
Project: Establishment of Children's Long-term and Palliative Care Services in Georgia

Project Steering Committee Meeting

Venue: The Embassy of Czech Republic in Georgia

Date: December 12, 2019, 10:00 – 11:00

Participants:

- Tamuna Barkalaia – Ministry of internally displaced persons from the occupied territories, labour, health and social affairs of Georgia (MolHSA)
- Jan Černík – the Embassy of the Czech Republic
- Magda Metreveli – the Embassy of the Czech Republic (Czda)
- Jan Blinky – Caritas Czech Republic (CCRG)
- Tamar Kurtanidze – Caritas Czech Republic (CCRG)
- Alex Buachidze – Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU)

Meeting points:

- Current status of the project: construction process and technical regulatory papers;
- The planning for the mid-term, bridge activities, postponed training for nurses next year;
- Possible partnership in the field of social work.

Information provided and discussions:

- Tbilisi State Medical University: The tender on selection of the construction company was announced by TSMU and will be closed on December 19. The outcomes of the tender will give prognosis for future plan next year. In case of revealing the tender winner, the construction process should start in January, 2020 and will take one year. This information is important for planning of the future activities regarding procurement of the equipment for TSMU, selection of new staff for LTC Unit and training;
- Based on this information the training for new staff shall not be planned earlier than winter, 2021;
- One-year hinderance will affect the project so it is advisable to plan bridge activities in 2020 for existing infant's house staff and continue current selected activities of the project;
- Activities are to be confirmed by the CzDA and Ministry of Health (specification of the activities and the budget);
- The draft of the bridge activities shall be prepared by CCRG project manager. CCRG project manager collected the formation about the training needs during the visit at the infant house and agreed with Atip Fund;
- MolHSA will share existing training curriculum developed in terms of other project and delivered to the staff of two already existing family type children's houses in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. CCRG project manager will use this information for future planning. The extension project may also address the issue of training for maternity house staff on prevention of the child abandonment.

Other issues:

- MolHSA also provided information about:
 - future plans regarding delegating some responsibilities to municipalities to support small group homes, palliative care – ministry will monitor the implementation and set the policy (delegated responsibilities);
 - Social work in healthcare - under the new law on social care it is necessary to start working on this topic. Pilot of a social model (functional assessment) is ongoing in two regions; This reform also aims at establishing the system and collaboration of healthcare and social system;
 - Some authorized clinics do a medical assessment and report on medical care of disabled persons, but functional assessment is a different approach and the reform may face a lot of challenges from the medical community;
 - The role of the social workers in healthcare is not clear to all the stakeholders, the situation is getting now better;
 - CCRG also reported about its completed project with included piloting of social work in primary healthcare facility and findings. CCRG also delivered training for village doctor and state social worker jointly to make links and enhance the cooperation between two sectors. Two manuals have been created in the frame of the project: social work in healthcare and the rights of persons with disabilities in healthcare. The syllabus on social work in healthcare has been also developed and introduced at TSU and IliaUni social work program. Around 60 students of social work selected and took this module within 2 years. The second manual concerning the rights of persons with disabilities in healthcare is used at Tbilisi State Medical University as a reading material for communication skills and ethics course for medical doctors;
 - Concept note of the social model is under discussion. The working group is composed of MolHSA, UNICEF, USAID, AFDA. The Czech Embassy and Caritas Czech Republic will be included in the working group. CCRG has expressed willingness to share experience with regard to social work in healthcare based on its completed project.

Next Steering Committee meeting: End of January, 2020 to discuss the construction project status and extension project activities. Plan for equipment procurement and training for new staff.

The content of the document is approved by signature of parties:

Jan Černík (Embassy of Czech Republic to Tbilisi)

Tamuna Barkalaia (MolHSA)

Jan Blinka (CCRG)

Aleko Buachidze (TSMU)

