Health care and training

Strengthening Education and Health Care Services in the Russian North Caucasus: Chechnya and Ingushetia

"The project played a vital role in rehabilitation and development of education and health infrastructure in the republic. After a lengthy period of instability, the local population is regaining access to adequate health care and education services."

Zukhra Kharkimova, Deputy Minister of Health, the Chechen Republic

Context

The crisis, which took place in the Chechen Republic in the 90s, severely damaged the local health care and education systems, affecting the overburdened infrastructure of the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia. While the basic needs of the population were addressed through a range of emergency measures, additional efforts were required for complete restoration and development of key social services, including health care and education.

Objectives

- To strengthen the delivery capacity of the education systems in the republics of Chechnya and Ingushetia through provision of standard equipment and training of staff.
- To improve the overall Mother and Child Health (MCH) care delivery system in the Republics of Chechnya and Ingushetia, through the provision of technical equipment, professional training and supplies.

Impact

- The quality of teaching and learning improved in 72 secondary schools in Chechnya and Ingushetia through provision of school supplies and equipment.
- The quality of school teaching improved through provision of UNICEF-organized training and re-qualification opportunities to 3,000 teachers and administrative staff in Chechnya and Ingushetia.
- The quality of MCH services provided to children and women in 2 MCH hospitals in Chechnya and 3 MCH hospitals in Ingushetia improved through provision of specialized medical equipment and training of health workers.

For more information:
Khedi Chooses Breastfeeding

Khedi from Ingushetia never had much trouble raising her three children. If at the stage of infancy the child refused to nurse, she would resort to milk substitutes. Bottle-feeding always seemed to be an easy solution. During winter the children often got sick with flu, but Khedi explained it by the local damp climate. She never connected the frequent sicknesses of her children to their feeding regime. When Khedi was pregnant for the fourth time, her husband learned that the central maternity hospital in Nazran, the Ingush capital, was accredited by UNICEF and WHO as a “Baby Friendly Hospital.” He decided their next child should be born there. The hospital indeed underwent many innovations. UNICEF working closely with the Ministry of Health of Ingushetia supplied the hospital with most advanced equipment for infant resuscitation. New health policies were developed and introduced to promote breastfeeding and detect childhood illnesses at the early stages. The personnel was trained to provide the necessary care and advice to pregnant women and young mothers. Khedi was pleasantly surprised when she saw the new hospital wards equipped with comfortable and functional furniture. There were special rooms with plenty of visual aids and education materials for young mothers. Doctors explained to Khedi that breast milk has a unique composition that changes dynamically in accordance with many factors, including the baby’s age, climate conditions, seasons, and even light conditions. No formula can ever perfectly match breast milk. During the pre-delivery stage Khedi received important recommendations on such issues as basic breastfeeding techniques, proper breast milk preservation, and a breastfeeding mother’s diet. Health specialists explained how breast milk is important for growth and development of the child. Khedi’s fourth child was able to benefit from this information, and she enjoyed much better help than her siblings.