SUSTAINING CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN A POST–GLOBAL FUND CONTEXT: LESSONS FROM ESTONIA

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Estonian Network of PLWH
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- Established in April 2005
- Stands for rights of PLWHIV in Estonia
- Offices in 4 largest regions
- Awarded Red Ribbon Award by UNDP and UNAIDS
- 110 members and 4 HIV-service NGOs
- 2000 service recipients
- Population 1,34 million
- HIV+ 7035
- AIDS - 265
- TB incidence 30,3/100 000
- DOTS/DOTS-Plus in all Estonia
- High rate for MDR-TB and XDR-TB
- HIV/AIDS is a growing problem
Newly diagnosed HIV-cases in 1997–2008, and total number of HIV-cases

Data source: Health Protection Inspectorate
Absolute number of TB cases in Estonia, 2000-2008

Total N+R

National Institute for Health Development: TB register 2009
GFATM Program in Estonia

- Awarded in September 2003
- Activities targeted:
  - IDUs
  - youth aged 15-24
  - CSWs
  - Prisoners
  - MSM
  - PLWHIV
- Implementing partners – 21 NGOs, private limited companies, hospitals and prisons
Lessons Learned

- NGOs became the constructive partners of the government
- Government is ready to fund services provided by NGOs
- NGOs gained project management experience
- Coordination and financial mechanisms for the government and NGOs were created
What was happening at the transitional period?
Challenges of the Transitional Period

- June 2007 – government statement
- Increased number of requests for ARV and other treatment
- Ensuring consistency and extension of the government funding
- Coordination of HIV and TB programs implemented by the different ministries
- Preserving cooperation between civil society and the Estonian government
Advocacy Measures

- Creating coalition of 17 NGOs
- Involving 100 international NGOs from 40 countries
- Issuing an appeal to the Estonian government
- Active media coverage
- Dialogue with policy- and decision-makers
- Active participation of PLWHIV in national committees on HIV, on planning and procuring ARV, and working group on TB and HIV
TB Incidence and TB+HIV cases by Year, Estonia, 1989–2008

2007 - 10.1% of TB cases HIV+
2008 - 9.4% of TB cases HIV+
National TB Prevention Program for 2008 - 2012

- Political commitment to TB control
- Free of charge treatment for all TB patients according to DOTS/DOTS Plus
- Co-operative management of TB/HIV patients
- TB services – entry point for HIV patients and vice-versa
- HIV testing/treatment for TB patients is available within the TB services
- Infectious Disease Control Law (2003): compulsory isolation (by court order) for smear positive TB patients not following treatment rules
Forum of the HIV-service NGOs

Priority tasks:

- Developing of the partnership code
- Regular monitoring of needs of people living with HIV and TB
- Representing interests of PLWH and TB at the professional level
- Coordinating advocacy tasks and actions
- Educating NGO staff
- Educating vulnerable groups about TB and HIV and AIDS
Recommendations

1. Active involvement in the management process of the GF program, including NCC
2. Development of the national strategy for transitional period – not later than 1 year prior to the GF program completion
3. Understanding how the government structures are functioning
4. Conducting of the independent analysis of HIV and TB situation in the country
Recommendations

5. Advocating for TB and HIV programs at the national level
6. Entering into contracts between NGOs and the government
7. Creating coalition of NGOs
8. Active cooperation with media
Estonian Network of People Living with HIV

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