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Name of Event: Primary Health Care Nursing Skills-Building Workshop

Location: Borjomi, Georgia

Dates: May 15-18, 2001

Purpose:

This was the second in a series of practical workshops that are being held in the various NIS regions to strengthen nursing skills in AIHA's partnerships. A steering committee consisting of a US and NIS partner nurse from each of the four NIS regions met to identify training priorities and develop an appropriate curriculum. The workshop focused on physical assessment, patient education, communication, and health promotion. It was designed to provide training to the nurses as well as opportunities for cross-partnership collaboration.

Participants and Faculty:

Twelve participants from the Georgian Nursing Association, Kutaisi WWC and Mtskheta PHC Center participated in the Workshop. Four US and one Georgian conducted the sessions. Faculty included:

- Darlene Weis, Milwaukee-Mtskheta Partnership
- Laure Lisk, Boulder-Dushanbe Partnership
- Judy Trapp, Boulder-Dushanbe Partnership
- Barbara Beasley, Boulder-Odessa Partnership
- Ketevan Garsevanishvili, Vice-President, Georgian Nursing Association

Description of Event:

On the first day of the workshop, the faculty taught communication skills and patient education for the nurses, using interactive games and exercises. Participants were encouraged to create educational posters. The second two days of the workshop consisted of training on physical assessment. Each participant received a physical assessment kit consisting of: stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, ear scope, pen light, tuning fork. The faculty began each of the first two days lecturing on physical assessment for adults and children, and in the afternoon, the nurses practiced hands-on skills. Each nurse was checked off on a list of competencies by the faculty. On the final day, the faculty taught health promotion with a focus on nutrition.

Collaborating Organizations:

Georgian Nurses Association

Outcomes:

The workshop's primary outcome was the development of new patient care skills, with a focus on care for refugees. Certificates of participation were awarded to all nurses who attended the workshop, and each nurse received an assessment kit. Workshop evaluation was highly positive.