

Modernizing emergency care

EPW core priorities and flagships

Protecting against health emergencies

WHO collaboration

Training and capacity-building
Biennial collaborative agreement

The dual impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and an influx of refugees escaping the war in Ukraine put the Republic of Moldova's health-care system under pressure. The main public health issue was the need to improve the organization of emergency medical services, particularly for trauma, stroke and critical illness. The existing system struggled to deliver high-quality care, leading to increased morbidity and mortality rates and underscoring the need for reform.

The Regional Office undertook a national assessment of the country's emergency medical services, which identified vulnerabilities in the system's ability to manage high-risk patients and respond to emergencies at speed. At the request of the Ministry of Health, experts from the Regional Office and Country Office initiated a programme to upskill acute-care providers and respond to mass casualty incidents. It included the development of clinical guidelines, simulation-based training, on-the-job mentorship and the provision of new equipment.

The impact

Since 2022, over 1350 health-care workers have been trained in specialties such as advanced trauma care, trauma sonography and airway management. Nineteen hospitals received direct support, including essential supplies. The programme also included the development of a mass-casualty incident management system to streamline the coordination of emergency care.

Lessons learned

- WHO's global best practices were tailored to meet the local context, allowing practical changes to be made in the health-care system.
- Simulation-based trainings helped participants to refine their skills and gain confidence.
- The creation of a pool of national trainers means knowledge and skills are more likely to remain in the country.

Donors and partners

Ministry of Health; Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy; Center for Simulation in Medical Training; Royal College of Surgeons (United Kingdom)



A participant takes part in a training course in Chisinau.
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“Change is in the DNA of our health-care system. We must embrace innovation and collaboration for continuous improvement.”

Dr Alexandru Gasnaș, State Secretary, Ministry of Health, Republic of Moldova

What's next?

The Republic of Moldova plans to incorporate the WHO-supported training into national curricula for doctors, nurses and health-care managers. The country is also working towards establishing a WHO collaborating centre for emergency and trauma care at the Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy.