



Center for Information and Counseling on
Reproductive Health - Tanadgoma

Tbilisi, Georgia

Annual organizational report of 2019



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Abbreviations

AFEW – AIDS Foundation East-West
AHF – AIDS Healthcare Foundation
AIDS – Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BPFA – Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CSE – Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO – Civil Society Organization
ECOM – Eurasian Coalition on Male Health
EECA – Eastern Europe and Central Asia
EKHN – Eurasian Key Population Health Network
EU – European Union
FSWs – Female Sex Workers
FP – Family Planning
GBV – Gender-based violence
GFATM – The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GYLA - Georgian Young Lawyers Association
HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAS – International AIDS Society
IDP - Internally Displaced Person
LGBT – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
MoES – Ministry of Education and Science
MSM – Men who have Sex with Men
NCDCPH – National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
NGO – Non-Governmental Organizations
OSF – Open Society Foundation
PrEP – Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PUDs – People who Use Drugs
RFSU – Swedish Association for Sexuality Education
SRHR – Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STI – Sexually Transmitted Infection
SW – Sex Worker
TB – Tuberculosis
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
VCT – Voluntary Counseling and Testing on HIV
YKPs – Young Key Populations

From Tanadgoma Chairperson



Dear Colleagues,

This report provides information regarding the results achieved by Tanadgoma in 2019. I would like to thank all Tanadgoma staff and all members of the Association for their hard work and cooperation. Special thanks to Executive Director and administrative staff for excellent work and engagement in day-to-day work of Tanadgoma.

During 2019, Tanadgoma strived to contribute to its mission to improve the quality of people's life through delivering competent services, conducting research, as well as collaboration and partnership with different nongovernmental, governmental and international organizations. The organization continued building up on the previous achievements, responded to various challenges and, in my opinion, had significant progress in implementation of its programs - both Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Mental Health.

I would like to especially highlight gender related issues incorporated in Tanadgoma's work during the last year. Gender analysis and gender impact assessments have become essential tools for the organization. Gender equality issues were mainstreamed at all stages of programming, monitoring and evaluation, the ways to address them were questioned and re-defined. These efforts enabled Tanadgoma to make further steps in gender mainstreaming, especially in initiatives related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

Finally, I would like to thank all supporters of Tanadgoma, our donors and partner organizations, for their trust as well as provided opportunities to do our work better.

Best regards,

Lela Kurdghelashvili
Chair of the Board

From Tanadgoma Executive Director



Dear friends, colleagues and partners,

I am pleased to present to you annual report of “Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma” for 2019.

This has been a year of challenges for our organization, starting from external political and social turmoil in Georgia, which had influenced various issues that Tanadgoma works on, and finishing with extremely intense schedule inside the organization, which was not easy to deal with for the management. Yet, we were successful in overcoming these challenges and being able to achieve majority of the goals set for 2019.

During the last year Tanadgoma continued active engagement in SRHR field through advancing CSE, promotion of family planning, working on gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, STIs. At the same time, the organization started a new initiative for improving access to medical abortion. Advocacy has become more important strategy for our work in various directions. The program of Mental Health was also developing with more accent on advocacy. We maintained our visibility on the international level and strengthened existing partnership with the country-level counterparts. As for organizational development, sustainability has been main target for us and was successfully ensured during 2019.

Association has elected a new Board in 2019. Its composition provides for stable oversight and guidance for our development in the future, as well as successful implementation of our recently approved Strategic Plan for 2020-2022.

I would like to express my gratitude to brilliant and very efficient staff of our organization. Without their commitment, creativity and dedication Tanadgoma would not be able to remain one of the prominent CSOs in the country.

At the same time, I thank all Tanadgoma’s partners, donors, association members, volunteers as well as communities that we work with for their trust, support and continuous interest that they take in Tanadgoma. This helps us in achieving our strategic goals and provides necessary validation of all the work we do.

Thank you!

Nino Tsereteli
Executive Director

Introduction

Tanadgoma was established as a local NGO in 2000, almost 20 years ago. Since then the organization has expanded, enriched its portfolio and reached certain level of organizational development. Currently, Tanadgoma is a well-established organization with clearly set governing structure and goals, as well as broad partnership network, all of which provide for sustainable further development of the organization.

Tanadgoma's **vision** is physically and mentally healthy society, where human right to health is protected, sexuality education is a part of education system, citizens have access to effective reproductive health services, hence spread of infectious diseases is hindered, number of abortions is decreased, use of family planning methods is high, specific attention is paid to high risk behavior groups (key populations), accordingly, psychological problems related to these topics are less prevalent and psychosocial rehabilitation services are widely available.

In order to realize this vision, **the mission of Association Tanadgoma is to improve the physical and mental health of Georgian population** through implementing prevention, educational, diagnostic and rehabilitation programs, as well as advocacy of these programs. Also, Tanadgoma provides technical support and expertise to improve capacities of the relevant organizations, communities and other stakeholders.

Tanadgoma shares and conducts its activities based on the following principles:

- All human beings are equal despite their race, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation or ethnic origin;
- Gender, human rights and non-discrimination are cross-cutting issues in organization's work.

Tanadgoma works throughout the country. Services of Tanadgoma are accessible for general population of reproductive age, however, the organization gives special focus and elaborates proactive programs for women and vulnerable, high risk behavior groups (key populations): men who have sex with men – MSM, People who Use Drugs – PUDs, sex workers – SWs, young people, prison inmates, LGBT community, victims of trafficking, people living with HIV, internally displaced persons – IDPs, etc.

The present report highlights Tanadgoma's activities, achievements and finances for 2019, according to 2017-2019 Strategic Development Plan. During elaboration of the Strategic plan Tanadgoma underwent consultations with the representatives of the target populations, as well as with several key stakeholder organizations, in order to ensure relevance of the strategic plan to the existing environmental needs and demands. Also, these consultations aimed at supporting compliance of the plan with the main tendencies of programming and funding in the country. The current strategic plan was approved by the General Assembly of Tanadgoma on 19th of July, 2016. The next strategic cycle is for 2020-2022 and a corresponding Strategic plan was approved by the General Assembly of Tanadgoma on 18th of October, 2019.

Program portfolio

According to the Strategic Plan of 2017-2019, in 2019 Tanadgoma had 3 strategic priorities:

1) **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**, consisting of the following objectives:

- 1.1. Advocacy of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights both in Georgia and on the international level
- 1.2. Cooperate with state and non-state stakeholders to contribute to incorporation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education into the education system of Georgia
- 1.3. Prevention of STIs, HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and oncological diseases of Reproductive System among vulnerable populations
- 1.4. Promoting Family Planning
- 1.5. Contribute to elimination of gender-based violence and discrimination among vulnerable women in Georgia
- 1.6. Providing technical assistance on SRHR issues to community and civil society organizations
- 1.7. Conducting qualitative and quantitative research on SRHR issues

2) **Mental Health**, consisting of the following objectives:

- 2.1. Ensuring provision of sustainable and regular psychosocial services for the vulnerable populations
- 2.2. Contributing to institutionalization of sustainable and regular psychosocial services for the vulnerable populations
- 2.3. Contribute to drug policy change and reducing stigmatization of drug users in Georgia
- 2.4. Providing technical assistance on psychosocial rehabilitation and re-socialization issues to community and civil society organizations
- 2.5. Conducting qualitative and quantitative research on mental health issues

3) **Organizational Development**, consisting of the following objectives:

- 3.1. Supporting professional development of human resources
- 3.2. Maintenance, upgrade and support of technical and administrative resources
- 3.3. Revision and improvement of organizational systems for ensuring proper functioning

During 2019, under the first two program directions, Tanadgoma was implementing 18 different projects with support of the following donor organizations: RFSU, EU, Caritas Tirol, GFATM (3 projects), OSF (2 projects), UNFPA, AFEW, Solidarite SIDA, Grand Challenges Canada, ECOM, EKHN.

Results per strategic goals and objectives

Strategic Goal 1

Contribute to promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights issues in Georgia

Objectives:

1.1. Advocacy of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights both in Georgia and on the international level

Submitting National Parallel Report on BPFA: During 2019, Tanadgoma together with the members of the Coalition for Reproductive Health and Rights and organizations working on Women's Rights participated in compilation of the National Parallel Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - Beijing +25. The report focuses on sexual health as well as reproductive health and rights for women and vulnerable groups in Georgia. The report assesses the progress made in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) over the last years, identifies challenges and presents some recommendations for key actions.

SRHR platform functioning: During 2019, Tanadgoma with support of RFSU and in cooperation with UNFPA Georgia Office conducted 3 workshops with SRHR platform organizations. This was follow-up of the process started in 2018.

The first meeting, on 16th of April, was mainly dedicated to development of the Georgian dictionary of SRHR terminology. Also, UNFPA shared to the audience the latest World Population Report. The meeting participants agreed upon the initial list of terms to be included in the dictionary. Tanadgoma, as the lead in this process, ensured follow-up work for the next meeting planned for autumn.

The second meeting of the SRHR platform took place in October and was fully dedicated to preparation of CSO statement for the Nairobi Summit ICPD+25. This process was successfully facilitated by Tanadgoma experts. It should be noted, that Tanadgoma Executive Director was part of the Georgian delegation and presented CSO statement at the summit.

The third meeting of the SRHR platform, in December 2019, was dedicated to: presenting the outcomes of the Nairobi Summit; presenting draft of the SRHR dictionary; presenting media monitoring report (see below **Media monitoring of SRHR issues**) and discussing plans for 2020. SRHR partner organizations provided interesting feedback and recommendations both on the dictionary as well as on the media monitoring report. Based on the outcomes of the meeting, by the end of 2019, Tanadgoma experts elaborated pre-final draft of Georgian dictionary on SRHR. Next steps for its finalization are editing and preparing design for the online version. Final version of the dictionary is due by the end of the 1st quarter of 2020.

Analysis of state funding for SRHR: Also, in December 2019, Tanadgoma experts started analysis of SRHR state funding. After initial analysis and findings it was decided to expand the scope of analysis, namely, to elaborate more profound analytical report on how existing state programs, funding and financial schemes address the actual SRHR needs of population. Final version of the analysis with recommendations is expected in the 2nd quarter of 2020.



SRHR platform meetings, October and December 2019

City-level advocacy on HIV and TB: Within the frame of the Global Fund project "Fast-track TB/HIV responses for key populations in EECA cities" Tanadgoma continued leading City Task Force group consisting of representatives of state and non-governmental organizations in addition to community organizations. Due to ongoing collaboration and sensitization of the local government representatives, Tanadgoma's active advocacy efforts resulted in signature of Zero TB Declaration in 2019 by Tbilisi City Hall. As a tangible result of the project, data systems for capturing city -specific data have been established - HIV cascade and TB data at Tbilisi city level and 2017-2019 data have been collected.



Signing of Zero TB Declaration at Tbilisi City Hall

Representation of SRHR topics in media: Tanadgoma experts organized and participated in 12 radio shows dedicated to SRHR topics at radio channel "Imedi" in February-April 2019. The aim of radio shows was to raise awareness and sensitize general population on SRHR issues.

Media monitoring of SRHR issues: As a part of Tanadgoma's SRHR agenda, a media monitoring survey of SRHR issues was conducted in 2019. The monitoring covered year 2018 and all types of media - TV, radio, printed and social media. The following topics were monitored by the researchers: abortion, family

planning and sexuality education. The report with its recommendations on how to improve the coverage of SRHR topics in Georgian media for both media representatives and organizations working in SRHR field was presented at the SRHR platform meeting in December 2019 and is available at Tanadgoma's website.

Adjara regional HIV/AIDS strategy development: In 2019, Tanadgoma finished elaboration of Adjara 2019-2023 HIV strategy. The work started in 2018 and Tanadgoma was selected as an expert organization to support Adjara regional government in development of the strategy. The strategy was presented to the broad audience of stakeholders in Batumi, Adjara in May, 2019. Minister of Health of Adjara region in his speech at the presentation expressed full support to implementation of the strategy.

Development and submission of HIV prevention standards: During 2019, Tanadgoma participated in a process of development of HIV prevention standards among the key populations. This was a cooperative process, partially supported by UNFPA (HIV prevention standards among MSM, among Female Sex Workers and among youth), and partially by EHRA (Harm Reduction standards among People who Use Drugs). Tanadgoma's responsibility was to develop standards for prevention among MSM and among FSWs. In October 2019 the standards' package (guidelines) were submitted to the relevant Council at the Ministry of Health. The approval from the Ministry is awaited in 2020. The next stage would be development of protocols and costing and submitting them for the approval. This would finalize the package and ensure that HIV prevention among the key populations, if funded by the state, will be based on certain quality standards and prices.

Social contracting of NGOs in Georgia: Social contracting was one of the important issues, on which Tanadgoma team actively cooperated with other stakeholders during 2019. In cooperation with OSF Georgia, Tanadgoma organized a round table on social contracting issues in Georgia. The GFATM Georgia portfolio manager also attended the meeting. During the meeting the problems and future perspectives of social contracting were discussed. All interested stakeholders expressed readiness to continue cooperation and meet in 2020 with concrete and detailed proposals on how to advocate for facilitation of social contracting in Georgia and how to motivate state structures to take active part in further discussions.

1.2 Cooperate with state and non-state stakeholders to contribute to incorporation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education into the education system of Georgia

Working on National Standards: In 2019, Tanadgoma continued proactive work for incorporation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education into the education system of Georgia. Tanadgoma actively cooperated with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoES) to review the secondary education level standards (Biology and Civic Education) to integrate SRH topics and healthy lifestyle principles.

Also, during the reporting year, Tanadgoma started working on elective subject standard with the content of Reproductive Health and Rights. Three preparatory meetings with participation of Tanadgoma and MoES experts were conducted where topics and issues of elective subjects were discussed. The process will continue in 2020.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia requested Tanadgoma to start piloting program in 7th grade of biology subject in selected Tbilisi schools. Experts from Tanadgoma and MoES selected 12 schools in Tbilisi for piloting the biology subject with new standards. Before piloting, 7 days training for teachers was conducted to prepare teachers on topics such as "New School Model" (see below section "Training the teachers"), child development stages, new standard of biology, psychosocial problems during puberty, educational psychology (motivation, class dynamic, interactive teaching methodology etc.), communication and facilitation, discussion on lessons scenario and role-plays. After the teachers were

prepared, two pilot lessons were conducted in each school, in total - 24 lessons. After the end of the pilot two summary workshops and final conference were organized by Tanadgoma on June 20, 2019.

Reaching out to parents: Tanadgoma created a FB page for parents "Let's talk about our adolescent children". The aim was to provide parents with accurate and reliable information on difficulties of puberty period, healthy lifestyle, importance of sexuality education and other issues related to adolescence. The page has 251 followers since its creation in October 2019. Tanadgoma also organized "Parents' Courses" on CSE and conducted 2 workshops for parents in 2019. The workshops received very positive feedback from the participants.

Training the teachers: During 2019, Tanadgoma was planning to cooperate with the Teachers' Professional Development Center "Teachers' House". During the previous communication with this organization, it was clear that they planned to outsource training for the teachers on SRHR topics and counted on Tanadgoma in this regard. However, due to reforms in the education system, the competition for outsourcing was delayed for indefinite time. In the meantime, part of the educational reforms included piloting of a New School Model, whereas a support group (so-called coaches) would work in each school and assist them in switching to new educational approaches. Coaches' function would be assisting other colleagues/teachers in preparing individual annual work plans based on the New School Model standards.

In summer 2019, based on the request from the MoES, Tanadgoma, in cooperation with UNFPA, organized and conducted training of coaches on healthy lifestyle for New School Model support groups. The purpose of the trainings was to prepare coaches on incorporating Healthy Life Skills education into their work with the schools. In total 4 trainings were conducted and 78 professionals participated in the trainings.



Training for coaches in MoES

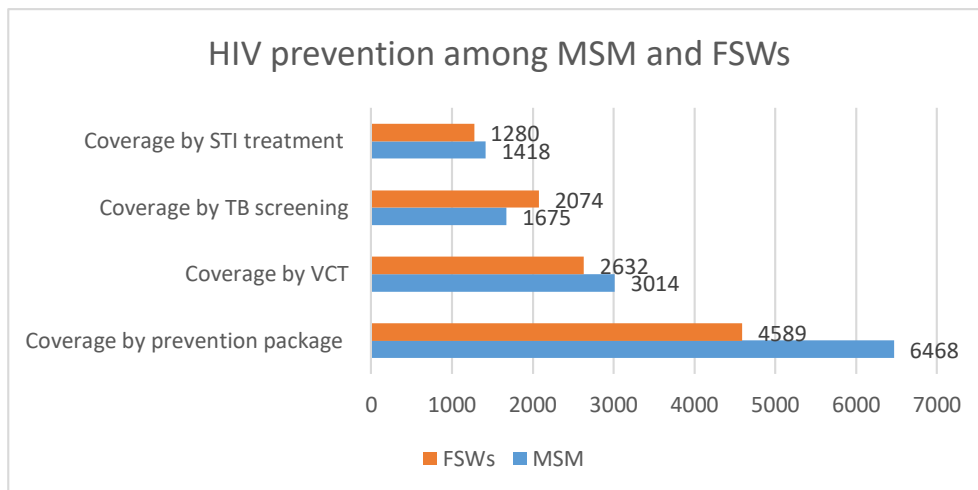
Workshop for RFSU partners on Comprehensive Sexuality Education: In March, 2019, Tanadgoma, in cooperation with RFSU, conducted a two-days workshop for RFSU partner organizations. The main goal was to discuss current state of CSE in Georgia and identify ways that each RFSU partner could contribute to CSE in connection to the major topics that they work on. The workshop was very interactive and intensive, with each participant organization making valuable input into the content. As a result of the workshop, the participants elaborated the joint ways of their potential engagement in the CSE – both in formal and informal education - in Georgia.



RFSU partners' workshop on CSE

1.3 Prevention of STIs, HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and oncological diseases of Reproductive System among vulnerable populations

Results of HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention projects among the key populations: In 2019, access to prevention services were maintained in five cities (Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Telavi) and STI/HIV/TB prevention services were provided to the key populations (MSM, FSWs, Prisoners). Major quantitative results for MSM and FSWs are as follows:



Apart from this, through other activities of prevention package: 140 MSM and FSWs participated in peer education trainings; 19163 IEC materials and 535179 condoms and lubricants were distributed among MSM and FSWs.

As for Tanadgoma's prevention work in the penitentiary system, 5570 prisoners were reached by VCT services and 24 self-support groups' meetings were conducted among HIV positive prisoners. It is noteworthy that, according to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, the transitioning from the GFATM to state