Health care and training

Primary Health Care: one of the key sectors for the EU-Georgia partnership

The European Union strongly supported the reform of the primary health care system in Georgia in 2011

Access to a stronger primary health system is associated with better health outcomes and lower costs. It is a way to support the social rights of people.

Philip Dimitrov, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia

Context

More accessible and better primary health care system in Georgia

Quality of health care system and access to services remain a challenge in Georgia. Some people bypass the proper health system and choose self-treatment. The rural population faces logistic barriers in accessing care. Many rural ambulatories are in extremely poor conditions and there is a lack of qualified doctors. While other donors are supporting the modernisation of infrastructures, The European Union focused on training doctors and nurses.

Objectives

Adoption of International standards

- Improve the quality of the Primary Health Care services
- Develop more effective approaches in dealing with communicable and non-communicable diseases and promotion of a healthy lifestyle
- Improve capacity of the Government of Georgia in monitoring the primary healthcare reforms

Impact

What has been achieved

- 364 physicians and 372 nurses have been trained in modern medical procedures between 2008 and 2011
- 430 rural doctors have been trained in managing relations with insurance companies, taxation and accounting
- 915 doctors have received training on how to use 20 new medical guidelines developed by the project
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Doctors trained for non-Georgian speaking communities

The project considered the primary needs of minorities. Very often, language barriers prevent from accessing the primary health care services. In the regions of Kvemo Kartli which is mostly inhabited by Azeri as well as by Armenians, nationality of medical personnel is respectively too diverse. Most of the doctors do understand Georgian, but hardly speak it. Some of the nurses have difficulty even in understanding Georgian language. The project has provided training materials on the language understandable for these ethnic groups. The materials were developed using local resources available at family medicine training centres. The training materials have been shared electronically with all the training centres.

Today, Zurab, a 75 years old Meskhetian, is more confident in the local primary health care system. "Today, I can approach the local ophthalmologist and share with her my health concerns. I am sure that she knows how to help me thanks to modern technologies. Although she is Meskhetian, she had the opportunity to study in the same way the other Georgian doctors did".