



## European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C



# 2019

# ERNA Newsletter

## The main challenge: mass groups of population do not have proper access to basic health and care

- » People living with HIV and TB –due to high stigma and discrimination.
- » Or due to the insufficient state health and care system.
- » Migrants with non -regulated status.

## TB and HIV remain among the main public health threats in the Region

32 000 TB deaths occurred in Europe

45% of new registered TB cases are among people aged 25–44 years.

9 of the world's 30 countries with a high burden of Tuberculosis are within the Region.

Every day about 900 people sick with TB.

Every 20 minute 1 people die from TB or HIV.

TB incidence in the Region is among the lowest in the world, but burden of MDR-TB is the highest.

MDR-TB is one of the key drivers of the TB epidemic in Europe, along with HIV, social determinants and TB risk factors, and limited capacity of health systems.



Red Cross Red Crescent advocate and provide direct support to people with TB

## OUTLINE: HEALTH AND CARE STRATEGY, EUROPE

### THE MAIN AREAS OF HEALTH IMPORTANCE

#### Health in Emergencies

- » To create effective response mechanisms to reduce death and negative effects to the health of people in disasters and situations of crisis;
- » Strengthening and advocate First Aid and Psychosocial support activities.

#### Universal health coverage with a focus on community health

- » Advocating for access to health of the most vulnerable groups
- » Acceleration of HIV prevention and reduction of the impact of HIV, AIDS and Tuberculosis, with special focus on non - stigma, non -discrimination
- » Strengthened routine immunization and polio eradication programs
- » Strengthened blood safety programs through community mobilization, information sharing and documentation of best practices

#### Promotion of healthy life styles and NCDs prevention through the life-course

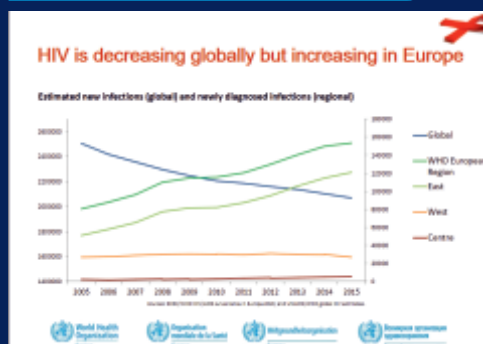
- » To support of the most vulnerable older people and promotion of healthy ageing.
- » To enhance Home care, social inclusion activities.

## Universal Health Coverage in the context of TB, HIV, IDUs

The World Health Organization defines UHC as the means by which "all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. It includes the full spectrum of essential, quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care."

This perspective is well-aligned with the health and care priorities at the Red Cross Red Crescent – everyone, everywhere should have access to high-quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services that are appropriate to their needs and expectations.

### HIV Epidemic in Europe



High stigma and discrimination – the main barrier for effective prevention and treatment – more than 35% people with HIV avoid to visit official health institutions

## To enhance Home care, social inclusion activities

Capture the scale of current coverage and effectiveness of the RCRC response to health and care challenges

Evidence-based programming with concrete impact indicators

Create a working environment for health managers to ensure that all recommendations are being followed and to conduct systematic review of relevance, scale, effectiveness, impact

Create task force / working groups consisting of health and other specialists from NS / IFRC to conduct needs assessments in key priority areas, formulate the main directions of the Strategy and finalize it

## Strategic cooperation with Global Partners:



Health in Emergencies Pandemic and outbreak preparedness;  
Transborder cooperation on TB and HIV response;  
NCDs, Healthy Ageing and Integrated care

Strategic partnership in EECA  
Reproductive health, maternity and child health, sexual education,  
Gender based violence

Health in Emergencies  
Pandemic and outbreak preparedness;

## MoU with WHO regional office for Europe, signed in September 2019



## HEALTH MAPPING



## Data mapping Health and Care activities to identify the gaps and areas of focus

**29 National Societies** (will be updated and cover more NSs in Europe in 2020)

- Data on Health activities
- Data on beneficiaries
- Data on number of staff and volunteers involved in implementation of Health activities
- Budget and source of funding

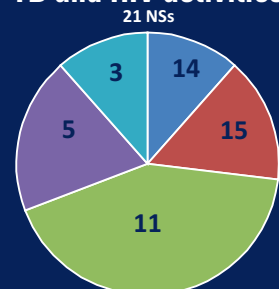


## Data mapping for TB/HIV activities

### 29 National societies

Albania	Croatia	Italy	Monaco	Russian Federation	Turkey
Armenia	Czech Republic	Kazakhstan	Montenegro	Serbia	UK
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Kyrgyzstan	Netherlands	Slovenia	Ukraine
Belarus	Estonia	Latvia	North Macedonia	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Bulgaria	Hungary	Lithuania	Poland	Turkmenistan	

#### TB and HIV activities



■ TB programmes ■ HIV programmes ■ TB/HIV ■ HR/PLHIV ■ no activities

#### TB and HIV activities Caucasus

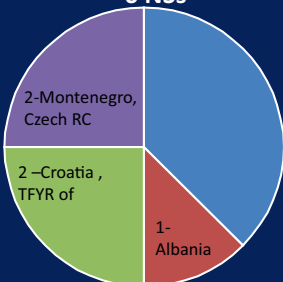
Caucasus-3 NSs Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia



■ TB /HIV activities ■ HIV activities

#### TB and HIV activities –Central Europe and Balkan

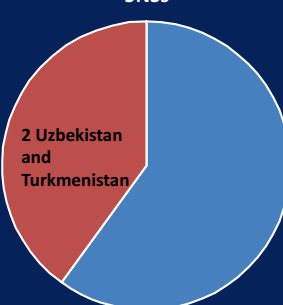
6 NSs



■ TB/HIV programmes ■ HIV programme ■ HR programme ■ no TB/HIV programme

#### TB and HIV activities –Central Asia

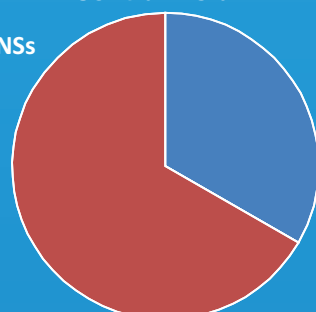
5 NSs



■ TB/HIV programmes ■ TB programmes

#### TB and HIV activities – Central Asia

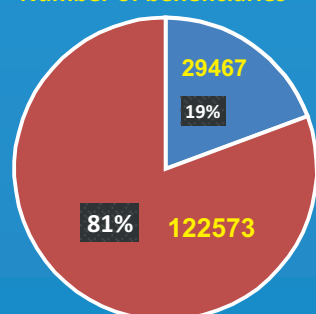
3 NSs



■ TB/HIV programmes ■ HIV programmes

#### Number of TB and HIV beneficiaries

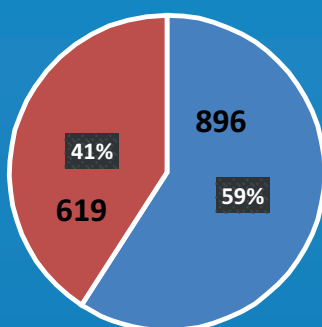
Number of beneficiaries



■ TB beneficiaries ■ HIV beneficiaries

#### Number of staff involved in TB and HIV activities

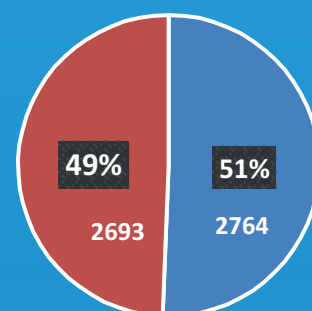
Number of Staff involved in implementation of TB and HIV programme activities



■ TB activities ■ HIV activities

#### Number of volunteers involved in implementation of TB and HIV activities

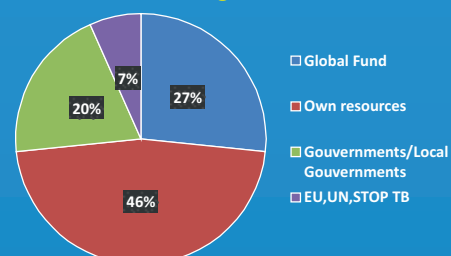
Number of volunteers



■ TB activities ■ HIV activities

#### Source of Funding of TB activities

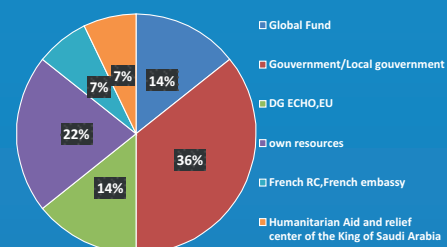
Source of funding TB activities



■ Global Fund  
■ Own resources  
■ Gouvernements/Local Gouvernements  
■ EU, UN, STOP TB  
■ Humanitarian Aid and relief center of the King of Saudi Arabia

#### Source of Funding for HIV activities

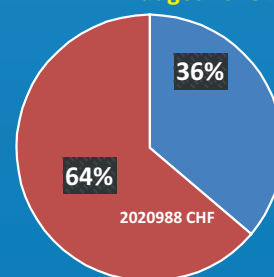
Source for funding HIV activities



■ Global Fund  
■ Gouvernements/Local gouvernement  
■ DG ECHO, EU  
■ own resources  
■ French RC, French embassy  
■ Humanitarian Aid and relief center of the King of Saudi Arabia

#### Budget for TB/HIV activities

Budget 2018 in CHF



■ TB activities  
■ HIV activities

## Goals 90 -90 -90

90%

of all



living with HIV will  
know their HIV  
status

90%

of all



living with HIV will  
receive sustained  
antiretroviral  
therapy

90%

of all



receiving  
antiretroviral therapy  
will have durable viral  
suppression

## Barriers and obstacles

Unfortunately, there are still many obstacles to HIV diagnosis. Stigma and discrimination continue to prevent people from being tested for HIV. The availability of confidential testing also leaves much to be desired. Many take an HIV test only when they already show symptoms of the infection.

HIV-infected people often experience various forms of discrimination in their daily lives related to their status. Thus, because of fears and fears, only 35% of people living with HIV go to public health facilities, and more than 65% remain outside the provision of basic medical care in the official health system.

UNAIDS estimates that up to 50% of all new HIV infections worldwide are in key populations. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, key populations account for more than half of new infections.

Coverage of key populations for HIV services remains largely inadequate. In many regions, morbidity among key populations continues to rise even as morbidity in the general population stabilizes or declines.

## HIV and key population

## Key populations at higher risk of infection

Relative risk of HIV acquisition, by population group compared to the general population, global, 2017



Source: UNAIDS 2018 estimates.

## New MoU between IFRC Europe and WHO Europe

18, September 2019 during the 69th session of WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Mr. Jagan Chapagain, IFRC Under Secretary General for Programmes and Operations and Dr. Piroška Stlin, acting WHO Regional Director for Europe, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration. This document captures the commitment of both organizations to work together in order to achieve common aims: to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and reduce or eliminate avoidable inequities in health conditions.

With this Memorandum, the organizations wish to reaffirm and consolidate their cooperation in the area of Health and Care in Europe region and intend to increase synergies by tapping into each other's comparative advantages in promoting health agenda in the region.

Collaboration in the areas of Universal Health Coverage (with a focus on community health, HIV, TB, Hepatitis), health emergencies, promotion of healthy lifestyle and noncommunicable disease prevention as well as voluntary blood donor recruitment will be increased and mainstreamed.

The document provides a framework to support countries in Europe region in achieving Universal Health Coverage through coordinated efforts of Ministries of Health, the IFRC, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and WHO/Europe, including WHO country offices. It will also give an opportunity to the National Societies to become better positioned in Health and Care, advocate interests of the most vulnerable people and contribute to Universal Health Coverage.

IFRC represented in WHO Collaborative Committee meeting on TB, HIV and Hepatitis C

IFRC Regional Health and Care Coordinator became a member of WHO Collaborative Committee meeting on TB, HIV and Hepatitis C, organized by WHO Europe office.

IFRC invited to this meeting in the quality of expert and participated in the cycle of discussions on joint response to TB, HIV, Hepatitis epidemic in the region.



## WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY 2019

**Azerbaijan Red Crescent** together with the TB Coalition in country commemorated World TB Day by organizing a series of events. On 24 March there was organized a promotional event in secondary school for internally displaced children from Gubadli region situated in Ramana settlement of Baku city. The purpose of the event was to inform IDP children on TB prevention.

During the event Azerbaijan Red Crescent gave a broad information on activities on TB prevention in the country. The members of TB Azerbaijan Coalition also informed participants of the event on tuberculosis disease, the ways of its spreading, prevention and treatment.

Schoolchildren showed great interest to the theme of the event and actively participated. At the end booklets on TB prevention were distributed to school children.



## Taking care of TB patients – Armenian Red Cross

It is psychologically very difficult when you say to a person that he needs good nutrition to overcome his illness, but you see that he does not have the opportunity.

Nelly Nersisyan has been working in the Armenian Red Cross for nearly 40 years, of which 18 have been involved in working with tuberculosis patients.

The Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) has been one of the key actors in the country with tuberculosis patients and has supported the implementation of the National Tuberculosis Program of the Ministry of Health for about eighty years.

As part of the Global Fund-funded Social-Psychological Assistance for TB patients, the ARCS has implemented socio-psychological support and education for all patients registered in Armenia, both physically and drug resistant, providing social and psychosocial support to patients with Disease and Treatment the necessary knowledge and information. At the same time, in collaboration with the ICRC, there was an opportunity to work with especially vulnerable drug resistant TB patients who received individual psychological counseling and social support.

- Most of the patients are socially insecure people who do not have the main place of residence, phone, and most importantly lack of information, do not know what will be the cure for cure or medication inconsistent, and the result can be drug resistance, which will further complicate the further treatment" says Nelli Nersisyan.

Tuberculosis, including drug-resistant forms of the disease, is still relevant among vulnerable groups of the population, such as homeless people, extreme poverty families, migrant workers and their families.



**This year, the Armenian Red Cross Society has joined Public Awareness Campaign initiated by the American University of Armenia (AUA), Turpanjian Public Health Faculty, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Center for Tuberculosis Control (TNC), dedicated to the fight against tuberculosis (TB).**

## Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS)

organized events devoted to the World TB Day 2019 at central and local levels. To raise public awareness and knowledge on TB and decrease stigma and discrimination, informational-educational seminars and campaigns in public places were organized by the GRCS staff and leader volunteers.

In the frames of informational-educational work seminars on TB were conducted in schools at central ("European School", "New School" and "Buckwood International School" in Tbilisi) and local levels.

On March 22, 2019 representative of the GRCS H&C Department participated in the video-conference devoted to the World TB Day organized by the IFRC Europe Zone together with the National Institutes of Health in USA and with support of World Bank. Participants of the conference were representatives of the IFRC, National Institutes of Health in USA, Governmental and Non-governmental sector from Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan. During the conference GRCS representative made presentation to share the GRCS experience and psychosocial support approach as an integral component of TB prevention and control project of the GRCS.

On March 24, 2019 the GRCS hold an event dedicated to the World Tuberculosis (TB) Day in the "Mziuri" park in Tbilisi, where the general public had opportunity to get information about TB. In the frames of the event a concert with the participation of the Queen Tamar Boarding School boy band was carried out, the GRCS volunteers disseminated information-educational materials, and the main stage was given to the GRCS partners, beneficiaries and people who have already defeated TB.



On March 24, 2019 the GRCS was invited for participation in the meeting dedicated to the World TB Day organized by the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC). The meeting was attended by the key stakeholders working in the TB field, including the GRCS Secretary General, who made a presentation about the role of the CSOs and NGOs in fighting against Tuberculosis.

The GRCS annually joins celebration of the World TB Day and the campaign 2019 was devoted to call general public and remind responsible parties that "It's time..." to fulfill the promises made at the UN's high-level meeting to provide 40 million people's access to diagnosis and treatment by 2022 and "it's time" to defeat/overcome tuberculosis with joint efforts.

It is worthy to be mentioning that, the events organized by the GRCS attracted high interest from the media. The events were broadcasted by the famous TV channels and magazine. The GRCS representatives were invited in TV show of the famous TV channel (links of TV/media reports find below).

Events dedicated to the World TB Day 2019 organized during the week and on 24 March, 2019 were considered as successful, as awareness of the general public was effectively and successfully raised on TB issues at central and local levels.



## IT IS TIME TO step up the fight to end TB! – Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent activities.

One of the main slogans of the WORLD TB Day in 2019 is a call for concrete actions "It is time to stop TB deaths" etc. And under such slogans throughout the country, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent held various events-sports competitions, marches, information sessions in order to contribute to the fight against TB. Moreover, ERNA member – the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan became a grantee of the program STOP TB Partnership TB REACH Wave 6. It's important to note that Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is the only from the Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and the only one in the European region.



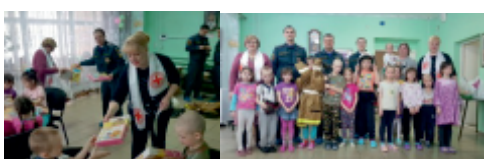
Macedonian Red Cross through local branches shared the message "It's time for a world without TB". Within World TB day campaign MRC has done a set of activities in order to contribute to the fight against TB. We have provided health educations for 367 students and pupils within elementary and high schools. They have got information for TB, causes, treatment of TB, consequences and most important how to prevent this disease. Red Cross local branch of Veles has educated elderly who are new members in Club of retirement people. There was an information stand, where were shared TB brochures to raise public awareness for TB meaning.



The **Macedonian Red Cross** and BETTY pharmacies signed a memorandum of cooperation in order to ensure mutual cooperation for realization of health prevention activities. The first joint activity was realized on 24 March on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day. In several pharmacies through Macedonia, information material was printed from Macedonian Red Cross, which was distributed to the citizens, where they had the opportunity to gain more information on tuberculosis and its treatment by pharmacies at BETTY pharmacies.



## WORLD TB DAY - RUSSIAN RED CROSS



The Sverdlovsk Regional Branch of the Russian Red Cross, together with partners held a charity event in the Children's TB Department dedicated to World Tuberculosis Day. The event was held under the slogan: "It's time to get ready".

Volunteers and staff of the branch visited the children and informed them about tuberculosis mentioning the importance of the healthy lifestyle.



## PRESS CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO THE WORLD TB DAY!

At the press conference on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, held in Serbia on Friday, 22 March 2019, at the Public Health Institute "Dr. Milan Jovanovic Batut", the results of the previous work and action taken by the **Red Cross of Serbia** as one of the key partners in the implementation of activities the program of prevention and control of tuberculosis was presented by Secretary General of the Serbian Red Cross - Ljubomir Miladinovi. Representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Director of the Institute for Public Health, Head of the WHO Office took part on the event and presented reports on the TB situation in Serbia.

## Ukrainian Red Cross activities in commemoration of the World TB Day

It should be noted that in addition to the issue of timely detection of tuberculosis and adherence to proper treatment of patients, another problem arises - insufficient awareness of tuberculosis both among medical professionals and among the population of Ukraine.

Therefore, traditionally, on March 22, 2019, at 12.00 in front of the main academic building of the Odessa National Medical University, in order to inform and disseminate important information on the prevention of tuberculosis among young people, a street action - a student flash mob took place.

Everyone wished to be examined in a mobile fluorography, which was provided by KNP "Odessa Regional Center for Socially Dangerous Diseases".

Ukraine Red Cross took an active part in the event by disseminating information materials on tuberculosis.

On March 20, 2019, the Malinovsky Branch of Ukraine Red Cross held a preventive educational lecture "Prevention of particularly dangerous infections - tuberculosis around us", dedicated to the International Day against Tuberculosis. Veterans, pensioners, persons with disabilities and mothers, attended the lecture.



Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) have many years of experience working with patients with sensitive and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis at the outpatient phase. URCS provides medical and psychosocial support.

Basically Ukrainian RC works with patients who are at risk of interruption of treatment, which in turn can lead to the development of drug resistance and ineffectiveness of treatment. Among such persons are people who have alcohol and drug addiction, people for whom access to the place of administration is impeded by poor health or elementary lack of means of travel or those who do not believe in the need for continued treatment.

Directly observed treatment (DOTs) on daily based (except Sunday) delivery to patient (to a convenient place and time), informing them about the features of treatment and healthy lifestyle, health monitoring and reminder of visits to the doctor, timely submission of analyzes, observation of side effects, support with motivational (product and hygiene kits), psychological support and informal human attitude are the key to success in developing adherence to treatment and its successful verses.

URCS participates in tuberculosis control projects where the patient is the centerpiece and uses a patient-centered approach, where specialists in other fields of medicine, the Red Cross, and non-governmental organizations, work with TB medical specialists.

The results of the work of the URCS patronage nurses and the patients' feedback on outpatient support were used in sociological studies proving the effectiveness of this form of work.

Project is providing in 7 regions of Ukraine with the support of the Global Fund in collaboration with the Public Health Alliance and "100% of Life" Network.

Moreover, URCS provides many activities in TB prevention such as information events for population in all regions of Ukraine.

## International Videoconference, devoted to World TB Day, 22, March 2019.

Videoconference became the central event, organized by IFRC Europe Regional Health Team with valuable support of IFRC office in Moscow and World Bank office in Russia.



This conference provided unique opportunity to discuss current achievements, challenges, common actions and further plans of representatives from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and USA. Videoconference created an excellent platform to the National Societies to invite its partners: representatives of TB Coalition, TB People network, Academic communities, and former TB patients for common discussions that significantly contributed to strengthening of their collaboration. IFRC office in Moscow provided technical support in organizing of this conference. World Bank office in Russia provided its premise, video-equipment and other facilities to arrange video-connection with all above indicated locations. Office of Cyber Infrastructure and Computational Biology of the National Institutes of Health, USA provided unique data on TB Portals program, collaborates with tuberculosis clinical research institutions in 10 countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Republic of Congo, South Africa.

**24 March – World Tuberculosis (TB) Day was celebrated in the Republic of Azerbaijan under a slogan of "It is time to end TB..."**

Since 2011 the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (the AzRC) is the member of the Azerbaijan TB NGO Coalition, which was founded on the principles of legal equality and volunteerism, and its main mission is to end the TB in the country and to continue its efforts in this regard. TB coalition, consisted of 5 to 7 organizations regularly organizes different type of events on Baku and regions level in cooperation with government and non-government agencies, international organizations.



Almost several years the AzRC by its own initiative and in close cooperation or jointly with partners is organizing events devoted to 24th of March World TB Day. This time being a member of the Azerbaijan TB Coalition NS took active participation at the country based public awareness health action organized on the Fountain Square of Baku city under the slogan "Time to Stop TB", which gathered together volunteers and journalists as well as general population. The main purpose of the action was to inform people about TB disease. As a result of the action, about 200 people received TB education and information materials on TB. During the event all members of Azerbaijan TB Coalition gave interviews to mass media journalists trying to convey an importance of the World TB Day to people.



There was another conference dedicated to 24 March-World TB Day organized by the Azerbaijan TB NGOs Coalition supported by the Secretariat of the Azerbaijan Country Coordination Commission at the Park Inn Hotel on March 29, 2019. During the conference recent activities on the fight against TB performed by the state structures (the Ministries of Health and Justice) and civil society in the country were presented. Deputy Executive Secretary of the AzRC Sabina Mahbubi-Iran spoke about global projects implemented by the IFRC and the National Societies in the field of TB all over the world.

## National TB Dialogue

Representatives of the AzRC (Deputy Executive Secretary/DPDR and Health programs manager of the AzRC Sabina Mahbubi-Iran and programme coordination within the AzRC Migration department/member of the Azerbaijan TB Coalition Sona Hajiyeva) participated at the National Dialogue on strengthening partnership between National TB Programme and civil society, TB-affected communities, health workers to ensure provision of quality people-centered TB services held on 3-4 December in Baku.



The event was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan, TB Europe Coalition (TBEC), Center for Health Policies and Studies and NGO "Saglamliq Xidmat" within the Project "Advancing people-centered quality TB care - from the New Model of Care Towards Improving DR-TB Early Detection and Treatment Outcomes" (TB-REP 2.0). It covered participation of various government, non-government and international agencies including members of Parliament who provides special and deep attention to the raised issue. The main purpose and objectives were to plan cooperation between NTP, civil society and other stakeholders in promoting people-centred approaches to TB care, especially in regard with active finding of TB ill people and improvement of treatment completion rates; to discuss country based achievements again UN Declaration on TB and the role of civil society and community in the provision of care and social services.



## Spanish Red Cross

### Treatment and care centres for drug users

In this kind of services, SRC works from a harm reduction philosophy. Their facilities the access to care and to treatment, for all the people who use drugs (PWUD) or inject drugs (PWID). One of the fundamental pillars is the prevention of AIDS, between counselling, needle and syringe exchange, drug consumption room (DCR), access to information and educational about HIV – AIDS, educational workshops and face-to-face meetings, testing activities (pre and posttest counselling), and free drug use paraphernalia and condoms.

These programs included psychotherapy, mental health care, primary care, opioid substitution therapy (OST), low-threshold drug services, outreach/street work, prison work, , online counselling, social and educational work, layer and nursery. Professional and a well-educated team of volunteers form their staff.

These centres also provide early diagnosis and monitoring of treatment of Hepatis C and Tuberculosis.

### Tuberculosis treatment

SRC has Directly Observed Tuberculosis Treatment Services with moving mobile units for the patient with social problems to take the medication correctly. Also, SRC participates in the Alternative Network against Tuberculosis, in which together with other entities, launches information, training, and cooperation campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of TB and its impact on the most Disadvantaged.

### Commemoration of the World AIDS Day in Azerbaijan.

#### World AIDS Day 2019

Every year the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society jointly with the Republican Center on prevention and fight AIDS under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in close collaboration with other partners held various activities devoted to the 1 December, World AIDS Day.

A wide range of events are annually held and this year the event included AIDS testing held by AIDS Fighting Center with the purpose of an early detection of HIV/AIDS. AIDS testing with certain knowledge promotion initiatives was organized at “Park Boulevard” trade center – the biggest trade center in Baku city and Sumgait State University in Sumgait city with initiative of the AzRC Sumgayit city branch (photo 5). More than 100 people attended both events. In Sumgayit there was also an opportunity to organize an education session for students and teachers of the university.



## Belarus Red Cross

On November 26, an informational clock on HIV prevention was held at the Belarusian State College of Building Materials Industry. Volunteers and staff of the Moscow regional organization of the Belarus Red Cross in Minsk conducted the event. 260 students answered questions on "What I Know About HIV test".

The thematic film and the presentation, which was prepared by the students themselves on HIV prevention issues, helped to find out new information and correctly answer the test questions.



Also on the eve of World AIDS Day, at the Mogilev High School No. 19, volunteers of the Red Cross of Belarus team held a campaign "Red Ribbon". The goal is to attract the attention of schoolchildren to the problem of HIV infection, to provide them with information about the ways of its transmission and to call for a tolerant attitude towards people living with HIV infection.

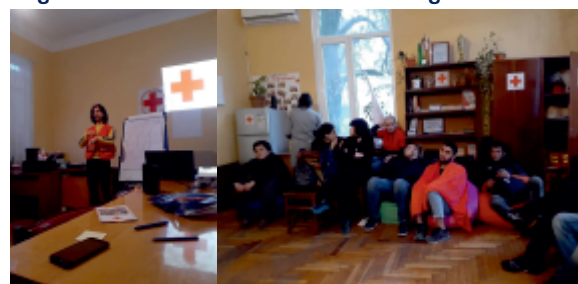
## Georgia Red Cross

The Batumi branch of the Red Cross Society of Georgia together with the volunteers organized an information meeting.

**The following topics were discussed during the event:**

- » HIV / AIDS and its spread » HIV / AIDS and its prevention
- » HIV / AIDS and stereotypes » HIV / AIDS and human rights

At the end of the meeting, information leaflets were distributed and volunteers learned about the rapid HIV test.



## Villa Maraini and Italian Red Cross

Villa Maraini Foundation together with the Italian Red Cross organized a training course on the infectious diseases, addressed to drug users and staff and made HIV Unit. Moreover, in Rome in front of the Coliseum (Gay Street) on the road conducted activities free HIV and Syphilis tests. Doctors from the HIV Unit and social workers from the Street Unit of Villa Maraini Foundation, in cooperation with Rome Red Cross volunteers, have delivered in one night: 101 tests on 81 young men and 20 young women.



## Red Cross of Moldova

**Red Cross of Moldova** on November 30, in the framework of events dedicated to World AIDS Day, in partnership with the Public Education Administration and Palace of Culture named after P. Tkachenko, organized a public event at the Bendery School of Arts for students of educational institutions of the city called "You Can Stop the HIV Epidemic". The program of the event included a thematic concert program, an express quiz, questionnaires, distribution of literature and competitions of posters and drawings "STOP AIDS".

The results of the work of the URCS patronage nurses and the patients' feedback on outpatient support were used in sociological studies proving the effectiveness of this form of work.

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Moreover, URCS provides many activities in TB prevention such as information events for population in all regions of Ukraine.



## World Aids Day – Luxembourg Red Cross

From 22 to 29 of November the HIV Berodung from the Luxembourg Red Cross and the Luxembourg Ministry of health organized the participation of Luxembourgish hospitals and private labs in the European testing week. The LRC offered rapid, anonymous and free testing every day during this period. A big sensitization and testing event was organized on November 23 in a big shopping mall. That day was also the launch of the availability of selftests in supermarkets.



From November 22 to December 1 the HIV Berodung of the LRC started an awareness raising and fund raising campagne previous to World Aids Day. In collaboration with a renowned bakery, the Love baguette was sold in sign of solidarity to people living with HIV. 1€ for each baguette sold is donated to the LRC's HIV department.

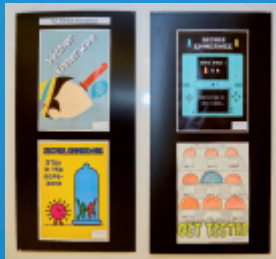
On November 29th, the HIV Berodung of the LRC, together with the Luxembourg Institute of Health, the National Service for Infectious Disease and the Ministry of Health organized a whole day sensitization event for 140 highschool students. Topics discussed were transmission ways and prevention tools, other STIs, research and living with HIV. For the last topic, we had the honor to have the visit and participation of Jennifer Jako, artist, filmmaker and HIV activist from the US. Jennifer is living with HIV for 28 years and shared here experience as HIV positive person and mother.



The award winning ceremony for the yearly “Preventive art” competition took place on November 29th after the sensitization event. It was also the launch of the exposition of the “Art on Poster”, posters with prevention messages realised by the highschool students.

On December 1st a Solidarity Brunch was organised in presence of the Health Minister and the Minister for Development Cooperation of Luxembourg.

10% of the brunches were offered to people living with HIV and the benefits will be used to organise a recreative activity for beneficiaries. Secretary General of Luxembourg Red Cross Michel Simonis, Director in charge of HIV Berodung Sandy Kubaj, HIV activist Jennifer Jako, UNAIDS 90-90-90 Ambassador Mark Angel, Minister for Luxembourg Development Cooperation Paulette Lenert took part at the event.



**Red Cross of Montenegro** in the field of HIV, TB, Hepatitis C and Drug Abuse, in 2019 held these activities:

Workshop for Red Cross Youth Club – 2 workshops for around 50 new volunteers who didn't have opportunity to learn more about AIDS.

Distribution of educational material and condoms – material was distributed on December 1st in all Red Cross local branches and in Podgorica (in shopping malls, town squares and caf  bars).

Workshops for high school students about HIV/AIDS.



## 1 December 2019 – Bulgarian Red Cross activities:

„HIV is no longer a death sentence; Test yourself for HIV regularly; The hug doesn't kill, the stigma - yes; HIV therapy works; You do not transmit the virus if you are in therapy; Together we can fight the virus and the stigma; Share our messages with your friends!” - these messages were made by celebrities from the music circles of Bulgaria in a video, made on the eve of World AIDS day, for a national campaign under the motto “Communities make the difference”, realized in partnership between: Single Step Foundation, Bulgarian Red Cross Youth, Bulgarian Family Planning Association, CheckPoint Sofia - Center for Sexual Health and Ministry of Health.



The 1st of December was marked by volunteers of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth throughout the country with a number of initiatives - lectures, presentations, demonstrations, information boards for HIV prevention in educational institutions and also peer to peer education; handing out red ribbons, health education materials and condoms to young people, combined with various quizzes, games and consultations at entertainment venues and shopping centers in large cities and smaller towns.



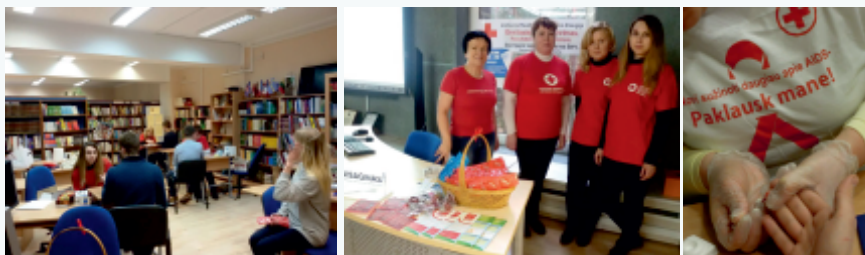
A traditional procession of volunteers of the organization took place in the capital on this day, passing through the central part of Sofia to the Bridge of Lovers, where they made from the cloth and candles the traditional red ribbon.

## HIV and Hepatitis Testing Week in Lithuania

The Lithuanian Red Cross of the Visaginas branch organized a campaign and took the initiative to address the problem of the spread of HIV infection in Lithuania. Although statistics show that the number of new HIV cases is declining again last year, and this year is good. The diagnosis of HIV in Lithuania is usually late. Half of the new HIV cases are already advanced and often diagnosed in the AIDS stage. During the test week, 300 people were tested, 2 of which were diagnosed with HIV and 96 with hepatitis C.

European Test Week and AIDS Day events are over, but the Lithuanian Red Cross continues to initiate HIV testing in Visaginas. FREE and ANONYMOUS.

Various initiatives include press releases, television interviews and radio advertising reminding us of the need to further develop HIV prevention and early diagnosis, as effective treatment in Lithuania is compensated.



## Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

This year, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, held a series of events dedicated to World AIDS Day under the slogan "Communities are pushing for change." The start of the event was the holding of information campaigns at the universities of Dushanbe (Institute of Economics and Finance, Agricultural and Pedagogical Universities). As part of the campaign, information sessions on HIV prevention, reduction of stigma and discrimination were carried out for 900 students in universities.



## Uzbekistan Red Crescent

Sanitary and educational events dedicated to December 1 were organized throughout Uzbekistan, where staff of regional organizations and departments of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society and more than 2 thousand people took part including school students, students, and community activists.

It's important to note that the event was organized in the city of Zarafshan, Navoi region, where, together with the Women's Committee and the health department of the city of Zarafshan, an event was organized with stage performances dedicated to this topic.



## Ukraine Red Cross

Ukraine has the second-largest HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. For over two years the Ukrainian Red Cross Society conducts community based HIV awareness, counseling and rapid testing activities in the region of Bahmut.

In 2019, trained Ukrainian Red Cross team carried out 700 awareness sessions reaching over 10 000 people with HIV prevention messages, importance of testing as well as harmful consequences of HIV stigma for community development. Also the Red Cross team conducted over 2500 individual consultations and carried out 1882 HIV rapid tests within the community. As a result, 8 positive cases were identified and referred to the public health structures for care and support.

To further strengthen intervention throughout the country, the Ukrainian Red Cross trained a team of 25 First Aid Instructors, who, now, along with first aid education deliver short HIV awareness sessions for general public. Ukrainian Red Cross implements HIV awareness activities in cooperation with the French Red Cross.



In commemoration of the AIDS day, the Ukrainian Red Cross staff and volunteers went out to the streets of Ukraine to spread out awareness on HIV.

Some examples from this year World AIDS Day activities.

Ternopil Region. Volunteers cooked 560 muffins, sold them and got enough money to buy medicines for some children with AIDS who are in hospital now. As well volunteers distributed info materials and contraceptives among general population.



RCSK volunteers informed the population about HIV prevention throughout the country by assisting to the Republican AIDS Center.

Like every year, volunteers hold information sessions at universities, colleges and schools. On December 1 large-scale events were held: information sessions, sport events, drawing competitions.

## Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent



The game Health Cross was held in Bishkek, which includes stations in various areas, where young people in a game form were able to get new information and test their knowledge on socially significant diseases, undergo rapid HIV testing.



On November 26, together with UNAIDS and partners, a press lunch was held with the participation of representatives of the media, non-governmental and international organizations involved in HIV issues. At the event, the Republican AIDS Center announced the results of rapid testing in major markets of

Bishkek, Osh, Kara-Suu in November - 1 304 people were tested. In addition, during the meeting media representatives who actively cover HIV issues were awarded with valuable presents.



## Spanish Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross provided support to 4,500 people with HIV in vulnerable situations, through our three shelters, located in Tarragona, Huelva and Granada, and through the comprehensive care programs offering vulnerable people psychosocial support and accompanying them in their process of social and labor integration.

Like every year, the Spanish Red Cross joined the #YoTrabajoPositivo Route with activities related to the World AIDS Day on December 1. From October 15 to December 1, the Positive Working teams visited companies, unions, civil organizations, political parties, foundations and other public institutions to inform and raise awareness about HIV.

Workshops with the adult population (groups of participants in Red Cross projects, Associations, Day Centers, etc.).

Workshops with children and young people in educational centers. In these workshops, the aim was to share information about the decision to avoid risk behaviors.

Commemorative event in the Red Cross headquarters:

On 28 November Spanish RC designed a series of activities:

A photocall with the same poster design and Pass the Word game on the lobby all day. To other and we organized an official event where we invited all partners those work with us to assist a documentary and comic monologue about HIV and STI's.



## Community intervention



## VIDEOCONFERENCE DEDICATED TO WAD 2019

On December 4 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies organized videoconference on ITAR TASS media service in Moscow with participation of UNAIDS, National Societies of Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and representatives of HIV service organizations.

During the press conference, current trends in ongoing activities in the field of the HIV response, as well as existing barriers of a legislative and social nature were discussed.



## LATVIAN RED CROSS ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE WORLD AIDS DAY 2019

### Latvian Red Cross organises HIV testing within the European HIV testing Week 2019

During the European HIV testing week 2019 from 22 – 29 November, Latvian Red Cross (LatRC) organised free of charge and anonymous HIV express testing in four LatRC HIV Prevention Points in Riga (3) and Rezekne (1). Every year LatRC invites people to pay close attention to their health, especially when the total amount of new infection cases are growing every year. We appreciate that more people came and did the testing, comparing year 2018.

Also during the rest of the year, people are invited to visit LatRC HIV Prevention Points in Riga, Rezekne and Daugavpils and take a HIV, hepatitis A and hepatitis C test.

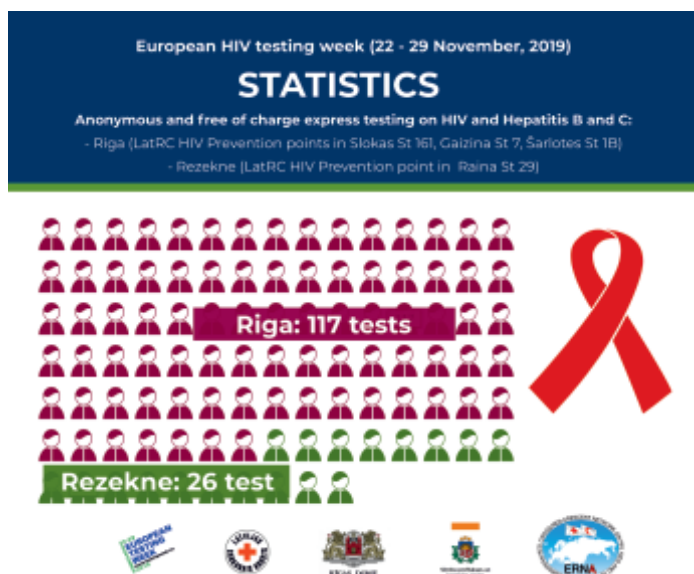
#### The LatRC HIV Prevention Point provides:

- HIV test, express-tests for hepatitis B virus, syphilis, pre-test and after-test consultations;
- consultations and information on preventive measures and treatment of HIV/AIDS, STI, hepatitis B and C viruses;
- the change of syringes and needles for drug addicts;
- condoms free of charge;
- consultation on addiction issues;
- information on the possibilities of treatment and rehabilitation;
- the organisation of medical assistance and psychological support;
- informative handouts.

#### Competition "HIV does not sort: it also affects you" among the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in Daugavpils

On 4 December, at Daugavpils 17<sup>th</sup> Secondary School volunteers of LatRC Daugavpils branch and LatRC Youth division in Daugavpils organised a competition "HIV does not sort: it also affects you" among the teams of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students of Daugavpils 17. Secondary school.

11 teams from several schools of Daugavpils City participated in the event. It included four tasks: answering the questions as quick as possible, crossword, sorting the condom using instruction in right order and erudition game among team captains to earn additional 1 point to their team in case of winning the game.



The jury – Marina Pucka and Natalja Ringe (members of the board of LatRC Daugavpils branch) and Nikita Aleksejevs, the volunteer of LatRC Daugavpils branch and Youth division - evaluated teams.

After the competition, every team received diplomas and presents from the Latvian Red Cross.



## Awareness raising event organised by Latvian Red Cross Youth

In 30 November 2019, Latvian Red Cross Youth volunteers within the World AIDS day organised an informal event to introduce participants with HIV/AIDS: infection risks, contraception, stereotypes and myths about the topic and work with the HIV+ people.



Based on data (about the year 2019) collected by the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDPC) of Latvia, Latvia takes 1st place in terms of new HIV infection cases on 100 000 inhabitants.

During the event representative of Dia+logs –Support Centre for Those Affected by HIV/AIDS, (Ms. Agita Seja) introduced everyone with the causes of HIV prevalence and myths related to this illness.



Vija Klisane (shop "Sexy style") enhanced knowledge of participants about the only possible contraception method – condoms for men and women-, which can protect from infection of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The event was organised within the LatRC project "Courage to know" ("Drosme zināt"), which is financed by the Department of education, culture and sport of Riga city Council.



The exchange of an information was carried out by playing interactive games, doing discussions and conversations.



Gunta Boga, the representative of NGOs „Baltic HIV Association” and “AGIHAS”, presented the information about the Buddy program, shared her experience in working with HIV+ people and in changing the attitude of society.



## 20<sup>th</sup> ERNA General Meeting



Luxembourg City 8-11 October 2019

The 20th General Meeting of the European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV, AIDS and TB hosted by the Luxembourg Red Cross and took place in Luxembourg city. 46 participants from 18 National Societies, as well as partners from WHO, UNAIDS, IFRC, Villa Maraini, RC/RC Partnership on Substance Abuse and 13 representatives of local partner organizations took part in the Meeting.

### Objective of the General Meeting:

To increase knowledge of the ERNA Annual meeting participants on interventions for key population as well as strengthen collective response of the NSs towards HIV, Hepatitis, TB and drug abuse epidemic in the Region.

### Patronage:

The ERNA meeting takes place under the high patronage of M. Etienne Schneider, Health Minister of Luxembourg and M. Marc Angel, UNAIDS Ambassador 90-90-90.

### Welcoming words

Michel Simonis, Secretary General of Luxembourg Red Cross and Dr. Massimo Barra, ERNA President presented welcoming words to ERNA meeting participants.

### Meeting Day 1

### Keynote speeches

Keynote speeches were done by **Marc Angel, UNAIDS Ambassador 90-90-90 of Luxembourg** and **Dr Davron Mukhamadiev, IFRC Regional Health and Care Coordinator** to establish the framework for ERNA meeting.

The importance of universal health care being a human right was stressed and it was pointed out that the UNAIDS aims of 90-90-90 can only be reached if everybody works together: politicians, municipalities, communities and social and health institutions. Especially working together with communities and training community workers needs to be a strategic action in the future. Luxembourg's answer to fight HIV is a financial and political one. There is still a grave lack of human resources for health work all around the world. More human resources for HIV/TB activities are needed. Health care needs to be looked at from a broader perspective: it is not only about being free of disease but it's important to support people affected by disease in having a sustainable social life and a job. Therefore, the Ambassador during his mission and meeting with the government, use to involve in the discussion also ministries of finances and employment to sensitize them also. Advocacy needs to be improved; a way needs to be found on how to talk with the decision makers: make them understand that we do not promote drug use or sex work, but we just try to help those who need help.

Dr Davron Mukhamadiev noted that Red Cross and Crescent could contribute to an overall agenda on universal health care. Main challenges remain universal access to health (mass groups still lack access) and discrimination and stigmatisation, since stigma prevents people from accessing health services out of fear of being judged. Evidence based data needs to be used to improve activities and strategies and cooperation with Global Partners.

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## Introduction of participants and expectations on ERNA in this meeting and in the future

Dr Massimo Barra welcomed all the participants and invited them to first introduce themselves and second express their expectations on ERNA for this meeting.

### Expectations:

- Help people more via humanitarian approach to reach vulnerable populations
- Scale up in agenda on key issues (activities reaching target groups) and share strategies
- Share experience and strategies and increase knowledge about work in other national societies (Networking, sharing ideas and good practices)
- Inspiration: New innovative strategies, ideas and solutions to reach key populations
- In 1 year show figures about what we have done/impact we had
- Get more information on infectious disease as key indicator for monitoring drug use (Task Force on Drugs)
- Hear about ERNA work and deepen cooperation in the future (4motion)
- How to attract private sector's or other stakeholder's interest in health activities
- ERNA should coordinate with all national activities (network for good practice exchange)
- To see new faces, create new approaches, develop ideas on joining forces and working together
- Use ERNA for talking and lobbying with the government

## Thematic Session 1: Current situation in the region + hard to reach and key population for HIV, TB, Hepatitis C

01

**WHO Regional Office Europe, Dr Askar YEDILBAYEV** presented information on current situation on HIV, TB and Hepatitis C while focussing on key populations, such as migrants, drug users and prisoners. He noted that:



➤ Collaboration between TB/HIV/VHC screening and treatment is necessary in order to reach positive outcomes when addressing key populations.

➤ Health security is an issue for treatment, so access to medication and support for everyone needs to be improved.

➤ Universal Health Coverage is an important key to success and a human right for everyone around the world. Governments need to take their responsibility and show political commitment. We need to persuade them with statistical evidence that harm reduction actually works.

02

### Good practices by National Societies: Kyrgyzstan RC - "Innovative methods in TB activities"



Presentation on monitoring adherence treatment with different digital tools (sureAdhere, Electronic dose monitors, 99 DOTS) that give support to patients in order to take their medication properly.

03

**Finnish RC**

Presentation on different outreach projects in Festival and Party Settings about safer sex, alcohol consumption and harm reduction.

**Thematic Session 2: Current situation in Luxembourg**

### **1. National Service for Infectious Diseases of the Centre Hospitalier du Luxembourg – Dr Vic Arendt**

Presentation on current situation in Luxembourg on HIV and Hepatitis C while focussing on key populations.

### **2. Luxembourg Focal Point for EMCDDA, Ministry of health – Nadine Berndt and Rita Seixas**

Presentation on recent data for drug use and drug addiction in Luxembourg.

### **3. Cesas, National reference center for sexual and affective education – Camille Soudeyns and Eva Maria Schmid**

Presentation of the national reference center for sexual and affective education, its mission and the different educational programs in Luxembourg (UNESCO, WHO standards).

### **4. HIV Berodung of the Luxembourg Red Cross – Sandy Kubaj, director in charge**

Presentation of the Luxembourgish HIV department, its mission and the different projects and services provided (mobile testing units).



## **Thematic Session 3: Sharing experience among the NSs in the field of HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis C and substance abuse**

### **1. Villa Maraini and Partnership with Italian Red Cross and IFRC on Substance Abuse (Opioid overdose prevention)**

Presentation of the world opioid crisis, humanitarian drug policy and harm and risk reduction activities runned by Italian Red Cross volunteers together with Villa Maraini workers, and the Italian RC strategy to engage local branches in harm reduction services with a special Task Force focused on Opioid Overdose prevention that works together with Health, Youth and Social inclusion Management.

A variety of useful documents and templates are available on Villa Maraini ([www.villamaraini.it](http://www.villamaraini.it)) and IFRC Website such as: Guidelines on Harm Reduction related to injecting drug use, Naloxone best practice tool and the draft Youth Declaration for humanitarian drug policy, Manual on Youth Engagement on Substance Abuse, Meet, Test and Treat Campaign; Spreading the light of science

### **2. HIV in emergencies and Key Population Target, Davron Mukhamadiev (IFRC ROE Budapest)**

IFRC Regional Health and Care Coordinator talked about main threats, risks and challenges in emergencies concerning HIV transmission and access to treatment. He noted that the focus is set on possible contributions of Red Cross and Crescent to better access for key populations to medical treatment and testing, by offering education and information to reduce stigma and discrimination, by offering testing and counselling close to key populations and advocating for human rights with governments and political actors.

### 3. Good practices:

#### Spanish RC – HCV and substance abuse

Presentation on the drug consumption room in Barcelona and all the services offered in this facility by the Spanish Red Cross of Barcelona (emergency health insurance card).



#### Ireland RC - Mass Voluntary Viral Screening in Prison

Ireland Red Cross presented their successful project of mass viral Screening in Prison based on a voluntary approach. Peer Education Works: Volunteers spread the information amongst the prisoners and convinced them to come to test and to become RC Volunteers, teaching them the 7 Principles and health good practices in prison.



#### Georgia RC - HIV/AIDS, TB activities lessons learnt

Georgia Red Cross presented their work on HIV/AIDS – TB and Harm Reduction and shares good practices. They stress the importance of community based services and using an individual approach.



### Meeting Day 2

#### Brief from day 1, Mr Uldis Likops – ERNA Vice-President

Acknowledgements were expressed to Luxembourg Red Cross for organizing and hosting this year's ERNA meeting. Mr Likops also noted the importance of working together, thanked all the participants for their great work, and wished successful and fruitful meeting ahead.

### Thematic session 1: Working with hard to reach and key population: role of CSOs and networks in HIV/Hepatitis/TB prevention and care (local NGOs)

#### 1. National Surveillance Committee on AIDS, infectious hepatitis and sexually transmitted diseases – Dr Carole Devaux, President

Presentation of up-to-date evidence based data on the current situation in Luxembourg for infectious and sexually transmitted diseases focusing on key populations. The national action plan on HIV, the national action plan on hepatitis and the currently ongoing HCV-UD outreach program were explained.



#### 1. Suchtverband Lëtzebuerg, Federation of organizations working in the area of addictions - Jean-Nico Pierre, President

The mission and different actions and purposes of the Suchtverband Luxembourg, a federation that regroups all the organizations working in the area of addiction, were presented. In addition, different services and projects were presented, such as the heroin substitution program.

### 3. Dropln, Dispensary for sex workers, Luxembourg Red Cross – Tessy Funck, director in charge

Presentation of the the Dropln, its mission, provided services and programs. It is a low threshold centre where psychological and medical care is provided and screening test for HIV, VHC and other IST are offered in close collaboration with HIV Berodung (HIV Department) and CHL (specific Hospital) in the case of positive results. A needle exchange program is offered, where an average of 9000 needles are exchanged per month.

Street work is done almost every night to support the women on the streets, give them free condoms and inform them about the center. In the centre prevention workshops are held on a regular basis on different topics like how to use a condom properly, the different IST and their ways of transmission, how to work safely, how not to get into trouble because of money exchange etc.

A program called EXIT is offered in close collaboration with ADEM (agency for employment development). It is about stopping prostitution and getting back to a "normal" life having a legal job. A new indoor project is about to start very soon in order to reach those who just do their work in apartments or hotels. This outreach work will be a huge challenge since prostitution in Luxembourg is illegal and the women are afraid of being judged or that Dropln staff may be linked to the police.



### 4. PIPAPO: Sex, drugs and Rock'n Roll – Carlos Paulos, director of 4motion

Presentation of PIPAPO, a project that sensitizes partygoers about all the risks you can encounter while you are out partying at a Festival or in a club. This project is all about information on harm reduction, recreational drug use, ear protection, safer sex and safer use and the well-being of partygoers. Occasionally there is also a drug checking service available.

### 5. CIGALE, Information Center for Gay and Lesbian – Roby Antony, director in charge

Presentation of the CIGALE, the Information Center for Gay and Lesbian, its mission, provided services, programs and different activities. Presentation of the Genderbread Person, a teaching tool to better understand the concept of gender and its particularities such as gender identity, gender expression and anatomical sex.

### Looking ahead:

#### Report from ERNA Secretariat, Strategic Plan

ERNA report for 2017-2019, Strategic plan and Plan of Action were presented by Azamat Baialinov, and discussed with the present National Societies.

#### Elections on ERNA Board and Secretariat

Participants of the General Meeting approved the current positions of ERNA Board and Secretariat as follows:

- President - Dr. Massimo Barra, Italian Red Cross
- Vice-president - Mr Uldis Likops, Latvian Red Cross
- Vice-president - Mr Azamat Baialinov, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent
- ERNA Secretariat – Ms Begimai Asanova, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent



## Suggestions for future

- Develop common tools for data collection.
- Improve communication: use social media to improve visibility responsibility of all national societies
- Ms Ketil Mindeli from Georgia RC suggested to organize joint regional training on how to write project proposals. In addition, she offered to include to ERNA budget an expert for writing joint project proposals for ERNA members.
- Ms Marija Korkut from Lithuania RC suggested to organize training for ERNA members on drug abuse issues

## Thematic session related to field visit next day

### 1. Abrigado, drug consumption room – Lionel Fauchet, deputy director in charge

Presentation of the Abrigado, its mission and different facilities, provided services and programs. It includes a drug consumption room, a night shelter, showers and a laundry room. Moreover they offer a needle exchange service, medical care and HIV/VHC/IST screening is provided in collaboration with the HIV Berodung from Red Cross Luxembourg.

### 2. Shelter for homeless people and alcohol consumption room – Stephanie Sorvillo, Director of Emergency shelter department, Caritas Luxembourg

Presentation of the Foyer Ulysse, a shelter for homeless people, its mission and different facilities, provided services and programs. It includes the social pub Le Courage, which is a low threshold facility with an alcohol consumption room. Furthermore, clients have access to showers and laundry services and a safe place to rest during the day. HIV/VHC/IST screening is provided in collaboration with the HIV Berodung from Red Cross Luxembourg.

### 3. Doctors of the World Luxembourg – Dr. Yann Gorges

Presentation on the work of Doctors of the World Luxembourg, their mission, the medical care they provide and how many people they reach. HIV/VHC/IST screening is provided in collaboration with the HIV Berodung from Red Cross Luxembourg.



### 4. Dimps, mobile HIV, hepatitis and syphilis testing and counselling – Laurence Mortier, prevention and national HIV plan coordination

Presentation of the dimps, a mobile testing unit in form of a van for rapid testing on HIV, hepatitis C and syphilis. This project is run and coordinated by the Luxembourgish Red Cross HIV Department (HIV Berodung).

## Next steps: working group discussions on future commitments, priorities and membership:

- **Working Group 1: HIV and Hepatitis**
- **Working Group 2: Substance abuse**
- **Working Group 3: TB and other infectious diseases**

## Meeting Day 3

## As a result of group work, following outcomes for each topic were offered:

### 01 HIV and Hepatitis

- Set up more mobile units that provide healthcare in place
- Increase Quick Testing (Hiv, Hcv, Tb, Siphilis) activities to detect virus in time and ensure in the main time education on healthy life styles during Testing activities
- Organization of large-scale public events with involvement of celebrities
- Provide prevention, diagnosis and treatment activities in every region
- Healthcare provided on site
- Work with key population
- Develop partnership with governmental structures, NGOs
- Strengthen advocacy activities for better access to services

### 02 Substance Abuse

- Promotion of services to assist drug users
- Harm reduction activities on local level
- Dissemination of free methadone therapy in prisons
- Information sessions in high schools on substance abuse
- Engage and export Villa Maraini model and services among other NSs
- Provide access to services for homeless drug users
- Create street and emergency units for drug users on local level
- Increase the number of volunteers participating in activities on reduction of substance abuse, drop-in centers, support local NGOs working with Drug Users

### 03 TB and other infectious diseases

- Provide treatment to all infected people
- Enhance treatment and psychological services
- Mobile diagnostics for beneficiaries

Based on the group work results, Sandy Kubaj from the Luxembourg RC initiated to establish Task Force on the abovementioned topics that would help ERNA members with the technical expertise, consultative support.

## Closing of the meeting

Dr Massimo Barra, ERNA President welcomed Marc Crochet, Deputy Secretary General Luxembourg Red Cross. He, furthermore, expressed the strategic involvement of the Luxembourg Red Cross in ERNA and its great work in the field of Harm and Risk Reduction in the country. Concluded that the three days of meeting were very fruitful. Marc Crochet, Deputy Secretary general Luxembourg Red Cross explained that the most important decision was not to host ERNA meeting but to be part of ERNA.

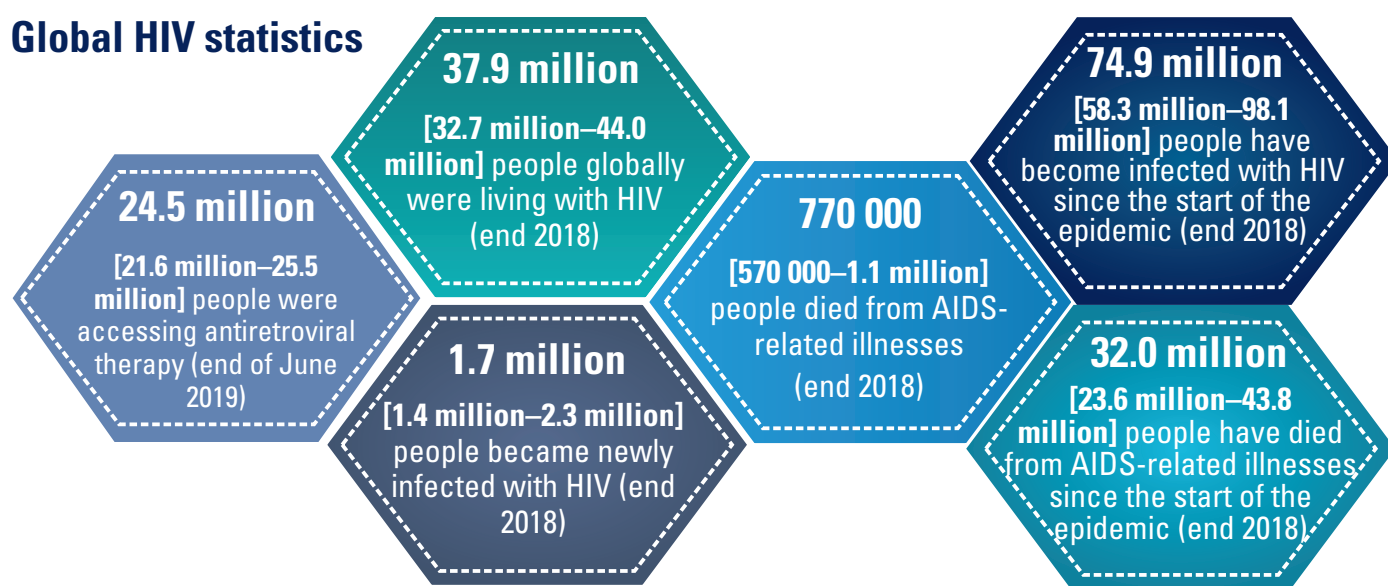


He expressed his contentment hosting this meeting but also finding the way to ERNA family. He stressed the importance of networking especially with other local actors very active in the field. The Luxembourg Red Cross opened up to other NGO's and local partners and is very proud of this. He took notice of the imbalance of western European societies and eastern European societies in ERNA network and expressed his hope that this might change with Luxembourg Red Cross being part of ERNA network and sharing this experience with neighbouring countries. Acknowledgements were expressed to Dr Massimo Barra in person and HIV Department of Luxembourg Red Cross and to all participants of the meeting for being so strongly invested in this work.

## Global HIV &amp; AIDS statistics — 2019 fact sheet (UNAIDS)

## FACTS AND STATISTICS

## Global HIV statistics



## People living with HIV

- In 2018, there were 37.9 million [32.7 million–44.0 million] people living with HIV.
  - 36.2 million [31.3 million–42.0 million] adults.
  - 1.7 million [1.3 million–2.2 million] children (<15 years).
- 79% [67–92%] of all people living with HIV knew their HIV status.
- About 8.1 million people did not know that they were living with HIV.

## People living with HIV accessing antiretroviral therapy

As of end of June 2019, 24.5 million [21.6 million–25.5 million] people were accessing antiretroviral therapy.

In 2018, 23.3 million [20.5 million–24.3 million] people living with HIV were accessing antiretroviral therapy, up from 7.7 million [6.8 million–8.0 million] in 2010.

In 2018, 62% [47–74%] of all people living with HIV were accessing treatment.  
 62% [47–75%] of adults aged 15 years and older living with HIV had access to treatment, as did 54% [37–73%] of children aged 0–14 years.  
 68% [52–82%] of female adults aged 15 years and older had access to treatment however, just 55% [41–68%] of male adults aged 15 years and older had access.

82% [62–>95%] of pregnant women living with HIV had access to antiretroviral medicines to prevent transmission of HIV to their child in 2018.

## New HIV infections

- New HIV infections have been reduced by 40% since the peak in 1997.
  - In 2018, around 1.7 million [1.4 million–2.3 million] were newly infected with HIV, compared to 2.9 million [2.3 million–3.8 million] in 1997.
- Since 2010, new HIV infections have declined by an estimated 16%, from 2.1 million [1.6 million–2.7 million] to 1.7 million [1.4 million–2.3 million] in 2018.
  - Since 2010, new HIV infections among children have declined by 41%, from 280 000 [190 000–430 000] in 2010 to 160 000 [110 000–260 000] in 2018.

## AIDS-related deaths

- AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by more than 56% since the peak in 2004.
  - In 2018, around 770 000 [570 000–1.1 million] people died from AIDS-related illnesses worldwide, compared to 1.7 million [1.3 million–2.4 million] in 2004 and 1.2 million [860 000–1.6 million] in 2010.
- AIDS-related mortality has declined by 33% since 2010.

## 90–90–90

In 2018, 79% [67–92%] of people living with HIV knew their status.

Among people who knew their status, 78% [69–82%] were accessing treatment.

And among people accessing treatment, 86% [72–92%] were virally suppressed.

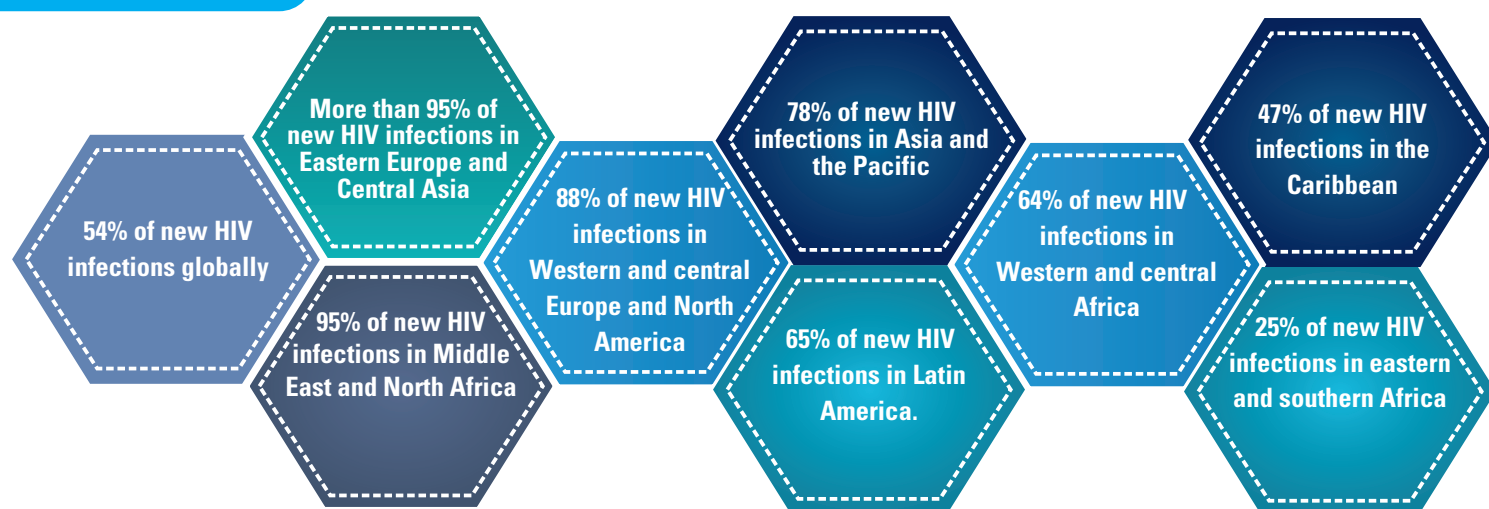
Of all people living with HIV, 79% [67–92%] knew their status, 62% [47–74%] were accessing treatment and 53% [43–63%] were virally suppressed in 2018.

## Women

- Every week, around 6000 young women aged 15–24 years become infected with HIV.
  - In sub-Saharan Africa, four in five new infections among adolescents aged 15–19 years are in girls. Young women aged 15–24 years are twice as likely to be living with HIV than men.
- More than one third (35%) of women around the world have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some time in their lives.
  - In some regions, women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence are 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV than women who have not experienced such violence.

## Key populations

## Key populations and their sexual partners account for:



## The risk of acquiring HIV is:

- 22 times higher among men who have sex with men.
- 22 times higher among people who inject drugs.
- 21 times higher for sex workers.
- 12 times higher for transgender people.

## HIV/tuberculosis (TB)

- TB remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, accounting for around one in three AIDS-related deaths.
  - In 2017, an estimated 10.0 million [9.0–11.1million] people developed TB disease, approximately 9% were living with HIV.
- People living with HIV with no TB symptoms need TB preventative therapy, which lessens the risk of developing TB and reduces TB/HIV death rates by around 40%.
  - It is estimated that 49% of people living with HIV and tuberculosis are unaware of their coinfection and are therefore not receiving care.

*The ERNA Network expresses its sincerest gratitude for cooperation and support activities on HIV, AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis C, drug abuse to the following partners:*

### International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

#### Italian Red Cross



#### Luxembourg Red Cross



#### Villa Maraini Foundation



#### Spanish Red Cross



#### Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan





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