

Annual Newsletter 2019

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

ESTABLISHMENT OF CANCER SCREENING CENTER IN ZUGDIDI

Making cancer screening programs accessible in region



From October, 2019 the population of Samegrelo-Upper Svaneti and its neighbouring regions, including Abkhazia, can benefit from national cancer screening programs at Zugdidi Screening Center. In this Center, which was established and equipped by Caritas Czech Republic (CCR) with the financial support of Czech Development Agency, breast, cervical, colorectal and prostate cancer screening programs are provided. Highly professional staff of the Center and up-to date office and medical devices, including a digital mammography machine, ensure that patients will receive quality services in close proximity of their homes.

The Center was officially opened in October, 2019 by Ambassador of Czech Republic to Georgia, H.E. Petr Mikyska, and Deputy Minister of Health of Czech Republic Radek Policar. By wearing the pink ribbon, the distinguished guests expressed their support to the breast cancer awareness campaign “Pink October”.

Policy making and partnership:

CCR closely cooperated with National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) to help enhance the quality of cancer screening programs in Georgia. With the aim to exchange the knowledge with their Czech counterpart, representatives of NCDC visited Prague where they learnt about the best practices in the policy making process related to organization of cancer registry and cancer screening programs.



Health promotion activities:

Raising awareness about importance of cancer prevention and screening is an inseparable part of the CCR's project. With this purpose, CCR and Zugdidi Screening Center together with the representatives of governor's office of Samegrelo-upper Svaneti region and its municipalities organized a round table "Cancer screening challenge – 2020!" during which they discussed specific

actions aiming at drawing attention of the population to the importance of prophylactic check-ups and healthy life style.

In the end of the event, the participants signed a communique to take a joint action for improving the population's health in the region.



ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILDREN'S LONG TERM AND PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES IN GEORGIA

The purpose of the project is to create long term care services for Children in Georgia



Policy making and partnership:

In order to develop regulatory framework for the children's long-term care services in Georgia, CCR provides technical support to Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Labour, Health, and

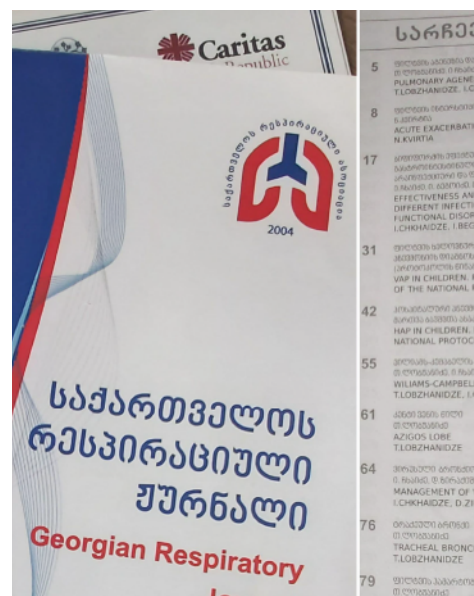


Social Affairs (MoIDPLHSA). As a result, the changes were initiated into "The Law on Healthcare" which was adopted by the Parliament of Georgia as a requirement for systemic changes. In 2021, the state funded service will be available at Zhvania pediatric hospital of Tbilisi State Medical University.

Based on the legislative changes, the technical regulations (paper) was designed by CCR consultants and presented on September 25, 2019 at the meeting with the Deputy ministers of health Tamar Gabunia and Tamar Barkalaia, who underlined that the project is filling the gap in the services providing for the children with special medical and psychosocial needs.

Contributing to improvement of the quality of pediatric hospital services:

Further to above mentioned papers, the developed framework covers two national guidelines/protocols on management of clinical conditions written in partnership with the Georgian Respiratory Association focusing on diagnosis, prevention and management of children's hospital pneumonia and artificial ventilator associated pneumonia in children. These protocols are approved under the order of the minister of health and are freely accessible for pediatric hospital workers. To implement the protocols, a two-day



accredited training course is prepared and being delivered in Tbilisi and regions by the Georgian Respiratory Association.

Contributing to improvement of existing services in Zhvania Pediatric hospital:

Another direction of the project covers provision of medical equipment to project partner hospital - Tbilisi State Medical University Zhvania Pediatric hospital for the intensive care and neonatal units, with the cost of 400 000 GEL.



Providing support to children's hospice:

Snoezelen MSE – multisensory environment is an innovative therapeutic service developed at children's hospice “Firefly World” with support of CCR. Special room was renovated in the hospice with special equipment being installed in the room under consultations of the Czech expert who also delivered training for hospice staff on introducing the new service in the hospice.



With such interventions CCR supports the improvement of the quality of life for children with palliative care needs and at the end of life stage. Around 50 beneficiaries of hospice are receiving therapy annually by the qualified staff at the hospice.

LAUNCH OF A SYSTEM OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT OF PRIMARY HEALTHCARE IN GEORGIA

The purpose of the project is to create long term care services for Children in Georgia



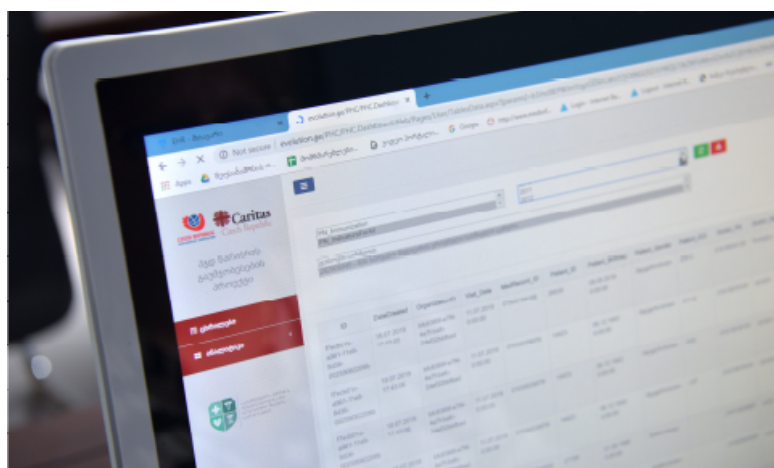
The presentation of Midterm results of the project was officially opened by Jan Cernik of the Czech Embassy and Tamar Gabunia of MoIDPLHSA on June 19, 2019. The invited guests and project stakeholders learned about the intermediate results of the project including the status of the use of the developed electronic information system that assess the quality of preventive services as well as the management of non-communicable diseases at primary healthcare level.

On December 10 of 2019, the results of the project were presented at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Tbilisi. During

the presentation, the main achievements, challenges and lessons learned were discussed together with participating PHC facilities. At the end, the concept of future unified health information system was presented as planned to be supported by the Czech Development Agency from 2020.

The project established a precedent of assessment of quality of clinical processes using electronic information systems, which is sustainable and precise approach for quality monitoring

and improvement and ensures accuracy of tracking of facility-level performance of PHC clinics. The similar strategy for improvement of PHC quality and monitoring can be replicated in other PHC facilities, which will be a basis of countrywide introduction of a system of quality management in Georgia.



EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER IN GEORGIA

The purpose of the project is to create supportive environment and implement systemic changes for people with autism spectrum in Georgia



In 2019, Caritas Czech Republic started working in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Guria regions, where it introduced the problem of autism and advocated for its inclusion in the municipal budgeting process.

Caritas Czech Republic promotes Applied Behavior Analysis



ABA is the most evidence-based therapeutic approach for working with people with autism spectrum disorder in many countries of the world. During November-December 2019, the basic level trainings in ABA was underway in Akhaltsikhe, Ozurgeti and Telavi, where 47 spe-

cialists and parents from Samtskhe-Javakheti, Guria, Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions participated. Based on the successfully passed exam at the end of the trainings, the participants will be equipped with the basic knowledge of working with children with ASD.



In December 2019, the workshop on adolescents and adult issues was held in Tbilisi with participation of invited Czech experts who presented, which support services and relevant state assistance programs are being offered in the Czech Republic. Mr. Julius Bittmann and Mrs. Lenka Bittmannova from the National Institute of Autism of the Czech Republic shared their valuable inputs and recommendations, thanks to which Georgian colleagues will be able to develop adults support program in their country.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION IN KHULO MUNICIPALITY

The aim of the project is to improve employment and living conditions in Khulo Municipality through diversification of the rural economy



The European Union
for Georgia
ENPARD



CZECH REPUBLIC
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

In order to enhance local economy, two rounds of rural development grant competition were held in Khulo Municipality. As a result, 71 new development projects are currently being implemented with the potential to create 250 new jobs. Thanks to the financial support of EU's ENPARD programme and Czech Development Agency, the total amount of the grants given was 963 00 EUR which was complemented by 487 223 EUR co-financed by the grantees themselves.



In line with the Rural Development Strategy of Khulo Municipality, the winning projects, out of which 21 have been managed by women, have fallen within priority themes of rural tourism, agriculture, social and communal infrastructure, non-farming entrepreneurship, and culture, health, education, sports and youth.

On 14th of May 2019 Khulo Local Action Group (LAG) management board election was held. The missions of Khulo LAG are:

- Sustainable development of Khulo municipality based on human and other local resources
- Promote mutual cooperation between sectors based on the European LEADER approach
- Promote popularization of Khulo in the country and internationally
- Promote and develop youth initiatives
- Support to sustainable management and environmental protection of natural resources

In August 2019, Khulo Fest was organized by Khulo LAG in cooperation with the City Hall. Khulo Fest was organized for the second time and it is becoming a tradition for the municipality. Festival aims to popularize local products and services with many local organizations actively participated in it. Visitors were able to buy and taste various products produced by local farmers and small entrepreneurs, as well as to enjoy music and traditional folklore dances. The festival will be a sustainable event, as Khulo municipality Mayor is planning to continue this activity after the Project closure.



DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN PSHAV-KHEVSURETI PROTECTED AREA AND ADJACENT MOUNTAINOUS TERRITORIES



The project worked intensively with Dusheti municipality and administration of Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Areas to develop a waste management plan with innovative solutions for sustainable and efficient waste management in protected area and its supporting zones.

- After the existing legislative framework and institutional set up related to waste management in Georgia was mapped and analyzed and on-site visits conducted, Czech and Georgian experts drafted a waste management plan, which they presented to all relevant stakeholders.
- The waste management plan of Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Areas was subsequently integrated into the updated waste management plan of Dusheti Municipality.



The waste management plan, which contains innovative solutions for improvement of waste collection and treatment practices at protected areas, was developed in a way that can be easily replicated and used by other protected areas of Georgia.

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