

## Georgia Country Coordinating Mechanism

### Oversight Committee

#### Field visits to Zugdidi and Batumi.

December 16-18, 2015

**Sites visited:** Xenoni (Zugdidi), Tanadgoma (Zugdidi), AIDS Center (Zugdidi), Infectious Diseases, AIDS and TB Regional Centre (Batumi), Imedi (Batumi), Center of Narcology (Batumi), Tanadgoma (Batumi), HIV/AIDS Patients Support Foundation (HAPSF)(Batumi).

The meeting participants had direct communication with program beneficiaries (FSWs, MSMs, IDU).

**The purpose of the visits was:** Assessment of the current status of implementation of GFATM funded GEO-H-NCDC program and identifying the reason of underachievement in the following indicator: Number of MARPs (IDUs, MSM and FSWs) covered with HIV testing and counselling (including provision of results) as identified by the HIV dashboard for period 6 (86%) .

#### **Day 1. December 16, 2015. Zugdidi**

*Office of Xenoni. 1 Petre Uberi sreet.*

Participants:

David Ananiashvili – CCM, OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

Ekaterine Ruadze – NCDCPH, PIU, HIV M&E Officer

Tsira Egutia - Xenoni, VCT Consultant

Shalva Esartia – Xenoni, Mobile laboratory, VCT Consultant

Natalia Bulia – Xenoni, VCT, PDI, TB Consultant

Gocha Lagvilava – Xenoni, VCT, PDI, TB Consultant

Shorena Kutalia – Xenoni, Accountant

#### **Objective of the visit:**

1. Review of the challenges in process of the grant implementation
2. Review of the challenges of reaching the target beneficiaries
3. The ways of improvement for the specific indicator

#### **Methodology:**

- Discussion with the Project Implementation staff 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 site visits.

During the meeting with Xenoni staff the discussion was directed in two ways: (i) directly related to the project and (ii) what are other activities beneficiaries wish to have.

- (i) Unsatisfactory quality of syringes that has already been brought to the attention of CCM by the PR was mentioned by the Xenoni staff as well. This issue is currently under discussion process.
- (ii) Xenoni staff draw our attention to some desired activities for women in order to increase women's motivation to become active beneficiaries of the project. They mentioned that things such as gift packages for women and some support to find employment (including job specific trainings) would be helpful. It was suggested to develop small grant application in order to receive funds for conducting relevant trainings and program related to the employment. In terms of gift packages it was discussed that as the current cycle of PDI activity might have reached its "natural end" the money might be allocated to buy gift packages. However, they have been advised to discuss this issue with GHRN managers and together with them decide the best for the program and for the beneficiaries. The need for UV lamps to be installed in consultancy room(s) in order to ensure proper implementation of TB infection control standards is another topic which was discussed during the meeting. They have been advised to ask about UV lamps with GHRN managers and discuss with them as GHRN is considering buying them under the current grant (Jan-June 2016 Contract).
- (iii) During the visit IDUs were interviewed who expressed full satisfaction with service delivery by Xenoni, although they expressed desire to have better 1ml insulin syringes.

***Tanadgoma. 216, K. Gamsakhurdia Str***

Participants:

David Ananiashvili – CCM, OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

Ekaterine Ruadze – NCDCPH, PIU, HIM M&E Officer

Nato Janashia – Social Worker

Valeri Mania – Social worker

Gocha Kardava – Consultant

Nana Jiibladze – Manager

**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.

Following topics were raised by Tanadgoma staff and the following issues were discussed during the visit:

- (iv) The new PDI activity for FSWs, which will be operationalized soon, is expected to improve the coverage and VCT indicators for FSWs.
- (v) It was mentioned by Tanadgoma staff that the change of the office location (Republican Hospital) had a positive impact with regards to increase the number of the beneficiaries, since more confidentiality is observed.
- (vi) The need for renovation of the office and for the vehicle was mentioned as desired by Tanadgoma staff.
- (vii) The staff expressed satisfaction regarding smooth cooperation with Health cabinet (SSR).
- (viii) Tanadgoma staff mentioned that they are members of Coalition of local NGOs active in HIV field. Activities that are implemented together with other local NGOs positively contribute to the current project activities.

OC team had a meeting with 2 project beneficiaries, FSWs, who expressed their gratitude for services provided to them.

### ***Zugdidi Infectious Disease Center, Onaria***

Participants:

David Ananiashvili – CCM, OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

Ekaterine Ruadze – NCDCPH, PIU, HIM M&E Officer

Nana Gulua – Nurse

Nona Toloraia – Mobile brigade, physician

Lali Darakhvelidze – physician

Madona Sartania – Director

**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.

The meeting participants discussed the epidemiological situation in the region and current trends. It was mentioned by the staff that slight improvement is observed in terms of HIV related stigma and discrimination. It was mentioned by Zugdidi Infectious Disease Center, that they provide services to the residents of Abkhazia, who also have an opportunity to receive inpatient services. They emphasized critical importance of GF support for the country in general and for Samegrelo region in particular.

## **Day 2. December 17. Batumi**

### ***Infectious Diseases, AIDS and TB Regional Centre***

#### ***17 Tabukashvili str.***

Participants:

David Ananiashvili – CCM, OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

Ekaterine Ruadze – NCDCPH, PIU, HIM M&E Officer

Jemal Dumbadze – Infectious Diseases, AIDS and TB Regional Centre, Director

Dimitri Tsetskhladze - NTP, Coordinator

**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.

During the visit the following topics were discussed: Existing and potential challenges, epidemiological situation and trends, new treatment scheme, current status of cash incentive program implementation and the issues related to implementation of e-module.

Poor Infrastructural environment was identified as one of the most acute problems, especially for TB patients. Need for GeneXpert was mentioned by the staff. E-module was introduced though some technical problems are observed.

#### ***Imedi. 66 Gorgiladze street***

Participants:

David Ananiashvili – CCM, OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

Jemal Tedoradze– Social worker

Maia Gabisonia – VCT Consultant

Tamar Esebua – VCT Consultant

Galina Morozova – Social Worker

Miranda Jgenti – VCT Coordinator

Zora Tsurtsumia – Head

**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.

While discussing the existing problems the staff members especially emphasized the following challenges:

Necessity of additional office furniture and technical inventory, minor delays in delivery of consumable supplies (inc. syringes) and fund disbursement are issues mentioned by the Imedi staff. It was suggested to discuss all this issues together with GHRN Tbilisi office and find ways how all these can be avoided.

- Like Xenoni, the staff of Imedi mentioned that the first cycle of PDI program was implemented successfully though some difficulties observed in starting of the second cycle.

It was suggested by them to use funds allocated for PDI program for providing gift packages for women. The rationale of reallocation of PDI funds is the same as in case of Xenoni.

During the meeting program beneficiaries were interviewed. They expressed full satisfaction with service delivery.

### **Day 3. December 18**

*Center of Narcology. 44 Niko Jakeli str*

Participants:

David Ananiashvili – CCM, OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

Ekaterine Ruadze – NCDCPH, PIU, HIM M&E Officer

Lia Jinjaradze - Director

**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.

During the meeting the Head of Narcology Center mentioned that there is no delay in methadone delivery.. She shared with the meeting participants the patients' concern regarding continuation of the program after GF phase out. Mr. Ananiashvili replied that the Government is taking necessary steps for gradual transition from donor to domestic support and substitution program is not neglected. Ms. Lia Jincharadze mentioned that socially vulnerable population cannot afford to participate in state program even though the share cost for participation was reduced.

Mr. Ananiashvili asked their opinion regarding methadone take away practice. Ms Jincharadze responded that taking into consideration high level of responsibility imposed on commission members this is not a common practice.

***HAPSF. 35 Takaishvili str***

Participants:

David Ananiashvili – CCM, OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

Ekaterine Ruadze – NCDCPH, PIU, HIM M&E Officer

Ekaterine Natsvlishvili – Consultant

Giorgi Dokhnadze - Consultant

Galina Kosenkova - Consultant

**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.

While discussing the existing problems the staff members especially emphasized the following challenges:

- Necessity of the condoms. They mentioned that it would be helpful if they can have certain amount of condoms at site to give to beneficiaries. Referring the beneficiaries to other organization for getting condoms causes the risk of the violation of confidentiality, thus the patients sometimes are not willing to go there and get condoms that increases risk of HIV transmission.  
It was suggested that some mechanism for having sufficient quantity of condoms in place should be thought out.
- High demand on legal consultancy was observed among beneficiaries.

It was suggested to have MoU with Young Lawyers Association in order to provide free of charge consultations for highly vulnerable groups.

- The need of English language courses for the beneficiaries was mentioned by HAPSF staff.
- The lack of technical equipment (computers) was highlighted by the staff.

HAPSF staff was ensured by the PR that all issues (condoms, technical equipment and English language courses) will be discussed together with PR and HAPSF head office managers in order to find ways to help them.

***Tanadgoma. 113 A V Gorgasali street***

Participants:

David Ananiashvili – CCM, OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze – CCM, Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – CCM, Administrative Assistant

Ekaterine Ruadze – NCDCPH, PIU, HIM M&E Officer

Zaza Babunashvili – Consultant

Ketevan Jibladze – Social Worker

Avtandil Gagaishvili – Social Worker

Rati Tsintsadze – Social Worker

Mikheil Murvanidze - Logistics

**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.

The ways of improving of the indicator was thoroughly discussed by the meeting participants:

- The meeting participants thoroughly discussed all possible way of improvement of the results:
- Introduction of the PDI and expended outreach were identified as effective methods for improved coverage.
- More close collaboration with the organization “Identity” will contribute to increase number of MSM beneficiaries.

During the meeting program beneficiaries were interviewed. They expressed full satisfaction with service delivery.

David Ananiashvili

OC Chair

Irina Grdzeldze

CCM Executive Secretary