

VISIT REPORT

OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT FROM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OF ALBANIAN CCM

Oversight visit to the Public Health Directorate and VCT Center at the Tirana city

Dates of visits: 14 July, 2017 VCT Center

: July 27, 2017 DPH

Members of the CCM Oversight Committee:

Liliana Dango

Adriana Hala

Merit Jazexhiu

Responsible for Planning and Reporting; Merita Jazexhiu; Liliana Dango

Center staff:

Psychology; The chemist and laboratory technician,

RAISED ISSUES:

1. Kits and reagents

At Tirana DPH premises, operates the HIV testing center for the city of Tirana. From the present staff we were informed that this Regional Directorate of Public Health was a special representative who co-ordinate the activities, activities and partnerships with the HIV VCT Center in Tirana.

There was also cooperation with the city's Consultant's Center for mother and child on the awareness of pregnant women on HIV testing as well as the provision of HIV testing in this target group.

In this DPH and VCT center were also offered hepatitis B and C tests and syphilis.

The number of tests performed is reported in the Table below:

Nr. Tests carried out, Year 2016 and Year 2017:

No.	Tests Performed	Year 2016	Year 2017
1.	HIV	1590	2593
2.	Hepatitis B	1822	2492
3.	Hepatitis C	1293	1642
4.	Syphilis	801	1712

As for the provision of the HIV kits, we were informed that they were a special item in the budget of the Directorate, which also provided them with the right amount.

The examinations were made in accordance with the rules and at the same time the referral system worked very well.

The conditions and facilities were good and comfortable offering hospitality to the citizens who were headed for services raised by the DPH of Tirana City.

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

Equipment Issues and I & E Materials:

The staff of the Center for VCT and DPH in Tirana had a wide activity in the field of promotion and awareness. What is noteworthy in this survey is awareness raising and promotion in particular for city schools, health centers in the surrounding communities, as well as in the testing of pregnant women as a result of awareness campaigns, while some of them had planned volunteering for HIV testing.

Since 2012, no information and education material has been made available to DFS. 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

The staff of VCT Center and DPH of Tirana, according to the information provided was very well involved in activities with public and private universities and had very good relations, communication and cooperation with these institutions.

The Center also had contacts with the community of HIV positive people from this city and worked individually with them mainly in the provision of psychological support. Also mentioned were the problematic cases due to the detection of their HIV positive status

They had very good cooperation in the areas of awareness, information and visibility in promoting their work in the media, including radio and television even though the activities were not systematic.

Problems identified and issues for discussion

Lack of information and education materials;

Deficiencies in special containers for waste collection;

Provide testing for healthcare staff at least one per year as there are no rapid tests for this category;

The situation of awareness and provision of voluntary testing in rural areas remains problematic due to lack of funding.