

Georgia Country Coordinating Mechanism

Oversight Committee

Site visit to HIV Patient Support Foundation (PSF)

February 18 , 2015

David Ananiashvili – Chair of the Oversight Committee;

Irina Grdzelidze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Izoleta Bodokia – PSF Director

Rusudan Khachidze –PSF, Finance Manager

Nana Rukhadze – PSF, Consultant

HIV positive patient

Purpose of the visit:

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

The objectives of the visit:

1. Review of the challenges in process of the grant implementation
2. Discuss the optimal mode of cooperation with the PR
3. Agree on the most optimal format of cooperation between PSF and CCM

Methodology:

- Discussion with the Project Implementation staff (1-2 persons) regarding existing challenges in the process of the grant implementation as well as discussion on ways and mechanism of improvement
- Interview with service receiver-patient

David Ananiashvili presented the purpose of the visit and main features of the oversight to identify the gaps in the process of the grant implementation. Mr. Ananiashvili highlighted that OC can support grant implementers in finding optimal solution for problem solving during such monitoring visits.

Izoleta Bodokia mentioned that the organization provides Patients' supportive services in Tbilisi and in Western part of Georgia: Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Batumi. All planned project activities are

implemented in 4 regions according to the set timeline. The organization conducts coordination meetings among 4 service centers staff semi-annually for information sharing and for future planning. During such meetings main problems are identified, thoroughly discussed and future steps for improvement are developed.

Ms Bodokia mentioned that PSF has very precise system for registering of the reached beneficiaries, several cross-checks are done in order to avoid double counting of the beneficiaries. The final version of the database is submitted to the GF.

Low level of beneficiaries' involvement from Eastern part of Georgia has been highlighted as one of the gap by Izoleta Bodokia, due to non-existence of the service on place. In addition to this she noted that patients from different regions are not able to receive services locally, that limits the possibility of involvement of the beneficiaries in existing services. As one of the biggest gap for service access for the beneficiaries, is the financial problem of the patients who cannot afford to travel to Tbilisi or regional centers for getting the medicines on time. This causes the interruption of the treatment of the beneficiaries. David Ananiashvili suggested counting the number of such beneficiaries in order to calculate required budget to cover travel cost for receiving timely treatment. Another solution might be using of post service to transfer medicines from HIV centers to the beneficiaries.

David Ananiashvili asked PSF staff regarding the types of the services they intend to sustain in new project. The staff of the foundation mentioned that they want to keep the practice of PSF's HIV positive consultants visit to AIDS center to conduct council to their peers that is very effective in terms of the beneficiaries' psychological support. In order to continue this initiative the consultants will need financial support to cover their transportation as well as cover communication costs.

David Ananiashvili asked the staff if they need any kind of capacity building in order to improve their performance and to keep services sustainable in new project and after finalization of GF programming.

The following areas were mentioned by the staff:

- Proposal writing
- Fundraising
- Training in the methodology how to reveal the status to children and to teenagers

David Ananiashvili proposed his consultancy in fundraising during PSF's next coordination meeting.

David asked regarding any challenges in terms of the cooperation with PR. Izoleta Bodokia mentioned that on programmatic level there is a smooth cooperation with the PR.

After meeting with PSF staff the OC had meeting with HIV Positive person. Mr. David Ananiashvili asked the client regarding the quality of the service PSF is providing for them. The client mentioned that he has an opportunity to receive very professional and qualitative service in this organization. Regardless the fact that doctors at the AIDS center are providing consultation as well as proper care, it is still very important for HIV positive person to have support from the people who are also HIV diagnosed. “It is very worm and family environment in this organization, where I can come any time and receive a real support”- mentioned HIV positive person during the meeting. He mentioned that he has an opportunity to be involved in art therapy in PSF, that is very important psychological support for him.

Conclusion.

The attendees agreed on the following:

To count number of the beneficiaries who need funds for transportation in order to get timely treatment;

To identify the terms of the post service, to transfer medicines from AIDS centers to the different regions of Georgia;

To provide technical support in building staffs’ capacity in proposal writing and fundraising

To identify the source for staffs’ training how to reveal HIV status to Children

David Ananiashvili

Chair of the Oversight Committee

Irina Grdzeldze

Executive Secretary

