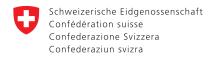
# Project "Contribution for the Health Component of the CBM Programme"



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC Agenția Elvețiană pentru Dezvoltare și Cooperare



#### Project full name:

Contribution for the Confidence Building Measures Programme (CBM) – Promoting Confidence in the Health Sector of the Transnistrian Region

Sector: Health

# Duration of the phase:

November 2013 – October 2015

Total budget of the CBM programme: CHF 14,859,000

#### Main donors:

- European Union (EU)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

SDC contribution to CBM health component: CHF 1,432,000

#### Implementing partners:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- UNICEF Office in Moldova
- World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Moldova

# **Project overview**

The EU-UNDP programme "Support towards Confidence Building Measures (CBM)" aims at ensuring economic and social development of local communities and increasing confidence between people on both banks of the Nistru River by providing technical and financial support for joint local initiatives in the areas of environment protection, business development, civil society and healthcare.

The CBM programme health component supports the development of the mother and child healthcare sector in the region having as a guiding principle the exchange of expertise between both banks of the Nistru River.

During the previous phase of the programme, two perinatal centres in Tiraspol and Bender were rehabilitated and equipped with modern medical devices. Through cross-river exchanges, the health professionals learned how to establish and manage a perinatal health system based on international standards.

The SDC has been supporting the process of modernization and regionalization of the perinatal system in the country since 2005, contributing to a significant reduction of the infant mortality and morbidity. Committed to further support the mother and child health, the SDC has joined the health component of the CBM programme regarding it as an opportunity to expand the reforms of the perinatal system on both banks of the Nistru River.

# Challenges and opportunities

The healthcare system of the Transnistrian region serving more than 500,000 people has not yet reformed because of insufficient budgetary funding and isolation. At present, it is facing sizable needs in new technologies, trained health practitioners and public health professionals, as well as necessity to come into line with international healthcare standards.

Designed to focus on technical cooperation in health, the project addresses the concrete development needs of the mother and child healthcare sector increasing confidence between both banks of the Nistru River by linking communities, promoting cross-river partnerships between health institutions and associations, and creating platforms for interaction between the health stakeholders.

With the first positive results achieved so far and the commitment of partners to further support the modernization of the perinatal care system in the Transnistrian region, the project has the potential to bring a meaningful change in the area. The population of both banks of the Nistru River will gain access to more health-related information and to higher quality perinatal care and immunization services closer to their place of residence.



"Investing in maternal and child health means welfare for all. We are glad that together with our partners we will contribute, through this project, not only to improved quality of healthcare, but also to a better future for people on both banks of the Nistru River".

> Nicola Harrington-Ruhay UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Moldova

## **Current approach**

In this phase, the CBM health component is addressing more comprehensively the mother and child health sector on both banks of the Nistru River. The regionalization of services entails levels of care and a well-functioning referral system; therefore the main interventions are aimed at strengthening the capacity of the perinatal centres to provide high quality health care at each level.

The perinatal centres from the region dealing with moderate risk cases will benefit from the provision of modern perinatal, paediatric and emergency care equipment. In order to secure the quality of care at this level, health practitioners will be trained to use advanced clinical technologies and evidence-based practices, but also to comply with new protocols and guidelines on pregnancy, post-natal care, obstetrics and neonatology.

In addition, the consolidation of the referral system will allow for health personnel from the Transnistrian region to receive distance consultations from expert teams and, when necessary, to transport women with high risk pregnancies and premature, low-weight new-borns to the highest level of care.

The sustainable delivery of high quality, continuous perinatal care services in the region requires the development of the local health authorities and managers' capacity to plan and monitor the performance of the perinatal system, but also to raise public awareness on issues related to ante-natal care. child care and the benefits of immunization.

Improve access to quality, evidence-based and cost-efficient mother and child healthcare, including perinatal care and immunization in the Transnistrian region.

#### Main activities

Overall goal

- Equip the perinatal centres with the required medical equipment and devices to ensure the provision of high quality perinatal care and immunization services.
- Train physicians and perinatal care practitioners in antenatal, delivery and postnatal care and immunization, including on the use of new equipment.
- Develop skills of health managers in planning, implementation and evaluation of cost-efficient and evidence-based interventions at all levels of perinatal care.
- Incorporate perinatal care into continuing professional education at regional level.
- Organize professional exchanges on advanced health practices and standards.
- Develop and implement a quality-based assessment system of healthcare services provided for women and new-borns.
- Conduct awareness raising actions for pregnant women and their families about pregnancy, antenatal and postnatal care, as well as on the benefits of immunization.

### **Project beneficiaries**

Healthcare practitioners, healthcare service providers, local and regional health authorities, medical educational institutions, women of reproductive age and children, the population of the region.

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