



USAID Primary Healthcare Reform Project Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

The Primary Healthcare Reform (PHCR) project, the largest project in the field of Primary Health Care (PHC) in Armenia so far, was a nationwide five-year (2005-2010) program aimed to increase the utilization of sustainable, high-quality primary healthcare services with an ultimate goal of improving health of the population of Armenia. The project was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under a contract awarded to Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd. (Cardno), formerly Emerging Markets Group, Ltd in September 2005.

The AUA Center for Health Services Research and Development (CHSR), a sub-contractor to Cardno, carried the primary responsibility for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the PHCR project. This responsibility was reached through two coordinated approaches: internal monitoring and external evaluation. While internal monitoring was mainly focused on Developing Project's Performance Management Plan (PMP) indicators and monitoring those through internal data gathering, the external evaluations were built on a set of assessments that measured the project's influence at its target sites and among its beneficiaries. The M&E assessments followed the project's regional scale-up approach that expanded the reforms zonally throughout the country. The M&E team conducted 18 different assessments including baseline and follow-up surveys in target facilities (facility resource assessments, facility and provider performance assessments) and among target communities (client satisfaction surveys, and health knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) surveys) in each zone, and a countrywide Household health survey to measure the project's overall impact on the perceived health status and health seeking behavior of general population. The external evaluations sought to comprehensively measure the effect of the project through comparisons of baseline and follow-up data specific to project activities and level of intervention, and to contribute to better planning/designing of similar projects in future. In the meantime, the M&E activities provided the project team and its stakeholders timely performance feedback that shaped changes to program activities and contributed to the project's documented improvements in almost all indicators.

The M&E team's dynamic, comprehensive, multi-perspective assessment approach matched design and sampling rigor to program goals, objectives, and resources. This approach resulted in a valid and effective framework for monitoring and evaluating the complex, multi-year PHCR project and documenting its success in meeting its objectives. One of the main lessons learned due to this experience was that robust monitoring and evaluation efforts are integral and crucial to assessing project progress and ensuring that future efforts are more efficient, more effective, and more sustainable.



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SHARING WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

PUBLICATIONS

Thompson ME, Dorian AH, Harutyunyan TL. *Identifying priority healthcare trainings in frozen conflict situations: The case of Nagorno Karabagh*. *Conflict and Health* 2010; 4(1):21.

Movsisyan N, Thompson M, Petrosyan V. *Attitudes, Practices, and Beliefs towards worksite Smoking among Administrators of Private and Public Enterprises in Armenia*. *Tobacco Control* 2010; 19:274-278, on-line first June 15, 2010.

Harutyunyan T, Demirchyan A, Thompson M, Petrosyan V. *Primary Health Care Facility Performance Assessment in Armenia*. *Leadership in Health Services* 2010; 23 (2): 141-155.

Harutyunyan, T., Demirchyan, A., Thompson, M. Petrosyan, V. *Patient satisfaction with primary care in Armenia: Good rating of bad services?* *Health Services Management Research* 2010; 23 (1): 12-17.

Markosyan K, Lang DL, Salazar LF, DiClemente RJ, Hardin J, Darbinyan N, Joseph JB, Khurshudyan M. *A Randomized Controlled Trial of an HIV Prevention Intervention for Street-Based Female Sex Workers in Yerevan, Armenia: Preliminary Evidence of Efficacy*. *AIDS and Behavior* 2010; 14: 530-537.

CONFERENCES

Third European Public Health Conference, November 10-13, 2010, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Movsisyan N, Petrosyan V, Stillman F, Petrosyan D, Harutyunyan A.

Informing Smoke-free Policy Implementation in a Cancer Care Setting in Armenia [oral presentation]

Grigoryan R, Armenian H, Crape B, Martirosyan H, Petrosyan V, Truzyan N. *Analysis of Public Health Services in Armenia* [oral presentation]

Petrosyan V, Grigoryan R, Truzyan N, Martirosyan H, Crape B. *Improving TB Control System in Armenia* [moderated poster presentation with brief oral presentation]

Truzyan N, Grigoryan R, Avetisyan T, Crape B, Petrosyan V, Saribekyan K. *Protecting the Right of Women to Affordable and Quality Health Care in Armenia: Evaluation of the Obstetric Care State Certificate Program* [moderated poster presentation with brief oral presentation]

Udumyan R, Petrosyan V, Piligian G, Zelveian P. *A Case-Control Study on Systemic Hypertension and Risk of Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome Conducted in Yerevan, Armenia* [moderated poster presentation with brief oral presentation]

32nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM): "Evidence,

Economics, and Ethics: The Future of Health Technology Assessment." October 24-27, 2010, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Grigoryan R, Petrosyan V, Crape B, Truzyan N, Martirosyan H. *Analysis of the Public Health Services in Armenia* [poster]

World Congress of Cardiology Scientific Sessions 2010, June 16-19, 2010, Beijing, China

Giloyan A, Yenokyan G, Amirkhanyan L. *Relationship between patients' knowledge about postoperative risk factors after coronary artery bypass surgery and adherence to medication and lifestyle changes in Armenia* [oral presentation]

Penn-ICOWHI 18th International Congress on Women's Health Issues: Cities and Women's Health Global Perspectives, April 7-10, 2010, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Petrosyan D, Armenian H, Arzoumanian K. *Investigation of Risk Factors for Postpartum Depression Development among Reproductive Age Women Living in Yerevan Who Have 1-3 Month Old Child: a case*

control study [oral presentation]

Grigoryan R, Thompson M, Crape B, Arzoumanian K. *High women satisfaction with health care services does not mean high quality of care* [poster]

Khachatryan L, Kagan S, Scharp R. *Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 and Prolonged Exposure to Estrogen as Risk Factors for Development of Breast Cancer in Women of Age 35-70 in Yerevan A Case-Control Study* [poster]

Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) Annual Meeting, February 24-27, 2010, Baltimore, MD, USA

Stillman F, Movsisyan N, Petrosyan V, Petrosyan D, Harutyunyan H, Hepp L, Avila-Tang E, Donaldson E, Torrey C, Yuan J. *Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Hospitals and Universities in Armenia* [poster]

Second European Public Health Conference, November 25-28, 2009, Lodz, Poland

Demirchyan A, Petrosyan V, Thompson M. *Social Determinants of Perceived Fair/Poor Health in Adults, Armenia, 2006* [oral presentation]

Grigoryan R, Thompson M, Crape B, Arzoumanian K. *High Patient Satisfaction Does Not Always Mean High Quality of Care: Qualitative Research in Armenia* [poster]

American Public Health Association 137th Annual Meeting & Exposition, November 7-11, 2009, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Movsisyan N, Sahakyan K, Petrosyan V. *Monitoring of Tobacco Control Policy Implementation in Armenia via a Population Based Survey* [poster]

Movsisyan N, Ross H, Thompson M. *Smoke-Free Worksites in Armenia: a Long Way to Go* [poster]



R. Grigoryan, N. Movsisyan, V. Petrosyan, N. Truzyan at the 3rd European Public Health Conference in Amsterdam

MPH ALUMNI SUCCESSES



Anna Oksuzyan, MD, MPH, PhD – 2001 AUA MPH Alumna – received the 2010 American College of Epidemiology (ACE) Annals of Epidemiology Award. Oksuzyan et al's "The male-female health-survival paradox: a survey and register study of the impact of sex-specific selection and information bias" was selected as the best manuscript published in the Annals of Epidemiology during 2009. Annals of Epidemiology is a peer reviewed, international journal devoted to epidemiologic research and methodological development. The manuscript was based on Dr.

Oksuzyan's PhD dissertation, which she defended in June 2010. Currently, she is a post-doctoral fellow at the Epidemiology Unit, Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark in Odense, Denmark, and is a guest researcher with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany.

WORLD SIGHT DAY 2010: Eye screenings among socially vulnerable school children in Armenia

World Sight Day is an annual event celebrated on the second Thursday in October.

The aim is to raise public awareness around the world for prevention and treatment of eye problems. This year the focus is on equal access to eye health care.



Dr. Azaryan, eye screening at Marry Ismirlyan

The Garo Meghrigian Institute for Preventive Ophthalmology (Meghrigian Institute) was established in 1999 within the Center for Health Services Research and Development (CHSR) of the College of Health Sciences of the American University of Armenia (AUA). The mission of Meghrigian Institute is to prevent avoidable blindness in Armenia. The institute has implemented many programs and research projects, organized public and professional education through various blindness prevention seminars and conferences.

To celebrate the World Sight Day 2010, Meghrigian Institute conducted eye screenings among socially vulnerable school children to detect visual impairments and eye diseases and offered medical assistance. In September, Meghrigian Institute completed work in the Social

Care Center for children of Achapnyak community in Yerevan. Detailed eye screening was carried out among 112 school children (6-17 years old). In October-November it targeted 75 school children from "Marry Ismirlyan Orphanage" and 44 children with special health needs from "Kharberd Specialized Orphanage". All children with detected visual impairments or eye diseases received appropriate medical assistance including eye glasses and medication.

Visual impairment and avoidable blindness among children have become a global public health problem, because they cause disability, suffering, and loss of productivity. Children live in blindness for many years due to preventable causes like Vitamin A deficiency, congenital or traumatic cataract, untreated infections, and unidentified refractive errors:

nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. Majority of visual impairments can be easily diagnosed and corrected at early age to avoid further complications;

that is the objective of Meghrigian Institute's screening programs.



A. Giloyan, CHSR Project Associate



Eye screening, Marry Ismirlyan Orphanage

LATEST NEWS

Series of Tobacco Control Round Table Discussions



Round table in Yerevan

In October-November, 2010, the Center for Health Services Research and Development (CHSR) of the American University of Armenia (AUA) organized a series of round table discussions (two discussions in Yerevan, one in Gyumri, and one in Vanadzor) about achievements and shortcomings of tobacco control legislation implementation in Armenia with authorities from local and national government; administration of educational, cultural and health facilities; representatives of local NGOs; and media representatives.

During these discussions the participants presented their professional observations and opinions about the status of tobacco control policy implementation in Armenia. The CHSR/AUA team shared the results of tobacco control legislation implementation monitoring in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor suggesting serious problems in tobacco control policy implementation and lack of protection of citizens of Armenia from exposure to secondhand smoke at worksites and public places. All the discussions had good media coverage.



Round table in Gyumri



November 15-20, 2010: Narine Movsisyan, MD, MPH, Member of Framework Convention Alliance Delegation, participating in the 4th Conference of Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Punta del Este, Uruguay.



October 4, 2010: Haroutune K. Armenian, MD, DrPH, presenting his thoughts and ideas elicited by reading the book "The Black Swan" by Nassim Nicholas Taleb during the Public Health Seminar Series.



September 1, 2010: Myron Allukian, Jr, DDS, MPH presenting the Health Care in the US from the Public Health Prospective.

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