“Improvement of Roma health and wellbeing in Serbia”

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AIMS

• Health care improvement for vulnerable groups (mainly Roma population)
• Building capacity in public health
• Improvement of health care quality
• Secure an equal opportunity and rights for all citizens
Ministry of Health introduced the health Mediators scheme in 2008 in cooperation with OSCE Mission to Serbia.

**Aims:** Improve Roma health and access to healthcare services, especially for women and children, and reduce inequality.

**Objectives:** Increased number of persons with health insurance coverage; vaccination of children; family planning; nutrition; food preservation and waste disposal; personal and general hygiene; risks from contagious diseases; and use of psychoactive substances; and issues of violence-neglect-abuse, human trafficking, and rights to social and health protection.
Health Mediators

- Health mediators are Roma women and mothers, with at least primary education, who are themselves residents of the informal Roma settlements.
- Mediators facilitate communication between the healthcare system and Roma community – they are not social workers, nurses, lawyers or psychologists.
- Mediators collaborate directly with the field-nurses, and cooperate with the health workers and associates in the primary healthcare centres.
- Mediators cooperate with the Centres for Social Work, field branches of the National Institute for Health Insurance, and local self-governments.
The Ministry deployed a total of 75 health mediators to 59 municipalities throughout Serbia:

- **45** are salaried by the Ministry of Health from State funds under the program “Implementation of the Action Plan on Roma Health”
- **15** are salaried by the Ministry from funds provided by the DILS program “Delivery of Improved Local Services”
- **15** are salaried by the Ministry under the project “Health Mediators”, financed by the Open Society Fund
Health Mediators 2012.

- In 2012, 60 mediators will be salaried by the Ministry of Health from State budget.
- 15 mediators will be salaried from funds provided by OSCE mission to Serbia.
Mediators received training on the following topics between 2008 and 2011:

- public health and communication skills
- hygiene and prevention of contagious diseases
- vaccination
- healthy lifestyles
- exercising rights to healthcare and health insurance
- social care, women's rights, neglect and abuse, and human trafficking
- code of conduct
Achievements during the period May 2008 – October 2011:

- Information recorded on 120,708 individuals (36,600 families) from settlements: 36,975 women, 34,765 men, 48,968 children. Undertook 138,106 household visits
- Recorded 13,647 persons without health insurance IDs. Secured insurance for 7,389 persons
- Recorded 6,774 persons without personal IDs. Secured IDs for 3,545 persons
- 19,528 persons registered with their chosen doctor
- 7,295 women selected their gynecologist
- Systematic health checks for 7,112 women
- 895 mammograms performed
Achievements 2008-2011

- 14,666 children and 1,313 adults (Te-Al vaccine) vaccinated
- 5,740 persons educated through healthcare related workshops organized in Roma settlements
- 3,310 children enrolled in school (151 scholarships)
- Assisted families to gain State social benefits: 3,372 - Material assistance; 1,155 - Child benefits
- Red Cross assistance gained for 4,589 persons
- Other assistance for 11,446 persons (e.g. registration with employment bureau)
Project "Networking"

- In April 2010, Ministry distributed laptops to the mediators with new database installed (electronic copy of the registry), along with mobile phones [in cooperation with UNICEF and the Telenor phone company]
- In the period from April 2010 to October 2011, nearly 100,000 individuals were registered in the electronic database (100,988 family visits)
- In 2010, Ministry collected and entered data on the indicators for standards of living in settlements in 50 Serbian municipalities [in cooperation with WHO]
Through OSI project „Health mediators“, Institute for economic sciences conducted survey and economic analysis of economic advantages of introduction of Roma health mediators in the Health system of Serbia.

Results of analysis show that there are measurable and unmeasurable benefits.

Measurable results are:
- decrease of incidence of illnesses
- greater life expectancy of children, youth, and older population
- decrease of death rate

Unmeasurable benefits are:
- introduction of children in education system
- increasing Roma inclusion in employment, social protection, housing, etc.
Mediators as Educators
Commonly Encountered Medical Conditions

- Cardiovascular diseases 7,644
- Diabetes 2,681
- Malignant diseases 1,005
- Other chronic diseases 5,788
- Renal failure 420
- Drug dependence 1,814
- Infectious hepatitis 152
- Other contagious diseases 249
- Bronchial asthma 2,639
- Physical disability 941
- Mental illnesses 1,627
Identification Card
ПРТОКОЛ
ЗДРАВСТВЕНИХ МЕДИЈАТОРКИ

Публикацију протокола финансира Европска унија
Vaccination Calendar
Manual for Mediators
Romani/ Serbian
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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