Community-Based Organization’s Role in Reengaging Out-of-Care People Living with HIV in Portugal

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Established in 2001
GAT is a patient-led NGO that advocates for the rights and interests of people living with or affected by HIV and related co-infections in Portugal.

Main spheres of activity
- Advocacy of equitable access to healthcare
- Provision of preventive, diagnostic and holistic healthcare
- Evidence generation and policy change
- International cooperation in Portuguese-speaking countries

Key figures
- 1,200,000 condoms distributed/year
- 65,000 HIV, HBV, HCV, syphilis tests performed/year
- 60,000 harm reduction kits distributed/year
- 31,000 screening sessions/year
- 14,000 medical and nursing visits/year
- 10,000 social services visits/year

WHERE we are
6 community centers, 2 mobile units
+ provider of tests and training to 20+ NGOs in 10 other cities
**HOW we work** provision of preventive, diagnostic and holistic healthcare

**SCREENING**
HIV, HBV, HCV, and syphilis rapid testing performed by trained community health workers (i.e., task sharing with peers) in community centers tailored to key populations (e.g., men who have sex with men, trans people, sex workers, migrant persons, people who use drugs, people experiencing homelessness).

**LINKAGE TO CARE**
Access to the national health service, navigation, assistance in retention in care, promoting health literacy, and

**MEDICAL SERVICES**
Bacterial STI prevention, screening and treatment, mental health services and support, community-led hepatitis post-diagnostic care, community-led biomedical HIV prevention.

**SOCIAL INTERVENTION**
Facilitate access to government healthcare and social services, financial preparedness preparation, risk and harm reduction.

**COMBINATION PREVENTION**
Distribution of materials for safer sexual practices and drug use and biomedical prevention.

Disclaimer: FOCUS funding supports screening and linkage to care regardless of how providers manage subsequent care. FOCUS funding does not support activities beyond linkage to a first appointment post-diagnosis.
WHAT are our results regarding reengaging out-of-care individuals

1000 estimated people living with HIV linked or relinked to care in Portugal in 2022

664 people living with HIV referred to care by GAT in 2022

261 new HIV diagnoses made in GAT in 2022

403 out-of-care people living with HIV engaged by GAT in 2022

119 engaged through Checkpoint LX, a center tailored to the needs of men who have sex with men (39%)

276 engaged through Intendente, a center tailored to the needs of trans people, sex workers, migrants, & people experiencing homelessness (68%)

8 engaged through other GAT centers (2%)

Keys for success

- Service tailoring to key populations
- Informal and low threshold environment
- Integration of peers across services & management
- Skilled social workers to overcome bureaucracy
- Language familiarity for majority Brazilian population
- Personalized navigation into the health system
- Word of mouth in the community
Soluções para minimizar as barreiras no acesso à saúde

Mapas de navegação hospitalar
Thank you!

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