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STRENGTHENING OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN GEORGIA

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Until 2015, there was not any effective surveillance system in Georgia, which could provide with reliable data for developing national strategy of micronutrient deficiency elimination and improving the nutritional status of population. With the support of US CDC, in 2015, National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia launched collaborative project - "Strengthening surveillance of micronutrient deficiency in Georgia". Georgia Nutrition Monitoring and Surveillance System was implemented in 2015. Sentinel surveillance approach was used by selecting 8 sentinel sites from 4 regions, 2 sites in each region (1 pediatric and another antenatal clinic). Iron and folate deficiency was studied in pregnant women (1st trimester) and iron deficiency in children (12-23 months old). Iron deficiency was defined as plasma concentration of ferritin with cut-off points of $<12 \mu\text{g/l}$ and $<15 \mu\text{g/l}$ for children and pregnant women (venous blood test), respectively. Cut-off point below 3.0 ng/ml was considered as a folate deficiency for pregnant women. Hemoglobin was tested using hemoque and multi-analyzer techniques at the sentinel sites.

BIOGRAPHY

Robizon Tsiklauri has good experience in nutritiology and clinical epidemiology, has made training programs for doctors, has published more than 20 papers in reputed journals. He is managing of postdoctoral educational program of qualification at the Tbilisi State Medical University. He used to be a temporary advisor of WHO (Europe regional office of Europe) in food and nutrition field (2005-2007).

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