International Exercise of Rapid Response Mobile Laboratories (Kazan, 11-15 October 2021 г.)
Purpose of the Exercise:

Assessing and testing the preparedness of mobile laboratories to respond in a field exercise simulating deployment in a WHO Member State in the event of an infectious disease outbreak.

Exercise objectives:

1) Presenting the developed set of minimum standards for mobile laboratories in 4 workstreams:
   - Biological safety and security;
   - Quality management system;
   - Laboratory information system;
   - Logistics and operational support;

2) Testing the developed minimum standards in mobile laboratories in field conditions.

Basis for the Exercise

- International WHO program for development of rapid response mobile laboratories for public health emergencies, development and testing minimum standards for mobile laboratories. Implemented with support of the Government of the Russian Federation.
Exercise participants

94 specialists:

Russia (37)
Azerbaijan (4)
Armenia (4)
Belarus (3)
Kyrgyzstan (4)
Kazakhstan (4)
Uzbekistan (4)
Tajikistan (4)
Belgium (8)
France (3)
Germany (5)
WHO (14)

5 mobile laboratories:

1) Mobile lab complex of the Specialized Anti-Epidemic Team (SAET) in full scale — 6 modules on the basis of KAMAZ trucks (RusRAPI “Microbe”);
2) Mobile laboratory of detection and monitoring (MLIM) on the basis of «GAZon Next» vehicle (RusRAPI “Microbe”);
3) Pneumocarcass (inflatable) mobile laboratory (PML) on the basis of transport boxes and inflatable tent (RusRAPI “Microbe”);
4) «B-Life» mobile laboratory on the basis of transport boxes and inflatable tent (Center of Applied molecular technologies, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium);
5) Mobile laboratory on the basis of transport boxes (Bernard Nocht’s Institute of Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany).
Exercise results

Teams of laboratory specialists

Minimum standards on:

- Deployment of mobile laboratories,
- Adjusting mobile laboratories for specific tasks,
- Testing samples by PCR and sequencing,
- Management of incidents with pathogens,
- Decontamination

Teams of laboratory heads

Minimum standards on:

- Organizing deployment of mobile laboratories,
- Border-crossing procedures,
- Logistical needs of laboratories on the move and during working period,
- Interaction with WHO/GOARN, local health system,
- Pre-defined plans for management of incidents with pathogens,
- Standard operation procedures
Conclusion

- Following the results of the drills, a proposal was formed to hold such events on a regular basis, with an expanded range of participants.

- The development and testing of minimum standards for mobile laboratories used at the international level has been carried out.

Output:

Mobile laboratories are a real in-demand international tool for responding to biological incidents.