

VISIT REPORT

OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT FROM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE- CCM ALBANIA

Place visit: PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORY, DURRES

Oversight visit to the Public Health Directorate in Durres city

Date of visit: April 21, 2017

Members of the CCM Oversight Committee:

Merit Jazexhiu

Klevis Hoxhaj

Skender Fifo

Responsible for Planning and Reporting; Merit Jazexhiu

The present DSD staff in Durres; Dr. Mite Oshtruni, specialist doctor at this Regional Directorate

RAISED ISSUES:

1. Kits and reagents

At the PHD premises in Durrës there was a testing center for HIV and IST at the Directorate of Public Health. Starting from September last year, the tests were directed and carried out near the Durrës Regional Hospital. During this year they had conducted 20 HIV tests for pregnant women. There were a large number of private clinics offering HIV counseling and testing services in this city. It was reported that the city's polyclinics had no information on the existence and functioning of VCT in this city. While, was reported that they were satisfied with the number of tests offered compared to the previous year.

The number of tests should have been greater but there was no awareness and information campaign about them.

In addition to the provision of rapid tests for HIV, were informed that there no shortages in kits and they were a special item in the budget of the Directorate which also provided their purchase in the right quantities.

The conditions and facilities were good and cozy, offering hospitality to citizens who were headed for services raised by DPH of Durrës.

Regarding tuberculosis testing, there were regular follow-ups and documentation. New cases with Tuberculosis have been reported.

According to the information received, no problems were reported regarding the communication with the HIV VCT Center in this prefecture, as the communication between them was very good and there was a common working spirit.

Also test is offering for persons who conducted documentary testing for the Embassy, as well as documented testing for the new recruits of the Armed Forces.

There was a chance to increase the number of tests but expected funding and support for this.

Equipment Issues & I & E Materials:

PHD staff in Durrës had a wide activity in the field of promotion and awareness. What is noteworthy in this survey is awareness raising and promotion especially for city schools, health centers in the surrounding communities, as well as for testing pregnant women as a result of awareness campaigns, while some of them had planned Volunteering for HIV testing.

Since 2012, no information and education material has been available for DPS. On the part of the IPH with the completion of the implementation of the Global Fund Project and its financial support no information or promotional material was made available to this center even though the requests were ongoing

The procurement procedure for the rapid HIV testing is the same with all other medical equipment of the Microbiology Laboratory.

Inclusion and partnerships

The staff of DPH Durrës, according to the information provided was very well involved in the activities between the Department of Public Health University of Durres and had very good relations, communication and cooperation with this institution.

The Center also had contacts with the community of HIV positive people from this city and worked individually with them mainly in the provision of psychological support. The problem remained their involvement in activities due to stigma and discrimination.

They had very good cooperation in areas of awareness, information and visibility in promoting their work in local media, including local radio and television.

There was no cooperation with the Military Departments, while reporting a very good cooperation in information and awareness with the areas of the suburbs of the city where there was a concentration of populations from the northern areas of the country.

Problems identified

Lack of information and education materials,

Lack of other donors' funding,

Provide testing for healthcare staff at least one per year as the rapid tests for this category are lacking.