



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

S w e d i s h M e d i c a l P r o g r a m m e

FACT SHEET

March 2014

Milestones

1995 - 2003	Programme implemented through the successful cooperation between the Swedish Migration Board, the Medical Centre for Refugees, and the IOM
1997	The first Swedish Medical Teams established
2004 - 2006	Swedish Government allocated part of its budget to continue the Programme
2007 - 2008	Programme funded by The Swedish Government through the Swedish International Development Agency
Since 2009	International Medical Program approved continuous cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) and Kosovo

Project Outline

Code	MP.0146
Period	March 2011 - February 2015
Donors	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Country Council of Östergötland
Coordinators	Mirsada Zeco
Executing Agency	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Partners	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), County Council of Östergötland

Project Objective

The objective of the project is to initiate cooperation among international experts and health care professionals of BH and Kosovo, in order that local medical staff are trained on modern theories, techniques, and skills, as well strengthening the specialised health care facilities in the prioritised surgical fields, aiming to establish the functional surgical services. Furthermore, the project aims at supporting the establishment of a sustainable regional solution for diagnostics and treatment of children with heart malformations, and assisting in diminishing the need for outside referrals of patients now and in the future,

facilitating referral of patients between the neighbouring countries in the Balkan region and initiating joint projects with exchange of experiences within the region.

Project Description

The Swedish Medical Programme (SMP) was established in 1995 in order to meet the need for medical and surgical services not available in BH as a result of the 1992-95 war. Based on its success in BH, the programme was extended to Kosovo in 2000. The main priority of the programme is to build the local capacity of medical staff and institutions in BH and Kosovo.

Based on analyses of the most frequently occurring diagnoses of evacuated patients, specific Swedish medical teams were established to target those specialised areas in most urgent need of assistance.

Substantial training has been provided during this seventeen-year period but considerable areas for improvement remain in BH, most pertinently paediatric cardiac surgery, paediatric cardiology, paediatric surgery, orthopaedic surgery, orthopaedic oncology, spinal surgery, interventional radiology, and neurosurgery, in addition to other branches of medicine.

By adopting this approach, the SMP assists in diminishing the long term need for outside referrals of patients, both now and in the future, as well as facilitating the referral of patients between the neighbouring countries in the Balkan region and initiating joint projects to broaden the scope for the exchange of expertise within the region.

The Swedish medical teams are usually scheduled for one working week, two to four times a year, to work in different disciplines of medicine. Patients with curable conditions are invited for medical examinations and surgical interventions during the visiting week of the Swedish medical teams to BH. During this visit, Swedish expert teams continue or complete practical training and the transfer of skills to health professionals of BH. In addition, medical professionals from BH and Kosovo are invited for short training visits to Sweden, at which they build their knowledge by participating in treatment and care procedures.

Project Implementation to date

- Transfer of skills and knowledge to national medical staff with a number of yearly missions of Swedish medical teams to BH and Kosovo.
- Provision of advanced and complex medical services to patients during the visits of Swedish experts in various specialist areas such as, paediatric cardiac surgery, paediatric cardiology, ophthalmology, vascular surgery, and emergency in local facilities.
- Capacity building of BH and Kosovo medical staff to provide critical health care services independently, thus continuously reducing the visits of Swedish teams in specific areas.
- In the last three years the objective of the program was oriented towards strengthening the regional cooperation between ex-Yugoslavian countries with the aim for establishing highly professional regional health care centres to ensure health care for the citizens in the whole region.