

# OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT

OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT FROM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE - CCM ALBANIA

**Place visit: PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORY, ELBASAN**

Oversight visit to the Public Health Department in Elbasan city

**Date of visit:** 10 of February 2017

Members of the Albanian CCM Oversight Committee:

1. Merita Jazexhiu
2. Kevis Hoxhaj
3. Skender Fifo

Responsible for Planning and Reporting; Merita Jazexhiu

The present DPH staff in Elbasan Epidemiologist at this Regional Directorate

## **RAISED ISSUES:**

### **1. Kits and reagents**

At the DPH premises of Elbasan as in every DPH in 12 Prefectures of Albania there was a HIV testing center. From the present staff were informed that in this Regional Directorate of Public Health was a special representative who coordinated the work activities, and partnerships with the VCT Center for HIV testing.

In addition, also cooperated with Elbasan's Councilors of the city mother and child in informing and educating pregnant women on HIV testing and in providing HIV testing for this target group.

In this DPH at the testing center were also offered Hepatitis and Syphilis tests.

As for the provision of the HIV kit, we were informed that they were a special item in the budget of the Directorate which also provided them with the right amount. The conditions and facilities were good and comfortable, offering hospitality to the citizens who were headed for services raised by the DFS of Elbasan. In general we can say that from observations of the monitoring group it was argued that the

Elbasan Public Health Directorate observed a better condition of the facilities and equipment in comparison with the other visited Regional DPH-s.

There were also persons who conducted documentary testing for the Embassy, as well as documented testing for the new recruits of the Armed Forces.

It was reported that awareness raising campaigns in rural areas were conducted for testing in pregnant women. As a result of the campaigns undertaken and work with these communities, pregnant women targeted HIV testing mainly in the sixth or seventh month of pregnancy.

### **Equipment Issues & I & E Materials:**

The DPH staff in Elbasan had a wide-ranging activity in the field of promotion and awareness. What is noticed in this survey is awareness raising and promotion in particular for city schools, health centers in the surrounding communes, as well as in the testing of pregnant women as a result of awareness campaigns and some interventions carried out with project implementation supported by UNAIDS, while some of them volunteered presented for HIV testing.

Since 2012, no information and education material has been made available to DPH. 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 testing kit for HIV is the same as all the other medical equipment of the Microbiology Laboratory operating at this regional directorate.

### **Inclusion and partnerships**

Elbasan's DPH staff according to the information provided was very well involved in the activities between the Department of Public Health and Elbasan's University and had very good relations, communication and cooperation with these institutions.

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

### **Problems Identified and issues for discussion**

Lack of information and education materials;

Provide testing to healthcare staff at least once a year for this category.

The situation of voluntary testing remains problematic due to lack of funding.

The problem remains the lack of funds to cover the awareness, training and provision of testing activities in other areas covered by this Regional Directorate as; Labinot, Librazhd, Prenjas, Cërrrik, Belsh, Peqin, Gramsh etc.