

Minutes

December 12, 2008

Soros Foundation-Moldova
Conference room, 12:00

Agenda Items:

1. Presentation of the medium term evaluation results of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STI for 2006-2010, Strategy no.4.	Liliana Gherman, Soros Foundation-Moldova
2. Extension of activities of the Rehabilitation Centre under the auspices of the Republican Narcological Dispensary. Presentation	Republican Narcological Dispensary
3. Announcement on collection of financing requests on behalf of organizations, for the period March 1-December 31, 2009, which implemented harm reduction activities and provided assistance to people living with HIV.	Vitalie Slobozian, Soros Foundation-Moldova
4. Distribution of transportation means aiming at extending HIV prevention activities within vulnerable groups and assistance to people living with HIV (Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Round 6).	Vitalie Slobozian, Soros Foundation-Moldova
5. Priority directions for the future application to Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Round 9.	
6. Miscellaneous	

List of participants:

1. S.Plamadeala, NCC TB/AIDS
2. M. Oprea, Republican Narcological Dispensary (RND)
3. L. Andreeva, Republican Narcological Dispensary (RND)
4. V. Vovc, Department of Penitentiary Institutions
5. O. Istratuc, Department of Penitentiary Institutions
6. L. Pintilei, Department of Penitentiary Institutions
7. V. Burinschi, UCIMP, TB/AIDS Programme
8. I. Chilcevschii, NGO "Faith"
9. A. Leorda, NGO "Medical Reforms"
10. V. Toncoglaz, NGO "Innovative Projects in Penitentiaries"
11. R. Poverga, NGO "New Life"
12. A. Curasov, NGO "New Life"
13. R. Ivtodi, Moldovian Christian Aid
14. V. Andronachi, Soros Foundation-Moldova
15. A. Capcelea, Soros Foundation-Moldova
16. L. Gherman, Soros Foundation-Moldova (FSM), group leader

17. V. Slobozian, Soros Foundation-Moldova – TWG secretary

1. Presentation of the medium term evaluation results of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STI for 2006-2010, Strategy no.4.

L. Gherman presented the report (attached) on medium term evaluation results of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STI for 2006-2010, Strategy no.4. Information presented underscored results according to indicators, financial resources used to support the National AIDS Programmes, limiting the presented data on activities and beneficiaries of Harm Reduction Programmes, existent recommendations.

2. Extension of activities of the Rehabilitation Centre under the auspices of the Republican Narcological Dispensary.

L. Andreeva presented initially existent services to assist IDU in Chisinau (background for initiation, normative acts for regulation, indicators, services, duration of treatment, location).

One of the issues/disadvantage of existent rehabilitation services within RND is the lack of oversight/post-treatment rehabilitation supervision of beneficiaries.

Another issue is the high number of beneficiaries lacking health insurance, originating from vulnerable groups (including people enrolled within Methadone Substitution Therapy). Extension of services for this category of beneficiaries is planned based on GFATM resources, focusing on inclusion within the rehabilitation system of IDU outside of any services.

There is the plan to open a rehabilitation centre specialized in supplying psychosocial services (self support or self help groups, legal aid, social assistance and counseling).

The absence of methodical recommendations on assistance and rehabilitation of IDUs stimulates elaboration and approval of the methodical framework within this project. These recommendations could be used as milestone by other services/rehabilitation centre in other regions, including by NGOs.

Another presented activity was establishment of data basis for patients/beneficiaries of rehabilitation centers and standard forms for monitoring/reporting on activities developed and services supplied.

A. Curasov asked for more availability on behalf of state bodies to cooperate with NGOs, which proved have experience in the area.

Aiming at supplying psycho-social services for post-treatment support, services of psycho-social support should be developed because they are very important after an in- or out-patient treatment. Collaboration between state bodies and NGO will contribute crucially to increase the quality of rehabilitation services for IDU.

L. Andreeva supplemented that it will be useful to create and maintain a website for IDU, beneficiaries of services, as mean of opinions exchange and information.

L. Pintilei underscored that persons from vulnerable groups do not have access to support services for IDUs.

V. Slobozian underlined the importance of collaboration between state bodies and NGO in area of IDU assistance. Elaboration of protocols, methodical recommendations should take into consideration the fact that certain activities are going to be implemented by NGO.

M. Oprea mentioned that National Health Insurance Company needs an additional argumentation on affiliation of rehabilitation services to medical services, insisting that these services are more social and National Health Insurance Company could limit their financing in the future. Collaboration between state bodies and NGO in area of IDU assistance is an important element of comprehensiveness of services supplied to IDU.

A. Curaşov kindly asked the support of TWG on obtaining a venue for NGO “New Life” from Local Public Authorities.

L. Gherman reminded that Chair of NCC HIB/TB/ITS, based on initiative of TWG Vulnerable Groups, submitted a letter of support for NGO implementing activities within National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STI. This letter could be also used by the NGO “New Life”. Meantime, it should be underscored the fact that the collaboration between state bodies and NGO was scaled-up during the period of 2002-2005.

V. Vovc proposed to open a Centre of rehabilitation for IDU within penitentiary institutions.

3. Announcement on collection of financing requests on behalf of organizations, for the period March 1-December 31, 2009, which implemented harm reduction activities and provided assistance to people living with HIV

V. Slobozian, presented the method of collecting financing requests on behalf of organizations, for the period March 1-December 31, 2009, which implemented harm reduction activities and provided assistance to people living with HIV.

The participants agreed that the proposed method is an acceptable and convenient one.

4. Distribution of transportation means aiming at extending HIV prevention activities within vulnerable groups and assistance to people living with HIV (Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Round 6)

V. Slobozian informed the audience on transportation means foreseen to be procured within Global Fund, Round VI aiming at extending HIV prevention activities within vulnerable groups and assistance to people living with HIV. UCIMP started the procurement procedure and presented the entire process of acquisition.

a) 2 transportation means were foreseen for extension of HIV prevention activities among CSW in Chisinau and Balti. These activities are carried out in Chisinau by NGO “Medical Reforms” (director A. Leorda) and in Balti by NGO “Youth for Right to Live”, Balti branch (director I. Biriucova). Both organizations have huge experience in area and it was commonly agreed to distribute to each organization one transportation unit.

b) 2 transportation means were foreseen for extension of HIV prevention activities among IDU in Tiraspol and Chisinau.

It was also discussed the necessity to distribute a unit of transport to AIDS Centre in Tiraspol, which will ensure implementation of activities among IDU. UCIMP will analyze the possibility and mechanism of distributing the transportation unit.

Concerning the transport unit for Chisinau, taking into consideration the number of organizations working in Chisinau, it was made the decision to elaborate eligibility criteria,

establish a deadline for presentation of letters of interest (which would include the argumentation of the need for transport unit and NGO experience in implementing harm reduction activities for IDU) on behalf of interested organizations and call a commission for the final decision.

The final decision will be made after the presented information on behalf of organizations will be reviewed by a commission formed by representatives of Ministry of Health, NCC Secretariat, UCIMP, the responsible person and the TWG Vulnerable Groups Secretary or during next meeting of the TWG Vulnerable Groups.

c) a transportation unit was foreseen for extension of activities to support and care people living with HIV.

Following contradictory discussions on nominating the beneficiary organization, the decision was made to nominate the organization during the meeting of Administrative Board of League of people living with HIV of Moldova, with participation of UCIMP representatives, responsible and TWG Vulnerable Group secretary. The evaluation criteria are going to be the exact number of beneficiaries and covered suburb, experience of organizations in implementing activities of support and care, as well as evidence-based need to have a transportation mean for extension of activities.

S. Plamadeala underscored the need to ensure the transparency of the process.

5. Priority directions for the future application to Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Round 9

L. Gherman announced that interested and experienced organizations should present during a week proposals on needs to extend, increase quality and attractiveness of services supplied to vulnerable groups within harm reduction projects during implementation of National AIDS Programme 2006-2010 in order to ensure their presentation during the meeting of NCC TB/AIDS in December 2008 on the subject: application of Republic of Moldova to Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Round 9.

S. Plamadeala mentioned that all activities should be evidence-based.

Conclusions/recommendations/findings

1. The medium-term review results of the National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STI for 2006-2010, Strategy 4 were presented to the members of TWG Vulnerable Groups.
2. The activities proposed for extension of activity of Centre of Rehabilitation were presented to the members of TWG Vulnerable Groups by the Republican Narcological Dispensary.
3. The decision was made to distribute one transportation unit in Chisinau to NGO "Medical Reforms" (director A. Leorda) and in Balti to NGO "Youth for Right to Live", Balti branch (director I. Biriucova). Distribution of other transportation means will be done according to procedures described in point 4 of the current Minutes.

**Technical Working Group VULNERABLE GROUPS
of National Coordination Council TB/AIDS**

4. Soros Foundation-Moldova will ensure compilation of proposals on Harm Reduction component to Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Round 9.

Liliana Gherman,
Group leader

Slobozian Vitalie
Secretary