

Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma

Annual organizational report of 2022



Tbilisi, Georgia

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Abbreviations

- AHF AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- CSE Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- CSO Civil Society Organization
- DSE Digital Sexuality Education
- ECOM Eurasian Coalition on Male Health
- EKHN Eurasian Key Population Health Network
- FSWs Female Sex Workers
- FP Family Planning
- GBV Gender-based violence
- GCC Grand Challenges Canada
- GFATM The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HPV Human Papilloma Virus
- IDP Internally Displaced Person
- LGBT Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
- MA Medical Abortion
- MSM Men who have Sex with Men
- NCDCPH (NCDC) National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
- NGO Non-Governmental Organizations
- PWUDs People Who Use Drugs
- RFSU Swedish Association for Sexuality Education
- **RH** Reproductive Health
- 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
- WEEPI Western-Eastern European Partnership Initiative on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and TB
- WWD Women With Disabilities

From Chair of the Board

Dear all,

Herewith I am presenting to you the 2022 annual report of Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma.

But, first, I'd like to express my deep respect and admiration for our brother nation - Ukraine. We all know how devastating 2022 was for Ukraine as Russia invaded their territory. The importance and value of Ukrainian independence and territorial integrity is an issue the whole civilized world agrees on as they continue to support Ukrainian defense against the aggressor. Words aren't enough to describe the pain of our



brother nation nor is it sufficient to explain the bravery and strength of all heroes that stand strong in the face of an invader in Ukraine. It's important to remember that the suffering was caused by Russia and it is the same pain that they inflicted in Georgia in 2008 and Crimea, Ukraine in 2014. The war continues as we speak but I'm confident Ukraine will win! They will declare victory together with the civilized, progressive and democratic world!

Now allow me to express my appreciation and positive feedback regarding Tanadgoma's work in 2022, which has been conducted with habitual professionalism and loyalty to the cause. I hope the annual report that is presented to you will allow you to take a closer look at those values, goals and objectives we've been serving with all our hearts for the past two decades. Much gratitude to the organization for being constantly active, flexible and evolving.

I would like to thank all program and technical staff of Tanadgoma, all members of the Association for their successful work and cooperation. Also, I express my gratitude to our donors and partner organizations. Special thanks to Executive Director and administrative staff for their flexibility and excellent management of implemented programs.

With respect,

Lela Kurdghelasvili

Chair of the Board

From Executive Director



Dear colleagues, dear partners,

I am presenting to you the annual report of "Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma" for 2022.

2022 has been a very hard year, especially as COVID-19 pandemic concerns faded away with the Russian-Ukrainian war, starting at the beginning of the year. The war was and still is devastating, but the resistance demonstrated by Ukraine has influenced and inspired Georgian civil society, as well as our organization. 2022 was a year that followed the peak of the global pandemic of COVID-19, which affected severely our lives and our work. During the reported year, Tanadgoma gradually returned to normal functioning, and continued working towards implementation of the annual workplan and achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Plan for 2020-2022.

Some of our achievements, to list a few, during the year are:

- We started a very inspiring Digital Sexuality Education project;
- We meaningfully improved our cooperation and alliances with the media;
- We largely increased Tanadgoma's representation in social media and produced different media content, adapted to needs of ethnic minorities and people with disabilities;
- We conducted a research on SRHR needs of people with disabilities, which provides interesting recommendations to follow;
- We started advocating for SRHR needs of women with oncological diseases;
- We resumed working on facilitating access to medical abortion in Georgia;
- We piloted an innovative HIV self-testing approach and were able to reach beneficiaries in rural areas;
- We opened a day (outpatient) rehabilitation center with both online and in-person rehabilitation programs.

I would like to thank every staff member for his or her invaluable inputs in organization's functioning. It is through their work that we make progress towards our strategic goals.

Also, let me express gratitude to all Tanadgoma's national, regional and international partners, donors, volunteers as well as our rights holders for their stable support to our organization!

Thank you! Nino Tsereteli Executive Director

Introduction

Tanadgoma was established as a local NGO in 2000. During 22 years of existence, the organization has been enriching its programs and working on achieving sustainability through staff development and continuous fundraising.

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 – PWUDs, sex workers – SWs, young people, prison inmates, LGBTQI community, victims of trafficking, people living with HIV, internally displaced persons – IDPs, etc.

The present report highlights Tanadgoma's activities and achievements for 2022, according to 2020-2022 Strategic Development Plan.

Program portfolio

According to the Strategic Plan of 2020-2022, in 2022 Tanadgoma had 3 strategic priorities:

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

1.1. Advocacy and promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights both in Georgia and on the regional/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 and/or screening of STIs, HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and oncological diseases of Reproductive System among vulnerable populations

1.4. Contributing to elimination of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination

2) Mental Health, consisting of the following objectives:

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

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

3) Organizational Development, consisting of the following objectives:

3.1. Support, maintenance and development of human, technical and administrative resources

3.2. Performance management systems development

During 2022, under the first two program directions, Tanadgoma was implementing 14 different projects with support of the following donor organizations: RFSU, GFATM, UNFPA, AHF, FIND, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Caritas Czech-UNDP partnership, COBATEST Network, UN Women and NCDCPH. The present report covers all activities implemented by organization under various projects, following the structure of the 2022 workplan (ANNEX 1), which is based on the 2020-2022 Strategy of Tanadgoma.

However, before describing Tanadgoma's work in 2022, two major factors shall be mentioned that affected the organization's life during this year:

- In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine and the war started. This shocking event severely affected the whole world. Even though the immediate effects of the war are not seen in Tanadgoma's day-to-day work, the whole team is extremely engaged, follows the news and worries about numerous partners and colleagues in Ukraine. Tanadgoma personnel managed to collect some funds and send aid to Ukraine several times.

- Starting from March 2022, restrictions, related to COVID-19 pandemic, were gradually lifted. Consequently, Tanadgoma started returning to normal functioning, and in the autumn, the organization came to full life again.

Results per strategic goals and objectives

Strategic Goal 1:

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

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

1.1.1. Maintaining and strengthening strategic partnership with the organizations working on SRHR for increased advocacy efforts – functioning of SRHR coordination platform

Meetings of the SRHR coordination platform for sharing experiences, identifying advocacy priorities and planning joint activities. During 2022, 3 meetings of the SRHR coordination platform were held.

The first meeting took place on April 6. Number of participants was 23. The meeting covered the following topics:

- Representative of research organization EPRA (Educational Policy and Research Association) reviewed results of quantitative part of a survey initiated by Tanadgoma "Sexuality Education Analysis of Public Awareness, Attitudes and Opinions";
- Representative of the organization DemLab presented a chatbot on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (Content of the chat-bot was created with participation of Tanadgoma experts);
- Tanadgoma presented and discussed with the platform members the communication strategy to improve the process of vaccination against human papilloma virus (HPV).

https://tanadgoma.ge/en/srhr-coordination-platform-resumed-working-in-2022/

The second meeting was conducted on July 14, with 35 participants. During the meeting, members of the platform discussed results of a research, conducted in Georgia using UNESCO Sexuality Education Review and Assessment Tool (SERAT), reviewed SRHR issues incorporation into the subject standards of the National Curriculum and discussed communication campaign aimed at increasing acceptability of and creating favorable environment for CSE in Georgia. Head of UNFPA Georgia Country office and representatives of Ministry of Education and Science attended the platform meeting.

https://tanadgoma.ge/en/srhr-coordination-platform-meeting/

The third meeting was held on December 20, 16 persons attended it. During the meeting, five presentations were made:

- Representative of the organization AIDS Health Care Foundation (AHF) a new member of the Platform, presented the goals and activities of the organization;
- Tanadgoma representative reviewed materials of campaign supporting vaccination against human papilloma virus (HPV);
- Representative of the organization "Center for Youth Development XXI", presented research "Gender Analysis of Georgia's Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Policy";
- Tanadgoma representative presented the project "Facilitate Access to Medical Abortion in Georgia";

• Representative of the organization "Real People Real Vision" presented a research "Abortion stigma in Georgia".

At the end, the platform summed up the year and agreed upon resuming work in 2023.



SRHR Coordination Platform meetings

Analysis of European best practices of state SRHR programs and advocacy based on the comparison of Georgian and European SRHR funding. In 2021, a desk research was conducted on state funding in the field of reproductive health for years 2016-2020 in Georgia, which found that the approved budget was systematically reduced, leading to permanent savings in sub-programs. Further studies were recommended to compare international practices of state-funded reproductive health programs with Georgian reality and identify reproductive health needs in Georgia. In 2022, an analysis of European best practices of state SRHR programs and of Georgian and European SRHR funding was conducted, which found gaps with European SRHR programs and Georgian programs. Based on the analysis, recommendations were made to improve the provision of integrated SRHR services for women and youth, which include developing systematic approaches to postnatal care, establishing professional interpreter services in medical facilities located in regions populated by ethnic minorities, including consultations on family planning, contraceptives, and menopause care in the Basic Package of the Universal Health Care Program of Georgia, increasing access to information on contraceptives in the languages of ethnic minorities, reviewing the 5-days waiting period for an abortion procedure, and including comprehensive education on human sexuality in the formal education system.

Strong advocacy campaign and negotiations with the Ministry of Health would be necessary to implement the proposed programs. The advocacy campaign should involve a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, healthcare professionals, women's rights organizations, and youth organizations. The campaign should aim at raising awareness about the importance of reproductive health services and the need for the proposed programs, and putting pressure on the Ministry of Health to allocate sufficient funds for their implementation (See Annex 2).

1.1.2. Advocating for SRHR issues at the local, central, regional and international levels through meetings, roundtables, presentation of needs' assessments among vulnerable populations

Advocating SRHR needs (psychological and informational support) of women survivors of oncological diseases of RH system for inclusion into national strategy and action plan. An advocacy group has been assembled with participation of the following members: Tanadgoma, community organization "Winner Women's Club", NCDCPH, an oncologist – medical doctor and a psychologist working in "Clinical Oncology Clinic ". The group met several times during the year.

The goal of the working group was preparation of the advocacy documents for the decision-makers, which would describe the new model of psychological rehabilitation program for women with oncological diseases of the reproductive system. The ultimate goal is to advocate for state funding of the rehabilitation program.

The stress-management module has been successfully piloted by Tanadgoma during the previous years. In 2022, the module was updated, modified and conducted again with participation of 12 beneficiaries. All of them assessed the results very positively. Consequently, the module was documented and prepared to be used during advocacy, as well as shared with interested parties.



Meetings with the beneficiaries¹

As a next step, Tanadgoma representative arranged a meeting with the Head of Tbilisi Municipality Healthcare Programs. Main aim of the meeting was to identify, if the municipal oncological diseases' prevention programs are able to offer free of charge psychological rehabilitation, based on the already developed module. Unfortunately, the Head of Municipal Healthcare Programs appeared to be not very responsive, said that currently there is no possibility of adding rehabilitation component to the existing programs and referred Tanadgoma to the Ministry of Health in this regard.

¹ Agreement to publish photos was received prior to the meetings

At the end of 2022, the working group held a meeting to identify future advocacy objectives in relation to rehabilitation program, such as:

- 1. Increasing visibility of the topic and cooperation with the media;
- Considering piloting the rehabilitation program in one of the clinics;
- 3. Advocacy with the Parliamentary Healthcare Committee collecting 10000 signatures for lobbying the subject.



Cover of the Sexual and Mental Health booklet for women with oncological diseases

Also, in 2021, Tanadgoma printed thousand copies of a booklet for oncological patients. In 2022 the booklet was distributed among medical providers, to be disseminated further among their patients.

Advocating SRHR needs of mental health patients based on the 2020 research findings through creating a training guide and providing training to social workers.

Tanadgoma experts elaborated a training guide for social workers on the issues of SRHR needs of mental health patients, based on the 2020 research findings. Two trainings for social workers were held, reaching 29 persons in total. One training took place in Telavi, with participation of 4 social workers from Kakheti region and 8 social workers from Tbilisi. Training attendees were representatives of government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations, as well as Ilia State University Social Work Master's program students. The second training was held In Zugdidi, Samegrelo region, with participation of 17 social workers from different state agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.





Training for social workers in Kakheti and Samegrelo regions

Seminars with journalists and media producers for presenting CSE research findings and promotion of other SRHR issues in media. During the reported year, seminars were conducted with regional TV, social media and printed media, in particular, with media representatives of Adjara and Guria regions. Tanadgoma conducted two workshops, reaching in total seventeen journalists. The issues brought up at the seminars included raising awareness on various SRHR and CSE topics: importance of teaching sexuality education in schools, sexual violence/harassment; premature sexual contacts; early marriage; pregnancy; abortion; emotions; values; Sexually Transmitted Infections; HIV infection. Following the seminar, Adjara TV dedicated one educational program to CSE issues and invited Tanadgoma representatives as speakers.

It should be underlined that during the previous years, Tanadgoma practiced such seminars as part of its strategic objective to increase cooperation with media. However, starting from 2022, these seminars are in line with and shall be considered under the broad CSE communication plan, developed in cooperation with UNFPA.

1.1.3. Elaboration and implementation of communication strategy for promotion of SRHR issues.

Implementation of HPV vaccination communication plan developed in 2021. In 2022 Tanadgoma continued implementation of the communication plan to promote HPV vaccination. In order to ensure proper coverage of HPV vaccination topic in media Tanadgoma launched negotiation with media outlet representatives. Within the framework of the campaign, by initiative of Tanadgoma, 4 most rated TV shows, 1 newspaper and 2 sites covered HPV vaccination issue. Representatives of Tanadgoma took active participation in TV all shows and in preparation of articles. Below is the list of products developed by various media:

- 24.01.2022: webpage "MshoblebisTvis" (https://bit.ly/3YN3d7q)
- 2.02.202: TV company TV1, show "Pirvelamde" (https://bit.ly/3JdYndK)
- 12.07.2022: National broadcaster radio, show "Saxlisaken" (https://bit.ly/3JP93RL)
- 14 07. 2022: National broadcaster radio 1 (<u>https://bit.ly/3JoMq55</u>)
- 03.05. 2022: TV Imedi, show "Doctors" (https://bit.ly/3yNw7tq)
- 24.10.2022: TV "Formula", show "Morning" (<u>https://bit.ly/3mV7Hvx</u>)
- 28.11.2022: Newspaper "Qronika+", article "What causes cervical cancer and how can it be prevented" (<u>https://bit.ly/3ToKoGz</u>)

During 2022, in the frame of HPV vaccination communication plan, six educational videos were developed with participation of 5 women and 1 man, in order to motivate parents to involve their children in vaccination. Individuals from different groups of society – medical professionals, actors, famous doctors, etc. - who have already vaccinated their Children, were selected for participation in the videos. Videos were shared through Tanadgoma Facebook page and YouTube channel. All videos together collected 333,700 views.

- 1. https://www.facebook.com/reprodugciuli.janmrteloba/videos/671090151419541
- 2. https://www.facebook.com/reprodugciuli.janmrteloba/videos/736874820741115
- 3. <u>https://www.facebook.com/reprodugciuli.janmrteloba/videos/685674526613924</u>
- 4. <u>https://www.facebook.com/reproduqciuli.janmrteloba/videos/3441656876112403</u>
- 5. <u>https://www.facebook.com/reprodugciuli.janmrteloba/videos/891162138549911</u>
- 6. <u>https://www.facebook.com/reprodugciuli.janmrteloba/videos/606979567895751</u>

Tanadgoma translated these educational videos on HPV vaccination into Azerbaijani and Armenian language for ethnic minorities and adapted for hearing-impaired beneficiaries. Subtitles were added to the videos and they were shared through Tanadgoma social media accounts as well as sent to organizations working with ethnic minority women. Also, video prepared in 2021 was posted in Tanadgoma social media (https://www.facebook.com/reproductiveli.janmrteloba/videos/396564679050054/). The video reached

(https://www.facebook.com/reproduqciuli.janmrteloba/videos/396564679050054/). The video reached 63,700 people, with 129K+ views.

1.1.4. Seeking opportunities to assist CSOs, especially women's and community organizations, in development of SRHR knowledge and skills

Cooperation with "Women's rooms" and local gender councils in 4 municipalities in Adjara and Samegrelo regions for elaborating and implementation of local SRHR promotion plans: training on local municipality representatives and civil society, followed by informational meetings with the local women. On August 4-5, 2022, Tanadgoma held two consequent workshops with: representatives of Batumi and Khelvachauri municipalities, media and non-governmental organizations (Adjara region) and with representatives of Zugdidi and Senaki municipalities, local media and nongovernmental organizations (Samegrelo region). Goal of the workshops was provision of information on SRHR issues, highlighting importance of their inclusion in local gender equality plans and elaboration of recommendations in this regard. In total, 29 persons participated in the workshops.

In order to follow up incorporation of SRHR issues into municipal Gender Equality Councils action plans, on November 3.11.2022, Tanadgoma representatives met with representatives of Zugdidi and Senaki municipalities' Gender equality councils, and on 4.11.2022 - with representatives of Khelvachauri and Batumi municipalities' Gender equality councils. During the meeting with municipal Gender equality councils, possible directions for the communication plans on SRHR issues were defined:

- Educational work on SRHR issues with leader women through Women's rooms,
- Educational work on SRHR issues with parents through kindergartens union,
- Educational work with youth leaders through municipal Youth councils,
- Distribution of information materials through the youth council and disseminating them through the Women's rooms.



Workshops with representatives of municipalities, local media and nongovernmental organizations

By the date of meeting, Senaki municipality had not yet approved composition of the Gender equality Council. Due to this circumstance, meeting was held with the chairperson of the municipal assembly of Social Affairs commission and the Head of City Hall Health and Social Service (these persons were defined as possible members of Gender Equality Council of Senaki municipality and actually became members later). Tanadgoma representatives provided information to Senaki municipality members regarding importance of inclusion of SHRH issues in the Gender Equality action plans, and recommendations about activities of action plans elaborated by participants of trainings In Zugdidi. Senaki municipality members ensured Tanadgoma representatives, that after assembling the Gender equality council they will promote incorporation of SHRH issues during elaboration of the action plan and cooperate with Tanadgoma for joint implementation of educational activities.



Meetings in Senaki municipality

Information and photos of meetings were posted on Facebook pages of Senaki (<u>https://bit.ly/3LqiqbB</u>) and Zugdidi municipalities (<u>https://bit.ly/3JisKid</u>).

Usually, Gender Equality Councils approve action plans for the next year during autumn. Therefore, it was not possible to incorporate communication activities on SHRH issues into action plans and corresponding budget allocations for 2022. Hence, in Samegrelo and Adjara regions, communication activities on SRHR issues were conducted by Tanadgoma representatives. Municipality Gender equality councils' representatives supported organizing meetings with the population of the region. During the period from 01.11 2022 till 19.12.2022, in total, 154 persons participated in educational meetings (75 persons - in Adjara region and 79 persons - in Samegrelo region).

Conducting, finalizing and presenting a research on SRHR needs' among women with disabilities. During 2022, the study on SRHR needs among women with disabilities was completed and the report has been elaborated. Due to the high number of presentations offered by the partner organizations at the SRHR Coordination Platform meetings, it was not possible to present the research and this was postponed to the first meeting of the platform in 2023. Conclusions and recommendations of the research are summed up below:

- For research participants, it is necessary to get information on reproductive health issues, because they have a big risk related to personal safety and reproductive health problems. There is a need to create a special manual on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights for women using wheelchairs, their family members and medical professionals.
- The main problem faced by women with limited mobility in accessing reproductive health services is the unadapted environment.
- The lack of a special gynecological chair is also a big problem highlighted by the women participating in the study.
- During the organization of trainings on reproductive health issues, it is necessary to take into account the adapted infrastructure for women with mobility restrictions and their social situation.
- For women who use wheelchairs, issues related to childbearing are the most pressing. They suffer from a lack of information in this direction.
- Internet and trainings are the main ways of finding information on SRHR issues for women using wheelchairs. They need additional tools and guides to filter the information from the Internet to find correct and reliable sources.
- Doctors do not have experience of working with patients who use wheelchairs and may not know how
 to conduct medical consultations with them in a way that is respectful, compassionate, and effective.
 This could be due to a lack of training or awareness of the unique needs and experiences of patients
 with disabilities. Regarding confidentiality, some doctors may violate patient privacy by sharing
 confidential information without the patient's consent. This can be a serious issue and a violation of
 medical ethics.

- Stereotypes widespread in society have negative impact on the wishes and needs of women in wheelchairs related to reproductive health.
- In some cases, an environment that is not adapted for individuals with limited mobility could make it difficult to live independently, potentially leading to a higher risk of psychological violence in the family.
- Cases of domestic violence among women with limited mobility are related to economic, psychological and physical violence.
- Women with limited mobility have high risk of becoming victims of violence. They need more support from the state and more awareness of the population.
- Discriminatory attitudes are still observed due to mobility limitations from medical staff, in the streets and from drivers and passengers in public transport.

The recommendations laid out by the research clearly demonstrate possible ways forward to meeting SRHR needs of the women with disabilities. In the nearest future, Tanadgoma plans to cooperate with the WWD community organizations in order to advocate implementation of these recommendations. The research report can be found at Tanadgoma's webpage: <u>https://bit.ly/3Jg35ri</u> (available only in Georgian).

1.1.5. Cooperate with various stakeholders on regional and international levels through engaging in technical assistance as well as participation in joint regional and international projects/programs.

Expert support to the Care-Caucasus Project

Tanadgoma provided expert support in the Care-Caucasus Project "Reducing negative impact of COVID-19". One of the component of the project was to increase access to health and services for the most vulnerable groups, aiming to reduce the negative impact of COVID 19 on women and girls, as well as vulnerable local people, by providing health information (including sexual and reproductive health services) and sharing gender-responsive mechanisms. The package of assistance (medicines, health services, etc.) was defined according to the needs identified in cooperation with the private sector. With Tanadgoma participation, information materials were created on the following topics: gender-based violence, healthy lifestyle, myths related to pregnancy and menstruation, topics of Sexual and Reproductive Health and rights.

https://care-caucasus.org.ge/index.php?m=23&news_id=261&lng=eng

1.1.6. Improving access to Family Planning Information

Contributing to implementation of communication strategy for 2021 for "Women and Newborn Health Strategy". During previous years, Tanadgoma assisted NCDC in elaboration of the communication strategy and plan for 2022-2024 under "Women and Newborn Health Strategy". The communication plan was agreed upon with NCDC, however, was not officially approved. In 2022, the person responsible for implementation of this plan at NCDC had left her position, and it took several months to hire the replacement. As soon as this new person was appointed, Tanadgoma organized a meeting with her, in order to discuss collaboration, as well as signing a memorandum of cooperation describing our mutual agreement on implementation of some parts of the communication plan. The memorandum was jointly drafted and submitted to NCDC legal department for review in November. By the end of the year, there was no response from them.

Besides, plans were set for 2023 to organize a coordination meeting with all stakeholders and experts in the field to present the plan and invite them to make inputs in its implementation.

However, meanwhile, some activities that Tanadgoma has been implementing during 2022, correspond to the communication plan points, such as cooperation with the regional municipalities, or promotion of mobile application on SRHR topics.

Creating a holistic online platform for SRHR issues: webpage with information and specific chatbots, linked to FB and Instagram pages and Youtube channel. From the beginning of 2022, Tanadgoma started working on the structure and content of the SRHR webpage to be developed. In parallel, a social media manager was hired. She developed communication plans for Facebook pages "Tanadgoma mshoblebs" and "Reproductive Health", run by Tanadgoma, and added Instagram pages to both of the Facebook pages, as well as TikTok for "Tanadgoma mshoblebs". Also, more SRHR content was added to Tanadgoma Youtube channel.

In March 2022 RFSU informed Tanadgoma about their plans to start Digital Sexuality Education (DSE) project in one of the countries. Later Georgia was selected as a target country, and Tanadgoma – as implementing organization. Since DSE project implied development of digital communication content and tools, Tanadgoma, in agreement with RFSU, decided to postpone development of the holistic SRHR online platform, specifically, of the SRHR webpage, until DSE project would reach the stage of products' creation in 2023.

Maintaining mobile application "My Calendar Geo". By the end of 2022 posts made by Facebook page "Reproductive Health" reached 567,124 people and got 7953 reactions, 795 comments, 754 shares, 6774 link clicks. The page got 10,250 new followers (17,609 in total, from the capital city and regions); 7211 people visited the page itself. All ads had 2,312,744 impressions in total. The posts/ads about mobile application "My Calendar Geo" reached 119,991 people, and 545,405 impressions. In 2022 the application was installed by up to 14000 Android customers and 6500 IPhone customers. Overall, the application has more than 50 000 downloads since its launch.

Scale up of the piloted simplified model of medical abortion provision among rural women in Georgia (Publication of the clinical research of 2021 in a peer-reviewed journal; Implementation of the innovative service provision model in real life, along with geographical expansion; Innovative model of MA included in revised abortion guidelines) Implementation of the innovative service provision model in real life, along with geographical expansion; Innovative model of MA included in revised abortion guidelines). In 2020-2021, with Grand Challenges Canada funding, Tanadgoma undertook a project to enhance accessibility of medical abortion in Georgia. As part of this project, Tanadgoma conducted a clinical trial of the one-visit MA model in three clinics, resulting in positive outcomes and high satisfaction levels among patients and providers. Tanadgoma aimed to integrate the one-visit simplified MA model into the national guidelines for abortion to ensure sustainability and wide utilization. Additionally, it was vital to test this model in real-life settings and to train more service providers to gain familiarity with telemedicine and the one-visit MA provision model details. To enable execution of these activities, Tanadgoma tried to attract SAAF financial support, but unsuccessfully. However, in mid-2022 RFSU made a decision to support Tanadgoma's plans in this regards. The project "Facilitate Access to Medical Abortion in Georgia" started in July 2022.

The project has successfully accomplished almost all of its planned objectives for 2022, which included organizing an expert meeting by Tanadgoma to discuss incorporating a simplified model of Medical Abortion into revised abortion guidelines. Additionally, the project trained abortion providers on implementing the telemedicine MA service delivery model, and started a clinical study on simplified MA model in three regions of Georgia – Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti and Samegrelo. The project has also developed remote payment schemes for implementing this model in real-life situations.

As part of efforts to raise awareness of the one-visit medical abortion scheme, the innovative model was presented to a broad audience during the "Challenges in Reproductive Health" conference held on September 28th, 2022 – International Safe Abortion Day. The project distributed scarves with the September 28th logo, flyers on the history of the day and MA simplified model. Furthermore, an article on the model's effectiveness was published in one of the most popular Georgian magazines "Tbiliselebi". (More details are provided in Annex 3. Medical Abortion project report)



Tanadgoma presenting at the conference



Training of abortion providers

In 2022, an article on clinical trial conducted on simplified MA model "Telemedicine medical abortion service in Georgia: an evaluation of a strategy with reduced number of in-Clinic visits" was accepted for publishing in The European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care (https://bit.ly/3TnOHC4).

Additionally, since Tanadgoma started working on abortion under RFSU funding, in 2022 the organization joined L4C Abortion cluster as an active member. Experience sharing and discussions taking place in the cluster has informed Tanadgoma's work and broadened its network in the field.

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

1.2.1. Cooperation with main stakeholders in the CSE field, such as relevant UN agencies and international organizations, as well as with CSOs active in the SRHR

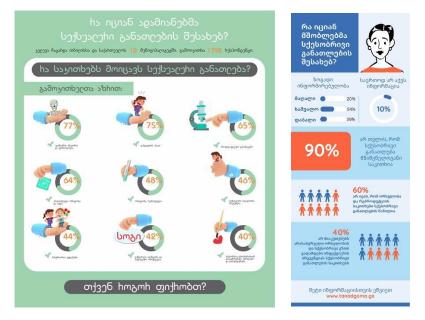
Finalizing, translation and presentation of quantitative part of the research on attitudes towards CSE in Georgia. During 2022 a research report "Sexuality Education - Analysis of Public Awareness, Attitudes and Opinions" was translated from Georgian to English. It includes both qualitative and quantitative stages of the study. Final presentation took place at the first SRHR Coordination Platform meeting on 6th of April, 2022.

Even in 2022, it was not possible to gather the reference group due to the ongoing pandemic. Tanadgoma decided to utilize existing funds to showcase the main findings of the research through creation of 10 infographics, which will be periodically shared on social media. Topics of the infographics are as follows: Attitudes and engagement of school teachers; Attitudes and engagement of parents; Awareness and attitudes of youth; CSE from ethnic minorities' perspective; Persons



EPRA researcher giving presentation at the SRHR Coordination Platform meeting

with Disabilities and CSE; Attitudes of Georgian Orthodox Church representatives; Advocating for CSE and its barriers; General awareness on CSE; Awareness on CSE in relation to socio-economic status; Awareness on CSE in relation to demographic characteristics.



Examples of created infographics

1.2.2. Cooperation with state structures: participation in the Ministry of Education and Science working groups, contributing to elaboration of the textbooks and teachers' qualification raising on SRHR

Participating in revision of elementary level standards (grades I-IV). During 2022 working on the school curriculum for the elementary level (grades I-VI) was resumed (subjects: "Me and Society" and "Nature"). Topics of CSE were broadened in the standard, personal safety and sexual violence prevention issues were added. At the end of the year, standards for Elementary grade were approved and the competition for new textbooks was announced.

Preparing animations on CSE topics as additional resource for schools. Two animations were prepared by Tanadgoma on "Protection of children's personal space - understanding good and bad touch" for two age groups – 6-8 years and 9-12 years. As in previous years, in 2023 animations will be handed over to the Ministry of Education for further sharing with the teachers. Tanadgoma also will upload the animations at "Tanadgoma" Youtube channel and Facebook page "Tanadgoma Mshoblebs".



Snapshots from animations

Piloting elective course for schools. The elective course creation was requested from the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia in 2020. The course has been elaborated by Tanadgoma experts and includes topics, which are poorly or not covered in the national curriculum, such as sexual violence, family planning, safe sexual relationship, emotions, gender equality; sexual citizenship, stereotypes about sexuality, etc.

In the summer 2022 three schools in Tbilisi were selected for piloting. Tanadgoma, together with the experts from the Ministry, conducted a 10-days training for school biology and citizenship teachers. During the training all lessons' scenarios were discussed in detail. A total of 36 lessons were held in three schools for 10th and 11th grades. The lessons' process was monitored during two months. At the end of the pilot, a workshop took place, where teachers and experts assessed its implementation, discussed strengths and weaknesses revealed, and minor changes were made in the course. In 2023 it is planned to conduct another pilot, using the revised course, and by the end of the year elective course standard shall be approved by the Ministry.



Elective course being piloted and monitored in the selected schools

Elaboration of additional resource manual for Biology and Citizenship teachers in Georgian, Azeri and Armenian languages and presenting/handing it over to the MoE. During the previous year, Tanadgoma was conducting online meetings with the coaches of the educational system throughout the country. The

meetings revealed, that they lacked information about CSE topics, added recently to the primary level subjects. In order to respond to this need, Tanadgoma developed an additional resource manual for school teachers "Resource guide for educators on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights issues". The guide was translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, to make information equally accessible for ethnic minorities, and printed in all three languages. The guide appears to cover important and relevant topics related to health, adolescence, and social issues that affect students, such as: Puberty, menstrual cycle, sexual violence, bullying/cyberbullying, early marriage, pregnancy in adolescents, HIV/AIDS. Importantly, the topics align with the UNESCO standards. By providing teachers with additional information and practice exercises on these topics, they will be better equipped to provide accurate and necessary information to their students. Overall, this seems like a positive initiative to support student learning and well-being.

The printed materials as well as the electronic versions were handed over to the Ministry of Education. They will distribute the materials in public schools across Georgia. Materials are also uploaded at Tanadgoma's website: <u>https://tanadgoma.ge/skhva-publikatsiebi/</u>

1.2.3. Elaboration and implementation of communication strategy for promotion of CSE.

Based on the agreement, reached in 2021, Tanadgoma and UNFPA Georgia office planned to elaborate and implement communication campaign regarding CSE jointly, coordinating efforts and joining resources. In the beginning of 2022, the communication plan was finalized. Based on this plan, Tanadgoma selected several particular directions to be covered with its resources, such as presenting communication plan at the SRHR Coordination Platform, developing messages for the campaign, participation in part of

the planned publications and TV/radio shows, organizing meetings with media and influencers, etc. Following this suggestion, Tanadgoma started implementation of some activities. In July the communication plan was presented at the SRHR Coordination Platform. Also, activities of Tanadgoma in direction of working with media, especially regional media, as well as under media project, fell under CSE communication plan implementation.

Besides, in cooperation with UNFPA, two large meetings took place with social media representatives as well as editors of the leading printed, TV and online media. In total 31 journalists and social media representatives took part in these meetings. They were acquainted with CSE communication plan, importance of CSE coverage and their role in disseminating proper information. As a result, a particular plan for their future activities in this direction and their cooperation with UNFPA and Tanadgoma was elaborated. As a follow up of these meetings, Tanadgoma's participated in different TV shows: TV channels Rustavi 2, Adjara TV, IMEDI TV, The



Participants of one meeting with media

Georgian Times TV, TV Pirveli, Mtavari TV, Formula TV. There were also few publications made on the websites. The covered topics included CSE and sexual violence.



Tanadgoma experts participating in TV shows on CSE

Media project. In 2022 Tanadgoma implemented a project "Improving CSE coverage in Georgian media", funded by RFSU through a special call for proposals. The problem that the implemented project aimed to address was insufficient and inappropriate coverage of CSE in Georgian media. Hence, the **goal** of the project was to create a group of friendly and supportive journalists that would foster better CSE coverage in media. In order to achieve this goal, the following activities were implemented:

1) 10 media representatives (journalists and producers) were trained on the issues of sexuality education in order to create to create a group of friendly and supportive journalist. 2) With participation of 10 trained media representatives, an action plan on CSE coverage was developed. Within the plan, a list of main topics to be addressed, frequency of coverage and corresponding space for covering CSE issues was outlined for each media outlet. At the end of the workshop, the journalists admitted that plan helped them realize and clearly define their own role in relation to the coverage of CSE. 3) Guidelines on CSE coverage were developed and presented to broad audience of journalists and interested parties. The success of the project was confirmed by the notable increase of the coverage of the CSE topics by media, both during the implementation and after the end of the project. Improved quality of coverage shall be also mentioned: attempts to sensationalize and scandalize the issue no longer had a place during the coverage, correct accents were made and adequate guests were invited to talk about the CSE.

1.2.4. Conducting awareness raising of different groups, such as school headmasters, teachers, young people and their parents, as well as general population, on CSE

Continuing awareness raising on CSE among parents through Facebook Page "Tanadgoma Mshoblebs" (Support of Parents) and adding an Instagram platform. In 2022, posts made by page "Tanadgoma Mshoblebs" reached 449,212 people on Facebook and 21,442 - on Instagram and got: 36,705 reactions, 29,694 comments, 1743 shares, 5472 link clicks. New followers in 2022 made up 25,519 persons (31,214 in total, from the capital city and regions).

18,477 people visited the Facebook page and 563 - Instagram page. All ads have 2,619,141 impressions in total.

Tanadgoma created and posted 15 short videos on the topic "Parenting mistakes"; the most popular out of them got 226,4K views, with 73,5K reach. All videos got 848,100 views in total. Five online meetings were conducted for parents about different topics around parenting: 1. Teenagers and drugs; 2. Vaccination against human papilloma virus; 3. Bullying at school; 4. Menstrual cycle; Sexual violence; 5. Challenges of puberty, including Q&A with a therapist. Each meeting hosted up 30-35 parents, and the last one 150 parents online. Besides, a closed group was created for parents, for more communication and changing personal members experiences, with 600 by the end of the year.

In preparation for the next year, 10 mini videos were recorded for the Facebook page "Tanadgoma Mshoblebs" (Support of Parents). Video recordings were prepared on the following topics: Need for knowledge of sexuality education issues for adults; why is it difficult for parents to talk about sexuality issues with their children; What issues does sexuality education include; Risk behaviors of adolescents and awareness of issues of sexuliaty education; Reproductive health issues (HIV infection; STIs; abortion; pregnancy; contraception). They will be posted at Tanadgoma's social media starting from 2023.

Meetings with students at schools. Tanadgoma often is invited as guest speaker on SRHR issues to several public and private schools of Tbilisi. In 2022, Tanadgoma was invited to public schools NN 55, 182, and 45 of Tbilisi and a private school "Millenium". The purpose of the meeting was to provide additional information on sexuality education issues to school students, in particular, on those topics that are not covered by the standards of the subjects.



Public school N 55

Public school N 182

Training for Persons Involved in Women's Football. The Georgian Football Federation (GFF), in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Georgia Country Office, has launched a series of trainings for persons involved in women's football. The trainings, providing the participants information on issues related to gender equality (violence against women and harmful practices) and reproductive health, were conducted within the framework of the UN Joint Programme for Gender Equality, which is funded by the Government of Sweden. Tanadgoma participated in this program and led the trainings.



https://georgia.unfpa.org/en/news/training-persons-involved-womens-football

Digital Sexuality Education project. From August 2022, Tanadgoma implements the project Digital Sexuality Education (DSE). DSE Project aims to develop, implement, test and evaluate a digital sexuality

education solution in Georgia. The project is carried out in partnership with RNW Media and RFSU. The project has several stages. In 2022, the following activities were implemented:

- 1. Project planning and introduction of partners in RNW Media office in Haarlem, Netherlands;
- Deep dive Understanding the people involved and the problems they face: conducting a qualitative research among youth, aiming to understand the barriers and issues young people face in Georgia when it comes to realizing their health and rights.
- 3. Stakeholder mapping identifying relevant actors who might be affected by the project, and related motivations.



Kick-off meeting of the DSE team

Detailed information about activities carried out under DSE project is provided in the Annex 4. DSE project report.

Doctor's Hour. As a result of UNFPA and Tanadgoma joint advocacy, the Minister of Education and Science and Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia have issued a joint decree defining the standard of activities of medical staff deployed in schools and the functioning of the medical service space. According to the decree, the list of the activities to be mandatorily implemented by the school doctor has been defined. Among other issues, school doctors are mandated to inform students about topics related to sexuality education.

The first phase of "Doctor's Hour" program was piloted at the primary level in 12 public schools in Georgia. The program has developed lesson plans in line with UNESCO standards for specific classes.

Based on the consultations with the Ministry of Education, in 2022, the extended pilot of the project "Doctors' Hour" was commenced. The pilot was planned considering the lessons learned during the first phase of the project. At this stage, the Ministry of Education and Science chose 6 public schools. Three of them were from Tbilisi and three - from Kakheti region. Also, at the end of 2022, electronic version of the School Doctors' module was created.

On June 2, 2022, at the Ministry of Education and science of Georgia, a final meeting of a second stage under a joint program of the Ministry, UNFPA Country Office and Tanadgoma was held. At the meeting, representatives of schools engaged in the pilot presented the activities implemented in their respective schools. Deputy Minister of Education and Science thanked the parties involved in the program for cooperation and spoke about importance of raising awareness and increasing knowledge on safety and healthy lifestyle among school students.



Electronic version of the Doctor's hour's module



Final meeting of "Doctor's Hour" second phase

https://tanadgoma.ge/en/doctor-s-hour-second-stage-of-a-pilot-program/ https://georgia.unfpa.org/en/news/doctors-hour-time-health-and-personal-safety

Objective 1.3. Prevention and/or screening of STIs, HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and oncological diseases of Reproductive System among vulnerable populations

1.3.1. Provision of preventive and/or screening services for STIs, HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and oncological diseases of Reproductive System, as well as COVD-19, among vulnerable populations

Conduct regular HIV/STIs prevention activities among MSM and sex worker women, in 5 cities of Georgia, as well as among prisoners, with specific focus on supporting innovative prevention and self-testing strategies among MSM and FSWs. In 2022, under the Global Fund supported and state-funded HIV prevention and testing programs the following results were achieved:

Coverage by HIV prevention package and HIV testing in 2022				
Target group	Coverage by prevention package (risk reduction counseling, distribution of condoms, lubricants booklets)_Unique codes	VCT coverage _Unique codes		
MSM	5471	4646		
transgender people	58	55		
FSWs	3640	2810		

Materials distributed among MSM, Transgender people and FSWs in 2022		
Materials	Quantity	
Condoms	446 561	
Lubricants	58 277	

Informational materials on STI/HIV/Safe sex	8 313
HIV self-test	3 966
Medical masks (COVID-19 prevention)	40558
Hand sanitizers (COVID-19 prevention)	855

- Through indoor and outreach sessions 9 169 persons (Unique codes MSM, Transgender people and FSWs) were reached;
- Two types of informational and educational materials (STI/HIV/AIDS and Queer Dictionary) were created for and distributed among non-Georgian speakers, in three languages (Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian);
- As a result of active work in social media (Facebook, Instagram pages), in 2022 the Kiki Facebook page had 7,280 users, and the Instagram page had 1,427 users. The total number of post views in the reporting year was 1,607,372. Link clicks reached 15,742 (viewing informational and prevention messages, ordering HIV prevention package and HIV self-tests, registering for KiKi events, etc);

In the summer 2022, MSM mapping exercise was carried out by using dating applications such as: Grindr, Hornet, ROMEO. Working places were set in 5 cities (Tbilisi, Telavi, Qobuleti, Dmanisi, Ambrolauri). Duration of the activity was 10 days. Mapping revealed that: 1) most popular/usable dating app is Grindr; 2) Most active hours on Grindr are from 22:00 to 03:00; 3) The apps were the most crowded in Tbilisi and the least crowded - in Dmanisi (Kvemo Kartli region).

Along with this, under AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) supported project Tanadgoma worked inside the penitentiary system and provided HIV testing to inmates. In 2022, 3950 prisoners were tested on HIV, out of them 3711 men and 226 women. 13 HIV positive cases were detected (among them 10 male and 3 female prisoners), and all of them were linked to antiretroviral treatment program. Testing was conducted in 10 prison establishments.

Other projects and initiatives under this objective

1. One more project, related to HIV/AIDS – "Overcoming legal barriers for key populations - on the way to 90-90-90", was supported by Elton John AIDS Foundation, and Tanadgoma acted as Georgian partner of main implementer - Eurasian Harm Reduction Association. The project targeted representatives of the key populations with legal support and services in order to eradicate legal barriers and human rights violations creating obstacles to prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. The final results of the project for 2021-2022 are as follows:

- 550 beneficiaries had received legal services;
- 472 cases of human rights violations, related to receiving HIV and other medical services, were documented;
- 38 cases were referred to REAct an instrument, created by Frontline AIDS for monitoring and reaction to the human rights violations on communities' level;
- 8 PLHIV initiated or re-started on ART due to mitigation of human rights related barriers in access to HIV treatment;
- 240 beneficiaries were enabled to access health services.

2. In 2020-2021, Tanadgoma took part in a research on HCV self-testing among key populations, a research project funded by FIND. The study was finalized in 2022. Results, findings and recommendations were elaborated. In 2022, two more publications were successful based on this research:

- An article "Home-based hepatitis C self-testing in people who inject drugs and men who have sex with men in Georgia: a protocol for a randomized controlled trial" was accepted for publishing in BMJ Open;
- An abstract "UPTAKE AND LINKAGE TO CARE FOR HCV SELF-TESTING: RESULTS FROM A MULTI-COUNTRY RCT", has been accepted for a poster presentation at the 2023 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2023).

3. Under a project, supported through COBATEST Network (please see section "Partnership and Networking" below) "Peer-based model for reaching underserved MSM in Georgia", aim: To pilot peerbased intervention for reaching underserved MSM in Georgia. The project developed and piloted peerdriven intervention to provide HIV information and testing to hard-to-reach MSM groups in West Georgian regions of Imereti and Samegrelo. The main target were rural locations, where there is no outreach, and MSM are more hidden and hence underserved. The intervention included developing tracking and reporting system for recruited peers, training them on service provision and reporting, piloting intervention and providing close supervision and support to the peers. As a result, the piloted intervention was described and tested, so that it can be replicated in other regions of the country and incorporated into national and/or GFATM-funded HIV prevention program targeting MSM population. Overall, 201 rural MSM had been reached with information and testing on HIV, 2 out of them were HIV positive and had been linked to care.

4. In November, 2022, came to an end the Czech-UNDP Partnership-funded project "Behavioral Insights for Low Uptake of HIV Testing in Georgia", where Tanadgoma was one of the main implementing partners. The project aimed at increasing uptake of HIV testing in Georgia through transfer of Czech expertise in evidence based policy making and piloting behavioral data-based solutions. In order to implement this, an RCT research among Georgian youth has been planned and carried out. In particular, behaviorally informed message boxes were developed and tested for effectiveness in motivating youth to conduct HIV self-testing. Based on the research results, the most effective communication messages



Tanadgoma social worker giving a speech at the project closing event

were selected for developing further campaigns and presented to the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), the Center for Infectious Diseases and AIDS, and HIV researchers. Last, but not least, the initiative also worked to train selected medical staff to provide young people with confidential and trusted medical advice, free of any stigma. "Behavioral Insights for Low Uptake of HIV Testing in Georgia" was implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Challenge Fund, with the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. 5. As usual, Tanadgoma took part in commemorating the World AIDS Day. Tanadgoma representative made a presentation "Results of Tanadgoma's HIV prevention program among MSM and sex workers" at the national conference, organized by the National AIDS Center. Another Tanadgoma representative took part in an event, organized by Tbilisi Pride, at Cafe-Gallery. The event gathered up to 50 young people, a movie screening was organized, followed by moderated discussion on HIV situation in general and specifics of HIV/AIDS in relation to LGBTQI community in Georgia.



Tanadgoma ar World AIDS Day event

Incorporate prevention of COVID-19 among target vulnerable populations. Tanadgoma participated in various music festivals with HIV prevention activities. Namely: KiKi Nights, Swing, Komorebi, Open Air, others. In order to increase the motivation of the beneficiaries to participate in HIV self-testing program, different types of promo materials were created with HIV preventive messages. Due to the fact that there was a high risk of spreading of Monkeypox and COVID-19, special attention was paid to the prevention messages, medical masks and information leaflets were distributed together with HIV self-test and prevention packages.

1.3.2. Advocacy for state funding of HIV prevention services, approval of elaborated standards of prevention, and for launching of tailored HIV self-testing strategies

Cooperate with HIV/STIs Prevention Task Force, Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council and NCDCPH for joint advocacy of the increased state funding of HIV prevention, improved quality of interventions already funded by the state and approval of elaborated standards of prevention. As a result of joint advocacy efforts, undertaken by several CSOs, including Tanadgoma, the state-funded HIV testing program provided more favorable conditions to its implementers. Namely, the national HIV testing program targeting MSM and sex workers, implemented by Tanadgoma, allowed to test some percentage of beneficiaries more than once under the program. Yet, the provided conditions still needed improvements. Two of the most important topics for civil society is: a) approval of not only standards – guidelines - of prevention among the key populations, but of the interventions' protocols and costing; b) quality of services. Since Tanadgoma was engaged in development of the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan, these issues had been highlighted at every opportunity. As a result, conducting evaluation study of quality of HIV prevention services and client satisfaction has been included in the Strategic Plan. The second topic needs more coordinated and stronger advocacy, and CSOs plan to push this forward in 2023.

Participate in revision of the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan and development of the country proposal to the GF. Despite the fact, that the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan for 2023-2025 and the country proposal to the Global Fund seemed to be finalized by the end of 2021, in January 2022 working on these documents was resumed. The international experts sent revised versions to the team of national experts, which included Tanadgoma's Executive Director as responsible for developing some part of these documents. Later on, in January, the documents were presented and approved by the Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council, also at the CSO workshop, and in early February – by CCM. Finalized documents were submitted to the Global Fund in February. In May Technical Review Panel sent comments to the team,

which were duly responded to. As a result, Georgia received another HIV/TB consolidated grant for 2023-2025.

Scale-up of implementation research on HIV self-tests delivery strategies for partners of the key populations based on the previous research findings. In 2020-2020 Tanadgoma successfully implemented a WEEPI-supported project "Piloting HIV self-testing strategies for partners of the key populations". In January 2022, a follow-up research proposal on strategies and factors for increased HIVST among partners of the key populations was submitted to WEEPI, but was not successful. Tanadgoma keeps looking out for relevant funding opportunities in this research direction.

Objective 1.4. Contributing to elimination of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination

1.4.1. Support provision of free legal, medical and social services to women victims of GBV and discrimination, including COVID-19 prevention information and testing. During 2022, various medical, psychological and social services were provided to 101 women victims of violence from the following vulnerable groups: sex workers, drug users and women with disabilities. Out of those, 58 beneficiaries received services of a gynecologist, 17 – of a dermatologist, 12 – of a psychologist and 14 – of a lawyer. Besides, 100 beneficiaries were tested on HIV. Also, another issue of Tanadgoma's magazine for women "Qali" were created, 550 copies were printed and distributed.

Along with this, in 2022 Tanadgoma, in cooperation with Queer Association "Temida" implemented a Global Fund supported project "Prevention of gender-based violence among HIV/AIDS key populations, PLHIV and people infected with Tuberculosis and ensuring provision of temporary shelter and relevant medical, prevention and social services to victims of violence from these populations during COVID-19 pandemic." As a result of the project: 23 persons were received at the shelter; 43 beneficiaries received legal and 42 – paralegal services; 43 cases were administered through case management approach; 11 staff members of the shelter were trained in "Mechanisms of temporary shelter management and responding to beneficiaries' needs". The project ended by 2023 and Tanadgoma has withdrawn from its implementation in the coming years, so that "Temida", already having gained experience with the GFATM/NCDC programs, is able to continue running the shelter and services independently.

1.4.2. Capacity building and mobilization of vulnerable women for improved advocacy for their rights, specifically through managing closed group in social media and providing online consultations about human rights and Covid-19. Within this activity 12 trainings on "Human rights and violence" were conducted, with participation of 96 women from vulnerable groups. Also, a closed group in social media, moderated by an initiative group of vulnerable women, continued functioning. Issues of safety, human rights, reproductive health and rights were discussed in the group. Tanadgoma consultant was involved in the closed group and provided counseling and advice in cases of necessity.

1.4.3. Cooperation with the organizations working on violence prevention and providing related services for better functioning of the referral system.

During 2022, Tanadgoma was not able to follow-up recommendations developed in the previous year, in particular, on developing a map for referral system as an important instrument to make response to GBV effective and efficient. But the problem of lack of coordination between organizations providing GBV services still persists. Hence, Tanadgoma plans to get back to solving this issue in 2023.

Besides, under this activity, in autumn 2022, Tanadgoma decided to conduct qualitative research and study the issue of violence against women enrolled in sex work in Georgia and develop recommendations for prevention and effective response.

Overall, 8 in-depth interviews with female sex workers were conducted in Tbilisi, capital of Georgia. The research revealed that violence is an actual issue. Research has shown that sex workers still do not have sufficient knowledge about forms of violence, their rights, legislation and services available in the country. Based on the research results, recommendations were developed: there is a need for informational work with sex workers on violence policy, legislation and services available in the country. It is important to improve the communication skills of sex workers.

Project "Combating gender-based violence against women with disabilities in six EaP countries:

On December 1, 2022 Tanadgoma launched a project "Combating gender-based violence against women with disabilities in five EaP countries", implemented in the framework of the programme "EU4Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence", funded by the European Union, implemented jointly by UN Women and UNFPA. Project is implemented in Georgia, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Initially, Ukraine was also included in the countries' list, however, the partners refused to participate in the project due to the ongoing war and their unwillingness to collaborate under a project where Belarus was also involved as a partner country. As a result, the project is being implemented in only 5 countries. The **goal** of the project is to engage central and local decision makers and grassroots CSOs in six countries of EaP in implementing innovative solutions to end gender-based violence against Women With Disabilities (WWD). The project duration is 6 months, and the objectives include: raising awareness of national and local decision makers on identified barriers and enablers to combat gender-based violence against WWD through implementation of communication, advocacy and improved equality opportunities' initiatives. As the project started in December, mainly preparation activities were conducted during the reported year, and the activities will unfold fully in 2023.

Strategic Goal 2

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

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

2.1.1. Sustain, improve and popularize functioning of rehabilitation center

Implementation of the communication plan activities: positioning rehabilitation services via social media (FB, Instagram, Youtube). During the reported year, "Tanadgoma" continued to promote rehabilitation activities of PUDs, according to the communication plan, both through social media platform and through other channels. Positioning in social media was carried out in the form of printed posts, as well as videos. Also, staff of the rehabilitation organized informational-educational online meetings via Facebook page. Number of persons reached was up to 60000, engagement was up to 1500. 22 posts were published, 3 live meetings conducted, number of followers by the end of 2022 reached 1926. Website of the rehabilitation program (https://tanadgomatherapy.ge/) started functioning.

In addition to social media, the organization began using other channels to promote rehabilitation activities. In particular, visits were made to local and international NGOs, which work on harm reduction issues, as well as to drug treatment clinics. During these visits representatives of Tanadgoma made presentation about existing rehabilitation programs. Heads of the drug addiction clinics, medical doctors, psychologists and social workers participated at the meetings. From 2023 Tanadgoma" plans to hold face-to-face consultations with potential beneficiaries in drug treatment clinics in order to familiarize them with rehabilitation services.



Meeting with International Organization for Migration

Strengthening the staff of the center. In 2022 Tanadgoma started training of the community representatives as volunteers at the day rehabilitation center. They were involved in the provision of rehabilitation services together with the rehabilitation staff for 3 months. Two of them became community consultants of the rehabilitation program. Volunteers, as well as staff of the rehabilitation program were trained on drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation issues.

The organization took part in the competition of start-up of social enterprises. The purpose of participating in the competition was to add an employment component to the rehabilitation program. Despite the fact, that the organization was not finally awarded in the competition, within the



Training of rehabilitation program staff and volunteers

framework of the competition 3 staff members of rehabilitation program were trained on the following issues: social entrepreneurship and its role in employment of vulnerable groups, objectives of social entrepreneurship, marketing, resources management etc.

Support to functioning of the center (salaries, food etc.). During the reported year, Tanadgoma developed and offered two new rehabilitation products to its beneficiaries: 1) online rehabilitation program, the purpose of which is to increase access to rehabilitation services for PUDs (and their family members) who live in the regions or outside the country; 2) day rehabilitation program on the basis of outpatient rehabilitation center. Both programs were developed according to the international principles and standards of drug treatment issued by WHO in 2020 (https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/331635).

The main documents for both programs were created, staff of the rehabilitation programs were trained. During the year, 20 clients were engaged in the online program activities. Also, 10 clients and family members were provided services at the day center. One family member was trained on co-addiction issues.

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

2.2.1. Advocacy for implementation and funding of rehabilitation with state resources

Advocacy for approval of the rehabilitation standards based on the feedback received from stakeholders. During previous years, Tanadgoma, with engagement of experts from various partner organizations, develop rehabilitation standards. The documents were presented to broad audience of interested parties, where Tanadgoma received recommendations from the partner organizations about slight changes and improvements in the standards. These recommendations were incorporated into the documents. Last year, Tanadgoma continued to raise awareness about the standards among the partner organizations and key actors. Project coordinator got involved in experts' working group - Protocol Development Advisory Group (PDAG), created under the EU-supported project "Empowering civil society and professional organizations to ensure safe, secure and accountable society in Georgia". The group works on development of various protocols in the drug use field, and Tanadgoma was invited due to its rehabilitation expertise. Engagement of Tanadgoma's representative in this group will help promote adoption of the standards. Next year Tanadgoma plans to submit a package of documents to the relevant health department for review and approval.

2.2.2. Awareness raising campaign on rehabilitation

Tour for partner and professional organizations to Gremi rehabilitation center. Students of the master's program in addiction studies of the Ilia State University visited day center of the rehabilitation program. Day Center's program manager, instructors of the rehabilitation program and psychologist took part in the meeting. Students were provided with information on engagement procedures of beneficiaries to rehabilitation program, rehabilitation stages, and therapeutic methods used during rehabilitation.

Media tour for journalists to Gremi rehabilitation Center.

Tanadgoma conducted a media tour for the students of the Faculty of Journalism of the International Black Sea University. 16 representatives of the universities participated in the tour. Program manager of the rehabilitation center presented the rehabilitation program, methods used within rehabilitation, stages of the rehabilitation. After the presentation, discussion was held between students and rehabilitation center staff. The students expressed willingness to become more engaged in promotion of rehabilitation though social media. Several publications were made after the tour (https://bit.ly/3mLNXKA).



Media tour to Gremi rehabilitation center

Media competition for journalists for articles in the print or social media about the rehabilitation. In 2022, Tanadgoma decided to redistribute existing funds for prioritized promotion of the day rehabilitation center. This was decided especially based on the interest and motivation, expressed by the media tour participants, to write more about Tanadgoma's rehabilitation program. Besides, Tanadgoma printed booklets and posters and distributed them among the beneficiaries and partner organizations and clinics. Also, short videos were created and posted through social media.

Strategic Goal 3

Ensuring sustainability of organizational functioning through improving performance management systems and ensuring adequate and diversified funding sources.

3.1. Support, maintenance and development of human, technical and administrative resources

3.1.1. Increasing qualification and development of the staff though participation in training, international events and conferences. During the reported year, Tanadgoma staff had less opportunities to participate in trainings, webinars, international events and conferences. Overall, 26 Tanadgoma staff took part in events, listed below:

- Internal training: 7 staff members of the rehabilitation program were trained on rehabilitation standards
- Three Tanadgoma staff members a project manager, a social worker and assistant to accountant took part in Social entrepreneurship training
- Tanadgoma Social Worker, as a member of L4C Sexuality and Non-discrimination Cluster, took part in a study visit to Geneva, Switzerland, to learn about human rights advocacy mechanisms, and to Stockholm, Sweden, to share experience of RFSU
- Two Tanadgoma representatives attended COBATEST Network's members' meeting in Barcelona
- Tanadgoma Executive Director attended EECA Interact Conference and participated, as well as moderated a session at IAS Educational Fund's workshop "Moving forward: how to keep the HIV response strong in the EECA region through science and community involvement" in Riga, Latvia
- Tanadgoma Executive Director attended 24th International AIDS Conference (virtual participation)
- Tanadgoma assistant to accountant underwent a training at Audit and consulting company AGIC, "Financial management and accounting for Non-Governmental Organizations"
- One of the project coordinators participated in a training, organized by "Digital Huub" on "Advertising in social media"
- 6 Tanadgoma staff members social workers from Tbilisi and regional offices participated in 2days training on COVID 19 & Monkeypox, organized by NCDCPH
- 5 Tanadgoma social workers attended a re-training on COVID-19, organized by Georgian Harm Reduction Network
- Tanadgoma representative participated in National Gender Equality Conference "VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS IN GEORGIA", as a member of a panel session "Education as the primary medium to combat gender based discrimination and harmful practices". Tanadgoma's representative spoke about CSE research results from gender perspective, as well as about importance of Doctor's Hour in prevention of gender-based violence.

https://georgia.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2022/12/first-ever-nationalconference-on-gender-equality-held-in-georgia

 Two Tanadgoma representatives took part in the International Conference on Family Planning 2022 Pattaya, Thailand. Tanadgoma CSE coordinator presented "Attitudes of representatives of the Georgian Orthodox church toward sexuality education" in a panel session "Faith and Family Planning". The presentation was based on attitudes towards CSE study, conducted by Tanadgoma in 2021.



Tanadgoma's participation in ICFP



Visits to Geneva and Stockholm

3.1.2. Continue internship programs for recruitment of volunteers and creating pool of new possible staff. During 2022 Tanadgoma continued internship program for students. Overall, during the year, 13 students – 12 from Tbilisi State University, Faculty of social and political sciences, Bachelor's program for Social Workers and one from Ilia State University – were enrolled in the internship program. This year the lectures and meetings with various Tanadgoma staff were conducted mostly online in spring semester and mostly in-person – in autumn semester.

As for cooperation with Ilia State University, Tanadgoma was invited to conduct five lectures for students' for Social Work Master's degree. Topics covered included puberty, risks related to reproductive health and addiction, HIV/AIDS, etc.

3.1.3. Upgrade and maintenance of the organization's material and technical resources: During 2022 Tanadgoma upgraded some technical resources: purchased two notebooks and statistical data analysis software SPSS. Also, covered annual fee for Accounting Software "Balance" and maintenance of office equipment and vehicles.

3.1.4. Supporting administrative resources: In 2022, Tanadgoma supported up to 31% of administrative costs from core funding.

3.2. Performance management systems development

3.2.1. Monitoring/evaluation of the organization's performance

Conducting regular monitoring and evaluation of staff performance. In 2022, due to COVID-19-related restrictions, and partial online working mode, Tanadgoma management was not able to conduct regular

evaluation of staff performance, however, monitoring was conducted using online communication platforms, under every project that was implemented throughout the year.

3.2.2. Consultancy/training regarding administrative, financial, legal and other issues, based on the context requirements

Financial trainings: Taxation of non-resident persons according to the current tax code; IFRS (international financial reporting standards). Tanadgoma assistant to accountant attended a training at Audit and consulting company AGIC "Financial management and accounting for Non-Governmental Organizations", which included various topics, among them current tax code and different taxes paid by NGOs.

Consultations with "Balance" software provider to ensure automation of Financial reporting system (deriving Financial Statements directly from accounting software "Balance"). In 2022 Tanadgoma underwent several consultations with the "Balance" technical support team on the following topics:

- Linking Bank statements directly to Balance software for integrating bank transactions into the Balance Accounting system.
- Deriving Income tax declaration report from Balance Accounting System
- Improvement of Budget vs expenditure reporting in the Balance Accounting System

Technical support to Tanadgoma's beneficiaries' database. Tanadgoma uses beneficiaries' database, which periodically needs technical support. Sometimes it encounters problems, or needs adding some fields, related to the research that Tanadgoma carries out, such as hepatitis C self-test, case management, psychological counseling, etc. During 2022, Tanadgoma covered these needs through the core funding.

Fundraising

In order to contribute to sustainability and diversify funding of the organization, during 2022 Tanadgoma's management team has been conducting active fundraising. In total, 21 proposals/concept notes were submitted to different donors, 7 (33.3%) out of them turned out to be successful, outcome of two successful concepts, as well as of one proposal will be received in 2023. Out of the submitted proposals five were targeted to new donor organizations for Tanadgoma, such as SAAF, COBATEST, EWMI, etc. As of end of the year, new small-scale funding was attracted to Tanadgoma only through COBATEST network.

Partnership and networking

During 2022 Tanadgoma maintained membership in numerous national, regional networks and coalitions, as well as in international platforms or networks, such as Georgian Harm Reduction Network; Learning for Change network; Georgian Coalition for Child and Youth Welfare; Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council, functioning under Country Coordination Mechanism for HIV and TB; AIDS Action Europe; ECOM; SCN; EHRA; EuroTEST; EKHN; South and Eastern Europe Regional Community Network on HIV and TB issues; Health Advocacy Coalition; ANMI – Advocacy Network for Migration Issues, etc. Tanadgoma's

participation in these networks and coalitions implies participating in annual members' meetings, taking part in elections of the boards, voting for the strategic priorities, etc.

Furthermore, in 2022 the organization joined COBATEST Network – a network that links community-based voluntary counselling and testing services (CBVCTs) across Europe with a mission is to promote HIV and other STI testing and linkage to care and treatment, to improve CBVCT services across Europe, to share good practices, procedures and information to improve CBVCT activities, and to provide tools to strengthen collaborative work between professionals. The COBATEST Network now comprises 56 CBVCTs in 26 European countries and 2 Central Asian countries.