

Establishment of Zugdidi Screening Center

Increasing geographical accessibility to national cancer screening programs (breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancer management programs) for the population of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region and Abkhazia.



TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH
EVEN WHEN YOU ARE HEALTHY



Project History

Prevention and early detection of oncological diseases is a priority of the state policy in the field of public health. Considering that, the Czech Development Agency has been significantly supporting this field for years. Caritas Czech Republic together with the partner organizations, Cancer Prevention Center and Informational-Psychological Center Tanadgoma, has been involved in this process since 2010. As a result of this partnership, the foundation was laid to promote national screening programs in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region, and Zugdidi Screening Center was built later on.

The history of the project development started almost one decade ago. The initial activities included informational and educational campaigns and preventive examinations of the population in Samegrelo-Svaneti region.



2010-2014

An informational and educational campaign was carried out, and medical check-ups were provided to rural population.

2014-2015

Decision was made to establish Screening Center in Zugdidi

2015-2017

Family doctors from Tbilisi, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, and Guria regions were trained in oncology, with a focus on cancer prevention and early diagnostics.

2017-2018

With the financial support of the Czech Development Agency, Caritas Czech Republic built and equipped Zugdidi Screening Center.

2019-2021

The center was transferred to NNLE Cancer Prevention Center, which manages the clinic, and Caritas Czech Republic provides financial and methodological support.



Project Result

As a result of this successful project, Zugdidi Screening Center is operating in Zugdidi for 2 years. This is a modern, high-tech, and multi-profile outpatient facility equipped according to international standards. The total value of the initiative made 3 000 000 GEL.

The project is a good example of a successful partnership between the public and private sectors. Geographic accessibility to the state programs of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening and prostate cancer management programs has increased in the region as a result of the financial support of the Czech Development Agency.

**More than
7 000 locals have
benefited from these
programs in 2 years
since opening of
the center.**





Development of Zugdidi Screening Center

Management Systems

The current task of Caritas Czech Republic is to provide methodological support to the center, which foresees creation and implementation of organizational management systems.

The center develops daily and takes care of the continuous improvement of the quality of services within the framework of this collaboration. It should be noted that the management system is set up in compliance with ISO: 9001 - 2015 standard.

Furthermore, the center introduces a unique concept of a "patient-friendly clinic", which ensures provision of high-quality services, patient satisfaction, and protection of their rights.



Training and Continuous Development

The center is staffed with highly qualified physicians of different specialties and medical workers, who have completed several training courses within the project. In addition, they have attended several accredited training courses on the provision of high-quality services and effective communication, patients' rights and ethical standards and legislation related to medical services.



Technical Base of the Center

The center is equipped with the newest models of medical equipment: the latest digital mammography machine 2019 (GE Electric Inc. "Crystal Nova"), ultrasound machine, colposcope and endoscope, equipment for minor surgeries, including anesthesia equipment.

Important facts

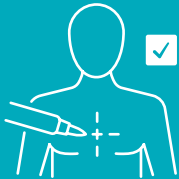
Zugdidi Screening Center, established by Caritas Czech Republic, not only implements the state cancer screening programs but also is a multi-profile outpatient clinic that provides the following medical services for the population of the region:



Therapeutic, gynecological, endocrinological, ultrasound and gastrofibroscopic examinations.



Minor surgeries and gynecological surgeries.



General and various biochemical and immunoenzymatic tests of blood and urine in the modern laboratory of the Center.

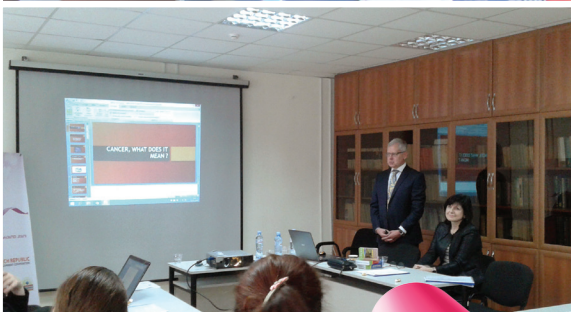


Continuing Education of the Medical Staff

In addition, the initiative met the educational needs of the primary health care in the field of oncology. During the last 6 years, in cooperation with the experts of the Cancer Prevention Center and Czech doctors, a six day training was delivered to rural family doctors and nurses in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Guria regions, which was attended by:

✓ **250 Doctors**

✓ **250 Nurses**



In addition to improving knowledge of the medical staff, important collaboration was established with the primary healthcare providers in the field of oncology, which contributes to their involvement in raising public awareness on cancer prevention.



COVID-19 Pandemic and

the Primary Health Care

In addition to the main activities, Zugdidi Screening Center responded to unexpected challenges and changing environment quickly and timely. Relevant activities were planned to fight the pandemic in 2020.

Caritas Czech Republic provided significant support in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which aimed to assist the medical staff working in the primary health care sector of the region:

✓ 170

rural doctors were involved in informational-educational online meetings on managing COVID-19 cases of mild and moderate severity at home, according to the state protocol.

✓ The outpatient clinics in Zugdidi Municipality received:

40

personal computers

✓ The outpatient clinics in Zugdidi Municipality were provided with personal protective equipment





Prevention is Better than Treatment, and Early Detection Significantly Improves the Outcome of the Treatment

Primary prevention of cancer is an important approach for effective control of the disease. According to the World Health Organization, 40% of oncological diseases can be prevented by controlling all major risk factors (Cancer Control, Knowledge into Action, Prevention, WHO, 2007).

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH EVEN WHEN YOU ARE HEALTHY

Caritas Czech Republic, in cooperation with the partner organization Tanadgoma, has been carrying out informational and educational activities for years. This includes face-to-face meetings of the community mobilizers with the local population and talks on the importance of a healthy lifestyle, cancer prevention, and early detection. These meetings were attended by thousands of people and now these people have the opportunity to visit Zugdidi Screening Center and receive medical care within the state-funded programs.



The following agencies contributed to the implementation of the project:

2019 Slovak Development Agency (Slovak Aid), which provided Zugdidi Screening Center with the latest colposcope and ultrasound machine.

2020 The Embassy of Israel in Georgia, which donated modern gynecological and surgical instruments to Zugdidi Screening Center.



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