

STRATEGIC MEDICAL RE-SUPPLY PROGRAM IN MACEDONIA... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE... ENABLING CHANGE



Program Summary

Initiated in January 2007, the Strategic Medical Re-supply Program (SMRP) in Macedonia is designed to help the Government of Macedonia improve the quality of patient care as it transitions the health care system to meet global health care standards. It does this by providing donations of priority medical materials to a network of partner health care facilities. These materials include pharmaceutical drugs, consumer disposable products and medical equipment. Currently, Project HOPE has established relationships with over 40 health care facilities in Macedonia in an effort to contribute to the improvement of medical care for the citizens of Macedonia. Project HOPE's close partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and health care facilities enables the hospitals and clinics to divert some of their limited monetary resources, in the form of dollars saved for their procurement budgets, to areas of highest priority.

Partners

The program is implemented in very close collaboration with the *Ministry of Health of the Republic of Macedonia*. The Minister himself or designees are involved in each and every step of the implementation of the program all with an ultimate goal to improve the quality of care for patients in Macedonia.



Obvious Needs – The Conditions at the Special Hospital for Psychiatry in Demir Hisar in Macedonia



Donation of Beds – Replacing the inventory that is almost 40 years old in some cases

More than 40 regional hospitals and university clinics benefit from the donations made through the program. In times when Macedonia is trying to meet the health standards of the developed world the budgets of the medical institutions are burdened beyond capacity. The donated product provides opportunity for the hospital managers to divert their limited funds to different areas in need for improvement.

Approximately 20 global pharmaceutical and medical device companies provided to Project HOPE products that were distributed throughout Macedonia.

Results

Conducted surveys and discussions with partners clearly show that the health care institutions are receiving a substantial benefit from the program. In Macedonia donated medicines and medical supplies resulted in \$4.4M in annual savings which could be diverted to other critical needs. Based on the track record of the partner institutions the diverted funds were able to contribute towards:

- Improvement to the food supply for the patients in both quality and quantity at the Demir Hisar Psychiatry Hospital.
- Contribution toward the purchase of an X-Ray machine at the General Hospital in Gevgelija.

Project HOPE in Macedonia



Project HOPE, working in Macedonia since 1993, has implemented different types of activities, supporting the health system and providing better health care for the people of Macedonia. Donations and service of medical equipment, donations of medicines and medical supplies, biomedical engineering programs, reconstruction of hospitals and hospital departments, emergency responses to the refugee crisis, cardiology upgrade projects, projects for improvement of the children's respiratory diseases care, reorganization of hospitals, number of targeted assessments and infectious diseases preventive programs are only part of the numerous implemented activities by Project HOPE in Macedonia in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health. For almost 20 years now, though the challenges have changed, Project HOPE remains as committed as ever to addressing the needs of the people in the country and the wider region.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Project HOPE conducts frequent monitoring, at least four times per year, to its health institutions to ensure that donated medicines and products are appropriately used, including ensuring use of the product prior to its expiration date. Project HOPE has developed a monitoring tool to track all donated products and supplies. This system has enabled Project HOPE to immediately locate any products that have been recalled by the manufacturer, as well as to assist Project HOPE in re-distributing product among Macedonia's health institutions in order to effectively use the product prior to its expiration date. Throughout this program, Project HOPE Macedonia has maintained an overall average of 97% product used effectively prior to its expiration.

- Redirection of saved monies to cover already existing budgetary deficits.
- Enhancement of treatment for patients; higher quality medications allow for patients to receive shorter duration of treatment with the equivalent or better efficacy.

As a result of these benefits to the health care facilities, the patients and citizens of Macedonia are also receiving benefits such as access to additional medications and renovated hospital and clinic conditions.

Looking to the future

As the Eastern European countries like Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia move closer to fully adopting the European Union systems and standards, many of the remaining countries like Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and others are still struggling to even initiate certain reforms. Project HOPE will continue assisting these countries through its Strategic Medical Re-Supply Program, allowing the Ministries of Health to make decisions about key donations that will positively impact their limited budgets, to use procurement savings to fund educational programs, health facility renovations, health infrastructure improvements and other priority health reforms. With more than three years of successful implementation in Macedonia, Project HOPE will use the expertise gained and lessons learned to expand into the neighboring countries and contribute to the process of health system improvement.



Distribution – Project HOPE staff helping to get donated product to the final recipients



The Results – On the right Birthing Bed at the General Hospital in Ohrid Macedonia in use since 1963 On the left New Birthing Bed Donated by Project HOPE

Project HOPE's Worldwide Gift in Kind/Humanitarian Assistance Programs

Every year Project HOPE's Gift In Kind/Humanitarian Assistance program overcomes monumental challenges; from responding to natural disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the Tsunami in Indonesia in 2004; to working with individual health facilities in Central Asia to find donations of the most basic medical supplies like syringes, needles and rubber gloves (Tajikistan 1999-present); to implementing strategies that allow select Ministries of Health to leverage their limited budgets to be able to afford health worker training and facility renovations (Macedonia 2006-present). Our first priority is the safe, efficient transfer of materials and technical support to where they are needed most. Project HOPE is well known for its stringent monitoring and reporting guidelines, receiving high marks in this regard from donor and funding agencies like the U.S. State Department, PQMD, and others.



Since 1958, Project HOPE has worked to make health care available for people around the globe. We are committed to long-term sustainable health care. Our work includes educating health professionals and community health workers, strengthening health facilities, fighting diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS and diabetes and providing humanitarian assistance through donated medicines, medical supplies and volunteer medical help.



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