

**Georgia CCM**

**Field Visit of Oversight Committee**

**Rustavi New Vector**

**January 24, 2019**

**The purpose of the visits:** assess the current status of 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

Lasha Abesadze – New Vector, Rustavi Coordinator

Vadim Paniukhin - New Vector, social worker

Lela Panikhina – New Vector, person in charge of stockroom

Alexander Karakov - New Vector, social worker

Irine Gigolashvili - New Vector, VCT consultant

Olga Bauer - New Vector, social worker

Nona Aptsiauri – New Vector, laboratory worker

Andro Broladze - New Vector, social worker

Program Beneficiaries

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

The participants of the meeting 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.

It was noted that the Center has been implementing Global Fund financed Needle and Syringe Exchange project since September 2013 and FIND project since February 2018.

The staff is comprised of 20 people. It consists of administrative personnel, social workers, mobile groups and medical personnel. Mobile ambulatory serving the Center made possible to expand the geographic coverage and accordingly coverage of beneficiaries. Monthly in Rustavi and nearby areas approximately 600-700 beneficiaries are covered, in average 200 beneficiaries are tested. The number of Hepatitis C patients among newly screened patients has decreased recently. In average monthly 30 patients are enrolled in Hep C elimination program through the Center. As of HIV, in 2018, 5 cases of HIV infections were confirmed. It was noted that 50% of the population of Kvemo Kartli is not ethnically Georgian. Though this fact does not create an obstacle to the staff for effective communication with the beneficiaries. The indicator for coverage with testing in 2018 was 94%, the coverage of beneficiaries – 147%. The staff named the fact of existing only one medical center in Kvemo Kartli region providing Hep C treatment as a serious obstacle in terms of ensuring accessibility.

The staff highlighted successful implementation of the project “Provision of Support for Patients with Resistant Tuberculosis to Provide Improvement in Treatment” implemented in partnership with Patients Union and expressed readiness to be actively involved in case of project continuation.

The necessity of existence of substitution therapy Center in Rustavi was specially underlined. The nearest center is located in Tbilisi, which represents an obstacle in terms of receiving services for residents of Rustavi and nearby regions.

Dissatisfaction with the quality of 1 ml syringes was expressed. Due to low quality the quantity of distributed syringes increases which accordingly increases expenditures.

The staff noted that there is no interruption in terms of provision of supply material. Though currently stock of naloxone is depleted. They expect its replenishment in the shortest period of time.

The staff mentioned the effective and timely communication with PR and SRs.

The staff noted that it is desirable to receive the salary at the end of the working month. Currently they receive the salary with one month delay.

Irina Grdzleidze

CCM Executive Secretary