

Project “Strengthening Governance and Policy Dialogue in Health”



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



Project full name:

Support towards strengthening governance and policy dialogue in the health sector

Sector: Health

Duration of the phase: 2013-2015

SDC contribution: CHF 1,400,000

Total project budget: CHF 1,624,000

Implementing partner: World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in the Republic of Moldova

Partners:

- Ministry of Health of Moldova
- Medical and public health institutions of Moldova
- National Health Insurance Company
- Non-governmental organizations

Project overview

Over the past few years, the health system of the Republic of Moldova has been undergoing profound and challenging reforms in line with the National Health Policy (2007-2021) and the Healthcare System Development Strategy (2008-2017). The reforms address the most important issues of health financing; regionalization, decentralization of primary healthcare, and upgrading of public healthcare services.

The Ministry of Health of Moldova is committed to ensuring the continuity of reforms and to expedite the translation of change into higher quality, patient-friendly, and more affordable healthcare services for all the population of Moldova. To achieve these ambitious goals, the Ministry of Health intends to modernize the governance of the health system, focusing on performance improvement in national public health institutions.

This joint SDC-WHO project is designed to respond to the requests of the Ministry of Health of Moldova. It provides technical assistance aimed at strengthening the health sector coordination process and building capacities through the provision of training, consultancy, international exchange of experience, as well as through the facilitation of dialogue and evidence generation to inform policies.

Challenges and opportunities

Strengthening the health system remains challenging in the Republic of Moldova, as the country faces manifold problems related to the insufficient allocation and management of funds in healthcare, including for capital investments; mobility of health professionals; ageing population and poverty. At the same time, the medical technology is developing rapidly globally, and the expectations of citizens towards the health system are growing.

In order to ensure the implementation of sustainable reforms in line with national policies and international commitments, the main area requiring support is building the capacity of the decision-makers and the specialists of the national public health institutions to produce evidence-based policy recommendations on priority issues, as well as to plan strategically, supervise the progress, and report on the implementation of these health policy reforms.

Another concern of the Ministry of Health of Moldova is the readiness of the health system to respond to the pressing public healthcare necessities. While facing the persisting challenge of preventing and controlling communicable diseases, the Moldovan health sector is also currently facing the need to improve healthcare services, whilst addressing the growing incidence of non-communicable chronic diseases.

Institutionalizing communication with stakeholders within and beyond the health sector will enhance the transparency of decision-making and its effectiveness. Regular policy dialogue discussions will furthermore contribute to continuous capacity building, gaining support for reforms and changing the outlook and approaches used by health authorities, healthcare service providers, and frontline healthworkers. Also, better communication with patients is essential for them to better manage their own health problems.

“Improving public health and ensuring people-centred health systems – including human resources for health, health financing and enhanced governance – are all key focus areas of Health 2020”.

Zsuzsanna Jakab,
WHO Regional Director for Europe

Overall goal

Contribute to the improved health status, financial risk protection and patients’ satisfaction, in particular of rural poor and vulnerable groups, through a better stewardship, governance and management of the health system.

Main activities

- Conduct policy studies and applied research in priority areas (e.g. health financing, health services delivery, non-communicable diseases).
- Provide internal and external expert consultancy support to key stakeholders in using evidence and information.
- Conduct strategic planning workshops for the public health institutions, including on monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.
- Organize study visits abroad for policy makers and health managers.
- Continue with existing policy dialogue platforms and organize participatory discussions.
- Further strengthen sectoral coordination mechanisms to engage partners and ensure aid effectiveness.



- Provide support to improve institutional capacities, including for the Ministry of Health, National Health Insurance Company, Public Health Centre.
- Disseminate widely the key health and health system findings, using Internet platforms, including the website of the Ministry of Health of Moldova.

Project beneficiaries

Public health professionals, policy makers, health service providers, health managers and practitioners, civil society organizations, national and international partners active in health sector, and the population of Moldova.

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