

Promoting Confidence in Health Sector

Project Goal

To improve access to quality, evidence-based and cost efficient mother and child health care, including perinatal care and immunization, in Transnistria region of Moldova

Project Outcomes

- New-borns and mothers from Transnistria region benefit from qualitative integrated services during the antenatal, intra-, and post-partum periods(Component 1: Support for the Perinatal Care System); and
- Vaccine coverage and immunization rates for traditional and new vaccines under GAVI graduation conditions improved (Component 2: Immunizations)

Implementation Period: November 2013 – October 2015

Target Population

- a) **Direct** – main counterpart – health authorities, health services’ managers of different levels and health professionals from perinatal care and immunization services
- b) **Indirect** – pregnant women, mothers and newborns, parents, children, other community representatives

Background

The project was jointly implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and WHO offices. Under this CBM project, WHO has been focusing on providing technical assistance and capacity building in the areas of perinatal care and immunization. Responsible partners are the central and local health authorities on both sides of the river, relevant subordinate public health facilities and health care providers, and other relevant stakeholders (civil society, community organizations etc.)

Key Achievements

The UNDP/SCBM Programme was responsible for the implementation of three key activities under the 1st Outcome and particularly:

- I. Based on assessment, procurement of perinatology equipment for Rybnitsa, Tiraspol and Bender Mother and Child Centers. Provide training in equipment use.

II. Procurement of emergency assistance equipment, following needs identified by the assessment conducted by WHO. Provide training in equipment use.

III. Based on the assessment, procurement of critical pediatric equipment for Tiraspol Medical Center

Activity I. Based on assessment, procurement of perinatology equipment for Rybnitsa, Tiraspol and Bender Mother and Child Centers. Provide training in equipment use

In accordance with expected outputs for the activity one, before starting the procurement of medical equipment for perinatal institutions from TN, a preliminary assessment of needs in each beneficiary institution was conducted. In this regard, an international expert was involved to conduct an in-depth review of required equipment and develop technical specifications. The initial assessment mission took place between March 3rd and 6th 2014 and included a number of meetings and field visits on both sides of the Nistru River. The specific objectives of the mission were to:

- conduct a comprehensive assessment of the equipment delivered in the previous phase of the SCBM Programme to the Rybnita Hospital; evaluate how these equipment has been set in and how it functions;
- evaluate the impact of the training done by the equipment suppliers and identify additional training needs;
- estimate how the Perinatal Centres are organized after the endowment with modern equipment;
- identify other needs in terms of additional equipment and/or training necessary for a smooth functioning of the Perinatal Centres;
- evaluate the needs and draw up a list of vital equipment that is essential for the effective functioning of Slobozia, Grigoriopol, Bender Perinatal Centres and Tiraspol Pediatric Centre;
- in close cooperation with WHO, UNICEF collect and share relevant information on existing local capacity and identify training needs for medical professionals who operate with the identified medical equipment and within the overall perinatal care framework;

A comprehensive report with recommendations was produced for each out of five beneficiary institutions. **(Annex I)**. Some recommendations are outlined below:

- Endowing the Perinatal Centres from Slobozia, Bender, Grigoriopol and Tiraspol Pediatric Centre with necessary equipment
- Provision of additional medical equipment for Rybnita Perinatal Centre

- Provide the Perinatal Centres' staff with relevant training in equipment use as well as in the field of obstetrical emergencies, neonatal resuscitation and effective perinatal care

Based on provided recommendations and after consultations with the partner UN Agencies, detailed technical specifications for medical equipment were developed until the end of July 2014. All technical specifications were elaborated by the international consultant. Considering the technical specifics and high amount of the medical equipment to be procured, additionally a local bioengineer was hired to review specifications and for a better quality assurance process.

To procure the medical equipment, an international open competition was conducted during August-October 2014. Following a thorough review and approval of the procurement process by the Regional Assets, Contracts and Procurement committee, medical equipment valued at \$418,108 was procured and delivered to Slobozia, Grigoriopol, Rybnita and Bender Perinatal Institutions.

Additionally to the equipment, relevant training in equipment use was provided to the institutions' staff.



Along with recommendations related to the endowment of perinatal institutions with necessary medical equipment the international expert has also recommended to improve the health care conditions through refurbishment of premise of the Perinatal Centers. Considering the fact that the financial resources were limited, it was recommended to focus the assistance to the most affected perinatal institutions – perinatal centers from Slobozia and Grigoriopol.



Following up the needs assessment recommendations and based on prior consultations with partner UN Agencies and approval received from SDC, two perinatal institutions, Slobozia and Grigoriopol, were selected to be refurbished. In this regard, grant agreements were signed with Slobozia and Grigoriopol regional Hospitals in November 2014. Preliminary costs estimates were prepared and tenders for the selection of companies responsible for technical drawings were carried

out. The reconstruction process of both institutions was initiated in June- July 2015 and

completed in November 2015. The overall reconstruction costs of both perinatal Centers was \$233,000.00.

Activity II. Procurement of emergency assistance equipment, following needs identified by the assessment conducted by WHO. Provide training in equipment use

With reference to the endorsement of the perinatal institutions with emergency equipment, the project team was guided by the assessment conducted by WHO in March 2015. Along with this, UNDP/SCBM has additionally evaluated the needs of five perinatal institutions from TN region, in June 2015 (**Annex II**), based on which detailed technical specifications were elaborated. In order to procure the emergency equipment, an international open competition was conducted during September-October 2015. Following a thorough review and approval of the procurement process by the Regional Assets, Contracts and Procurement committee, emergency equipment valued at \$121,370.00 was additionally procured and delivered to Slobozia, Grigoriopol, Rybnita, Tiraspol and Bender Perinatal Institutions (**Annex III**). Additionally to the equipment, relevant training in equipment use was provided to the institutions' staff.



Activity III. Based on the assessment, procurement of critical pediatric equipment for Tiraspol Medical Center



The procurement of critical paediatric equipment was carried out in two instalments. At the first stage, in accordance with the project work plan and based on initial assessment mission organized in March 2014 the procurement of critical pediatric equipment was ensured only for Tiraspol Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The procurement was carried out in December 2014 and included 37 items. (**Annex IV**). The overall value of the provided equipment was \$197,215.00. At the second stage, considering the conclusions and recommendations provided by the international consultant after the needs assessment provided in June 2015, also after preliminary consultations with UNICEF, WHO and SDC, the UNDP/SCBM team took the decision to procure and provide additional critical pediatric equipment for Pediatric Units from Rybnita, Grigoriopol, Bender and Slobozia. The procurement of this equipment was carried out in December 2015 and included 54 items, amounting \$56,025.00 (Annex III).

Overall achieved results:

- Two needs assessment of perinatal institutions done;
- Perinatal Institutions from Rybnita, Grigoriopol, Slobozia Bender and Tiraspol endowed with basic emergency and perinatal equipment;
- Paediatric Units from Tiraspol, Rybnita, Bender, Grigoriopol and Slobozia endowed with critical paediatric equipment;
- Relevant training in equipment use was provided to the institutions' staff of five Perinatal Institutions;
- Refurbishment of Grigoriopol and Slobozia Perinatal Centres completed;
- Monitoring and evaluation tools for previously provided equipment elaborated;
- Over 4,500 pregnant women and their children (over 90% from the entire number from TN region) annually benefit from better quality services during the antenatal, intra-, and post-partum periods.