



CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby Activity

To improve the quality of medical services and support continuous medical education (CME) for public sector health providers, USAID Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby (HMHB) Activity and the Tajikistan Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP) collaborate to strengthen healthcare worker capacity in Tajikistan.

HMHB’s support to CME is part of a broader mandate to deliver quality maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) and nutrition services by building Tajikistan’s technical, leadership, management, and policy reform capacity. To support these objectives, HMHB leverages the power of digital technology through open-source platforms such as the Continuous Medical Education application.

Powered by CommCare, the CME app is just one tool in HMHB’s digital ecosystem. It enables trainers, facility managers, and HMHB staff to track learning events and skills development milestones from in-person trainings to online workshops. The app simplifies the process for MoHSPP Nutrition Resource Center (NRC) trainers to register and track the courses and trainings taken by health care workers, generating lists of trainees who have not completed modules or sub-topics by set dates. Since the app’s launch in July 2021, NRC trainers have registered and tracked over 6,000 health care workers.

As of March 2022, all 24 MoHSPP NRC trainers across 12 districts in Khatlon Province had received trainings to incorporate the CME app into their routine work. The app is available in English, Russian, and Tajik; like all HMHB apps, it is also integrated with the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) system to enable data management, visualizations, and analysis. To expedite decision-making, CME data flows directly into DHIS2 and to a server at the Republican Center for Medical Statistics and Information.

Information from the CME app helps NRC trainers and HMHB staff deliver improved and targeted supportive supervision. HMHB and MoHSPP can monitor trainees enrolled during specific time periods, track courses completed by topic and subtopic, and assess each trainee’s progress to ensure performance and health outcomes are improving as a result of the CME.

Empowering health care workers with this CME tool improves skills and enhances the quality of care provided to pregnant women, mothers, and infants. Previously, CME records were maintained on large, paper-based attendance registers that made data entry and analysis time-consuming, unreliable, and less secure. Digital tracking frees up NRC trainers to focus on priority activities such as delivering expanded capacity building trainings for health care workers.

As per the National Strategy on Economical Digitalization, the Government of Tajikistan intends to digitalize most governmental processes. The CME app complements this national initiative and has potential for nationwide scale-up. The CME app can be a channel for health care workers to earn professional credit as part of their mandatory Professional Improvement Courses. In the long term, the app can be adapted for use far beyond the health sector.

