

REPORT

Oversight visit at the VCT of KORÇË

Date: 23 of June, 2017

Members of the Oversight Committee of CCM's responsibilities:

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Responsible person on planning and reporting; Skender Fifo

Staff of Korça's VCT:

Psychologist

Social Worker

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Issues raised:

1. Kits and reagents

The VCT Center facilities were good and comfortable offering hospitality to the citizens who were run for services raised by VCT's city of Korça

Every device provided with GF funding was in its place, and the center structure was disciplined. The number of fast HIV tests offered last year was very low. During 2017 even though there were cases of counseling and testing incomes, advice was offered as probability of testing was almost zero during the last 8 months, failing to meet all of their needs.

In this VCT Center were also offered Hepatitis and syphilis tests, and reported positive cases of Hepatitis in pregnant women, which were directed there as part of the follow-up protocol during pregnancy. As for HIV testing in pregnant women, there were a limited number of cases from this target group targeting HIV testing. There were many contacts with the Roma community, and activities focused on sensitization in this community and provision of HIV and other STI testing.

This center also provided documentation testing for the Embassy, and was provided with a licensed form that was known as an official document. Also documented testing was provided for the new recruits of the Armed Forces and the right of documentation for the HIV test result was also recognized.

Provision of the kit should be made by the Public Health Directorate in Korça as part of the Microbiology Laboratory Budget, which was to plan a number of tests to cover the VCT Center needs for rapid HIV, syphilis and hepatitis tests. Due to delays in purchasing procedures as well as budget planning for these costs, they were unable to provide quick kits for testing in this VCT Center, which resulted in a large amount of wasted effort and meeting the needs of the local community.

2. Equipment and materials issues I & E:

The VCT staff in Korça had a wide-ranging activity in the field of promotion and awareness. What is noticed in this survey is awareness raising and promotion especially for city schools, universities in this city, and health centers of neighboring communes.

All the activities of the center were very well documented. Since 2012, no information and education material has been available for the VCT HIV Center.

On the part of the IPH 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 with all other medical equipment of the Microbiology Laboratory.

VCT Center facilities were well equipped and maintained equipment compared to other monitored VCT-s centers.

3. Involvement and partnerships

Korça VCT Centers' staffs according to the information provided were very well involved in the activities of the Directorate of Public Health, in the activities of the Municipality and had very good relations and communication with these institutions, local government, donors and the Association. In the city of Korça, the Network with Associates working in the field of HIV / AIDS with local reaches in cooperation with the Directorate of Public Health of this city.

As regards awareness-raising campaigns and awareness-raising activities with risk groups, young people, pregnant women and the Roma community this year have made a step forward in raising awareness and information on HIV and SST. The aim was to raise awareness among service centers for pregnant women for introducing HIV testing into the basic package of services during pregnancy. There was also cooperation with the University of Korça.

They had visibility in promoting their work as well as in awareness and information in local media, including local radio and television.

The very close cooperation with private clinics operating in this town was reported, especially with two of them reporting suspected cases and the number of tests they provided.

They were also reported due to the funding sources for expanding their activities even in the suburbs of the city and in the surrounding areas such as Devoll, Maliq, Bilisht, Prespa and others.

4. Problems identified

- Lack of rapid tests for the HIV testing.
- Lack of information and education materials.
- Lack of alignment of responsible, informative and testing activities in other areas of the city. 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.
- Lack of financial means for covering their activities and expanding them.