

SAVING MOTHERS' AND NEWBORN LIVES'



Improvement of primary health care for mother and child

in the Floresti Region of Moldova



Project development of the hospital

Background and problem analysis

Moldova has about 4.3 million inhabitants, of which many live abroad to work and to earn a living for their families. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe and ranked according to the IMF at the same level as Sudan. After it became independent in 1991, the governments have not been able to satisfy the needs of its people and the state is without money, caused by well known problems of corruption and bad financial management.

Moldova has 33 regional hospitals, all of which are organized in the same way. The selected hospital “**Spitalul Raional Floresti**” takes care of a population of about 94,000 people in the Floresti region. The maximum distance for patients in the region to reach the hospital is 55 kilometers. The hospital is located on major route to Moscow where traffic accidents are frequent. Migrating laborers are often victims, therefore adding to the burden of the hospital’s ICU.

The hospital has 420 beds and facilitates all general medical specialties in four buildings, located on the hospital ground. The buildings are separate, which means that patients need to be transported outside for eventual treatment in other buildings.

The buildings include:

- The **building of surgery** with intensive care, operating rooms and the emergency room, as well as the radiology department.
- The **building of internal health**, including cardiology, nephrology, pulmonary care and neurology
- The **building of gynecology/obstetrics and pediatrics**
- The **building of infectious diseases**

The healthcare insurance does not cover all inhabitants. Only 71% of the population is insured, the other 29% needs to pay for treatment. Handicapped people are treated free of charge.

The healthcare system in the country is organized by region, with the regional hospital as its center. Primary care is carried out by the family doctors; pregnant women are cared for by midwives. The hospital acts as secondary care center. Tertiary care can only be provided in the capital Chisinau. Ambulances will bring patients to those tertiary care centers, when needed. It takes an ambulance about 2 hours to reach those care facilities in the capital, including waiting time this can extend to 8 hours.

Due to the bad financial situation of the country, the hospital has to operate with very limited budgets. The hospital management tries to save wherever they can. The hospital needs everything; there is almost no medical equipment, medications and consumables. Our help is greatly needed and appreciated and will directly save lives and contribute to better health for the people in the region.

Hospital improvement implementation plan

Project HOPE e.V. has made a detailed assessment of the situation in the hospital in December 2009, with the main objective to judge if the hospital and its medical staff were fit enough to do a development project and such a project has a chance of being successful. The outcome was very positive; the medical staff is very capable, motivated and has learned to make things happen under extreme poverty conditions. The local government of the Rayon Floresti, who carries the financial responsibility for the hospital, has made the renovation of the hospital a top priority.



This is why Project HOPE decided to implement a development plan. This development plan is aiming to renovate wherever possible, to deliver and implement the missing medical equipment and consumables as well as to organize application training programs for the users.

Our principle of implementation is “Pay as you Go”, which means that we only do that what we can and what is financially possible.

We have chosen a phased approach.

Phase 1, timing 2010: Deliver as quickly as possible available used medical equipment and consumables, which donor hospitals have recently replaced and are in good condition. This will immediately improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients and will motivate the staff.

Phase 2, timing late 2010, and early 2011: deliver new medical equipment, which can be immediately used without renovation of the departments.

Phase 3, timing 2011, first half of 2012: renovation of key hospital departments and complete the medical equipment in those departments.

Phase 4, timing late 2012, and early 2013: extend capabilities of selected departments in order to have a regional function for the northern part of Moldova.

Improvement of the technical infrastructure

There is a large need to improve the technical infrastructure of the hospital. The hospital has been built in 1978. The quality of the construction is equal to other countries of the former Soviet Union: bad. Because of a lack of money there was no maintenance and as a result of that the whole technical infrastructure is in bad shape. This is true for the electricity system, the medical gas system and the water supply as well as temperature conditions in the usually hot summer.

We seek cooperation with other foundations, which have an interest to help us with that.

The need for children

Introduction

The building for the pediatric, delivery and newborn infants is as bad as the situation in the other parts of the hospital. The very bad state of the building, facilities and technical



infrastructure has forced us to make this a top priority. These departments were so bad, that no German parent would ever consider getting their child admitted and treated in this hospital. However, the people here have no choice and so 1200 children a year are treated in this hospital and 700 children are born here.

We are very happy that we have found sponsors who will finance the renovation of the floors where these departments are situated. The construction will start in April and be finished somewhere in the last quarter of 2011.

We also have been able to deliver urgently needed medical equipment, so that the first needs to improve medical care are delivered.

The departments for children in the Floresti hospital

The building of pediatrics has three floors, which are used as follows:

- The delivery department with 3 delivery rooms and 13 rooms for mother and newborns
- An operating theater for caesarian sections and gynecology operations
- The neonatal intensive care unit with 4 beds
- The pediatric department with 30 beds
- The pediatric intensive care unit with 2 beds

Statistical data:

Number of birth per year: 700
Number of premature born infants: 10-15%
Number of children admitted to the hospital: 1200

Improvement of the medical care in these departments

Detailed plans have been developed to improve the medical care in these departments by means of renovation of the floors where the patients are staying, the repair of the medical technical infrastructure (safe electricity, clean water and medical gases), and the delivery of required medical equipment. We will also organize medical training programs in order to optimize the medical care.



The planned improvements are:

- Renovations on each floor, including bathrooms, showers, toilets and eating facilities
- The provision of clean cold and warm water
- Medical gases at those places where needed (oxygen, pressured air and vacuum)

- The improvement of the electrical safety
- The improvement of the ventilation system
- The delivery or replacement of needed medical equipment
 - Life saving equipment
 - Diagnostic equipment
 - Laboratory equipment
 - Trainings in the areas of obstetrics and neonatology; others where needed

Department of obstetrics and postnatal care



Each year about 700 children are born in this hospital. The prenatal care is well organized and can be compared to that in Germany, with the difference that medical equipment is at a much lower standard than in Germany. However, things like a pregnancy passport are implemented, so with the right facilities and equipment, also complicated pregnancies can be treated successfully. Our intention is to renovate the facilities and to deliver

all needed equipment so that the Floresti hospital can act as a centre, where also complicated deliveries can be done and pregnant women feel happy to deliver their babies.

The neonatal intensive care unit

This department treats children which are born premature with low birth weight or which have complications after birth. The hospital has a great need for a 4 bed neonatal intensive care unit, where those children can be treated until they are strong enough to go home. Children with an extreme low birth weight below 1500 grams, who often have serious respiratory problems, need to be transported to the children's hospital in the city of Chisinau.

It is our intention to upgrade the Floresti hospital to a regional centre for neonates for the northern part of the country, where all children with a birth weight of 1500 grams can be treated.

This means that children in other places should be transported to this hospital by a special neonatal ambulance and the same ambulance can be used to transport patients to the Chisinau neonatal centre when needed.

The pediatric intensive care unit

This intensive care unit of two beds is intended for children up to 18 years of age, who have serious complications because of congenital disease or trauma, often caused by accidents. The room will be equipped like any adult intensive care unit.

There are relatively many children with respiratory complications because of the weather and poor living conditions in their houses. Accidents happen regularly at home, for instance burnings or electrical shock.

Final Outcome

After our project is finished the Floresti hospital will be the best hospital of central and northern Moldova, acting as a regional centre for many diseases and being an example for the rest of the country. Patients will be happy and have no fear to be diagnosed and treated here and the medical staff will be happy and proud to improve health of their patients.



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