounding region. • Provide additional communications equipment, portable radiation detection equipment, night vision devices, and training for Border Guards to better patrol these areas. • Provide additional vehicles, particularly four-wheel-drive vehicles and snowmobiles, for patrolling areas where roads are limited. • Provide remote sensing equipment and appropriate training to monitor areas where regular patrolling is not feasible or cost-effective. • Coordinate with Kazakhstani Border Guards and ongoing assistance programs from the United States and other donors to determine specific priorities and to ensure compatible equipment.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate and sustained expanded capacity of the Border Guards to detect and interdict illegally trafficked nuclear and radioactive materials and other contraband goods along green borders. • More cross-border traffic forced towards established points of entry where detection of radioactive contraband is more likely.
Project Status	Partially funded by EXBS and NSOI, but additional donors will be needed.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help Kazakhstan Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #5. Improving Nuclear Forensics Capabilities

Project Purpose	To improve Kazakhstan’s nuclear forensics capabilities by increasing its participation in the International Technical Working Group (ITWG) on nuclear forensics.
Kazakhstani Recipient	Relevant technical experts and law enforcement officials determined by the Government of Kazakhstan.
Need	The ITWG meets annually, encourages forensic scientists and law enforcement bodies to participate, and conducts nuclear forensic exercises using actual material. Participation in the ITWG would help Kazakhstani scientists and law enforcement officials develop relationships with the international forensics community and increase their forensic and attribution knowledge and capabilities, which is particularly useful when examining seized material of unknown origin. Wider participation also increases the international knowledge base, which plays a critical factor in attribution during forensics testing of seized material.
Project Activities	A potential donor could sponsor a Kazakhstani scientist and a law enforcement representative to attend the annual ITWG meeting.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded forensics capabilities of Kazakhstan’s scientific community. • Improved cooperation between Kazakhstani technical experts and law enforcement community. • Improved contacts and cooperation between Kazakhstani scientists and other scientists in the international nuclear forensics community. • Improved contacts and cooperation between the Kazakhstani law enforcement community and their international counterparts. • Closer adherence to the international best practices on nuclear forensics reflected in the IAEA Nuclear Forensics Support Reference Manual (2006).
Project Status	Project funded by the U.S.

**Priority Assistance Project to Help Kazakhstan Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #6. Anti-Corruption Assistance for Customs and Border Guard Personnel**

Project Purpose	To decrease opportunities for corruption among Customs and Border Guard personnel and the influence of corruption on anti-smuggling assistance programs.
Kazakhstani Recipient	Customs Control Committee and Border Guard Service
Need	Though there has been some considerable improvement recently, corruption in Kazakhstan remains a serious problem and could undermine Kazakhstani and international efforts to improve capabilities to combat nuclear smuggling. Corruption within agencies responsible for protecting radioactive materials could lead to insider thefts. Corruption among border security officials could lead to bribes to overlook smuggling or to enable smugglers to avoid radiation detection equipment. Corruption in law enforcement agencies could undermine the Kyrgyz Republic’s efforts to prosecute nuclear smugglers. All civil servants in Kazakhstan are certified on their knowledge of the Law on Corruption and each agency has developed a Code of Ethics, but sharing international experience could help Kazakhstan more effectively enforce these standards.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide outside expert to help incorporate anti-corruption/integrity awareness training into the standard curriculum for Customs and Border Guard personnel and develop a comprehensive plan to address corruption in these agencies. • Help develop standardized risk analysis models for determining what is searched. • Provide financial support for technical accountability measures such as cameras and radiation monitors that report all detections or any instances in which detection equipment is turned off to central alarm stations.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased and consistent levels of customs revenues (as a proxy measure of professionalism and integrity) on aggregate. • Decreased influence of corruption reflected in Transparency International’s annual Corruption Perception Index and global corruption report.
Project Status	Seeking international donors