

High-Level Meeting on Priorities of the Maternal and Newborn Health and Related Reproductive Health issues

Concept Note

Date: 7 April, 2017

Venue: Tbilisi Marriott hotel.

Introduction and Background

The Ministry of Labour, Health & Social Affairs of Georgia (MoLHSA), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Children Fund (UNICEF) will convene a High Level Meeting on the National Maternal & Newborn Health Strategy (2017-2030). Within the framework of *nationalized* Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Government of Georgia has the intention to substantially improve Maternal and New-born Health (MNH) in coming 14 years. To this end it has developed a long-term strategy (2017-2030) and a 3-year Action Plan (AP) (2017-2019) for its implementation. Because MNH is closely related and strongly influenced by quality of Family Planning and of Reproductive Health of young people, these two fields are included in this MNH strategy. The overall purpose of this strategy is to give direction and provide guidance for the improvement of Maternal and Newborn Health and the related RH fields in Georgia. This strategy is closely linked to the recent international strategic documents, including the Sustainable Development Goals (2015) and the new WHO European Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2016), with which it shares internationally accepted guiding principles and commitments.

Although important progress has been made in some respects in the past decades, Georgia still lags behind in several ways when it comes to reaching internationally agreed targets in the fields of MNH, FP and Young People's SRH, and compares negatively to European averages for various reproductive health indicators. Therefore, a new forward looking document in the area of Reproductive Health (*with a special emphasis on MNH*) is needed because Georgia is still facing several important challenges in this field that have not been sufficiently addressed until now. Such a policy document is also needed to keep up with national and international developments and with global and national target setting in this field.

The Strategy and Action Plan was developed under MoLHSA leadership with technical support provided by UNFPA in collaboration with UNICEF. Document provides strategic inputs that will support the development and execution of operating plans at the country level to accelerate the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality in Georgia by strengthening and expanding policies and programs for the improvement of Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) within the continuum of care; and gives direction and provides guidance for the fields of Family Planning and Adolescent SRH, as very important determinants of MNH. Strategy **envision**s that by 2030, there will be no preventable deaths of mothers and newborns or stillbirths, every child will be a wanted child, and every unwanted pregnancy will be prevented through appropriate education and full access for all high quality integrated SRH services. Strategy is guided by the internationally accepted principles such as Human rights,

Gender equality and gender sensitiveness, Life-Course Approach to Reproductive Health, Quality of Care.

The 3-year Action Plan that is developed in light of this Strategy will serve as a general framework for the MNH/RH/FP program and as a guide for interventions for the next three years.

In 2016 Georgia hosted the regional consultation for 17 EECA Countries, organised by UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECARO) in cooperation with WHO to discuss and agree follow up actions for developing and implementing the national SRH Action Plans. It is remarkable that in a year's time Georgia has developed its National Strategy to guide implementation of global and regional commitments in MNH in a wider context of life course approach to SRH and country priorities in this regard.

Purpose & Objective

The key objective of the meeting is to present the priorities of the Georgia Maternal & Newborn Health Strategy document to the broad range of national stakeholders and to foster multi-sectoral collaboration for achieving the goals of the Strategy to meet Georgia's International and national commitments.

Specific objectives:

- To raise awareness and political commitment of policy-makers on the priorities of the Maternal & Newborn and Reproductive Health Strategy and advocate for its full implementation;
- To raise awareness on the centrality of the Strategy priorities for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and national targets;
- To sustain and expand the political momentum to further advance policies and programmes calling for more comprehensive, quality and integrated MNH & RH/FP health services for all in Georgia.

Participants

The event will bring together key stakeholders, the people who will have ownership of the Strategy; including, Government agencies - Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs; members of the Parliament, SRH healthcare professionals and representatives of the professional associations (*predominantly MCH Council members*), UN Agencies, academia, civil society organizations, Donors.

Expected Outcome

National consensus on *Georgia Maternal & Newborn Health Strategy 2017-2030 and the three-year Action Plan* in line with the national priorities, which once developed, will be the highest achievable standard of reproductive health for all individuals in Georgia.

Preliminary Agenda

10:30		Welcome coffee
11:00	–	Opening and Welcoming Remarks
11:20		Mr. David Sergeenko , Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. Mr. Akaki Zoidze , Chairman of the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee of the

		<i>Parliament of Georgia</i> Mr. Aleksandre Jejelava , <i>Minister of Education and Science of Georgia</i> Mr. Revaz Javelidze , <i>Deputy Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia.</i> Mrs. Alanna Armitage , <i>Regional Director, UNFPA EECARO.</i> Mrs. Laila Omar Gad , <i>UNICEF Representative in Georgia.</i> Mrs. Marijan Ivanuša , <i>WHO Representative, Head of WHO Country Office Georgia.</i>
11:20 11:50	–	National Strategy on Maternal and Newborn Health and related Reproductive Health issues.
		Mrs. Nino Berdzuli , <i>Deputy Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.</i>
11:50 12:10	–	Accelerating the Implementation of Regional and National Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Frameworks.
		Mrs. Tamar Khomasuridze , <i>SRH Advisor, UNFPA EECARO.</i>
12:10 12:30	-	Representative of the European Board and College of the Obstetrics and Gynecology (EBCOG) - (Title of the intervention to be confirmed).
12:30 13:00	–	Open Discussion
13:00		Light lunch