



center
AMALIPE



FILLING THE GAP: THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY MONITORING ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF ROMA WOMEN HEALTH AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE (BULGARIA)



The model follows the methodology of community monitoring through the so called 'community inquiry', including periodical (twice in the year) consultation with the local communities about the health services they receive and their quality. The inquiry is done and processed by volunteers from the community itself. We supplemented this with two more elements. >>>

The first one is the community mobilization and building groups of activists in the community which precedes the 'community inquiry'. During the recent years, the program has achieved its goal to create, test, and evaluate a mechanism for mobilizing the local community

The second element is the advocacy activities before the local and regional health institutions as well as community campaigns for improving the health awareness. All activities are accompanied by the work of youth and female groups which is an important part both of the community mobilization and the advocacy.

COMMUNITY MONITORING ON HEALTHCARE SERVICES: METHODOLOGY

WHEN:

SINCE 2011
UNTIL NOW

WHY: to use the community monitoring of healthcare services in Roma communities in Bulgaria to strengthen the advocacy which will give the local communities and especially women the opportunity to participate in the local policies and the processes of local-level management, improving the Roma health services and status in a long-term plan.

WOMEN,
YOUTH AND LEADERS
VOLUNTEER GROUPS

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

IN THE VILLAGES OF LEDENIK AND VODOLET NURSES IN ALL SCHOOLS WERE HIRED

An example of great success comes from the municipality of Pavlikeni. The local moderators have worked intensively to bind the local Roma integration plans (as part of the Bulgarian National Roma Integration Strategy) with the activities in the sphere of healthcare. One of the concrete things which the citizens of Batak demanded from the municipality was a reconstruction and renovation of the dental medical office in the village. The dental medical service in the village ceased to exist 30 years ago. As a result of the local mobilization activities, the dentist cabinet was reopened and the renovation for its reopening started at the beginning of 2014.

In Lednik and other villages on the territory of Veliko Tarnovo region the GPs ceased the practice of illegal payments for giving a child-immunization certificate which has happened after the interference of the local moderators from the Community development center in Veliko Tarnovo.

Thanks to the constant work of the local moderators with medical professionals and different representatives of the health authorities, a lot of specialists started a series of regular prophylaxis exams in the community regarding various significant diseases – oncological, nephrological, ophthalmological, infectious and others. This is an indicator for high level of community mobilization and increased interference between local people and health authorities.

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE OTHERS:

Albena Todorova, Mayor of the town of Byala Cherkva, Pavlikeni municipality. 'It is my second mandate as a mayor of Biala Cherkva and until this moment there has not been such a active behavior among the local minorities considering the health awareness and culture. Thanks to the efforts of Center 'Amalipe' and the Local Development Club, an engagement from the community's side was noticed, an interest towards the personal and the children's health. I, as a Mayor, have always supported and will support the campaigns and the initiatives of the organization because it is for my fellow-citizen's sake.'

Dimitar Iosifov, the village of Varbovka, Pavlikeni municipality. 'Congratulations to the good job of the organization. Thanks to the moderators of Center 'Amalipe' I am alive now. They are the people who helped. Let such organizations exist and people who help the others and those who need help.'

Lessons:

The Community monitoring approach is not only monitoring but also a tool for empowering the community. Communities who are empowered have more leverage to improve the access and quality of the healthcare services they receive.

Message:

Introducing the community monitoring approach is a tool to empower Roma women and reduce the health inequalities they face. Joint activities between Roma community and healthcare institutions are a successful tool and sensitivity towards Roma community.

COMMUNITY MONITORING ON HEALTHCARE SERVICES: THE RESULTS

