



The Royal College of
Midwives

Safe Motherhood Project in Macedonia

Building Capacity - Educating the Educators



Project Description

- The Royal College of Midwives (RCM) UK and the Macedonian Association of Nurses and Midwives (MANM) have engaged in a Safe Motherhood project to develop an educative cycle to prepare existing midwives to become midwife teachers and lead midwifery education in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Project Objectives

- To assist MANM to become active members of the International Confederation of Midwives
- Midwives to assume leadership and control over midwifery education in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Midwives to gain skills and competencies to meet European standards

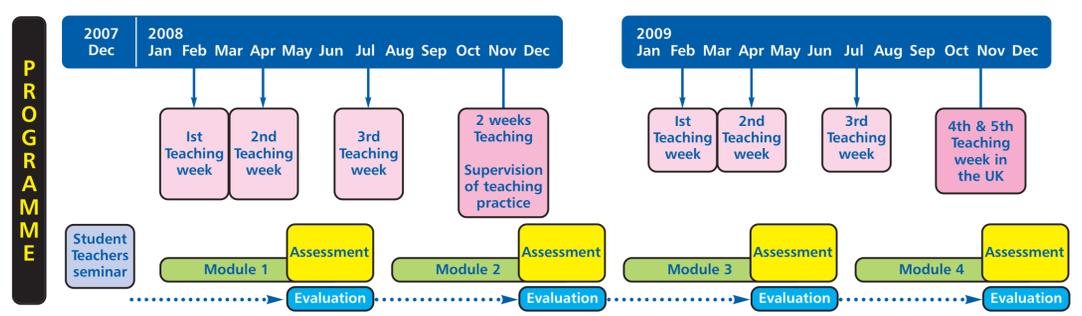
Project Rationale

- A collaborative analysis undertaken by the UNICEF office in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Unit for Health Services Research and International Cooperation, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Maternal and Child Health (Italy), and the Ministry of Health in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia highlighted the need to raise the level of midwifery education, practice, and regulation to meet European standards
- RCM investigation revealed that there are limited midwifery education programmes in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the programmes continue to be led by senior doctors and nurse teachers
- There is an identified need to "humanise" women's maternity care experience, especially in relation to childbirth
- The RCM and the MANM are committed to assisting skilled and experienced midwives in Macedonia to strengthen midwifery and the provision of maternity care in the country

Project Plan

- Establish contact with the Ministry of Health (Macedonia), WHO, UNICEF and other interested stakeholders
- Collaborative development of a constitution for the Midwifery Chapter of the MANM, including mechanisms for the monitoring of professional standards and involvement of service users in decision-making
- Undertake a midwifery education needs-analysis
- Assist the MANM to develop a midwifery education curriculum for Macedonia, which will ensure midwives meet the requirements of EU Midwives' Directives: No.89/594/EEC
- Assist the MANM with the recruitment and selection of midwifery teachers
- Train an initial cohort of midwife teachers, to enable the curriculum to be sustainable
- Assist the MANM to gain membership of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) and help to establish wider European networks and develop political engagement skills

"Educating the Educators" Programme for Qualified Midwives - Project Timeline



- The in-country program will run over two years and will include four main modules:
 - Learning Midwifery: Study skills as teacher, learner and facilitator
 - The Midwife as a Teacher: Planning, Teaching, Assessing and Evaluation
 - Lifelong Learning in Midwifery: Developing Midwifery Knowledge and Practice
 - Bringing the Curriculum to Life: Theory, Practice and Strategy
- Each module will run over a period of 20 weeks, with a break of one month in between
- During the two year programme, midwifery student teachers must be provided with a placement within an academic setting
- The design of the programme equips the midwives with advanced midwifery skills and knowledge and skills in educational theory applied to midwifery
- By the end of the programme, as part of the assessment and development phase, the student teachers will have designed a curriculum for future student midwives- tailored and appropriate the needs of mothers and babies in Macedonia

Project Achievements To Date June 2008 – 2010

- MANM has achieved member status of the European Midwives Association (EMA) and International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)
- Steering group met seven times during the project life
- Nine midwives from Skopje, Bitola, Tetovo successfully completed the UK placement in a Higher Education institution, including teaching, assessing and curriculum development experience
- Midwives are teaching in High School, University and hospital settings
- A successful European Commission Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) visit
- Completed the development of specific text for use by midwife teachers in Macedonia
- Two midwives from Skopje won a prize for supporting successful breastfeeding
- Gained co-operation from the key stakeholders with the preparation of midwifery teachers and the development of a midwifery specific curriculum, which will be launched at the MANM congress in October 2010



Country Statistics:	
Total population:	2,034,000
Capital:	Skopje
Area:	25,713 sq km (9,928 sq miles)
Major languages:	Macedonian, Albanian
Major religion:	Christianity and Islam
Gross national income per capita (PPP international \$):	7,080
Life expectancy at birth m/f (years):	71/76
Healthy life expectancy at birth m/f (years, 2002):	62/ 65
Probability of dying under five (per 1 000 live births):	17
Probability of dying between 15 and 60 years m/f (per 1 000 population):	164/77
Total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2004):	471
Total expenditure on health as % of GDP (2004):	8.0

Project Partners

WHO Regional Office for Europe

- Works in a region comprised of 53 countries, with over 880 million people
- Primary role is to help its member states develop and implement strategies to strengthen their health systems

PROJECT LEADS

Royal College of Midwives, UK

- The only WHO Collaborating Centre for Midwifery, strives to build partnerships to strengthen the status of midwives around the world
- Professional organisation for midwives in the UK
- The voice of midwifery in the UK
- Providing midwifery education and promoting research in order to enhance the quality of maternity care

Macedonian Association of Nurses and Midwives (MANM)

- The professional organisation for nurses and midwives in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Committed to strengthening midwifery, improving care to women and babies in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Ministry of Health, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the project.
- A representative from the Ministry is Chair of the Project Steering Group

Ministry of Education, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- Will work closely with the Ministry of Health as the project unfolds

Figure 1: Memorandum of Collaboration between the Ministry of Health, Macedonian Association of Nurses and Midwives (MANM) and Royal College of Midwives (RCM) UK

Article 3

- Developing a midwifery education curriculum and strengthening the midwifery education infrastructure by assisting the Macedonian Association of Nurses and Midwives. This process will include the involvement of other key stakeholders
- To train a cohort of eight midwife teachers, who will then be enabled to cascade knowledge and skills throughout the midwifery profession within Macedonia, and so ensure the sustainability of the midwifery education programmes (Article 3)

Article 5

The Royal College of Midwives will undertake an initial needs analysis exercise which will inform:

- The detailed development of the process;
- How the design and implementation team will meet the aims outlined above (as in article 3)

The design phase will include:

- A development of an implementation model
- Preparation of clinical and education areas
- The formulation of mechanisms for adaptation as evidence emerges

Current Status of Midwifery in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Professionals responsible for maternity care

- Gynaecologists/ obstetricians, paediatricians, midwives and patronage nurses are providers of maternity care
- Psychologists and social workers provide support care
- Midwives and obstetricians appear to have an unequal professional relationship
- The doctor, or gynaecologist/obstetrician is the first point of contact for the pregnant woman
- Mothers are referred to the midwifery services through the primary health care system or health centres
- At present no births take place in the home setting

Role and Sphere of Midwifery Practice

- Midwives are primarily engaged as assistants to obstetricians and gynaecologists
- No antenatal care is undertaken by midwives
- Midwives participate in some intrapartum care, but doctors are present at every birth
- Handover to the postnatal care in the community is managed through patronage nurses

Legislation and Regulation

- Legislation governing midwifery is shared with other professions and covers education, practice and the organisation of midwifery
- There are no specific codes of practice for midwifery, but there is a code for nurses which may be followed
- Midwifery is not regulated, but some regulation exists covering education, overall health care provision and professional relationships
- There is no national central register or central registration process for Midwives

National Policy Formulation

- The Ministry of Health is responsible for setting national policies for the development of maternity services
- There are no specific links at the national level between midwives and other professional groups involved in the delivery of maternity care, other than those established while working together on a daily basis within health institutions

Midwifery Education

- Midwifery education and training are in transition, as the system of gymnasium education moves to a more European model
- There are five midwifery training institutions in total, based in urban areas
- The country does not have a standardised midwifery education programme

Macedonian Midwives visit the Macedonian Embassy



Midwives meet the Macedonian Health Minister



Macedonian Midwives visit the RCM UK Headquarters



Quotation from Project Participant

"We want midwifery in our country to be as good as the highest quality of midwifery care practised elsewhere in Europe."