

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION PROJECT

“Expanding Fetal Medicine Capacity in the Republic of Moldova”

I. INTRODUCTION

Given the need to develop specialist fetal medicine services in the Republic of Moldova, with the aim of reducing maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity, and recognising the importance of ensuring equitable access for pregnant women to high-quality fetal diagnostic, monitoring and treatment services, the Parties agree to establish this international collaboration project.

This project is based on the principles, objectives and mechanisms set out in the Memorandum for Understanding “Fetal Medicine Programme for the period 2022–2025” (attached) and is grounded in academic, clinical and institutional collaboration between The Fetal Medicine Foundation (United Kingdom) and the Mother and Child Institute of the Republic of Moldova.

II. PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of this project is the sustainable development of fetal medicine in the Republic of Moldova through advanced training of specialists, transfer of international expertise and the establishment of a Fetal Medicine Unit.

III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Establish and equip a Fetal Medicine Unit within the Mother and Child Institute.
2. Support the development of ultrasound specialists in the Republic of Moldova to perform the 11–13-week first-trimester fetal ultrasound scan, in line with FMF standards.
3. Support the development of ultrasound specialists in the Republic of Moldova to perform the 20-week mid-trimester fetal anomaly scan, in line with FMF standards.
4. Support the development of ultrasound specialists in the Republic of Moldova to perform placental and fetal Doppler ultrasound examinations, in line with FMF standards.
5. Support the development of obstetrician-gynaecologists in the Republic of Moldova to achieve competence in maternal-fetal ultrasound, in line with FMF standards.

IV. KEY ACTIVITIES

- International training programmes and fellowships.
- Teleconferences and mentorship.
- Implementation of advanced fetal screening.
- Quality assessment and quality control.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- The Fetal Medicine Foundation provides training, expertise and evaluation, and equips the Fetal Medicine Unit within the Mother and Child Institute with medical equipment and furniture.
- The Mother and Child Institute provides the necessary infrastructure and staffing and ensures integration of services.

VI. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION

Project Co-ordinators:

- The Fetal Medicine Foundation: Daniela Borsă
- Republic of Moldova: Iurie Dondiuc

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Project implementation will be monitored and evaluated through a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) aligned with the OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) principles. This framework will be used to assess the Project's impact, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

Category	KPI	Definition	Target	Data source	Frequency
Impact	Reduction in perinatal mortality	Decrease in the national perinatal mortality rate.	At least a 10% reduction by 2025	Mother and Child Institute / Ministry of Health data	Annually
Outcome	Specialists trained in fetal medicine to FMF standards	Number of specialists trained to FMF standards.	Minimum 30 people	FMF / MCI reports	Annually
Outcome	Obstetrician-gynaecologists certified in fetal medicine	Number of FMF-certified clinicians.	Minimum 4	FMF / MCI reports	Annually
Outcome	Operational Fetal Medicine Unit (FMU)	FMU operating in accordance with FMF standards.	1 unit	External audit	Annually
Output	Advanced fetal investigations performed	Number of complex fetal examinations/investigations.	> 2,000 per year	FMU register	Quarterly

VIII. PROJECT DURATION

The project will be implemented for the period 2022–2025, with the possibility of extension.

IX. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This implementation plan sets out the phases, activities, responsibilities and timelines required to deliver the international collaboration project in fetal medicine.

PHASE I – PREPARATION AND ORGANISATION (2022–2023)

- Establishment of the project management team.
- Formal appointment of the project co-ordinators.
- Assessment of existing infrastructure at the Mother and Child Institute.
- Identification of required equipment and resources.
- Selection of candidates for international training programmes.

PHASE II – CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING (2023–2024)

- Delivery of fellowship programmes and clinical placements.
- Organisation of theoretical and practical courses.
- Implementation of mentorship programmes.
- Regular teleconferences with international experts.
- Adoption of FMF fetal ultrasound examination standards in clinical practice.

PHASE III – OPERATIONALISATION AND CONSOLIDATION (2024–2025)

- Full operation of the Fetal Medicine Unit.
- Integration of services into the national health system.
- Monitoring of service performance and quality.
- KPI data collection and reporting.
- Mid-term and final project evaluation.

RESPONSIBILITY MATRIX

Activity	FMF (UK)	MCI (RM)	Co-ordinators
Training and fellowships	Responsible	Support	Monitoring
Equipment and infrastructure	Support	Responsible	Co-ordination
Implementation of fetal ultrasound examination standards	Expertise	Implementation	Monitoring
Reporting and evaluation	External evaluation	Data reporting	Co-ordination

X. FINAL PROVISIONS

Any amendments to the Project shall be made by mutual written agreement.

XI. SIGNATURES

President of Fetal Medicine Foundation

Professor Kypros Nicolaides

Director Institute Mother and Child

Associate Professor Sergiu Gladun

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The Fetal Medicine Foundation

UK Charity Number 1037116
137 Harley Street, London W1G 6BG
Tel: 020 7034 3070
Fax: 020 7034 3071

