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PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Goals

Improve citizens' quality of life and level of trust in government through healthcare provision

Duration

January 2023 – January 2024

USAID Funding

\$650,000

Implementing Partner

UNICEF

Key National Partners

Ministry of Health

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BACKGROUND

North Macedonia's vaccination rate has plateaued at 47 percent and polling suggests that the remainder of the population is not favorable to receiving a vaccine against COVID-19. While infection rates dropped in the latter part of 2022, the country remains vulnerable to new variants. Moreover, routine immunization has declined compared to the pre-COVID-19 period. Additionally, the national economy is struggling to recover due to the dual shocks of the pandemic and the looming energy crisis. Added uncertainty of a resurgence in COVID-19 infections creates vulnerability in the healthcare sector.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The activity will address critical needs in the areas of vaccine delivery and uptake, social and behavior change communication and community engagement, social protection, equity, and governance among youth and other vulnerable groups.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACT

- COVID-19 vaccine uptake will increase.
- The Government of North Macedonia will be more able to promote vaccine uptake through stronger risk communications and community engagement capacities.
- The Government and civil society will be more capable of tracking misinformation and rumors, and will implement evidence-based communications strategies.
- The electronic immunization registry will be expanded, maintained, and secured.
- Out-of-pocket informal payments from patients to receive routine and emergency care will be reduced.
- Digital records will be secured to improve public trust in public healthcare and improve doctor-patient confidentiality.



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