



## *Providing access to primary healthcare for children with disabilities (CWD)*

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The Centre of Healthcare Development (CHD) and eHealth Centre under the Ministry of Health (MoH), with the support of UNICEF powered by Intelhealth, launched TeleMed KG in Nookat and Suzak districts, Kyrgyzstan. This telemedicine platform was launched primarily for children with developmental delays and infection/s who don't have proper access to quality healthcare which has been aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis.

**UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Funds)** works in over 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, defend their rights, and help them fulfill their potential from early childhood through adolescence. It delivers services in the world's most challenging places to reach vulnerable children and adolescents. It protects the right of every child.

### **What are the problems we are addressing?**

The need for the Telemedicine platform was felt as there was unmet demand at the primary level in Kyrgyzstan. There were disruptions of regular services during the COVID-19 pandemic surge. There was a shortage of doctors at the primary health centres and the infrastructure was too limited. It was also felt that there were not enough specialist doctors to tackle developmental disorders right at the beginning. The crucial period where the proper treatment is required for a child was missed as the primary care doctors were not trained to address such cases. Also, extreme geographical and financial constraints caused barriers to accessing quality healthcare

## TeleMed KG

The services are for children under 18 years old, especially those under 5 years old, who are vulnerable to diseases such as Neonatal Jaundice, Cerebral palsy, and HIV; undiagnosed and not treated can lead to developmental disorders. The project connects family physicians at public section primary care facilities in rural areas with specialist doctors such as pediatricians, physiotherapists, speech therapists, and other specialists for the management of care for children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, congenital disabilities, neonatal jaundice, speech or hearing abnormalities, and further developmental delays.

**Geographic coverage:** Nookat & Suzak districts, Kyrgyzstan

**Implementing org -** Government of Kyrgyzstan

**Funders -** UNICEF

**Technical support -** Intelehealth

It combines home visiting, telemedicine and cross-sectoral collaboration to deliver longitudinal care for CWDs. Health workers conduct home visits to identify neonatal jaundice and children with developmental delays for early intervention.

These health workers use a digital tool with clinical protocols and schedule home visits. Children needing intervention are referred to the Family Doctor at the nearest primary health care facility. This physician can use the telemedicine platform to connect with specialists to provide long-term coordinated care. In case it is required, they can also connect the family with other resources such as social services support and educational support.

Thus, a combination of home visits for early identification and telemedicine for early intervention and long-term care will help improve the quality of life of this highly vulnerable population and their families.

## Key Impact

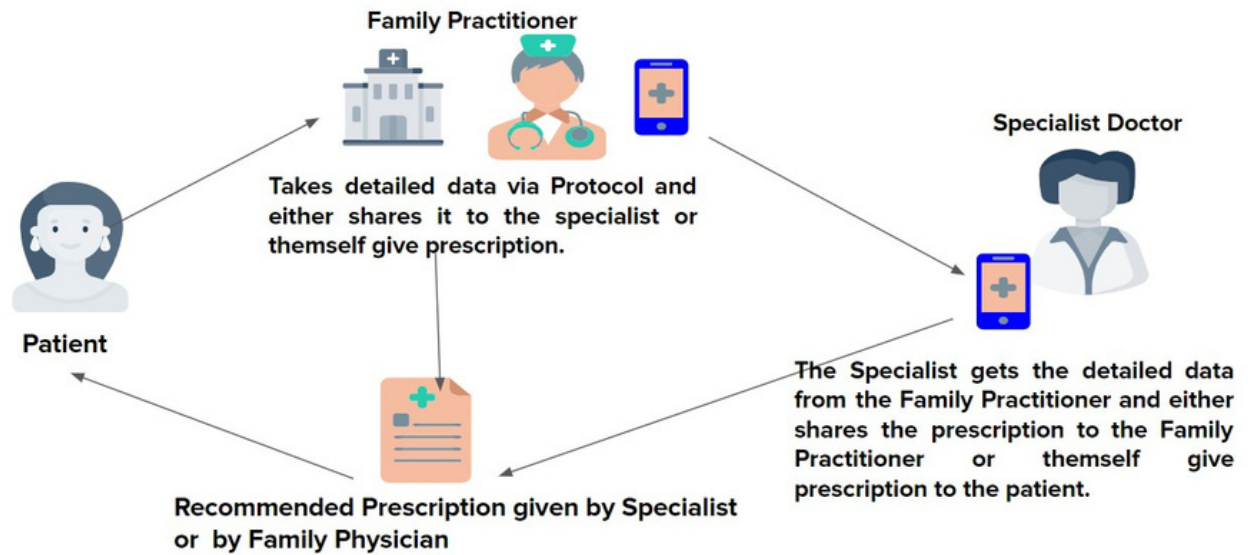
- **Teleconsultations - 72**
- **Active family doctors and specialist doctors – 84**
- **Trained family doctors and specialist doctors - 180**
- **Specialties - 3**
- **Regions covered – 2**

\*data as of June 2022



# Implementation Model - Health worker to doctor

## Workflow - Telemed Kg



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