The follow-up report on the implementation of theTechnical Guidance on the application of an approach based on human rights policies and programs to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality

The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova "guarantees to all citizens the right to healthcare" (Article 36, par. (1).

Taking into account the provisions o

f Law No. 411-XIII for healthcare from 28.03.1995 (article 17, point (1), "inhabitants of the Republic of Moldova have the right to health insurance, regardless of nationality, race, gender, social appearances and religion" .

The law on patient rights and responsibilities 263-XVI from 27.10.2005 "ensure the patient's right to reproductive health" (Article 9).

Through Law No. 138 of 15.06.2012 on reproductive health are recognized, regulated and guaranteed rights of reproduction, which are an integral part of human rights, namely:

"The right to a safe pregnancy and qualified assistance during the periods of prenatal, natal and postnatal stages" (Article 4, letter f).

"Any adult woman and every man is free to decide on the number of their children and the moment of birth, as well as on issues related to reproductive health, without coercion and without outside influence" (article 4, par. 2).

"Everyone has the right toproper sex education whileusingor refusing contraceptive methods, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV AIDS, regulate fertility and safe abortion ..." (art. 4 par. 3).

Moreover, according to the existing legal framework in order to promote effective state policy to improve reproductive health in terms of human rights, the Ministry of Health elaborates health policies and provides strategic planning at different levels of the health system; sets priorities; ensures a favorable environment for cooperation between sectors and social mobilization; regulates and monitors the quality of services in health.

Thus, the existing framework is developed, implemented and further promoted only through intersectoral collaboration, by creating well-planned partnership between the state, civil society, community etc.

National Reproductive Health Strategy 2005-2015 (Government Decision nr.913 of 26.08.2005), which aims to improve the reproductive health status of the population and to provide Moldovan citizens the possibility to achieve sexual and reproductive functions, to have the desired number of children in safety and health conditions; avoid diseases related to sexuality and reproduction, receive qualified services in cases of disruption of reproductive and sexual function; not to be subject or affected by violence and other abusive practices related to sexuality and reproduction.

The basis for drafting the strategy was European Strategy on Reproductive and Sexual Health and other international documents.

In the National Reproductive Health Strategy were identified 11 priority areas of reproductive health to the Republic of Moldova.

Effective implementation of the strategy was possible only through collaboration between sectors, by creating well-planned partnership between state institutions, civil society, community, and obviously with the support of international organizations (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, etc.).

Consequently, promoting and implementing policies related to public health and long-term prioritization was approached in the National Health Policy for the years 2007-2021 (Government Decision Nr.886 from 06.08.2007), developed at the recommendation and participation of World Health Organization experts, which defines clearly and irrevocably intersectorialpriorities and directions for strengthening, maintenance and recovery of health for the next 15 years. This political document establishes mechanisms and responsibilities across sectors for improving population health, including maternal and child health. For the first time in Moldova, it was shaped a new vision of the principles of support for the work of strengthening public health in long term: ensuring social,economic, environmental, foodsecurity, promoting a healthy lifestyle and equitable access to qualified healthcare.

Subsequently,Strategy for health system development for period 2008 – 2017 was promoted (Government Decision No. 1471 of 24.12.2007), which designates the platform for future action to strengthen a modern health system and alignment to European standards for medium term. The main aim of the strategy is improving health, increasing the level of financial protection and the level of satisfaction of beneficiaries due to health system performance. The strategy is oriented towards the following general objectives, namely: improving health system stewardship in order to ensure the necessary conditions for implementation of the objectives in the

National Health Policy; increasing funding and improving payment mechanisms for health services; organization and deliveryqualified health services, according to population needs; generating and providing the necessary human resources for the health system; strengthening human potential and motivation, etc.

The key element driving changes in healthcare system in Moldova was the introduction of mandatory health insurance since 2004, providing protection against financial risks linked to population health.

There were also implemented a number of tools recommended by WHO, which allow identifying the real causes and avoidable factors in providing medical assistance to pregnant women and newborns:

-WHO instrument 'Proximity analysis of maternal death cases "(2005)

- WHO tool "confidential audit of maternal death cases" (2005)

- WHO tool "confidential audit of perinatal deaths" (2006)

Simultaneously, it was developed normative framework in order to respect human rights and ensure medical service of high quality voluntary interruption of pregnancy without danger to life and reproductive health of pregnant women, promotion of safe, harmless and qualitative practices of care in voluntary interruption of pregnancy based on scientific evidence, while respecting human rights, namely:

- Regulation on carrying out voluntary and safe interruption of pregnancy (2010).

- Standards for safe abortions (2011).

At the same time, there were taken measures to prevent abortion among the population, including among teenagers and young people through Youth Friendly Health Centers and reproductive health offices.

Thus, in recent yearsthe existing health systemwas improved by adjusting it to international and European standards of health care teenagers and young people under their real needs by developing youth-friendly health services.

The state provides with contraceptives to those who are part of risk groups within the mandatory health insurance system.

In this context there was:

-Developed legal framework for centralized procurement of contraceptives

-Developed tools necessary to monitor and assess contraceptive use by vulnerable population.

-Fortified primary healthcare capacities for contraceptive use by vulnerable population.

In 2012 the Government has approved and is implementing measures to reduce diseases caused by deficiency of iron and folic acid by the year 2017, which regulated the process of fortifying wheat flour, for use in the food industry, iron and folic acid.

They promoted national programs to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders through which contributed to improving the situation in this field.

For this reason, in 2011 the Government approved the third national program to eradicate iodine deficiency disorders by 2015, the aim being to ensure and maintain salt iodization as the main strategy for public health.

As a tool for implementing the recommendations of the World Health Organization, including the Vienna Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases in the context of Nutrition and Health 2020 adopted by the health ministers of the WHO European Region during the conference in Vienna on 4-5 July 2013, the Government approved the National programme on nutrition for the years 2014-2020. The programme will have a positive impact on public health, quality of life and life expectancy, improving maternal health and infant mortality.

Also, by adopting the Law on ensuring equality between women and men (2006) the Government made a major step in creating the legal framework for ensuring gender equality and building an efficient approach for fighting violence against women.

In accordance with the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2006, which addresses to the need to pay greater attention to the process of implementing theexhaustive measures in cases of violence against women in March 2007 The law was adopted to prevent and combat domestic violence.

Relevant policy documents addressing gender inequality and domestic violence were developed, the most important being the National Programme for Gender Equality for the years 2010 - 2015. One of the policy priorities adopted this field lies in preventing violence against women, including domestic violence.

In order to implement existing legal framework, tools have been developed for authorities to identify, coordinate and solve reported cases and prevent cases of domestic violence, including against children, and supervision of the fulfillment of protection measures in domestic violence cases.

Currently, the Ministry of Health is in the process of drafting a new strategic document in reproductive health for the years 2016 - 2020, which will have a transversal approach (sectoral).

With the support of the World Health Organization, National Strategy on health development and wellbeing of children and teenagers was developed, which is focused on the main stages of development, from childhood to teenager.

This document includes basic principles and objectives of:

- European Policy for Health and Welfare 2020 - a document that was adopted in the WHO European Region in 2012 - of reducing health inequalities;

- European Strategy for children and teenagers health development and Action Plan for developing European strategy for Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control 2012-2016, approved by theWorld Health Organization.