



European Union



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

## PRESS RELEASE

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### WHO and the EU commend the work of the National Mother and Child Health Centre in Astana

**ASTANA, 13 April 2011** – Today the World Health Organization and the European Union will present the commemorative plaque to the National Mother and Child Health Centre for the contribution on improving maternal and child health in Kazakhstan. The Centre is a subsidiary of JSC “National Medical Holding”.

The plaque is awarded to the National Research Centre for Maternal and Child Health for successful implementation of WHO’s “Effective Perinatal Care” and “Beyond the Numbers” approaches for improving the quality of maternal and neonatal care in the country. The initiative is conducted within the framework of the Project “Support for Maternal and Child Health in Kazakhstan” implemented jointly with Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The project is financed by the EU to the amount of EUR 1,200,000. The ongoing two-year project fulfils the objectives of National Programmes on Health System Reform and Development for 2005-2010 and 2011-2015 to improve maternal and child health, and provides technical support to the government of Kazakhstan in achieving Millennium Development Goals, specifically the MDG 4 on reducing child mortality and the MDG 5 on improving maternal health.

It is expected that the commemorative plaque opening ceremony will be attended by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan Salidat Kairbekova, Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan Ambassador Norbert Jousten, Head of WHO Country Office in Kazakhstan Melita Vujnovic and Coordinator of Making Pregnancy Safer Initiative from the WHO Regional Office for Europe Alberta Bacci.

**Journalists and media representatives are invited for the official ceremony at 11 am on Wednesday, 13 April 2011** at the premises of the National Research Centre for Maternal and Child Health (32 Turan Street, Astana). A short briefing will be given at the end of the opening ceremony. Prior accreditation is required.

***For accreditation please contact:***

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The project is implemented by  
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