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Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosovo-Republic of Kosovo
Gjeçia - Vlada-Government

MINISTRIA E SHENDETËSISË
MINISTRATVO ZDRAVSTVA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



**Integrated
Health
Services**

Shërbimet Shëndetësore të Integruara
Integrirane Zdravstvene Usluge

SDC project implemented by Swiss TPH

INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT

The Integrated Health Services (IHS), as the latest joint initiative between the Kosovo Ministry of Health and the Swiss Government, works with Kosovo institutions to facilitate further support of national capacity in the health sector through a participatory process in alignment with national health policies. The IHS project focuses on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which represent a worldwide problem as 7 out of 10 top causes of death. In Kosovo, one in every 7 people above 40 years old is affected by diabetes, hypertension, and/or lung diseases. The current fragmentation of the NCD-related health services directly deteriorates the quality of care to the afflicted population and increases the level of related complications.

Through its facilitating role, the IHS project strengthens coordination amongst Family Medicine level and General Hospitals, enabling the effective use of clinical guidelines, and ensuring sustainable results for partners' development processes. The joint effort with the other Swiss-supported project (Accessible Quality Healthcare), whose mandate is to ensure quality services at the Family Medicine level targeting the health needs of NCDs carriers serves this purpose also. The policy makers and planners are involved at every step, an approach that fosters collaboration and active participation of patients, care-givers, and citizens.

The IHS project specifically addresses vulnerable groups that generally have a poorer health status, face difficult income situation, have a higher risk of social exclusion, and lower health literacy than the general population. The IHS project activities comply with gender-based needs and facilitate social inclusion for its target population.

www.ihsproject.org



<https://www.facebook.com/IHSProjectKs>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/integrated-health-services-project-kosovo>

Goal of the IHS project:

Health institutions at any level in the country are strengthened to deliver qualitative and cost-effective health services, fulfilling the health needs of patients affected by NCDs, while empowering the patients' community on their own role to a better management of their health.

Expected results of IHS project:

- Improvement of the quality of health services delivered by the General Hospitals in Gjakovë/Djakovica and Pejë/Peć through several mechanisms that involve: continued professional development of health workers, implementation of clinical protocols and care pathways, and increasing availability and accessibility to vulnerable groups.
- Continuum of care amongst Family Medicine level and General Hospital to be enabled through: setting up effective referral and back referral system, and empowering the role of nursing in order to face the severe shortage in health workforce in the country.
- Policy frameworks at national level are conducive to person-centered integrated care and serve to replicate positive experiences in other health facilities in the country.

Key IHS project data:

The duration of Phase I of the Integrated Health Services project is four-years (November 2022-October 2026).

The Swiss Government funding for the IHS project is CHF 5,550,000. The activities are implemented by national and regional institutions, with the support of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.

The General Hospitals of Gjakovë/Djakovica and Pejë/Peć are the two key project partners that engage in specific activities along with some of Family Medicine Centers operating in the same two regions.

Implemented by:

Swiss TPH

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

