Concept Note

**Project Title: Mobile Healthcare Units**

**Name of Implementing Organization: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Ministry of Health of Montenegro – Directorate for IPA and other project and health infrastructure**

**Contact Person for this Application: Ms Amra Pepić**

**Email Address and Telephone Number: amra.pepic@mzd.gov.me**

**Project Description:**

**What is the problem that this proposed project seeks to address?**

In Montenegro, the elderly population is predominantly located in rural areas. As such, considering their age and all that comes with it, especially reduced mobility, healthcare access is not as readily available to them as it is to urban populations. Although there are health centers in rural areas with clinics where general practitioners from health centers practice, they are often not equipped with adequate specific medical equipment. The aim is to improve access to care in remote areas and address the issue of insufficient equipment in these clinics through the procurement of mobile clinics, specialized vehicles equipped with necessary medical equipment. These can include specialized vehicles with equipment for radiology, ophthalmology, dialysis, mammography, vaccination, and similar services.

**What are the goals of the project, and the activities that will be implemented toward those goals?**

Support for healthcare services for vulnerable groups (the elderly, children, especially those dependent on parental care) as well as individuals with disabilities through investment in equipment and transportation means that would facilitate the transition from institutional care to care provided through family and community.

Activities:

1. Needs analysis - The first phase would involve analyzing the population's needs and identifying the most critical medical services that are inaccessible in remote areas, as well as identifying locations where these services are most needed.
2. Procurement of mobile clinics - Once the needs are identified, it is necessary to procure mobile clinics, specialized vehicles, and equipment for medical interventions, in line with the identified needs and capacities.
3. Training of medical staff - After the procurement of mobile clinics, specialized vehicles, and equipment, medical staff must be trained to operate the new equipment and provide medical services in mobile clinics.
4. Route planning and scheduling - After training the medical staff, routes and schedules for the movement of mobile clinics should be planned to efficiently carry out medical interventions at various locations.
5. Monitoring and evaluation - After project implementation, it is necessary to monitor and evaluate the effects of mobile clinics on the health of the population in remote areas.

**Legal basis of the proposed project (laws and other legal regulations, EU regulations, strategic documents,etc.)**

The Law on Health care protection (Official Gazette of Montenegro No. 3/2016, 39/2016, 2/2017, 44/2018, 24/2019, 82/2020, 8/2021, 3/2023

Article 4

A citizen of Montenegro has the right to healthcare in accordance with the highest possible health standards and achievements of modern medical theory and practice.

Healthcare Development Strategy in Montenegro for the period 2023-2027 - The Health Development Strategy in Montenegro for the period 2023-2027 aims to improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare services, aligning with the goal of the mobile healthcare units project. This project provides support for healthcare services for vulnerable groups, particularly in remote areas, delivering healthcare in home settings. This contributes to achieving the goals of the strategy by enabling more efficient use of healthcare resources and improving access to healthcare services.

**What is the expected impact of the project?**

The expected impact of the project includes:

1. Improved access to healthcare services for vulnerable groups in remote areas.
2. Reduction of inequalities in access to healthcare services between rural and urban areas.
3. Enhancement of quality of life for vulnerable populations.
4. Lower healthcare costs due to reduced need for travel.
5. Strengthening of local communities through tailored support for healthcare services and community involvement.

Top of Form

**How will this project be monitored and evaluated?**

The project will be overseen by the Ministry of Health with the support of health centers in Montenegro in the program area. Within the Ministry of Health, there is a structured organizational unit - a directorate tasked with implementing both national and cross-border IPA projects.

**Project Staff**

*Please outline the qualifications and experience of your organization and the project team as they are related to your project plan and goals.*

The Ministry of Health has experience with the implementation of cross-border projects, but also experience in the implementation of the national IPA.

At the first call, we successfully implemented the NeurNet project (<https://www.interreg-hr-ba-me.eu/project/neurnet/> ) with partners from Croatia (Institute for Emergency Medicine (previously Institute for Telemedicine) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federal Ministry of Health).

Apart from this project, we were also involved in the AdriHealthMob project ( <https://innopolis.org/projects/adrihealthmob/> ) , which was part of the IPA Adriatic Program where we collaborated with the Croatian Ministry of Health.

Additionally, we were involved in the PHASE Project ([Home | PHASE (italy-albania-montenegro.eu)](https://phase.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/)) which was a part of the Interreg IPA Italy-Albania-Montenegro.