Supporting national vaccination systems and data management

• National Deployment and Vaccination Plan assessed and national working group established to tailor COVID-19 vaccination uptake interventions.
• 102 computers, 79 printers, 79 uninterruptable power systems (UPS), and software programs for real-time data management procured.
• Need to collect data to tailor COVID-19-related strategies and digitalizing the immunization information system emphasized in meetings with national health experts.
• Technical support provided, leading to an updated national immunization calendar with important changes introduced to the administration of the vaccine against tuberculosis and the second dose of polio vaccine.
• 20,000 copies of a brochure on vaccine-preventable disease printed for parents featuring the updated vaccination calendar and immunization calendar posters.
• Immunization campaign in six villages of the Shamakhi Region implemented with national health partners, during which 387 children received vaccinations, of which 62% were catch-up doses, 473 children passed weight and height monitoring, 78 adult residents got COVID-19 vaccines, and 1091 residents were screened for diseases.

Providing health professionals with capacity-building opportunities

• Development of the National Immunization protocol (in partnership with UNICEF) with updated contraindications in line with the WHO recommendations adapted to country case and inclusion of delayed and interrupted immunization schedule.
• 12-hour training course developed on COVID-19 vaccines with integrated adult learning principles.
• Training of Trainers courses conducted and 56 local trainers prepared to pass on knowledge regarding COVID-19 vaccination.
• 550 health-care workers (HCWs) from more than 20 districts trained on COVID-19 vaccines.
• 2900 HCWs trained on administering COVID-19 vaccines, including 1800 vaccinators from 63 regions (out of 68), representing 70% of all HCWs involved in the vaccination process.
• 1093 nurses, 513 doctors, and 80 people from various disciplinary backgrounds, completed courses on Basic and Advanced Life Support.
• 200 posters on hand hygiene practices distributed widely, including in 5 conflict-affected regions.
VACCINATION SAVES LIVES
Supporting the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines and routine vaccination systems in the Eastern Partnership

AZERBAIJAN

VOICES FROM THE GROUND

This was all totally new, dealing with communities from remote areas directly. But being a bridge between the doctors and the villagers was a wonderful experience.
— Leylakhanim Karimli, Nursing Student

This project benefits the rural populations we visit, helping those with health risks live longer, more comfortable lives.
— Makana Abbasli, Medical Student

• 2000 folders distributed containing information on the OpenWHO platform, offering free training courses on COVID-19 vaccine-related topics.
• 18 000 enrolments of HCWs registered at the OpenWHO knowledge-transfer platform, supporting continued medical education across the country.
• 350 posters distributed across 218 vaccination sites with information on COVID-19 vaccines and QR code to download additional information.

Risk communication and community engagement
• 2 rounds of behavioural insight surveys conducted to better understand people’s attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination.
• 10 focus group discussions with doctors, nurses, older adults and 10 in-depth interviews with people with underlying conditions conducted, to develop effective interventions for the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines among priority groups.
• 6000 copies of communication materials distributed to facilities covering COVID-19-related information on vaccination of older people, side effects, infection prevention and control measures, and pregnancy.
• 1000 brochures distributed to visitors of the Eurovillage 2022 event raising awareness on vaccine-preventable diseases.
• 34 medical students and community and religious leaders participated in the European Immunization Week and Youth Festival and community engagement activities.
• Q&A document on COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy translated into Azerbaijani, COVID-19 leaflet for older people and people with underlying conditions disseminated, detailed booklet on 11 vaccine-preventable diseases issued, and two promotional videos created.

Strengthening vaccine cold-chain storage, transportation, and administration system
• 300 vaccine refrigerators, voltage stabilizers, temperature monitoring devices, and 622 vaccine carriers delivered to improve vaccine storage and transportation capacities.
• Cold chain inventory training courses conducted for the Republican Hygiene and Epidemiology Center and twelve newly-qualified master trainers assigned to travel across all of the 75 regions and pass on their knowledge on assessment of cold chain equipment and spare parts, reaching 150 regional staff members.
• Cold chain inventory system digitized using WHO’s Inventory and Gap Analysis System.

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