

REPORT

Oversight visit at the VCT of Gjirokaštër

Date: 18 of November 2016

Members of the Oversight Committee of CCM's Albania responsibilities:

Skender Fifo

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Responsible person on planning and reporting; Skender Fifo

Staff of Gjirokaštër's VCT:

Psychologist

Social Worker

Specialized laboratory

Issues raised:

1. Kits and reagents

The VCT Gjirokaštër is well located at a very nice place and building established on 2014. 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. During 2015 it is offered and conducted 84 tests for HIV divided; 67 females and 17 males. In 2016 from the beginning of the year so far conducted 150 from which one of the cases result HIV positive.

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 America. Providing kits done by the Public Health Directorate at Gjirokaštër 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 Gjirokastër VCT had an increased activity and programmed in the field of promotion and awareness for HIV and STI-s testing. 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 2014, date of establishment, informational and educational materials are not available to VCT. By IPH was not made available any informational or promotional material to the center even though the requirements have been ongoing

During last years are growing investment by the Gjirokastër DPH in equipment and logistics. The problem remains the lack of contacts with other regional centers involved in this region (Tepelenë, Përmet, Dropull etc.) where the lack of funds create gaps in logistics continuous activity.

3. Involvement and partnerships

The VCT's Gjirokastër 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 Gjirokastër, 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.

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- 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.