

Georgia Country Coordinating Mechanism

Oversight Committee

Site visit to AIDS Center

December 26, 2014

David Ananiashvili – Chair of the Oversight Committee;

Lasha Tvaliashvili – Real People, Real Vision, Director, member of OC

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM Administrative Assistant

Ekaterine Ruadze – NCDC, PIU, M&E Manager, GF HIV project

Nikoloz Chkhartishvili – Deputy Executive Director, Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center

Akaki Abutidze – AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, sub-manager

Fati Gabunia – AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center

Nino Gedenidze – Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center; sub-manager

Purpose of the visit:

Assessment of the current status of implementation of GFATM funded GEO-H-NCDC program

Comment:

Analysis of the implementation period covering July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014 revealed the following:

1. Non-sufficient number of patients receiving Hepatitis C treatment among HIV positive patients;

The study of the reasons or factors contributing to emergence of afore-mentioned bottlenecks has a paramount importance

The objectives of the visit:

1. Study the reasons for decreased number of HIV patients receiving Hepatitis C treatment;
2. Review of the challenges in the sphere of drug supply management. The optimal mechanism and procedure for procurement of 1st line TB drugs
3. Discuss the optimal mode of cooperation with the PR
4. Agree on the most optimal format of cooperation between AIDS Center and CCM

Methodology:

- Discussion with the Project Implementation staff (1-2 persons); The topics of discussion: existing challenges, mechanism of improvement

David Ananiashvili presented the main purpose of the visit and focused on the challenge revealed by the dashboard concerning the following indicator: Number of patients with HIV co-infection receiving Hep C treatment (target – 110, achieved – 72). The recommendation issued by the OC is to follow up with PR on how to improve Hep C treatment indicator. The decision made by the CCM is to conduct consultative meeting with PR and AIDS Center. Thus this issue was identified as the most priority during site visit.

Nikoloz Chkhartishvili outlined the following reasons for low indicator: challenges of transition period from outgoing to new PR and related to it delay in procurement, the enrolment was slowed down to prevent possible interruption of the treatment of those who already were on treatment; the part of the patients refused to receive the treatment in anticipation of the availability of Sofosbuvir within the framework of hepatitis C elimination program. Besides, the patients are given distorted vision regarding side effects of the drugs from already cured patients. Mr. Chkhartishvili underlined that maximum of efforts is done for improving the indicator. The mobilization of the patients who were not enrolled in summer is in active phase; additionally 25 eligible patients from Abkhazia were involved. On the top of it all patients are given detailed explanation regarding importance of starting/continuing treatment. Besides the start date, enrolment criteria and other important details of the planned Hep C elimination program are not specified yet. Mr. Chkhartishvili underlined that enrolment in the treatment program represents the right of the patient. Despite all efforts made by the AIDS Center team the referral rate from patients still remains low. It is highly unlikely that 100% of the indicator will be achieved. The realistic scenario is to achieve 90% of the indicator.

David Ananiashvili proposed to support mobilization of the patients through NGO Sector. The patients could be involved as peer educators after receiving consultations from AIDS staff. Mr. Tvaliashvili expressed his interest and willingness to participate in awareness raising campaign.

The involvement of NGO sector and Peer educators were agreed by the attendees.

Mr. Chkhartishvili noted that launch of the Hepatitis C Elimination Program will affect the performance of achieving the target and the need to revisit the indicator might occur. The communication with the GFATM will be held on this regards.

The mechanisms for procurement of 1st line drugs were discussed. It was noted that at the first stage VPP mechanism can be used. Other options should be given due consideration on the later stages. The reasonable price and quality of the drugs should be ensured.

Conclusion.

The attendees agreed on the following:

The involvement of NGO sector and Peer educators for mobilization of the patients and raising awareness among them

David Ananiashvili

Chair of the Oversight Committee

Irina Grdzeldze

Executive Secretary