



Improving Quality and Accessibility of PHC services for people living with NCDs in Albania

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2023



Objectives of the Presentation

- NCD's situation in Albania; important facts
- Policy and Regulatory Context
- Health for All Project - an overview
- The most important HAP interventions in Albania with a focus on NCDs

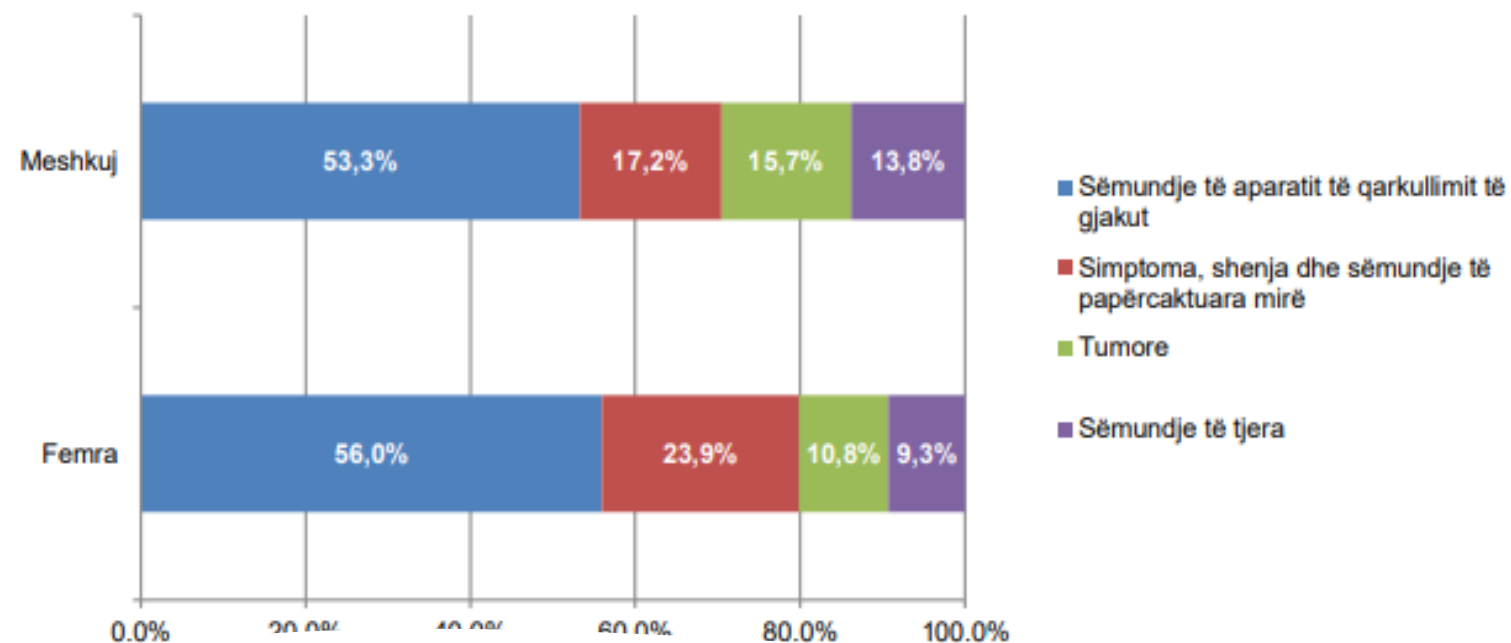


Main causes of deaths in Albania, 2018-2022

Cause of deaths / groups of diseases	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Nb	%	Nb	%	Nb	%	Nb	%	Nb	%
Diseases of the circulatory system	11,599	53,2	11,704	52,2	14,422	52,2	15,986	52,4	13,082	54,5
Symptoms and diseases not well defined	3,689	16,9	3,772	17	4,699	17	5,120	16,8	4,868	20,3
Respiratory diseases	568	2,6	523	2,4	2,454	8,9	3,611	11,8	813	3,4
Tumors	3,695	16,9	3,583	13	3,589	13	3,430	11,2	3,233	13,5

Source: INSTAT Albania, Shkaqet e vdekjeve, 2022. <https://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/kushtet-sociale/sh%C3%ABndet%C3%ABsia/publikimet/2023/shkaqet-e-vdekjeve-2022/>

Main group of diseases and deaths by gender in Albania, 2022



• Source: INSTAT Albania, Shkaqet e vdekjeve, 2022. <https://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/kushtet-sociale/sh%C3%ABndet%C3%ABsia/publikimet/2023/shkaqet-e-vdekjeve-2022/>

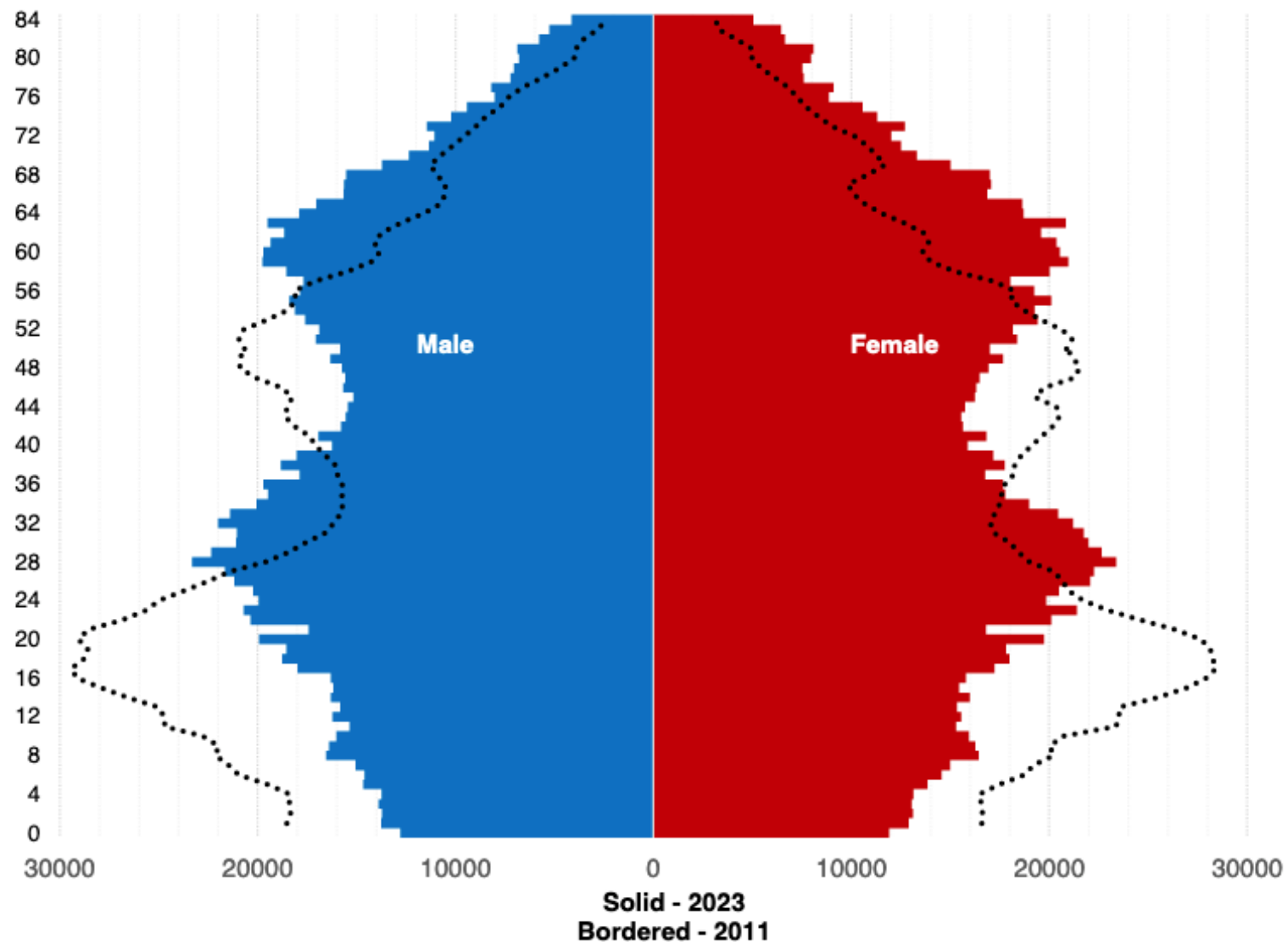
Crude death rate from NCDs in Albania (deaths/100,000)

	1990	2010	2019
Cardio-vascular diseases	85.5	158.6	220.9
Cerebro-vascular diseases	90.4	144.9	206
Cancers	79	125.5	173
Diabetes	3	4.2	6.4
COPD	21.8	14.6	22.2

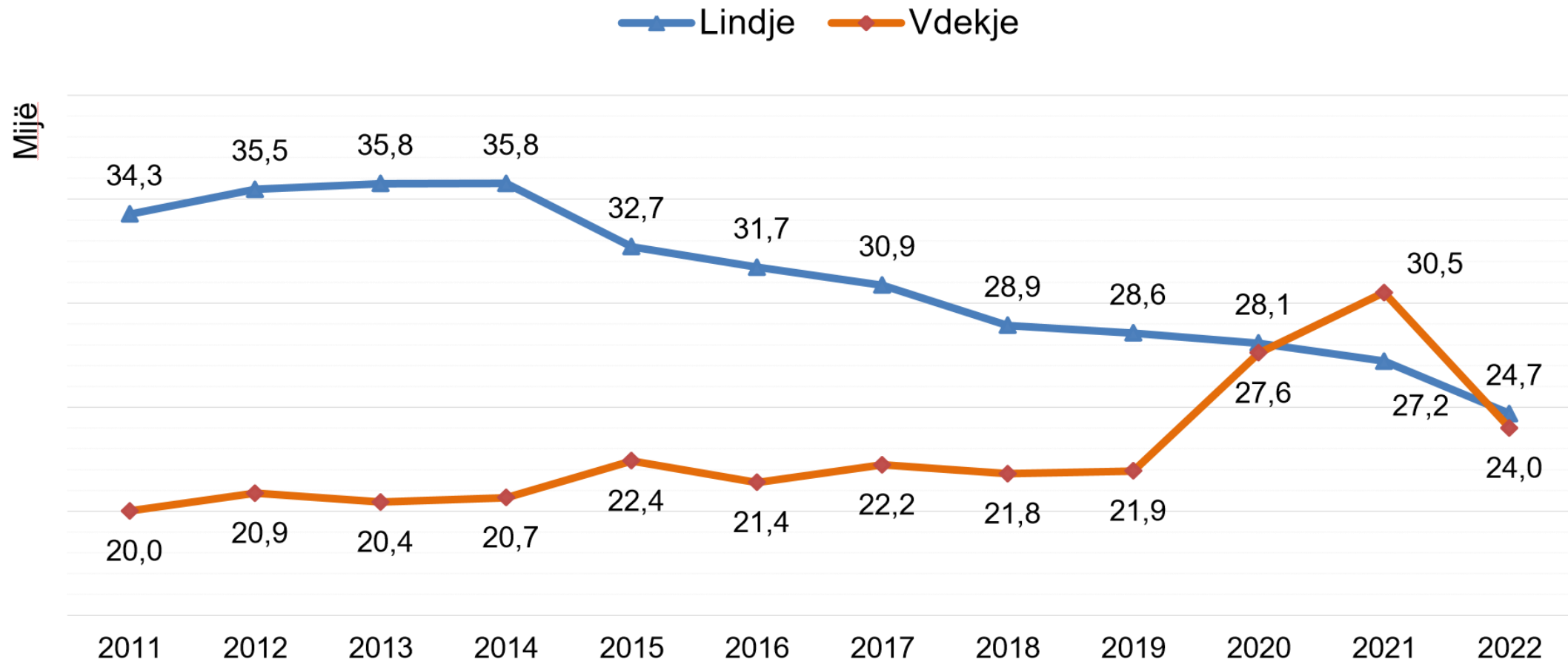
Evolution of mortality from NCDs in Albania (deaths for 100,000 people 30-69 years, both sexes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cardio-vascular	59.1	54.5	55.2	53.7	43.8	55.6	47.3	47.2
Cerebro-vascular	38.1	38.7	37.7	38.4	35.2	36.5	31.5	30.1
Tumors	137.9	133.3	138.4	135.2	127.3	128.0	130.4	121.8
Diabetes	5.1	5.1	4.2	6.1	4.6	4.1	4.9	4.1
COPD	3.5	2.9	2.3	4.5	3.5	3.0	2.3	2.9

Albania – Population Pyramid on 1st January 2011- 2023



Births and deaths in Albania



Important Policies and Strategies

- The National Program for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases in Albania 2021-2030
- The National Program for the Control of Cancer in Albania 2022-2030
- Strategy for Development of Primary Health Care Services in Albania, 2020-2025
- Albanian National Health Strategy 2021-2030
- National Policy on Ageing in Albania and Action Plan, 2020-2024.

Health for All - An overview

- A program funded by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, Phase 1 (2015-2019), Phase 2 (2019-2023), Phase 3 Consolidation (2013-2027)
- The focus: improving accessibility and quality of care through the support to Primary Health Care in Albania
- <http://www.hap.org.al/en/>

phc

equipment **training**

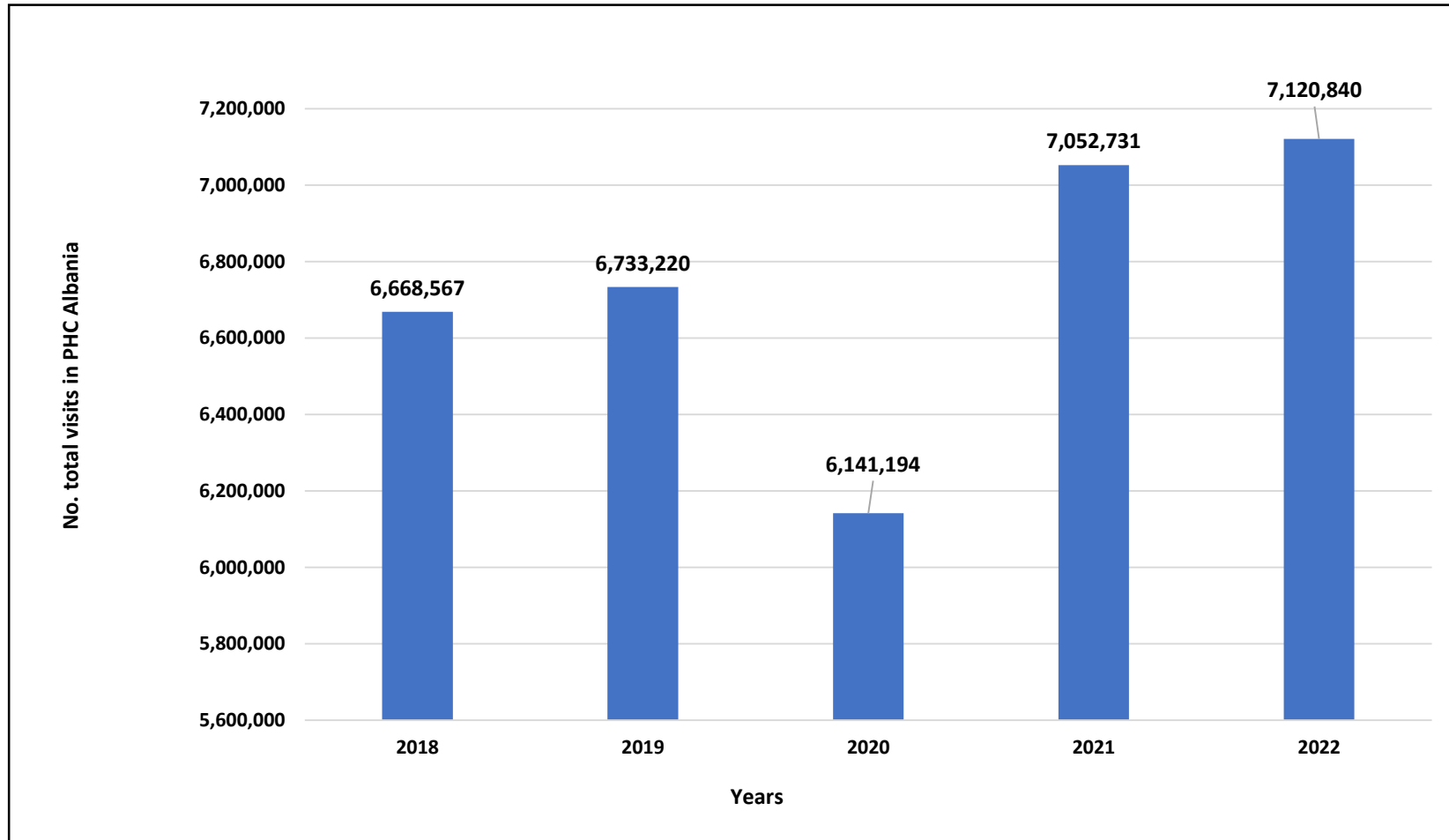
home-care

academic program **protocols**

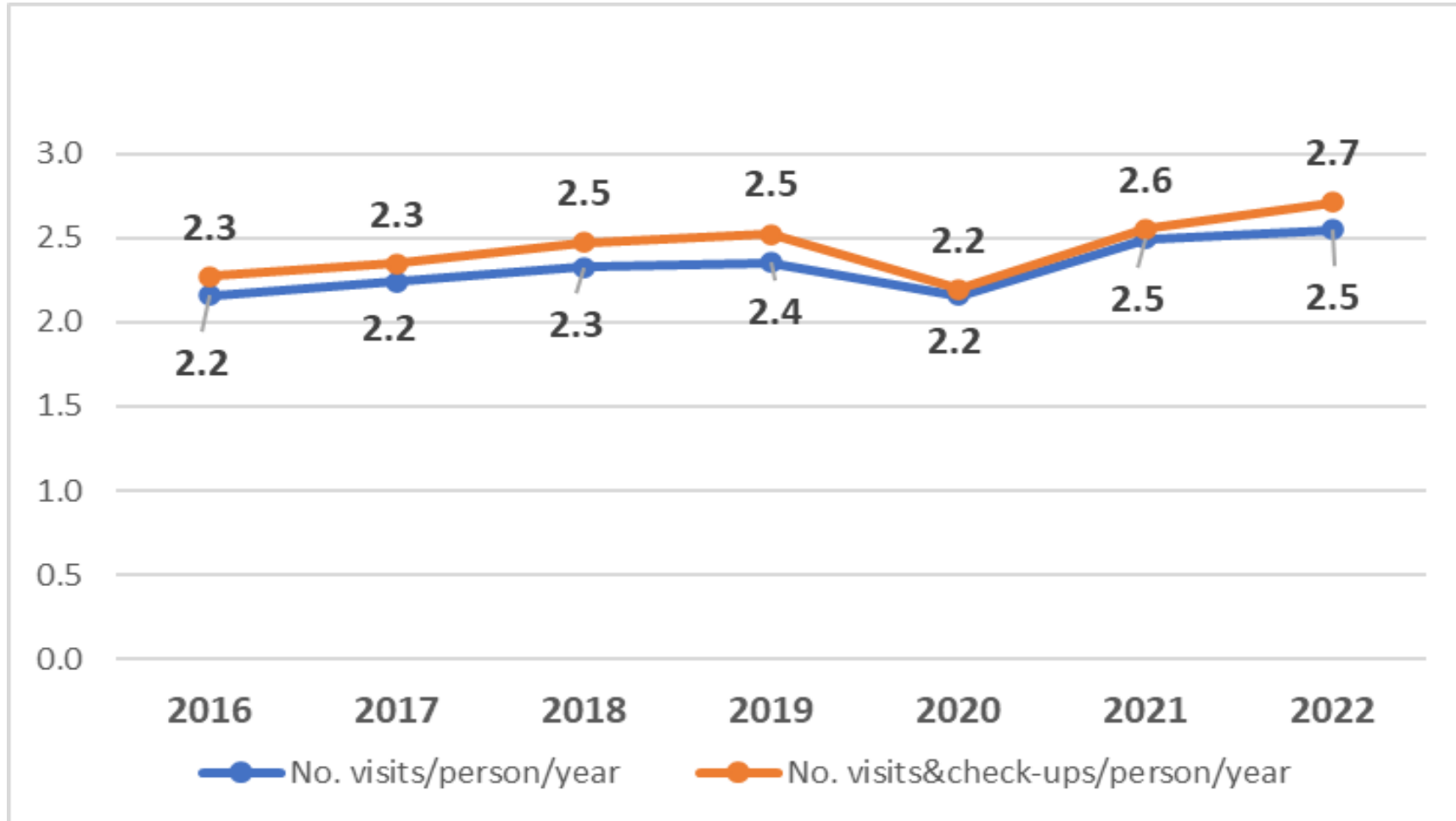
health promotion **quality**

infrastructure **governance**

Total number of PHC visits in Albania



Number of visits/person/year



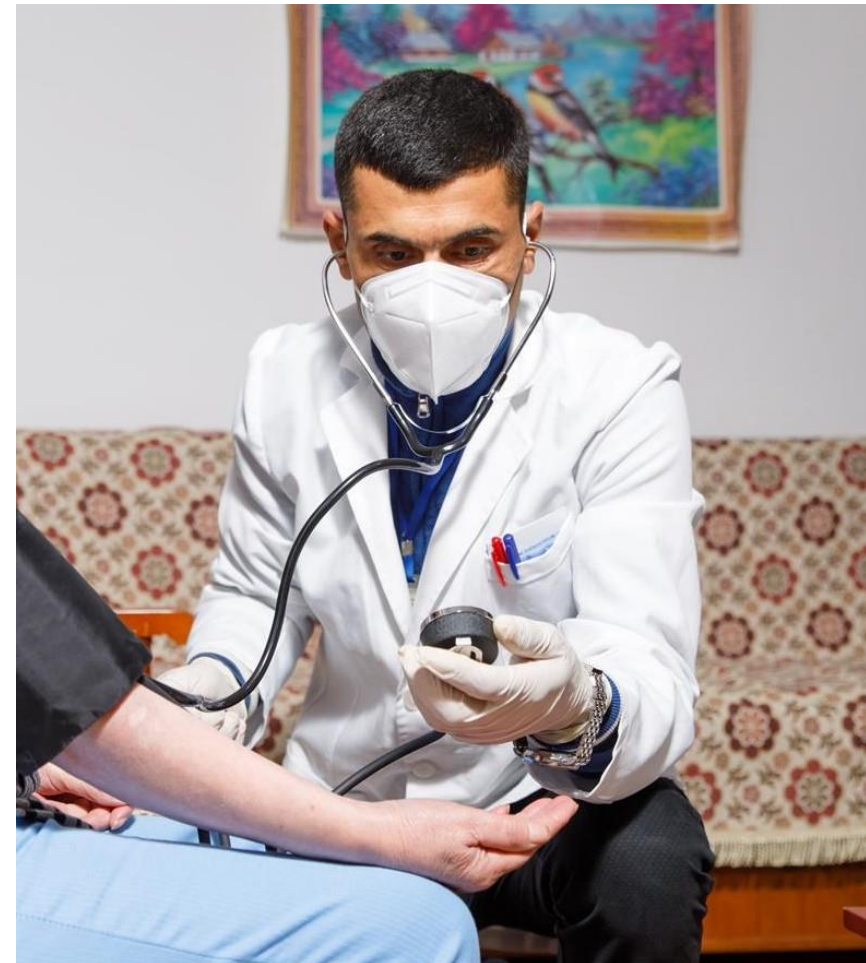
Improve accessibility of services – Home Care

- Support for implementation of home health services
 - Phase of conception
 - Beneficiaries: homebound patients /elderly
 - Service providers: PHC nurses
 - Organization of service
 - Piloting in 9 HC, two regions
 - Present scaling-up: in 49 HC in 6 regions with political support
- Advantages of home care



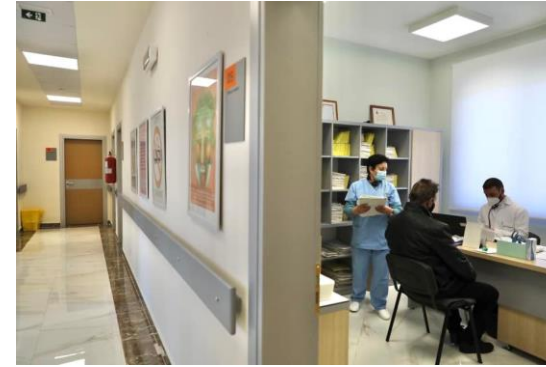
Implementation of home care services

- Nr of beneficiaries: 1308 patients in the catchment areas of 31 HC (by July 2023)
- Number of visits: 4779 home visits (Oct. 2022-July 2023)
- 375 nurses trained in nursing clinical procedures
- Difficulties and challenges:
 - Cultural change from passive to proactive attitude of health personnel; motivation
 - Multi-level training : clinical procedures, use of IT, complete clinical files, planning of visits, team-work etc.
 - More resources needed - money, drugs, transport, equipment
 - Leadership of local health authorities
- Next steps in this process; By 2027, HAP will support about 100 HC that will be capacitated to provide home care.



Dimensions of quality of PHC and HAP interventions

- Improve management of patients through Standard treatment Guidelines and Protocols
- Enhance the skills and technical capacities of PHC personnel
- Improve the working conditions; infrastructure and equipment
- Strengthen the role and autonomy of nurses in PHC
- Improve the teamwork in PHC
- Support the policy-making process



PHC in Albania – contribution of HAP

- Strategy for Development of PHC in Albania, 2020-2025
- Support improvement of the quality of PHC services
 - Elaboration and implementation of NCD guidelines and protocols (diabetes type 2, hypertension, asthma, dyslipidemias, COPD)
 - Guidelines for care of Elderly people in PHC
 - Guidelines for Management of Mental Health Disorders in PHC
 - Manual of Health Education with a focus on NCDs
 - Manual of Health Education for Elderly patients in PHC

Support for Continuing Education on guidelines and protocols (2019-2023)



- Peer Groups
 - 196 PGs, with the participation of 370 family physicians and 1688 nurses
 - 77 PGs with focus on NCD protocols - 318 family physicians and 1205 nurses
- In addition, 309 family physicians and 505 nurses trained by HAP as trainers
- 133 health professionals trained on monitoring of the protocol implementation

Assessment of the Quality of Care through the physician-patient interactions

1

QoC 2015 survey

Patients with Diabetes type II

Asks questions 24%
Conducts examinations 11%
Advises/explains/instructs 25%

Patients with hypertension

Asks questions 24%
Conducts examinations 18%
Advises/explains/instructs 38%

2

QoC 2018 survey

Patients with Diabetes type II

Asks questions 39%
Conducts examinations 22%
Advises/explains/instructs 52%

Patients with hypertension

Asks questions 46%
Conducts examinations 24%
Advises/explains/instructs 60%

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QoC 2022 survey

Patients with Diabetes type II

Asks questions 47%
Conducts examinations 27%
Advises/explains/instructs 55%

Patients with hypertension

Asks questions 51%
Conducts examinations 28%
Advises/explains/instructs 55%

Infrastructure rehabilitation and equipment supply

- HC rehabilitation and furniture supply
 - 17 buildings renovated in 2015-2019
 - 12 building renovated in 2019-2023
 - 3 new HC built after the earthquake of 2019
- Individual diagnostic equipment for physicians
 - 224 medical sets in 2015-2019
 - 375 sets in 2019-2023
- Individual diagnostic/care equipment for nurses
 - 1181 nurse sets (2018)
 - 601 set for nurses (2019-2023)





Thank you!