

Health Promotion & Preventive Maternal and Child Health Care
EuropeAid/122909/D/SER/BG

Consortium led by Open Society Institute- Sofia



PUBLIC SECTOR

Annex II – Monthly Progress Report – November 2008

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FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2007 – NOVEMBER 2008

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting period 1-30 November 2008 г.

During the reporting period – 1 – 31 October 2008, the Consultant worked on the implementation of the following activities planned:

Implementation of the pilot program for prevention and early diagnostics of cervical cancer for disadvantaged ethnic minority women

In November 2008 the Consultant continued the implementation of preventive medical examinations with mobile units in the target regions. Also, the processing of the results from the gynecological and pediatric examinations started. It was presented at the final meeting on the project. The team formulated recommendations for sustainability of project activities in the future.

In November 2008 all mobile units continued conducting preventive examinations in the locations. The interest towards the examinations in the four project regions is growing.

In November mobile OG and pediatric units continued their work in the locations within Elhovo and Bolyarovo municipalities. For supporting the organization of preventive examinations in new locations, a number of meetings in mayor houses from the region were held. In Pazardjik the mobile units visited locations that had not been included in the preventive activities – such as Sarnitsa and Semchinovo village. The information provided to the patients regarding the pap smear results is ongoing. In Montana regions examinations continue in the locations close to Lom

municipality – Valchedram municipality, Medkovets municipality, etc. In Dobrich municipality preventive examinations are conducted in Balchik municipality and the locations of Trigortsi, Strajitsa village, Obrochishte and Dobrich.

Final meeting for announcing and summarizing project's results

On 4 November 2007 in Sofia a final meeting on the project was held. More than 70 participants from the whole country attended the meeting. On a set improvised stand the participants had the chance to see and receive information and promo materials developed under the project, as well as materials that accompany the preventive examinations and special events at locations. The meeting was officially open by the SPO. During the event, professor Tournev – team leader presented the concrete results achieved. Dr. Stamenkova, non-key expert on the project, presented the communication strategy, training curricula and materials, disseminated under the project. For the participants the presentation of Dr. Marinova (non-key expert) was of a great interest. It presented summarized results from the conducted gynecological and pediatric examinations in the regions of Montana, Dobrich, Pazardjik and Yambol during the months of August and September 2008. The analysis and summary is made on the grounds of the information provided officially by RHC – Montana, RHC – Yambol, RHC – Pazardjik and DCC II – Dobrich. The legal analysis elaborated under the project was presented as well and it represents a research on the Bulgarian legislation in the field of health insurance of children and pregnant women. Some recommendations for legislative changes were formulated in order to improve maternal and child health care, discriminatory practices and cases were also shared. The meeting finished with a discussion in which a big part of the participants shared their attitude towards important issues related to the mobile services, partnerships between the institutions and the role of the health mediator.

At the end of the meeting the Consultant handed out certificates especially made for the event to institutions and partners that cooperated in the project implementation. Their cooperation was extremely useful, the partnerships we established during the project will last also for future initiatives. The meeting had a vast media coverage through the Sofia Press and BTA agencies, materials were published in a number of media, among which: Horizont Program of the BNR, electronic portals Zdrave.net and BGNES, Telegraf newspaper, Sedmichen Trud newspaper, 9 months magazine, etc.

The meeting was attended by representatives of RHC, RIPHPC, mobile teams, local coordinators, health mediators, NGO representatives, young people and families from the target regions who shared opinions regarding the ways for preventive examinations conductions, some problems and attainments. Representatives of the main beneficiaries of the project – NCCEDI at CoM, DEDI at CoM and the respective directorates in MH, as well as a CFCU representative were also present. The evaluation that the SPO and partners gave for the project was very high.

Strengthening the position of the health mediator

On 5 November 2008 the team leader professor Tournev participated in a meeting with the minister of health Dr. Evgenii Zhelev and non-governmental organizations working in the field of health integration of vulnerable with ethnic communities.

Dr. Zhelev was informed on project activities, the positive role of HM in the organization of preventive examinations with mobile units in the target regions. The minister of health Dr. Evgenii Zhelev gave a good evaluation for the cooperation until the moment with the NGOs in terms of ensuring equal access of all Bulgarian citizens to health care. The minister undertook the commitment to discuss with MF the opportunity for continuing the work of HM within the municipalities which will ensure sustainability of health education activities for ethnic communities and their inclusion in prophylaxis and prevention activities.

Internet site - www.zdravenmediator.net

The information on the internet site is updated on a regular basis. The interest towards the web site is growing, there are profiles created for the health mediators in the country. Also, there is a possibility for forums between health mediators, discussions on concrete cases, etc.

Elaboration of final report

In November 2008 the Consultant focused their efforts on the final progress report. The Consultant worked directly with RHC in the target regions and the persons conducting the preventive examinations in places in order to gather and summarize the results from the examinations conducted.

The Consultant works on elaboration of recommendations for the work on organization and implementation of preventive medical examinations with mobile units in future. Apart from that, the Consultant gathered detailed data for the number of examinations and updated the results from the examinations. The cooperative work with DEDI at CoM was also enhanced in regard to the Final Progress report. The good cooperation and partnership with DEDI at CoM and MH and the consensus of the beneficiaries on a common statement in the elaboration of recommendations and lessons learnt from the project implementation proved the effectiveness of the project.