



Canadian Society for International Health A Canadian Voice for Global Health

La Société Canadienne de Santé Internationale

Balkans Primary Health Care Policy Project (PHCPP) 2006-2009

CSIH and Queen's University (QU) have been working collaboratively to contribute to the achievement of responsive and accountable primary health care (PHC) systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Serbia. This project will be focused at improving their citizens' health outcomes, creating and enabling environment for social, economic and political development. Primary health care (PHC) is the cornerstone of reform in these countries; however, each country has chosen different models. In Serbia PHC is based on the chosen doctor and his/her team. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, PHC is based on the concept of family medicine. The systems are faced with a number of constraints, including the lack of guiding policies, low salaries, few opportunities for professional development and little respect for primary health care and its providers.

Throughout the PHCPP, five cross cutting themes are addressed with respect to each of the activities. The themes include:

1. Vulnerable groups;
2. Public sector competence
3. Private sector
4. EU accession
5. Gender equality.

Each of these themes poses challenges to PHC development in the two countries. The CSIH/QU team will ensure that they are adequately addressed throughout the project. The PHCPP will also include regional activities which will focus on partnership and coordination, knowledge translation and communication for improved PHC. CSIH/QU will work with CIDA and other stakeholders in each country to establish mechanisms for coordination with other donors, bilateral and multilateral.

During the design phase of the Project, the Ministry of Health stakeholders in each country expressed concern about their capacity to be meaningfully involved in the many donor projects. They were also concerned that attention be paid to duplication across projects and the efficient use of resources. Coordination and cooperation between projects is a critical element in the success of the project. The Project will encourage continuous improvement based on the



sharing of information and the use of results and lessons learned throughout the PHCPP. Sustainability of the processes and results from the PHCPP is an important objective of this work. This will be achieved through the building of individual and institutional capacity, the use of results and the alignment of the work of the Project with that of other initiatives within the respective jurisdictions. The critical element in sustainability will be ownership of the work of the PHCPP by the key stakeholders in the countries.

To achieve these results the CSIH/QU team will work with the MOH and other stakeholders to implement an inter-related set of activities:

1. Policy Development
2. Quality of PHC Services
3. Role of Providers
4. Voice of Consumers

The activities will be achieved using approaches, which fully involve the local stakeholders.

In Serbia, PHCPP will focus on stewardship and delivery. The expected results of the project in Serbia are:

1. Improved capacity of government to lead cost-effective PHC policy development and to introduce appropriate regulation and tools for governance
2. Improved capacity of decision-makers for evidence based practice and quality management in PHC
3. Increased capacity of providers to participate in formulation, monitoring and implementation of more effective, equitable PHC services
4. Opportunities and mechanisms for public participation in PHC policy development for improved services

In BiH the PHCPP will focus on human resource planning and regulation, expected results are:

1. improved capacity for development of HR planning
2. Improved understanding of education reforms required in the health sector to meet EU standards
3. Increased institutional capacity to educate professionals in HHR planning and management for PHC
4. Improved capacity for Regulation, Accountability and Quality



In October 2006, the Canadian Society for International Health has been awarded the Canadian International Cooperation Award for improvement of social infrastructure for their Public Health Strengthening in Guyana Project.

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