



# REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA


**CALL 2**

## Safe and Innovative Health Services in Times of COVID-19

**End Date:** 31 March 2022

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This programme will help the government improve essential health services within the context of COVID-19 by building on the significant investments already made to strengthen the national health and social systems, contain disease outbreaks, and assure health responses to various emergencies. In close collaboration with Ministry of Health and with a focus on vulnerable women, adolescents, and children, the initiative will expand sexual and reproductive health services, immunizations, and psycho-social support services.

### EMERGING RESULTS

Working towards the setup of mobile gynecological clinics, the programme:

- Established formal **partnerships** with the Macedonian Medical Association and the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia
- Updated a **protocol for the provision of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services** through mobile gynecological clinics, as well as **training material** for hands-on practical training of the SRH professionals
- Initiated **procurement of SRH commodities and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**, to support the set-up of mobile gynecological clinics
- Prepared a **communications campaign** and detailed **communications tools** on the prevention of cervical cancer (a national priority theme in SRH), to promote cervical cancer screening through the mobile clinics

To address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, the programme:

- Held a multi-media **COVID-19 vaccine trust campaign** reaching **77% of the entire adult population** at least once
- On social media, while the COVID-19 vaccine trust campaign ran on all channels, on Facebook it included **30 posts that reached approximately 630,000 total people**

- Based on WHO Behavioral Insights Surveys, **the percentage of the population believing in the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines jumped from 56% in December 2020 to 69% in June 2021**

To strengthen the capacities of healthcare system to provide COVID-19 immunization, the programme:

- **Trained 1,152 healthcare workers** (512 nurses, 228 doctors trained face-to-face, and 412 healthcare professionals trained online) on COVID-19 and Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccines
- **420 healthcare workers completed two adapted and accredited WHO courses** on COVID-19 vaccination training for health workers and on orientation and planning for COVID-19 vaccination
- **Trained five master trainers** in inter-personal communication skills on immunization
- Five prototypes, three posters, FAQ tent, and leaflet prepared and tested for the MMR1 demand generation campaign rollout
- **Outreached to 10,000 parents** with children aged 13 months with regard to MMR vaccine
- Reached **25 at-risk families** to provide social protection and ensure service referral

### LEARNING AND INNOVATION

This programme is supporting e-Immunization, and, in collaboration with WHO, it has developed new digital modules to support the national e-Health system. Among its outcomes are **four new digital immunization module trainings** for mid-level immunization managers (vaccination teams, general practitioners) working across an array of health services; a **national e-immunization registry** to provide accurate and timely data on immunization and address lack of regular immunizations; and the website [www.kovid19vakcinacija.mk](http://www.kovid19vakcinacija.mk).

