

## Oversight visit in Berat

Date of the visit: 23 - 24 December 2014

Oversight committee members:

Skender Fifo

Donika Godaj

Present staff from VCT:

Psychologists

Social worker

Lab specialist

Issues raised:

Kits, reagent, IEC materials, promotion activities:

*There is stated lack of kits for HIV, Hep. C and Syphilis (need more) and also there is sometimes lack of needles, gloves, alcohol etc.*

*IEC materials were not provided at all but they were able to produce with their own personal expenses some leaflet for the WAD campaign. There is lack of funds dedicated to promotion materials at regional level. The cost of transport also is lower and does not allow promoting testing outside the city area. The staff has been working with high schools of the city of Berat in cooperation with promotion office.*

*The staff also stated the lack of any other donor apart of health budget during the year.*

Facility issues:

*The staff of the VCT raised the issue of the work conditions. The maintenance of the center is low and the VCT do not fulfill anyhow the friendly environment for clients. This is, as they stated, cause of limited funds available.*

Training of the VCT staff is lacking:

*One of the key elements of a efficient VCT is the quality of services provided which they feel should be hand in hand with the continuous capacity building of the staff. Trainings are missing and sometimes are offered to friends within the department and not the appropriate staff. There is a need to establish a training schedule for VCT staff*

Support to promote testing among key populations and support the outreach work with vulnerable communities:

*There is lack of support and understanding of the outreach work and promotion of testing among key populations. While promotion activities at high schools, health centers and other public entities is welcomed by head of departments, there is a lack of goodwill to work with vulnerable communities.*

Involvement of partners and key officials:

*The cooperation with partners is very low. There is a lack of will to collaborate and there are a limited number of people that show up in our activities.*

Issues identified:

*The composition of the VCT is: Psychologist, social worker and lab technician. They seem to have the capacities to perform good services but the environment they work in is not motivating them. There is a lack of outreach work and promotion of the testing. Their work is limited to their own office and lack the cooperation with other health or antenatal centers. The epidemiologist of the department of health in Berat plays more of a supervision role than collaboration.*

*The partnership with NGOs in Berat is limited. Although there is a number of NGOs especially Roma NGOs that work quite well even in the health sector.*