



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

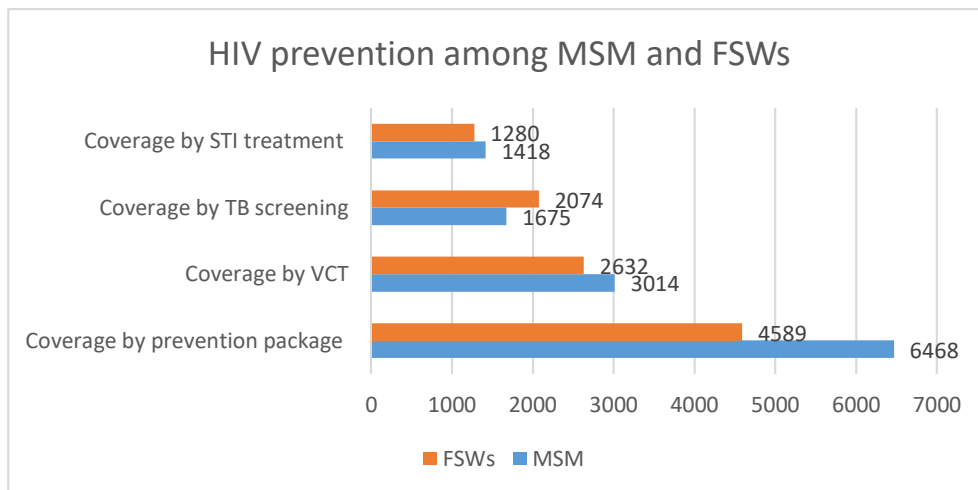
Workshop for RFSU partners on Comprehensive Sexuality Education: In March, 2019, Tanadgoma, in cooperation with RFSU, conducted a two-days workshop for RFSU partner organizations. The main goal was to discuss current state of CSE in Georgia and identify ways that each RFSU partner could contribute to 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

funding is gradually progressing. In this regard, HIV prevention in prisons shall be taken over by the state program from 2020. However, it is not clear that the state funding will cover all needs for HIV testing. Tanadgoma has started negotiations with AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), a new donor entering the country, which expressed interest in supporting some prison HIV/AIDS work in the coming years.

Tuberculosis prevention and adherence to treatment: Within the GFATM funded project "Supporting Patients with Different Needs and Resistant Tuberculosis to Improve the Treatment Adherence", Tanadgoma, with involvement of relevant experts, elaborated new adherence protocol for people affected by TB. Based on the new protocol, in 2019, Tanadgoma served and referred to relevant services 104 patients with sensitive TB and 139 patients with drug-resistant TB. Among them, 34 patients have already finished the treatment, 3 patients stopped the treatment and 206 continue their treatment. Besides, within the project, 18 informational-educational meetings were conducted with TB patients and their family members. In total 187 persons participated in abovementioned meetings.

World AIDS Day event: AIDS Healthcare Foundation supported Tanadgoma's initiative to conduct World AIDS Day-related event in cooperation with a night club Khidi. Collaboration with Khidi has some history, as Tanadgoma has been organizing HIV prevention queer-friendly events with them for about two years already. AHF provided some financial support, HIV tests, condoms and lubricants. The event was attended by more than 1000 beneficiaries.



World AIDS Day 2019

Symposium “Translating Science to End HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”: International AIDS Society (IAS) Educational Fund, in collaboration with Tanadgoma, organized the scientific symposium in Tbilisi. During the symposium, key scientific and policy content from the 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018) in Amsterdam was shared and discussed, as well as implementation science priorities. More than 80 participants, including representatives from different countries attended the symposium. Specific topics included presentations and discussions on PrEP and other innovative prevention methods, integrated approaches for the prevention and treatment of HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis, innovative ways forward for harm reduction services and strategies to reduce stigma and discrimination. Scientific research results on these specific topics were discussed for policy and programme improvements in EECA region.



Symposium “Translating Science to End HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”, June 2019, Tbilisi

1.4. Promoting Family Planning

Cooperation with NCDCPH: In 2019 Tanadgoma continued providing technical assistance to NCDCPH in planning and implementation of the communication strategy of the action plan of “National Strategy of Mother and Newborn Health for 2017-2030”. Tanadgoma organized the translation of family planning leaflets in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. The materials were handed out to NCDCPH for further printing and distribution among ethnic minority populations.

During 2019, Tanadgoma organized and conducted 4 educational trainings for the representatives of state and non-governmental organizations, as well as media representatives on family planning issues at the settlements of ethnic minorities (Armenians and Azerbaijanis).

Tanadgoma continued promotion of its mobile application on family planning “My calendar” through social media and public events. Application was updated for iPhone users. Tanadgoma experts were invited to various media (TV Rustavi2, TV Obieqtivi, TV Kavkasia, Radio Imedi, Radio Palitra etc.) to talk on Family Planning topics. In cooperation with radio Imedi, Tanadgoma conducted 4 radio talk shows on Family Planning.

Media competition: In the summer 2019 Tanadgoma announced a media competition for journalists (from printed or internet media and TV). The competition was for the best media material on Family Planning issues. The selection committee included media experts (2 journalists) and one Tanadgoma representative. Based on the criteria elaborated by the committee, out of 21 applications 7 winners were selected: 2 for TV materials and 5 – for internet/printed media. It is noteworthy, that the third place for the best printed/internet media was shared between 3 applicants, due to high quality of the submitted material. Official awards event was held on December 17th, 2019.

1.5. Contribute to elimination of gender-based violence and discrimination among vulnerable women in Georgia

Women’s Club: Within the project “Bridging the Gaps – phase 2: Health and Rights for key populations” a women’s club for PUD women was established. The goal of the club is to improve access to health care services of PUD women. Participants of the women’s club organized 10 meetings during 2019. Actual

issues related to stigma and discrimination of PUD women, also ways how to improve access to health care services for PUD women were discussed during those meetings.

Within the same project 87 female clients received medical, psychological and legal services at Tanadgoma's Social bureau. Out of them 70 were new beneficiaries recruited by the project. Besides, 27 PUD women received gender specific services such as mammography, counseling of gynecologist, Pap smear testing, ultrasound examination etc.

Services to victims of violence: Within another EU-funded project implemented by Tanadgoma and GYLA, 151 women victims of gender-based violence were covered in 5 cities of Georgia. All beneficiaries received services based on their needs, such as psychological counseling and support, medical services as well as legal services.

Trainings for victims of violence: During 2019, within the OSF funded initiative, 2 training modules were developed for vulnerable women-victims of gender based violence: "Advocacy and community mobilization" and "Human rights and violence". These trainings were conducted with participation of 15 community activists – victims of GBV. This project is continuation of EU-funded action where vulnerable women's initiative group was established. Therefore, OSF funded initiative played important role in sustainability and capacity development of women's initiative group created earlier in another project.



Training for vulnerable women's initiative group

1.6. Providing technical assistance on SRHR issues to community and civil society organizations

Supporting Tuberculosis patients' community organization: Within the GF-funded project "Supporting Patients with Different Needs and Resistant Tuberculosis to Improve the Treatment Adherence", Tanadgoma conducted community mobilization and strengthening of the first community organization "Patients' Union" working in TB field. In total, in partnership with organizations involved in the project under Tanadgoma management, 107 persons affected by TB were covered through leadership, community mobilization and activism trainings/meetings. In addition, community organizations' needs were studied and action plan for the development of "Patients Union" was elaborated. Also, capacity building training was provided to the organization and midterm and final evaluations were conducted on organizational development issues.

Supporting Trans people, and PLHA gay and bisexual men: Within the project "Empowering communities for Right to Health" supported by GFAMT and ECOM, Tanadgoma empowered underserved

groups such as Trans people, HIV+ gay and bisexual men through 8 capacity building trainings, 2 events under title “Living Libraries” and 14 “Sunday School” lectures. In total, 437 beneficiaries from abovementioned communities were strengthened with additional knowledge and skills.

Supporting community organization of Trans people: During the reported period, with small funding of EKHN, Tanadgoma provided technical and expert support to Trans community organization “Temida”. With support of Tanadgoma, “Temida” elaborated its strategic plan, amended and legally registered organizational statute at public registry agency. Besides, 20 Trans women activists and “Temida” staff were trained on HIV, risk reduction, human rights issues, leadership and communication issues. With support of Tanadgoma, “Temida” also obtained small grant from OSGF to raise visibility of the Trans* community in Georgia.

Training service providers on integrated SRH and HIV service provision: Tanadgoma continued to expand capacity development workshops for service delivery professionals on SRH/HIV Prevention for quality provision of integrated SRH/FP, HIV preventive and GBV services for key populations. The workshops were in line with the Tbilisi State Medical University accredited (<http://sms.tsmu.edu/ssms/cme/>) online training module on "HIV Prevention and SRH Service Standards for Key Population" based on implementation tools - SWIT, MSMIT, TRANSIT, "Health, Rights and Well-Being" - developed by UNFPA, NCDC, National AIDS Center, Tanadgoma. The main goal was to capacitate the community organizations, service providers from harm reduction network organizations, youth organizations, YKPs and service providers/outreach workers who are engaged in delivering the HIV preventive and SHR services for key populations, including YKPs. In total, 60 participants were covered by trainings and workshops from 15 organizations from 6 different cities: Tbilisi, Rustavi, Gori, Kutaisi, Borjomi and Akhaltsikhe.

Team building of the key populations: Within the frame of the Global Fund project "Fast-track TB/HIV responses for key populations in EECA cities" Tanadgoma organized 2-days team building and capacity development for representatives of KPs in December 2019. Twenty five representatives from MSM, sex workers and PUD communities were gathered at Kachreti resort, Kakheti region of Georgia. During the meeting, ways of active future collaboration between the communities for joint advocacy actions were planned. Besides, strategic vision of each community and strategies to develop and strengthen the communities were discussed.

Supporting initiative group of FSW and PUD women: After completion of the EU-funded project “Empowering vulnerable women to end discrimination”, Tanadgoma, together with the initiative group established in Tbilisi, actively advocated for the continuous support of this group. Through joint efforts, it was possible to support them in developing a project proposal to OSF. The proposal was supported and resulted in a project managed together by Tanadgoma and this initiative group. The project is built on the strategic priorities identified by the initiative group.

Technical assistance on regional level. Tanadgoma experts provided expertise and technical support not only in Georgia but in other countries of EECA region:

- Tanadgoma expert provided technical assistance to Moldavian state organizations and CSOs in conducting an assessment “Identifying major barriers for attracting key populations to the NGO and specific medical services in Moldova”, followed by capacity building for NGOs and state representatives.
- Another Tanadgoma expert was coordinating and facilitating a Regional Advisory Group on Strategic Information (RAGSI) on HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights among the

key populations (MSM and Trans people) in CEECA (Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia) with a focus on Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Macedonia. Along with this, Tanadgoma experts were involved in regional surveys such as “Assessment of Strategic Information” and “Assessment of Trans and MSM community development in HIV related decision-making process” in abovementioned 5 countries.

1.7. Conducting qualitative and quantitative research on SRHR issues

Mental health and SRHR: During the reported period, the preparatory work for conduction of needs’ assessment for SRHR services among mental health patients was held. During the meetings SRHR experts and mental health experts identified the main problems and barriers to access SRHR services for mental health patients. The participants agreed to review the existing literature and the best foreign practices in studying the intersection of these two fields. Creation of survey tool and research field is planned for 2020.

Qualitative research on HIV testing obstacles and behavior change insights among youth in Georgia: In October - December, 2019, Tanadgoma, with support of UNFPA Georgia office, conducted a research “Demand for and uptake of HIV testing among youth in Georgia”. The objective of the research was to explore and understand deterring factors, including gender related issues, affecting HIV testing coverage and uptake, resulting in late detection/diagnosis of HIV cases. The research took place in 5 cities of Georgia - Tbilisi, Batumi, Zugdidi, Gori and Telavi. The findings of the research will be available in February, 2020.

Studying barriers to medical abortion among rural and IDP women in Georgia: Within the project “Improving access to abortion in Georgia”, funded by Grand Challenges Canada, a qualitative research among rural and IDP women is planned to be conducted in 2020. The aim of the survey is to assess barriers to and burden of MA access among rural and IDP women. In November-December 2019, the preparatory work for survey planning was conducted by Tanadgoma project team. The survey field and analysis is planned for 2020.

Evaluation of existing HIV services by community members: Within the Solidarite Sida funded project “Improving linkage of HIV prevention, treatment and support services for MSM in Georgia-Stage II”, survey “Evaluation of existing HIV services by community members” in Tanadgoma’s Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi branches was conducted. The survey aimed at measuring MSM satisfaction by services provided and to support adaptation of HIV services to the needs’ of MSM/LGBT beneficiaries. Semi-structured interview guide was elaborated by Tanadgoma experts. The field was carried out in June-November, 2019 by MSM mentors prepared within the frames of the project.

Strategic Goal 2

Support better access to psychosocial rehabilitation and re-socialization services for vulnerable populations.

Objectives:

2.1. Ensuring provision of sustainable and regular psychosocial services for the vulnerable populations

Social Enterprise TG Promo: In 2019 Tanadgoma’s Social Enterprise TG Promo continued functioning, despite the fact that the funding from EU had finished in July. Overall, TG Promo employed 4 beneficiaries (with drug use history) and received 18 orders (both from companies/organizations and individuals) during 2019.

Along with the creation of promotional materials, Tanadgoma’s art therapy evolved as the second line of the enterprise’s production.



Exhibition of art therapy products

Tanadgoma’s art therapy exhibition took place at hotel “Iota”, on May 11, 2019, during the final meeting of the EU-funded rehabilitation project. Clay works from Tbilisi social enterprise, rehabilitation center, Geguti and Ksani prisons, were exhibited and sold. The amount accumulated was given as charity support.



Clay workshop in Gremi

Gremi rehabilitation center: Fifteen new beneficiaries underwent and completed rehabilitation course in Gremi rehabilitation center (minimal duration of rehabilitation course - 1 month, maximum - 3 months). Earlier in 2018, it was planned to renovate 3d floor of Gremi center, however, during 2019, Tanadgoma was not able to secure necessary funds for the planned works. The third floor remains sealed and all program activities are located at the first and second floors, as well as at the clay workshop in the yard of the center.

During the reported period, within the project “Bridging the Gaps”, a Community Advisory Board was established consisting of 5 community members – 3 females and 2 males. Community members conducted monitoring visits to rehabilitation center and provided number of recommendations for improved functioning and tailoring center’s activities more to the beneficiaries’ needs.



Gremi center in autumn of 2019



Monitoring visit of the Community Advisory Board to Gremi

Social Bureaus: Four Social Bureaus of Tanadgoma, located in four cities of Georgia (Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi and Zugdidi), provided free psychosocial and medical services for rehabilitation and re-socialization

of inmates, former inmates and probationers, including people who use drugs. During the reported period, Tanadgoma's social bureaus and partner organizations provided 3923 various services (medical, psychological, social and legal) to 483 beneficiaries (former prisoners, PUDs, probationers and their family members).

2.2. Contributing to institutionalization of sustainable and regular psychosocial services for the vulnerable populations

Advocacy for improved services in prisons: In 2019, CSOs actively working in prisons elaborated an advocacy letter targeted to the Ministry of Justice. It should be noted here, that in February 2019 the Ministry of Corrections merged with the Ministry of Justice and became a Special Penitentiary Department of this ministry. The letter included findings and results of various research on access to services for prisoners. Tanadgoma's part included findings and recommendations from the research on transitional management. The letter was signed by numerous CSOs and submitted to the Ministry.

As a follow-up, Tanadgoma conducted a policy dialogue meeting, attended by the representatives of CSOs, as well as EU4Justice program and experts of this program, which are entitled to giving direct recommendations to the penitentiary system. As a result, all the recommendations elaborated by Tanadgoma were included in the "Action plan for development of penitentiary and crime prevention system on 2019-2020 years" of the Ministry of Justice.

Besides, during 2019, 7 meetings took place with representatives of social services of Special Penitentiary Department to share information and coordinate services among NGOs and the Ministry.



Closure of EU-funded rehabilitation project

TB counseling protocol: In 2019, Tanadgoma elaborated a protocol for prison staff "Tuberculosis counseling protocol before release" in order to ensure follow-up and treatment adherence for the released TB patients. Five trainings were conducted by Tanadgoma staff and 48 penitentiary staff (social, medical) were trained on treatment adherence protocol and skills.

Elaboration of a rehabilitation concept and action plan. Under Bridging the Gaps project, during 2019, a working group was created for elaboration of the rehabilitation concept and an action plan. The working group consisted of representatives of drug addiction treatment clinics and outpatient rehabilitation centers. The group held several working meetings and then presented the elaborated documents at a meeting in Kachreti, Kakheti region, attended also by the head of the Parliamentary Committee on Health Mr. Zoidze. Mr. Zoidze declared his full support to the process and promised to lobby the topic in the Parliament of

Georgia. He also gave some further recommendations to the group, such as developing standards as well as costing for rehabilitation action plan. Later on the concept and action plan were presented to broader CSOs and plans for 2020 were set out.

It should be noted that by the end of 2019 Tanadgoma was able to get funding from OSF for budget advocacy of the rehabilitation of PUDs.



Working group meeting in Kachreti

2.3. Contribute to drug policy change and reducing stigmatization of drug users in Georgia

Stigma reduction towards PUDs: Due to political reasons, Georgia hindered the process of drug policy liberalization in 2018. There was no progress in this regard in 2019 as well. However, Tanadgoma was active in frames of various projects to contribute to reduction of stigma towards PUDs in Georgia and sensitization of general public with focus on state representatives.

Under the EU-funded project “Improved opportunities for psychosocial rehabilitation and re-socialization of inmates, former inmates and probationers in Georgia” Tanadgoma organized a campaign under the slogan: “Let’s share responsibility with EU support – bring people back to the society!”. Activities of the campaign were held in three regions of Georgia – Imereti, Adjara and Samegrelo. Local municipalities, private sector representatives, Civil Society Organizations, Probation offices, as well as probationers, former prisoners and PUD community members were actively involved in the campaign. Three events were conducted under the campaign: Mini-football tournament was carried out in Kutaisi; planting trees and cleaning the public spaces - in Zugdidi and Batumi municipalities. As a result: media actively highlighted the campaign, which increased visibility of the rehabilitation issue. Also, Kutaisi municipality declared their commitment to partake in popularization of the rehabilitation programs.



Mini-football tournament in Kutaisi

2.4. Providing technical assistance on psychosocial rehabilitation and re-socialization issues to community and civil society organizations



Under “Bridging the Gaps” project Tanadgoma organized and conducted trainings for community leaders and activists on human rights monitoring process and advocacy activities. 16 PUD community leaders and activists participated in the training.

2.5. Conducting qualitative and quantitative research on mental health issues

Qualitative research for assessing work of the rehabilitation center and identifying gaps: Tanadgoma conducted a qualitative research among beneficiaries and staff of the rehabilitation center in order to identify: beneficiaries’ satisfaction with the services, gaps and needs of the beneficiaries, recommendations for improvement as well as barriers that hinder the target population to use services of the rehabilitation center.

Main findings of the research are as follows:

- The staff indicated that they would like to see expansion of the center’s personnel and improvement of the living conditions of the center
- The needs identified by the beneficiaries are: enriching programmatic activities at the center; enhancing psychological support; improvement of the living conditions of the center

As for barriers for enrollment in the rehabilitation services, the research found the following:

- Drug supply has increased in the country and rehabilitation is not considered needed, since PUDs can easily access drugs

- Rehabilitation process is not popular among PUDs, they believe they can overcome psychological dependence on their own after detoxification treatment
- There is no broad PR of the existing rehabilitation programs
- Rehabilitation services are not comprehensive, e.g. they lack psychological support, psychiatric consultation, etc
- There is certain stigma on rehabilitation among PUDs (some believe that going to imprisonment is way better than enrolling in the rehabilitation programs)

Based on the research findings, Tanadgoma plans to introduce some innovations in Gremi center, starting from 2020.

Small research of the Community Advisory Board: Under Bridging the Gaps project, the Community Advisory Board conducted a focus group discussion among beneficiaries of the Gremi Center. The goal was to get unbiased feedback and identify needs. The main needs underlined by the beneficiaries were: having a library at the center as well as a TV – both for recreational reasons. By the end of 2020 Tanadgoma was able to collect some books for the library, as well as provided a TV for the living room of the center.

Strategic Goal 3

Ensuring sustainability of organizational functioning through improving systems, development of human resources and diversifying funding sources.

Objectives:

1.2. Supporting professional development of human resources

Staff development: Tanadgoma staff continued to use opportunities to increase and strengthen its skills and abilities through participation in internal, as well as external trainings/conferences/workshops. In total, 10 Tanadgoma staff took part in various regional and international events, listed below:

- HepHIV2019 Bucharest Conference “Challenges of Timely and Integrated Testing and Care”. Bucharest, Romania.
- 26th Harm Reduction International Conference. Porto, Portugal.
- “Fast-track Cities 2019” conference. London, UK.
- Study visit “Harm Reduction Friendly Rehabilitation”. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- „Law reform and Communication Strategies for SRHR; Building Transformative Partnerships to Accelerate SRHR and Gender Equality “. Sofia, Bulgaria.
- First meeting of the South-Eastern Europe Regional TB and HIV Community Network. Podgoritsa, Montenegro.
- Regional Autumn School on “Bridging the Gaps” approach, Kazakhstan.
- Seminar on Politics of Transition “Lessons and strategies for sustainable financing of HIV and other health programs”. Salzburg, Austria.
- Global consultation entitled "Public Financing of CSO Service Provision in National Responses to HIV, TB, and Malaria". Istanbul, Turkey.
- City Health Leadership Forum. Kiev, Ukraine.
- “Quality Improvement workshop in Chemsex and Combination Prevention Interventions”. Berlin, Germany.
- Third Regional Consultation on HIV among MSM and Trans People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Tallinn, Estonia.
- “CSE champions workshop”. Tirana, Albania.

- Rights Sensitization Training. Erevan, Armenia,
- The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. Nairobi, Kenya,
- Conference “Expanding rights and possibilities of women living with HIV in Eastern Europe”. Minsk, Belarus.

Also, 27 staff members from Tbilisi and regional offices were trained on different topics (Young Key Populations, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Conducting Qualitative Research – focus groups and in-depth interviews, social contracting, etc) both by Tanadgoma and other partner organizations.

Internship program continued in Tanadgoma during 2019. In total 7 interns received practice at Tanadgoma premises. Interns were from Tbilisi State and Ilia State Universities.

3.2. Maintenance, upgrade and support of technical and administrative resources

Upgrading resources: During 2019, Tanadgoma had conducted minor renovations of Tbilisi office, purchased licensed software, repaired and renewed some office equipment with financial support of RFSU core funding provided to Tanadgoma.

Fundraising: In order to contribute to sustainability of the organization, during 2019 Tanadgoma has been conducting active fundraising. In total, 23 proposals/concept notes were submitted to different donors. By the end of 2019, 8 (35%) submissions turned out to be successful. Some notifications will be received in 2020.

3.3. Revision and improvement of organizational systems for ensuring proper functioning

Legal revision of internal regulations: No new policies were developed during 2019. However, legal specialists reviewed existing internal regulations and accompanying forms in order to keep them consistent with the current laws. Relevant recommendations were provided to Tanadgoma management and corresponding amendments were done in the documents.

Update/revision of financial procedures: During 2019, Tanadgoma has revised and updated its Salary Scale, also revised and updated bidding/tendering procedures. The revised documents were submitted to Tanadgoma’s Board for approval, which is expected in early 2020.

Beneficiaries’ unified registration database: Beneficiaries new registration database was developed under GFATM project. All relevant program staff (social workers, counselors, outreach workers) was trained how to use the new tool.

Partnership and networking

Tanadgoma values a lot local and international partnership and networking, through which new opportunities for organizational programs can arise. During 2019 Tanadgoma maintained membership in various national and regional networks, coalitions and platforms, such as Georgian Harm Reduction Network; Learning for Change network; Georgian Coalition for Child and Youth Welfare; Coalition on Reproductive Health and Rights, Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council, functioning under Country Coordination Mechanism for HIV and TB, AIDS Action Europe, ECOM, SCN, EHRA, EuroTEST, EKHN, etc. Besides, in September 2019 Tanadgoma was invited to join South and Eastern Europe Regional

Community Network on HIV and TB issues. Also, Tanadgoma is part of Health Advocacy Coalition, which includes almost all CSOs active in the field of health and rights. The organization continued collaboration with civil society and community organizations from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and other countries of EECA region.