

**Statement by the Republic of Moldova
to EUR/RC70/8 (C) Joint progress report on implementation of Strengthening
people-centred health systems in the WHO European Region: framework for action
on integrated health services delivery and Accelerating primary medical assistance
strengthening**

Universal population coverage with health services is one of the goals set by the United Nations in adopting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and means that anyone can have anywhere access to these quality services without facing financial problems. This includes the full range of essential and quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, social and professional rehabilitation and palliative care.

Access to quality patient-centred medical services and financial protection for access to such services improve the health of the population, increase life expectancy, protect countries from epidemics, create jobs, support economic growth and gender equality. In the Republic of Moldova, the State policies in the field of primary medical assistance, stipulated in the National Health Policy 2007-2021, were clearly defined.

Compulsory health insurance is a financial tool that facilitates universal coverage by increasing funding, improving access to health services, reducing informal payments and efficient use of health funds.

Uninsured people, in case of socially conditioned diseases, such as tuberculosis, oncological, psychiatric diseases, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, benefit from free services, including in case of specialized outpatient and hospital medical assistance.

At the same time, universal coverage of the population with health services was ensured by providing access to primary medical assistance services for the entire population regardless of its status.

Over the years, the population's access to compensated medicines has been facilitated by extending both the number of medicines and the range of pathologies treated with them. Compensated medicines are prescribed not only in long-term outpatient treatment, but also in episodic treatment organized in day hospitals, rooms for medical procedures or at home.

Since 2018, the primary medical assistance reform was initiated, which provides for the independent exercise of the family doctor profession, with the establishment of individual family doctor's offices and family doctor centers, according to the personal decision of the family doctor. The Reform of Primary Medical Assistance in the Republic of Moldova aims to improve the quality of medical services, increase the attractiveness of family medicine and better coverage of rural areas with family doctors. On 01.01.2020, 5 FDCs and 17 IFDOs were contracted by the National Health Insurance Company.

Based on the global challenges faced by society today, and namely: health inequity, demographic changes, increasing burden of non-communicable diseases, problems caused by infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, the Republic of Moldova promotes the *Strengthening of Primary Care*, oriented from a treatment policy to a policy of health promotion and disease prevention, of long-term health care services at home, palliative care, integration of medical and social services and promotion of services of certain vulnerable groups of the population such as youth-friendly and reproductive health services, mental health services, etc.

In the Republic of Moldova, the development of the Concept of Automated Primary Medical Assistance Information System has been developed, as a priority, which provides for the development of the electronic patient file and the electronic prescription, which is

being tested and integrated with other information modules: AIS Specialized Outpatient and Inpatient Medical Assistance, to make possible the exclusion of errors, duplications and transmission of information on paper. In order to develop the interoperability of existing information modules, the functional E-government platform is used.

In the light of the epidemiological situation, conditioned by the new type of infection (COVID-19), during 2020 the primary medical assistance institutions have taken measures of increased vigilance due to COVID-19 disease, in order to prevent the spread of infection, by minimizing visits of patients to the medical and public health institution through the supervision of quarantined persons, by providing primary medical assistance by telephone; supervision of quarantined persons at their place of residence, postponement of visits for prophylactic and scheduled purposes. At the same time, medical services were organized in compliance with safety requirements, such as taking tests in people who fall within the definition of case and treatment/monitoring of people at home, according to medical indications.