

## REPORT

### Oversight visit at the VCT of Durrës

Date: 6 of June 2017

Members of the Oversight Committee of CCM's responsibilities:

Skender Fifo

Klevis Hoxhaj

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Responsible person on planning and reporting; Skender Fifo

Staff of Durres's VCT:

Psychologist

Social Worker

Specialized laboratory

#### Issues raised:

##### 1. Kits and reagents

The VCT Durres is well located at the Regional Directory of Public Health. They were well accommodated with adequate facilities and confirming a positive impact and trustworthy, credible. Number of rapid HIV tests was relatively well in comparison with other VCT observed. Throughout the year 2014 it was performed 113 tests for HIV, including 32 women and 81 men. During 2015 it is offered and conducted 270 tests for HIV divided; 128 females and 142 males. In 2016 are conducted 551 tests; divided by gender; 394 men 157 women. For the 2017 from the beginning of the year so far are performed 239 tests; divided by gender; 148 men 89 women.

The needs for rapid test always be met on the basis of requirements that had to. Proximity to Tirana facilitate addresses cases to be tested for specific cases or problems with stigma. The VCT are detected three positive cases, persons presented for immigration reasons documentation in US of America. Providing kits done by the Public Health Directory at Durrës city and is part of the Budget of Microbiology Laboratory, which plans a number of tests to meet the needs of rapid tests for this VCT Center for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis. At the VCT are available the regular supply with condoms and their distribution.

The VCT also offered testing for hepatitis and syphilis. Enhanced reported positive cases of syphilis detected belonging mostly rural areas. Regarding HIV testing to pregnant women, they were not informed and were not large numbers from this target group. This center also provide testing

documentation for the Embassy, as well as documented also offered testing for new recruits of the Armed Forces and the right for documentation result of HIV test. Composition of VCT is: psychologist, social worker and a laboratory technician. They seem to have the capacity to perform good services, and the work environment is motivating them. There is a shortage of labor and the promotion of testing, especially in the surrounding districts. Their work is not only limited in their office but also collaboration with other health centers and private clinics.

Providing kits is done by the Department of Public Health as part of the Durres Budget Microbiology Laboratory, which plans to cover tests The VCT needs for rapid tests for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis are completely in accordance with their needs. The VCT provide supply regular condoms and their distribution.

### **2. Equipment and materials issues I & E:**

The staff of Durres VCT had an increased activity and programmed in the field of promotion and awareness for HIV and STI testing. Due to geographical proximity in this district, often anonymously customers go for their turn to be tested in Tirana. It is noted in this observation is to raise awareness and promote in particular in city schools, at the City University especially intensify activities for 1 December's Day, in the health centers of the surrounding communities, as well as the testing of pregnant women as a result of awareness campaigns, and some of them had planned voluntary HIV testing. All activities of the center were very well documented. Since 2012 informational and educational material are not available to VCT. By IPH any informational or promotional material was not made available to the center even though the requirements have been ongoing

During last year's are growing investment by the Durres DPH in equipment and logistics. The problem remains the lack of contacts with other regional centers involved in this region (Shijak, Kruje, Sukth, the area of the former Marsh which is totally uncompleted with such services etc.) where the lack of funds create gaps in logistics continuous activity.

From some observations are identify an increasing threat to the sexual health of residents population, and persons abroad but as yet little attention has been paid to developing interventions that might reduce sexual risk taking among people holidaying in Durres area. Having sex, having unprotected sex, and having sex with more than one person during summer holidays were all positively associated with having higher numbers of partners. Thus, those most likely to contract HIV and other STIs due to multiple sexual partners and therefore, potentially best placed to transmit and spread HIV and STIs. This relation between sex of local population and persons abroad emphasizes the importance of initiatives to promote safe sex on holidays and ensure that I&E materials, condoms and lubricants should be easily available throughout border, resorts and coast line.

### **3. Involvement and partnerships**

The VCT's Durres staff was involved in the activities of the Directory of Public Health in the activities of the Municipality as well as other activities organized by various donors, and communication and cooperation relations have very good relations with these institutions.

Regarding promotions and awareness activities with risk groups, youth, pregnant women, and this year there is no progress in increasing awareness and information on HIV and STIs. Contacts with risk groups were not very good, and had poor cooperation with other organizations in outreach activities of these groups and providing testing. Local Organizations do not carry around a lot of activities focusing on this area. Has been reported a slight increase in the number of HIV tests for pregnant women. Have visibility to promote their work as well as awareness and information in local newspaper media, but not in visual media like radio and local television. Noted the lack of support and understanding and promote testing among key populations. While promotional activities in schools, universities, health centers and other public institutions show a willingness to work and collaborate. Also are referred cooperation and good contacts with many private clinics in Durres which are numerous.

#### **4. Problems identified**

- Lack of information and educational materials,
- Lack of funds for promotion and community activities especially in the rural area.
- Their work was limited to the city and the surrounding and they started the need to perform info sessions with youth and health providers in rural areas.
- There is a lack of support and understanding of field work and promotion of testing among key populations. While promotional activities in high schools, universities, health centers and other public entities are well received, there is a lack of support work within vulnerable communities (outside the VCT Center).
- Lack of intervention plan during the summer holidays with migrant population and high levels of sexual activity. From some observations are identified levels of homosexual sex and sexual interactions between residents and individuals from other countries, especially unprotected sex with people they meet. Action to protect the sexual health of local population is urgently needed and requires investment from local health services, policy development at regional and national levels, and collaborative working with travel agencies.