

ulation was proposed by the MSF team, while the municipal authorities took care of the building and renovation plans and covered the bulk of the expenses with MSF contributing approximately 10% of the funds and supervising the construction. In the fall of 2000 MSF provided funds for finishing the exterior of the building and renovating the yard.

It also took care of the procedures for registering and certifying the primary healthcare unit with the legal assistance of the Regional Healthcare Center. The new primary healthcare unit has two consulting offices, one manipulations room, a social consultations office, a waiting room, two storage rooms and three bathrooms. The total area of the facility is 90 square meters.

All necessary first aid medicines for the unit were purchased by MSF to ensure a smooth start of the new healthcare establishment.

The hospital in Turgovishte and the local polyclinic provided furniture and some medical equipment to the new healthcare unit, while MSF paid for its refurbishing and purchased an electrocardiograph, an otoscope, an ophthalmoscope, a respirator, some surgical instruments, and other consumables.

Upon a request by the MSF team, the polyclinic sent three doctors and two nurses who together with an MSF pediatrician served patients from February to April 2000. Their salaries, except for the pediatrician, were covered by the polyclinic.

Three months after its opening the new primary healthcare unit attracted three young doctors who have established a group medical practice. In April they started working for free to get acquainted with the inhabitants of the neighborhood and win their confidence. In June they signed a contract with the National Health Insurance Fund and began working as general practitioners in the neighborhood. Most of the people in the Roma community chose them to be their family physicians, which creates conditions for continuing the project in the future.

The table below illustrates the activity of the primary health unit for May 2000.

<i>Diagnosis</i>	<i>0–11 months</i>	<i>1–4 years</i>	<i>4–17 years</i>	<i>18–35 years</i>	<i>35–65 years</i>	<i>above 65 years</i>	<i>Total number of patients</i>
Respiratory infections of the upper respiratory tract	29	46	83	5	17	1	181
Respiratory infections of the lower respiratory tract	4	17	23	7	9	3	63
Hypertonia				11	54	37	102
Viral respiratory infections	2	7	21	6	1		37
Otitis		6	3				9
Stomach and intestinal diseases			4	5	4		13