

VISIT REPORT

OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT FROM CCM ALBANIA VCT CENTER FOR HIV IN SHKODRA CITY

Date of visit: March 17, 2017

Members of the CCM Oversight Committee:

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The staff from the QKTV of HIV in Shkoder

Psychology: Missing Laloshi

Social worker: Elizabeth Shytani

Laboratory specialist: Klodjana Mrinaj

Chief of Service Dr. Artan Mesi

RAISED ISSUES:

1. Kits and reagents

VCT Center facilities were good and comfortable offering hospitality for citizens who were headed for services raised by PHD of Shkoder

Every device provided with FG funding was in its place, and the center structure was disciplined. The number of fastest HIV tests is very low. Throughout the year 2015, a total of 260 rapid HIV tests were offered and performed, of which 126 in women and 94 in males. The largest numbers of tests conducted during 2015 with 695 recorded cases were noted. The number of counseling and testing people was bigger, but the available test scores did not cover all the needs.

During 2016, during this VCT, during the period January-June, 300 HIV tests were performed, of which 148 tests were performed in women and 52 in men. Rapid tests needs were met on the basis of their requests.

During the year 2017, during the period January-April, 54 HIV tests were offered; And 41 tests for Syphilis; 41 tests for hepatitis.

In this VCT Center were also offered hepatitis and syphilis tests, and reported positive cases of Hepatitis in pregnant women, who were referred to as part of the follow-up protocol during pregnancy. As for HIV testing among pregnant women, there were large numbers of this target group offering HIV testing. In the framework of the support provided by a UNDP project focusing on awareness, information and delivery of testing for pregnant women, a great deal of work was done providing testing for all pregnant women headed to the Center. 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.

As reported to the group of injecting drug users, numerous cases reported with Syphilis were reported.

The rapid tests was provided by the Directorate of Public Health in Shkoder and is part of the Microbiology Laboratory Budget, which plans a number of tests to cover the VCT needs for rapid HIV, syphilis and hepatitis tests as well as support for the offered kits In the framework of implementing the Project with UNDP and YWCA.

Equipment Issues & I & E Materials:

VCT Center staff in Shkoder had a wide activity in the field of promotion and awareness. Because of the high level of stigma and discrimination, clients often maintained their anonymity of testing going to Tirana. 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 testing of pregnant women as a result of awareness campaigns, while some of them had planned Volunteering for HIV testing.

All the activities of the center were very well documented. Since 2012 no informative and educational material has been made available to the VCT Center for HIV.

On the part of the IPH no information or promotional material was made available to this center although the requests were continuous

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

QKTV facilities were well equipped and maintained equipment compared to other monitored QKTV centers.

Inclusion and partnerships

Shkoder's VCT staff according to the information provided were very well involved at the activities of the Directorate of Public Health, in the activities of the Municipality as well as in other activities organized by various donors such as UNDP and YWCA Association, and had many relations and communication Good with these institutions, local government, donors and the Association.

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. There was a significant increase in the number of HIV testing in pregnant women. And also, aimed that testing on HIV for pregnant women should be inclusion in the basic service package during pregnancy. There was also cooperation with the University of Shkoder as well as activities with schools in Malesia e Madhe.

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

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

Identified problems for informational and educational materials,

During the summer period were informed that there is a network of MSMs that go to the border crossing point of Montenegro, Ulqin area for prostitution exercise mainly in hotels in the coastal tourist area. VCT Center had information and contacts with members of this group. Most of them belonged to the categories of poor people with limited financial resources.