

SOLIDARITY FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and building a resilient health sector in the Eastern Partnership

A two-year, €35.2 million project of the European Union and WHO Regional Office for Europe in six countries of the Eastern Partnership – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

GEORGIA

PROJECT IMPACT
APRIL 2020 - AUGUST 2021

Keeping COVID-19 frontline responders safe

- 1 782 000 medical masks, 1 706 000 examination gloves, 408 000 respirators, 268 000 isolation gowns, 39 920 protective goggles and 5000 face shields delivered to health care facilities, of which: 100 000 medical masks, 30 000 examination gloves, 20 000 respirators, 9500 isolation gowns, 1520 protective goggles and 400 face shields supplied to Abkhazia.

Delivering essential supplies for patient care

- 29 oxygen concentrators, 110 pulse oximeters and 20 patient ventilators, delivered to COVID-19 designated hospitals, including in Abkhazia.

Surveillance, rapid response teams

- COVID-19 sero-prevalence survey conducted in 10 districts of Tbilisi and Rustavi to assess the spread of COVID-19.

- 141 newly-graduated epidemiologists trained on COVID-19 epidemiology.

- Protocol for enhanced surveillance developed with the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health.

- Trainings conducted in 4 points of entry (ports, airports and ground crossings) and 20 epidemiologists trained.

- Sarpi ground crossing and Batumi seaport points of entry assessed on readiness to receive travellers, including isolation and testing capabilities.

Essential health services and systems

- 135 primary health-care professionals in Tbilisi and Batumi trained in delivering mental health care services, and more than 1160 people have received mental health and psychosocial support.

- 10 laboratory specialists trained in TB genome sequencing, advancing surveillance of bacterial pathogens and TB diagnosis in the country.

- Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) strategy and action plan for 2021-2023 updated to ensure better services addressing NCDs in the COVID-19 context.

- Over 50 emergency medical service staff trained in delivering essential services under COVID-19.

- 345 ambulance doctors in Batumi, Kutaisi and Tbilisi trained in assessment of severity of COVID-19 and hospitalization criteria.

THE NUMBERS DELIVERED:

1 782 000

medical masks

1 706 000

examination gloves

408 000

respirators

268 000

isolation gowns

39 920

protective goggles

5000

face shields

110

pulse oximeters

29

oxygen concentrators

20

patient ventilators



Programme
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Infection prevention and control

- 41 COVID-19 health-care facilities assessed on infection prevention and control (IPC) readiness and rapid training provided to key staff.
- IPC standard operating procedures developed for ambulance services and a protocol put in place for assessing and managing health-care workers with risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- Training of trainers programme on IPC compliance at first point of care developed, and trainings organized in 10 regions, with around 300 frontline health workers trained across the country.

Risk communication and community engagement

- 6 waves of a behavioural insight survey conducted to provide regular insights into public knowledge, risk perceptions, behaviours and trust towards COVID-19 measures. Risk communications efforts adjusted to people's perceptions and behaviours.

- Community influencers trained in COVID-19 risk and prevention measures to increase awareness and promote protective behaviour. Trainees included 88 long-haul truck drivers at Poti Port terminal, 30 agrarian market vendors at Khobi market, 40 workers at a church-run elderly home, 80 taxi drivers and 300 religious leaders.

Scaling-up testing capacity

- 50 newly graduated laboratory specialists trained in Imereti zonal laboratory and equipped with the latest evidence-based knowledge to be immediately engaged in the national COVID-19 response.

Country-level coordination and preparedness

- A national pandemic preparedness plan drafted.
- 20 staff members of the Public Health Emergency Operation Center trained in emergency management, strengthening the Center's capacity.
- Coalition of Partners Platform established and fully functional, mobilizing all relevant sectors around public health priorities and supporting strengthening of public health services.

THE NUMBERS

41

health-care facilities assessed

6

waves of a behavioural insights survey conducted

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TRAINED:

538

key influencers

491

health workers

181

public health specialists

50

lab specialists



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