

Minimizing the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in Georgia through telemedicine and digital health solutions

Duration: 13.08.2021 - 31.08.2025

Countries:
Georgia

EU contribution: € 4 500 000

Implementer:

World Health Organization, WHO



Project description:

WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS team up to advance digital solutions to health in rural areas. The project protects and promotes people's health and well-being, improves access to essential health services and reduces burden on the healthcare system during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. It builds on, and is complementary to, ongoing EU and UN support to Georgia's COVID-19 response and progress towards universal health coverage.

The focus is to introduce new service delivery approaches into the rural public healthcare system, such as telemedicine and telecare, and improving the capacity of rural doctors to provide quality primary healthcare services through tele-education. Modern, easy to handle digital technologies also help public health services to improve surveillance, data management and contact tracing. The project helps Georgia to be well equipped/positioned to not only address current emergency health challenges but also future needs while moving towards universal health coverage.

Expected results:

Short-term results:

- 200 village ambulatory care facilities furnished with basic tools, including equipment to manage mild cases of COVID-19 and to provide pregnancy and early child development health services.
- 50 rural health facilities fit out with telemedicine equipment to address major non-communicable diseases including diabetes, hypertension and chronic respiratory diseases.
- Telecare platform developed and capacity increased to deliver remote health services.
- Enhanced online training and communication platform developed for primary health care providers.
- Health-care professionals trained on the use of telemedicine services for delivery of non-communicable disease, early child development and sexual and reproductive health services.
- Comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for the development of telemedicine in Georgia developed, including for the ethical use of digital health technologies.
- COVID-19 surveillance enhanced through digital tools, for improved contact tracing and data management.
- Increased public awareness and health literacy on COVID-19 prevention and telemedicine solutions, including among parents and caregivers, enabling them to lead healthier, safer lives.
- Increased uptake of telemedicine solutions by health workers and population through targeted campaigns supported.