

Consortium led by Open Society Institute- Sofia



PUBLIC SECTOR

Annex I – Monthly Progress Report – October 2008

V

FINAL PROGRESS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2007 – NOVEMBER 2008

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting period 1-31 October 2008

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

Implementation of the primary health program for disadvantaged ethnic minority women and children – start of the preventive medical examinations

The statistics for October 2008 show that the following examinations were conducted in the four project regions:

October 2008

Region/period	Pediatric examinations	OG examinations	Pap smears taken	Total number of examinations
Yambol (01.10-25.10.2008)	330	330	210	660
Dobrich (01.10-28.10.2008 г.)	682	579	579	626
Montana (01-31.10.2008)	460	430	176	890
Pazardjik (01-31.10.2008)	640	378	351	1018
Total	2112	1717	1316	3194

In October 2008 all mobile teams continued conducting the preventive examinations at places. In all four project regions the interest towards the examinations is growing. We present specific numbers, information and conclusions for each region:

Yambol region

In October the OG and pediatric mobile units started visits in locations within the municipalities of Elhovo and Bolyarovo.

The OG and pediatric examinations were conducted in accordance with the following schedule in the following locations:

Date	Location
01.10.2008	Straldzha
02.10.2008	Irechekovo
03.10.2008	Yambol, Kozarevo village
06.10.2008	Kozarevo village
07.10.2008	Straldzha
08.10.2008	Okop village
09.10.2008	Lozenets village
10.10.2008	Boyanovo
13.10.2008	Drazhevo village
14.10.2008	Straldzha, Zimnitsa
15.10.2008	Boyanovo village
16.10.2008	Zimnitsa village
17.10.2008	Malomirovo village
20.10.2008	Mamarchevo, Voden
24.10.2008	Yambol
25.10.2008	Straldzha

To support the organization of preventive examinations in new locations, the following meetings were held:

- 03.10.2008 г. – a meeting with mayor houses in the villages of Kozarevo and Okop
- 10.10.2008 г. – a meeting with the mayor house in Boyanovo village
- 17.10.2008 г. – a meeting with the mayor house in Malomirovo village
- 20.10.2008 г. - a meeting with mayor houses in the villages of Mamarchevo and Voden

Pazardjik region

In regard to the implementation of the preventive examinations program on the territory of Pazardjik region, within the period between 1 and 31 October 2008, the following steps were performed:

The pap smears' results started to be disseminated among patients. Preventive examinations are executed in the following locations: Pazardjik, Velingrad, Rakitovo, Kostandovo, Dorkovo, Dinkata, Borimechkovo, Isprihovo, Bratsigovo, Panagyurishte.

A meeting with the head of directorate “Humanitarian Policy” at Pazardjik municipality for cooperation from the side of department “Work with minorities and ethnic groups” for informing the population for the preventive examinations conducted. A meeting with the director of RHC – Pazardjik was also held regarding the organization and work of mobile units’ teams. The examinations are performed according to the schedule with the participation of HM from the locations where they were assigned to work.

Montana region

In October 2008 mobile units started working in Lom municipality with the team of Hippokrates medical center in Lom. The local coordinator has worked with the HM in Lom in advance in order to give them instructions on how to be effective partners in the preventive examinations organization.

The Consultant considers Lom as a strategic location for the success of the project, having in mind the concentration of the Roma community. The Consultant visited Mladenovo quarter in Lom. In addition, the final schedule for the examinations in October was done in cooperation with the HM, local coordinator and medical team. A schedule for the HM in Lom was also made in order to indicate in which quarters they will be responsible for the program implementation:

- 3 – 7 October Lom, Humata quarter (HM: Lyusien Litov);
- 8– 12 October Lom, Mladenovo quarter (HM: Lyusien Litov, Lilia Ivanova);
- 13 – 20 October Lom, Stadion quarter (HM: Tania Kirilova, Anita Marinova, Elza Ivanova)
- 21 – 24 October Lom, Momin brod quarter (All HM)
- 25 - 31 October Valchedram municipality (HM from Dolni Tsibar and Septemvriitsi village)

On 17 October 2008 a meeting was held in Valchedram municipality with the mayor Mr Barzin. Details regarding the use and guard of mobile units were clarified. On 20 October 2008 with HM from Dolni Tsibar joint actions of HM from the municipality are coordinated as regarding the organization of the examinations, as well as regarding the working time.

Dobrich region

On 17.09.2008 the local coordinator and DCC II set the locations for preventive examinations in October 200. They are as follows:

- 02.10.2008 – Feldfelbel dyankovo village, Dobrichka municipality;
- 03.10.2008 – Altsek village, Dobrichka municipality;
- 09.10.2008 – Krushari village, Krushari municipality;
- 10.10.2008 – Lozenets village, Krushari municipalit;
- 15.10.2008 – General Toshevo, General Toshevo municipality;
- 16.10.2008 – Preselentsi village, General Toshevo municipality;
- 17.10.2008 – Spasovo village, General Toshevo municipality;

The working time was set to be between 14.00 until 22.00 hrs.

On 01.10.2008 at a work meeting with Social Activities Directorate and EDI expert at Krushari Municipality, issues regarding the organization of examinations on the territory of the municipality were discussed.

There was a huge interest in Feldfel village and Altsek village (Dobrichka municipality). Upon the request from mayors and local citizens, mobile units were available for both villages also on 04.10.2008 (Saturday). The examinations continued in Krushari village on 09.10.2008. Due to the great interest towards OG examinations, we suggested to the citizens in Krushari village to use additionally the mobile services on 11.10.2008 (Saturday) in Lozenets village (the distance is 2 km). At the examinations in Lozenets village on 10.10.2008 Mrs Rositsa Ivanova from DEDI at CoM was present. For the period between 02.10.2008 and 11.10.2008 (including) a total of 145 children and 100 women were examined.

In connection to the remarks made to the small number of examinations conducted in Dobrich region, on 08.10.2008 a meeting was held with Dr. Demireva (director of DCC II and Dr Bonev and Dr Kondov who perform the examinations) for change and optimization of the examinations schedule. The schedule is already changed according to the recommendations of the Consultant for work in certain locations. The working time meets the needs of the local population. The teams start working much more intensely so that more patients to be covered.

We present the schedule for October 2008

General Toshevo municipality

- 13.10.2008 – Pchelarov, General Toshevo municipality (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 14.10.2008 - Prasad village, General Toshevo municipality (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 15.10.2008 – Spasovo village, General Toshevo municipality (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 16.10.2008 – General Toshevo, Roma Quarter (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 17.10.2008 - General Toshevo, Roma Quarter (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 18.10.2008 – Vasilevo village, General Toshevo municipality (working time 08.00 – 22.00hrs)

Shabla municipality

- 20.10.2008 – Shabla (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 21.10.2008 – Shabla (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)

Kavarna municipality

- 22.10.2008 – Kavarna, Hadji Dimitar quarter (working time 08.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 23.10.2008 – Kavarna, Hadji Dimitar quarter (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 24.10.2008 – kavarna, MBAL Kavarna (working time 14.00 – 22.00hrs)
- 25.10.2008 – Kavarna, Hadji Dimitar quarter (working time 08.00 – 22.00hrs)

Balchik municipality

- 29.10.2008 – Strajitsa village, Balchik municipality
- 30.10.2008 – Trigortsi village, Balchik municipality
- 31.10.2008 – Obrochishte village, Balchik municipality

For all women, apart from the gynecological examination, abdominal and endovaginal echography was made. Pap smears were taken for all women, out of them are: PAP IIA - 245 women; PAP IIB -11 women; PAP IIC- 85 women; PAP IIIA-1 woman; PAP IIIB - 3 women. Colposcopy was made for 41 women. All children were clinically examined and abdominal echography was made for them. In cases of acute diseases, treatment is appointed by the doctors.

During the examinations in General Toshevo municipality in a conversation with women it became clear that the majority of them haven't gone to a gynecological examination since their last childbirth (for some of them this is a period of around 15-20 years). We had a very active cooperation during the examinations from an EDI expert and a deputy mayor of Finance at the municipality (Mr Georgiev). In Shabla municipality on 10.10.2008 a meeting with deputy mayor on finance Mr Marian Zhechev was held, with Albena Stoeva – EDI expert, Emilian Stoev –

health mediator. Information posters, printed materials, etc. were presented at the meeting. Information for the upcoming examinations is published in the municipal newspaper Izgrev.

Not all women who wanted to be examined managed to be examined. The HM supports the work of mobile teams and prepares preliminary list of women who want to be examined in order a lot of women not to be crowded in front of the units. A lot of women of Bulgarian origin have shown their will to be examined. On 21 October 2008 they had this opportunity and were made preventive examinations.

Upon the initiative of municipal administration of Kavarna on the local cable TV the information for the schedule of mobile units was presented. On 22.10.2008 the examinations started in the Roma quarter in Kavarna. Mobile units have worked non-stop from 8 am until 22 pm. Tline of women willing to be examined. Printed materials on health issues elaborated under the project were disseminated. In Kavarna municipality the biggest number of women and children are covered.

In Balchik municipality mobile units have been working in the last days of October 2008 and will continue working in the first days of November 2008 in Obrochishte village where there is a compact Roma population with serious health problems. Pupils from the Home for disabled children in Kranevo village will be transported to the mobile units.

The local media Nova Dobrudjanska Tribuna newspaper (on 14.10.2008) and Izgrev newspaper, municipal newspaper of Shabla municipality in issues 38 and 39 presented again information regarding the preventive examinations with mobile units.

Dissemination of educational materials elaborated under the project: leaflets – MCH and immunizations, STIs/AIDS, prevention of cervical and breast cancer; flyer for the role of the health mediator and promo materials
--

On 15 October 2008 a meeting with adolescents in Spasovo village (General Toshevo municipality) was held. They were provided with T-shirts and information materials. The GP in the village received additional amount of bibs and other promo materials. On 31 October 2008 a meeting with young mothers was held in Obrochishte village, it was organized with the cooperation of the GP.

In Pazardjik region schools with predominant number of Roma students were visited in the municipalities of Peshtera, Pazardjik and Stamboliiski. In the materials dissemination were involved as well GPs, HM and young people who were trained under the project. In October 2008 the traditional holiday of Sheker Bairam was used in the town of Pazardjik as an occasion for disseminating materials, T-shirts, bibs and towels. A short health related lecture was also held.

In Montana region during the village fair in Septemvriitsi village (Valchedram municipality) materials were disseminated and discussions on health issues were held.

Meetings with local partners and project supporters
--

On 7 October 2008 a meeting between the Consultant, MH, DEDI at CoM and representatives of RHC in the four project regions was held in Sofia. During the discussion the experts on the project and RHC representatives discussed the progress of the preventive examinations, major findings until the moment, some recommendations for optimization of the preventive examinations program were also pointed out. The main focus was on synchronizing and gathering the information provided for the preventive OG and pediatric examinations. Non-key experts on the project presented in front of the RHC representatives what type of information is necessary to be gathered and delivered to the Consultant in order to summarize it at the end of the project and main findings to be identified. On the grounds of this analysis we hope that similar preventive examinations will be planned in the future (the analysis will be attached to the final report of the project).

Meetings with parents and students from schools with predominant number of Roma children – educational sessions and discussions

The organization of health related discussions with adolescents in schools with predominant number of Roma students was supported by the local coordinators, as well as with the cooperation of school principals. The total number of students who attended the discussions was 277 and the age range from 13 to 17 years. The discussions themselves were conducted by non-key experts on the project. In Pazardjik region the non-key experts cooperated with representatives of RIPHPC – Pazardjik.

On 17 October 2008 a health discussion was held by Dr Krasimir Romanov, non-key expert on the project in Montana region, Valchedram municipality. The meeting was organized in secondary school Dimitar Marinov and was attended by a total of 100 students in 9th, 10th and 11th grade. The topics of the discussion included STIs, HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as presentation of contraception methods. Materials elaborated under the project were provided to the participants in the event. Additional amount of information materials were given to school representatives. 300 condoms were given to the students who attended the meeting.

The main topics of interest for the students were regarding contraception and suitable contraception methods, especially for girls who never had given birth. Interest was shown also towards issues regarding sexuality. The meeting lasted for about an hour but due to the great interest, the discussion lasted informally afterwards.

On 20 October 2008 a number of meetings with adolescents from Yordan Yovkov primary school and Panaiot Volov primary school were held in Dobrich. The meetings were organized by the local coordinator in Dobrich and conducted by Kina Velcheva, non-key expert on the project. Discussions in 4 groups were held (two in each school) and the total number of participants was 117 (76 out of them girls). The age of the participants ranged between 12 and 17 years. The topics presented included Contraception, adolescence, STIs and HIV/AIDS. The discussion in each group lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes. Printed materials and condoms were disseminated among the persons who attended the meetings. After the end of the discussions the non-key expert held meetings with the principals and deputy principals in the relevant schools. Information materials developed under the project were also provided to them.

On 24 October 2008 in Pazardjik, in St. ST Kiril and Methodius high school a session with 28 students was held (15 girls and 13 boys). The meeting was attended by representatives of RIPHPC – Pazardjik. The meeting was conducted by Daniela Dikova and Rumen Rangelov (non-key experts on the project) and lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes. The topics included Puberty and changes in the puberty, STIs, HIV/AIDS. Prevention of HIV and AIDS. During the meeting information materials, developed under the project were disseminated. The students expressed interest towards issues related to sexuality. Within the time dedicated, the RIPHPC representatives made a small quiz on questions concerning HIV.

After the session experience between non-key experts and RIPHPC representatives was exchanged regarding work with adolescents in multiethnic environment. The school principal received printed materials. Interest for future similar sessions was expressed.

On 27 October 2008 a health session was held in Kukorevo village, Yambol region. The meeting was attended by 32 students (11 girls) and was organized by the local coordinator and conducted by Dr Borianna Parashkevova (non-key expert on the project). The meeting lasted for about 2 hours. Issues regarding contraception, prevention of unwanted pregnancy, STIs and HIV were tackled. It was established that adolescents are not very well informed on STIs and the knowledge girls have for contraception is really restricted. Information materials, together with condoms were disseminated at the meeting.

The time dedicated for the meeting showed to be not enough and thus the discussion continued in informal way. Numerous questions regarding sexuality and anatomy-physiological specifics of the two sexes were raised. The printed materials developed under the project were received extremely well, additional copies were required for their peers in the neighbouring villages.

Internet site - www.zdravenmediator.net

The internet site is a fact now. The bigger part of the information is already uploaded – regarding the health mediators, training programs, etc. Until the end of the project the information will be updated on an everyday basis.