



Health Information Systems in Transition

Global Health Council
June 1, 2005

Eva Slaweki, Project Manager
South Caucasus Health Information Project
Canadian Society for International Health



Canadian International Development Agency Agence canadienne de développement international

Presentation overview

Objective to share experience of South Caucasus Health Information Project (1999 – 2005) in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

- Background
- Project activities & results
- Recommendations



General Context

	Pop'n (million)	GDP per capita (2001)	Health exp. (% of GDP)	Health exp. per capita (\$)
Armenia	3.2	2,650	7.8	54
Azerbaijan	8.14	3,090	0.9	7.6
Georgia	4.4	2,560	3.6	22

Sources: Economist Intelligence Unit, Human Development Report 2003; World Bank, 2003

Health system challenges

- Deteriorating health infrastructure
- Low salaries for health personnel
- Out-of pocket payments for services
- Decreased access and use of health services
- Poor distribution of health human resources
Concerns re quality of care
- No management culture
- Corruption

Status of Health Information in the South Caucasus countries

- Unreliable official statistics:
 - Gaps and under-reporting due to resource constraints
 - Over-reporting of procedures for financial gain
 - Misrepresentation for political/cultural reasons
- Excessive data collection with little value
 - No feedback to points-of-care and providers
 - Poor quality data & no standards
 - Too many forms to fill out
- No incentives for HIS development and implementation
 - No perceived need for information
 - No trust in health information
 - Lack of willingness vs. lack of capacity

CSIH approach to building capacity for development of HIS

- Training and Education
- Decentralization of capacity
- Data processing and communications infrastructure based on *appropriate* technology
- Relevance to National and International priorities and agendas

Overarching priorities and agendas

- Regional conferences to address issues common to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
- Linkages between HIS and PRSPs, MDGs, good governance, priority health issues, quality of care, etc.
- Coordination with other donors & stakeholders (WHO, WB, DFID, USAID, UNFPA, etc.)



Training and Education Results - HIS Certificate course



- 150 hrs instruction + train-the-trainer + study tours
- Participants from MOH, districts, academic institutions, other programs
- + 60 people trained to develop, maintain, use health information systems

Training and Education Results - Health Informatics and Medical Education

New Health Informatics curriculum

- computer basics
- EBM (biostatistics, literature searching, critical appraisal),
- Application of HIS (hospital-based systems, databases, information management)
- Training of instructors
- Set-up of computer labs
- New resources (e.g., HINARI, textbooks)

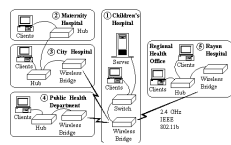


Partner Institutions:

- National Institute of Health, Armenia
- Yerevan State Medical University, Armenia
- Azerbaijan State Medical University
- Azerbaijan State Advanced Training Institute for Doctors
- Georgian State Medical Academy
- Tbilisi State Medical University, Georgia

Replicable HIS Models

- Operational HIS in central & district level sites in Yerevan, Artashat, Ganja, Gori
- Based on electronic health record (EHR)
- Modern information concepts and technology replacing manual methods
- Multi-server, multi-facility database
- Local language interface



Project Results

- Strengthened capacity at the national levels in the area of HIS
- Extensive cadre of HIS expertise and resources at district levels
- Increased access to health information sources
- Replicable models of HIS



Ongoing challenges

- Lack of overall health policies & strategies
- Institutional instability – frequent changes of senior officials & political agendas
- Disconnect between decision-makers and local health personnel
- Brain drain – especially in IT field
- Need for overall health system strengthening

Recommendations

- Sustain and build on current HIS
- Make use of training resources & HIS specialists
- Establish National HIS Coordinating Committee
- Support a central data processing and analysis agency
- Develop incentives for data entry
- Develop mechanisms for feedback of information
- Establish data quality procedures

Thank you!



www.csih.org
eslaweck@csih.org