

UNICEF's collaboration with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs

- Output 1.1: By 2020, national capacities to provide quality MCH services during pregnancy, delivery and post-delivery are improved to support infant and maternal survival.
- Output 1.2: By 2020, comprehensive home-visiting services are in place for healthy child growth, development and protection to support families with young children.

UNICEF is providing the technical and financial support to the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs in the following areas:

Regionalization of Perinatal Care in Georgia

In 2016 UNICEF initiated the institutionalization of risk-appropriate perinatal care by introducing so called regionalized perinatal care approach. The concept commands granting of levels of care (I-III) to the existed maternities in Georgia as per the predefined requirements for each level in terms of human resources, infrastructure, equipment, laboratory and diagnostic services. The approach also envisages training of gynecologists, obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists. Assessment and strengthening of the existing maternities country wide carried out (82 out of 105 are assigned perinatal care level by the MoLHSA; the 23 remaining maternities do not comply with the enforced standards for any level); Supported the capacity development of medical professionals from the assessed clinics and prepared the recommendations to the Government for assigning the levels. UNICEF also supported the incorporation of perinatal regionalization as part of the national agenda through the development of Maternal and Newborn Health Strategy and Action plan.

Supporting rural primary health care in Georgia

UNICEF is committed to strengthen the capacity of rural PHC nurses (visiting families with 0-3 children) in performing developmental surveillance of infants and young children besides well-structured family support activities. Greater resources are considered for families and children for whom specific risks and vulnerabilities are detected. Depending on needs, the model implies additional family support provided by Health and/or Social systems until the persistence of risk or vulnerability factor. The model also reflects clear referral pathways for children identified at risk of developmental delay or disorder and hence, in need of more comprehensive evaluation and subsequent treatment for which the respective capacity (e.g. Early Development Intervention) will be established at the regional level with UNICEF support.

Nutrition

As a great result of UNICEF advocacy children from the most vulnerable families (13,000) can benefit from the improved nutrient density of their complementary by using Multiple Micronutrient Powders distributed by the Government.

Iodine Nutrition Survey - Since 1996 UNICEF Georgia has been actively supporting the Government of Georgia in its efforts towards elimination of IDD and implementation of Universal Salt Iodization (USI) strategy. In 2005 the Law on Prevention of Iodine, other Microelement and Vitamin Deficiencies was adopted, banning import and sale of non-iodized salt. In 2017 UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs in undertaking the Iodine Nutrition Survey to assess iodine status of the population and test whether the USI enforcement was successful in tackling prevalence of IDD in Georgia

Birth registry

Birth registry, and maternal and new-born health monitoring module was launched in Georgia with the support of UNICEF. It ensured registration of data through the entire pregnancy period, including information on the newborn child. The registry guarantees the accuracy of the real-time data as well as facilitates monitoring of and reporting on the service provision. As a result improving maternal and child information management system and the quality of MCH services. The technical support provided for the establishment of routine quality assurance mechanisms (data audit) for the “Birth Registry” data

Elimination Mother to Child Transmission of HIV - EMTCT

UNICEF Georgia CO supported the government in assessing the country’s readiness for validation of EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis. Based on the analyses the team of contracted experts produced the analytical report containing the overview of existing gaps in policy, programs, service delivery and monitoring pertaining to MTCT of HIV and syphilis. Based on the assessment the team of experts elaborated the indicators and defined impact and process targets to support the validation of EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis. The assessment was conducted according to the internationally standardized processes and criteria to validate EMTCT of HIV and syphilis recommended by WHO. It is anticipated to develop the elimination action plan that will help country to meet the impact and process targets and enable to apply for validation by 2020.

Immunization

UNICEF provided technical support to the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health(NCDC) in the following areas:

- **Electronic Immunization Module (e-IM)** encompassing vaccine and safety injection supply stock management e-module has been established on the bases of NCDC. The system is connected with other e-Health modules and ensures real-time data collection on immunization coverage. It also enables ongoing monitoring and supports inquiries and dispatches of vaccines from central and regional warehouses all the way to health facilities and ultimately to the patient.
- **Mobile application on immunization for parents** -UNICEF provided the technical support to NCDC to develop the free mobile application on immunization for iPhones and Android devices to contribute to the improvement of immunization coverage in Georgia. With the help of the application the parents obtain information about the safety and importance of vaccination whenever and wherever they need. Through the interactive platform, parents are able to get the personal immunization schedule for their children as well as receive the vaccination reminder which helps to ensure that their children are fully immunised on time against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Research on immunization among key stakeholders:** As there was a broad range of factors contributing to vaccine concerns, a KAP survey was carried out in order to soundly inform the development of a comprehensive immunization communication strategy for Georgia.
- **Immunization communication strategy and action plan:** Immunization communication strategy and action plan with the crisis communication developed and submitted to the Government stakeholders.
- **Vaccine procurements system assessment:** With UNICEF support, the vaccine procurement assessment for Georgia was conducted in line with WHO Generic Vaccine Procurement Assessment Tool in consultation with all key stakeholders. Capacity building activities for the

national counterparts to deal with vaccine products and vaccine markets and undertake efficient and sustainable procurement of new vaccines after GAVI support is carried out.

- Training of master trainers in interpersonal communication for immunization: The ToT Guide and training modules in Interpersonal Communication for Immunization for the master trainers have been developed and submitted to the Government stakeholders. 8 master trainers were trained through the training sessions on interpersonal communication for immunization.
- Over 312 health care workers were trained by the master trainers through 18 trainings in interpersonal communication for immunization by the PR academy experts.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Education Institutions

To address the problems related to water, sanitation and hygiene in education institutions UNICEF cooperated with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the National Center for Disease Control and Public health: the following activities were accomplished:

- Two national surveys were undertaken to generate evidence on WASH condition in schools and preschool institutions; the following regulatory document were elaborated:
- The national guidelines on WASH for preschools was developed and approved by the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs through the Ministerial Decree N01-172/o on July 28, 2016.
- The WASH technical regulations for preschools was developed and approved by the government of Georgia through the government resolution N 485 of October 27, 2017.
- The nutrition technical regulations for preschools was developed and was adopted through the Government Decree N 487, October 30, 2017.
- The technical Regulations on Safety and Quality of Food products and Raw materials was developed and submitted to the Government for approval;
- Georgia supported the Government in establishing strong WASH monitoring system. The national guide and monitoring instruments have been elaborated to assist municipal public health centres to conduct WASH monitoring against National Technical Regulations. The Guidelines have been approved by the Minister of labor Health and social affairs through the decree N 01/o on January 18, 2018.