

**Georgia CCM**

**Field Visit of Oversight Committee to Borjomi Screening Cabinet**

**January 25, 2019**

**The purpose of the visits:** assess the current status of the implementation of GFATM-funded programme.

**Objective of the visits:** discussion of programmatic indicators; identification of challenges and setting up the ways of their addressing.

**Methodology:**

- ✓ To interview staff;
- ✓ To interview the beneficiaries

**Participants:**

Nikoloz Mirzashvili – Patients’ Union, CCM member, OC member

Mamuka Khitarishvili – Social Worker

Mariam Lolijashvili – laboratory worker

Nino Tabuashvili – VCT consultant

David Tinikashvili – Mobile ambulatory driver, social worker

Baadur Tediashvili - Social Worker

Program beneficiaries

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

The meeting participants were one more time provided with detailed information on the purpose and objectives of the visit and the mandate and scope of work of the CCM Oversight Committee.

Borjomi screening Cabinet is located at the premises of former polyclinic. It has 1 room and is functioning under the umbrella of the organization “Step to the Future”. Working days are Tuesday and Friday, from 11:00 to 15:00. 2 outreach workers are working on site, VCT consultant of mobile ambulatory, nurse laboratory worker are coming from Gori office Tuesday and Friday morning and are travelling back to Gori in the evening.

The screening cabinet covers Borjomi, Bakuriani and nearby villages. The cabinet offers all services: testing, consultations, syringes, other supply material. In case of need the beneficiaries of the cabinet are coming to Gori office where they can be enrolled in FIND program, receive fibro scan, ultra scan and consultation of other specialists. Travel expenses are covered by the organization.

Starting from October PDI intervention is executed in the cabinet. For this purpose, the PDI consultant and laboratory worker are travelling from Gori to Borjomi. The staff noted that since PDI can not be performed by the mobile ambulatory it has become possible only with the launching of the cabinet. It was stressed that the initiation of PDI contributed to the increased number of beneficiaries, which is an additional factor proving the importance of the cabinet.

In 2018 the number of tested beneficiaries in the region is equal to 479, out of this 215 were tested in the cabinet. It was noted that 29 Hep C, 1 HIV, 4 Hepatitis B and 4 syphilis cases were detected among tested beneficiaries.

The staff noted that there is no interruption in provision of supply material. The dissatisfaction with regard to the quality of 1 ml syringes was not expressed by the staff as well as by the beneficiaries participating at the meeting. Though the dissatisfaction with regard to the quality of HIV and B tests was expressed.

Both the staff and the beneficiaries stated that it is desirable to continue the functioning of the cabinet, moreover to shift its functioning to full-time basis. The cabinet has ensured increased trust of the beneficiaries and more referral. It also contributed to awareness raising among beneficiaries.

Participating at the meeting 4 beneficiaries expressed their full satisfaction with the services offered by the cabinet. They one more time asked for continuation of its functioning since they have possibility to receive supply material, professional consultations there. They one more time mentioned the professionalism of the staff, reliable and friendly atmosphere of the cabinet.

The beneficiaries highly ranked the fact of opening in Borjomi of methadone substation center. They also noted that they do not have any problems with the police.

Irina Grdzeldze

CCM Executive Secretary