

MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION (MHD)

Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Capacity Building for Health Workers in Somaliland



Migration Health Division (MHD)

MHD provides primary healthcare in extremely remote and hard-to-reach areas where there are often no other services available. Despite static clinics being staffed in these areas, capacity remains limited when compared to urban areas such as Hargeisa



Labour and Human Development Division (LHD)

LHD's Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) project has facilitated deployment of diaspora healthcare practitioners to provide on-the-job training and capacity building for extended at public healthcare institutions. On-the-job training in these clinics is critical, but is often difficult in remote areas.



Background:

In collaboration with LHD, MHD piloted a new and innovative project that combines the competencies of both units to provide essential healthcare in remote areas. During the pilot period, two MIDA diaspora doctors spent one week at one of two Health Centres in El Afweyn District (Garadag) in Sanag regions of Somaliland. Both health centres are supported by MHD and are providing free health care services to hard-to-reach populations in remote locations.

Services provided at each facility include:



- Under-5 Outpatient Department (OPD)
- Over-5 Outpatient Department (OPD)
- Antenatal Care (ANC)
- Postnatal Care (PNC)
- Maternity Ward
- Delivery Room
- Pharmacy

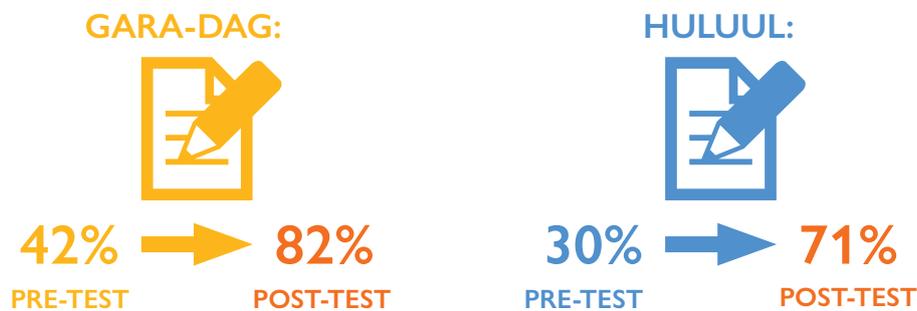
Capacity Building:

At each facility, the diaspora experts trained local health workers on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) and reinforcing Somaliland's treatment guidelines. The overarching aim of the training was to increase the capacity of health workers in diagnosing and treating paediatric diseases since, for young children especially, competency in IMCI is critical in determining the survival of sick children.

The 5-day training was held from 27 April to 2 May 2019 in Gara-dag and Huduul with 17 participants (10 from Gara-dag and 7 from Huduul Health Centers).

Through on-the-job training, handouts and group discussions, the IMCI training was able to build the capacity of trained health workers living in these remote areas of Sanag region. More specifically, workers were able to diagnose and manage the most common paediatric cases, learn appropriate paediatric drug dose calculation and prescription, and understand the importance of ethics and patient confidentiality.

IOM staff tested participants' knowledge of paediatric diseases before and after training, with results demonstrating a significant improvement in knowledge, skills and understanding.



This initiative is unique in Somaliland, and IOM is currently looking to expand the pilot to other parts of Somaliland and in Puntland. Additionally, we hope to include training to build the capacity of health workers in providing maternal healthcare. Using effective Monitoring and Evaluation, we will explore immediate and longer term effects of capacity building to inform future service provision.

Human Interest Story:



During the IMCI training at Garadag, one hypertensive (pre-eclampsia) mother delivered her baby successfully and without any complications thanks to careful monitoring of her condition. The patient was admitted to a dark, silent room where her blood pressure was monitored and later discharged.



For more information, please contact:

Vijay Narayan, Health Programme Coordinator (vnarayan@iom.int)
IOM Somalia Programme Support Unit (iomsomaliapsu@iom.int)



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