

The Romanian Association Against AIDS



ARAS areas...



Chronology

1992, April 10th: ARAS is founded in Bucharest, as the first Romanian non-governmental organization whose main objectives were to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission and to help those affected by the disease.

The founders were about 15 young volunteers with different professions – doctors, architects, teachers, nurses, engineers – and students in various faculties.

Chronology

2010: At the moment, ARAS has branches in other nine important counties all around the country.

The number of our employees is today about 59 and we count on more than 100 volunteers for all the branches.

Some founders registered a continuous career in ARAS [as directors, principal projects conceivers or board members] and several volunteers became project managers.

A number of beneficiaries work with us.

Chronology

- **2010-2013:** ARAS has received financing from The European Social Fund through The Sectorial Operational Program for Human Resources 2007-2010 named "Invest in People!," for the implementation of two national projects. The duration of the project is 3 years.
- **"It's Your Right to Know"** – aiming at social and professional integration of vulnerable women. 12 centers have been created for counseling and orientation of members of the target group.
- **"The Second Chance"** - aiming at the improvement of access on the work market for people affected by double vulnerability : injectable drug use on the one side and on the other belonging to such groups as the roma community, women, people who have been imprisoned etc.

Permanent programs

HIV/AIDS prevention (IEC program)

- AIDS Helpline (green line, nationwide)
- Harm reduction (outreach interventions, methadone center and Drop-in centers: injecting drug users, commercial sex workers, street children, Roma people,) aiming to minimise the risks related to certain behavior or status
- Information sessions in high-schools, peer-drama
- Training for the peer educators involved in projects
- Media campaigns, website on HIV/AIDS, celebrating World AIDS Day and memorials: the Names Project, International AIDS Candlelight
- Summer campaigns, personalised information/education materials for each target group
- Dentistry unit – model of HIV prevention by applying universal precautions

Permanent programs

HIV/AIDS prevention (IEC program)

• our harm reduction (or harm minimisation) services include:

- **Counseling for risk assessment**
- **Advice to reduce risks**
- **Information on HIV / AIDS / Sexually transmitted diseases (STIs)**
- **Primary medical examination**
- **Primary health intervention**
- **Counseling and Testing for HIV and STIs**
- **Counseling and vaccination for hepatitis A / B**
- **Distribution of condoms and information material**
- **Distribution of lubricants**
- **Social assessment**
- **Social assistance**
- **Profesional counseling**
- **Psychological counseling**
- **Needle exchange**
- **Distribution of sterile injection material**
- **References to other socio-medical services**

P e r m a n e n t p r o g r a m s

HIV/AIDS prevention (IEC program)

- ARAS is equipped with two mobile units (ambulances) offering harm reduction services to vulnerable persons
- Arena Center, an ARAS collaboration with the Institute of Infectious Diseases "Prof. dr. Matei Bals", is a Methadone Substitution Treatment service for Drug Addiction (200 clients daily)
- Needle exchange services are also offered by ARAS teams in two the drop-in centers (set in Colentina Hospital) and in three containers installed in the 3rdDistrict of the Capital.

Permanent programs

Outreach interventions

- **Initiated in the year 2000** (harm reduction services)
- **Target groups: IDUs, SWs, HL, Roma people, people from the community**
- **Services:**
 - Counseling for risk assessment
 - Advice to reduce risks
 - Information on HIV / AIDS / Sexually transmitted diseases (STIs)
 - Primary medical examination
 - Primary health intervention
 - Counseling and Testing for HIV and STIs
 - Counseling and vaccination for hepatitis A / B
 - Distribution of condoms and information material
 - Distribution of lubricants
 - Social assessment
 - Social assistance
 - Professional counseling
 - Psychological counseling
 - Needle exchange
 - Distribution of sterile injection material
 - References to other socio-medical services
 - Mapping

The outreach team consists of social workers, doctors, health educators and psychologists.

"ARENA"

Methadone substitution center

- Opened in 2007 based on a partnership between ARAS and the Institute for Infectious Diseases „Dr. Matei Bals,,
- Low threshold center - easy to access by roma community members, SW's,HL's who are addicted to heroine
- Services provided :
 - initial evaluation by a team of professionals (doctor, nurse,social worker,psychologist)
 - _methadone substitution treatment
 - _psychological, medical and social counseling and referral
- Capacity: 210 places
- Financial contributions over the year 2008:
UNODC (www.unodc.org) and the French association Sidaction (www.sidaction.org).

Drop-in centers

- Based on a partnership with:
 - The National Agency Against Drugs, signed in 2007 for the "Needle Exchange Centre"
 - The Social Protection Department, for the "Titan Social and Medical Point", opened in 2009
- Services offered are the same as in the outreach activities, with the mention that clients who come to the drop-in centres are more aware of their risks of infection with HIV, hep B & C and STI

Permanent programs

Social assistance for PLWHA [people living with HIV/AIDS]

- social services ensuring information on HIV, legal items, available services in the beneficiaries' residence area, material assistance and decisional support in solving their social difficulties (medical services and educational access, identifying a job or a shelter)
- individual or group psychological counseling
- educative & recreational activities aiming to facilitate the social integration of PLWHA (teenagers and adults): decorative art, theatrical production, editing the «Circle» monthly magazine, movie projections, parties
- advocacy for increasing the accessibility to services and for reducing stigma and discrimination

Permanent programs

Training

in HIV/STIs transmission, HIV counseling and testing, universal precautions for:

- medical & social staff (recognised as continuous medical education by the National Association of Nurses: www.oammr.ro)
- educators working in foster care institutions, penitentiaries
- other NGOs
- public institutions

in harm reduction:

- pharmacists, penitentiary personnel

in social work:

- students in social sciences [interns]

Permanent programs

In-house training for:

- ARAS volunteers
- ARAS staff
 - *feeling free to innovate*
 - *offering a complete model of dedication*
 - *managing the fair-play*

Permanent programs

Advocacy for human rights

- PLWHA and their families [ARAS supported the foundation of several PLWHA NGOs: «Us & the Others», «the Red Ribbon», «Pro Health 2000»]
- Former IDUs [contribution to the «Integration.ro» NGO creation]
- Funding member and first coordinator of the Romanian Harm Reduction Network [www.rhrn.ro]
- ARAS is raising authorities' & media's awareness about the real situation in the field of HIV/AIDS and about the needs of different vulnerable groups (injecting drug users, commercial sex workers, Roma people etc.)
- promoting human rights of PLWHA and other vulnerable persons through a HIV/AIDS Legal Network (www.hivnet.ro), an ARAS project

Permanent programs

Consultancy

- ARAS is a permanent invited member of the National Inter-Sectorial AIDS Commission
- and of the Collegium for NGOs Consultation, recently initiated by the Romanian Prime-Minister
- ARAS contributes in developing strategic national documents: National HIV/AIDS Strategy, National Drug Strategy
- ARAS is member of many European networks of human rights [Tampep & Correlation], of the European Network of AIDS Helplines, AIDS Action Europe [the Pan-European Partnership on HIV and AIDS]

Permanent programs

Research activities related to the target groups on topics such as:

- sexual behaviors
- reproductive health
- injecting behaviors
- perception and reflexion of IDU by media
- pharmacists' perspective on IDU
- innovative methods on information and education (i.e. video materials using the signs language – for people with hearing disabilities)

Permanent programs

Institutional development

- developing new branches or local groups of volunteers
- staff empowerment through his involvement in the decision process and fund raising activities
- continuous volunteers recruitment

HIV/AIDS prevention among disadvantaged communities with roma majority – 2007-2010
The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and malaria through RAA foundation
project implemented by ARAS

- The aim of the project is to contribute to the prevention of HIV infection among roma communities in 9 counties that we already cover and in other 18 new communities.
- The project's target groups consist of the members of disadvantaged communities in 9 counties , as well as capital city Bucharest and neighboring county Ilfov. The project team works with all community members, providing specific HIV/STIs prevention services along with social services and facilitate access to other health care services.
- The communities were selected on the criteria of low socio-economic status of their members: low employment rate and income, limited access to education, health care, social protection. They are situated at the margin of cities, in circumscribed areas in cities or in rural areas.

HIV/AIDS prevention among disadvantaged communities with roma majority – 2007-2010
The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and malaria through RAA foundation
project implemented by ARAS

- 3.560 outreach activities implemented in 10 counties
- 7.960 people in disadvantaged communities with roma majority reached by HIV prevention activities implemented through outreach
- 450.860 condoms distributed
- 10.160 information materials distributed
- Percentage of vulnerable people from the targeted communities who identify correctly prevention methods and rejects prejudices linked to transmission routes: 15 % initially – 27 % at the final
- Condom use at the most recent sexual intercourse (people who had more than 1 sexual partner in the last 12 months) remained constant: 42 %

Challenges in working in disadvantaged communities with roma majority

- Multitude of problems faced by the community people (limited access to employment, quality education, health services in general, lack of ID papers) – HIV / other infectious diseases are not seen as priorities, initially;
- Difficulties in information/education/counselling for HIV other STIs prevention as the the discussion about sexuality is difficult
- Need for permission to organise the IEC process from different instances (not in all the communities);
- Difficulty in identification of the vulnerability: *people in our community are not vulnerable, they are failtyfull to each other; condoms are needless and HIV testing is so, too;*

Lessons learned

- The importance of establishing internal community allies in communities
- The health mediators - precious allies – support their activity
- Increasing access to scarce and discriminating medical and social services
- Value of integrating community members into outreach activities
- NOT forcing a sexual / women rights approach in dealing with protection, but rather provoking discussion in communities and families and empowering the women to bring rational / emotional reasons for protection;

Directions for activity

- Networking: roma organisations and authorities, CCM, Local Coordination Groups
- Advocacy for the 3 national programs for health to give real access to services for all the vulnerable people – for sustainable programs
 - HIV /AIDS program
 - STIs program
 - community program – roma health mediators

Their implementation to be monitored and evaluated (as they are in some counties only on paper, or very limited developed)

- To cover all the people, including the people without ID papers, with a social assistance code.
- The harm reduction to be included in the HIV program (including the methadone treatment, not in the mental diseases program);
- To include NGOs as medical services providers
- IDENTITY PAPERS

Ethnic minorities or migrant groups are there in your country

- Minorities

- Hungarian
- Roma
- German
- Ukrainian
- Jewish
- Turkish
- Greek
- Serbian

- The biggest ones are Hungarians (6,6%) and Roma (2,5%)
- Migrant groups – Chinese, Korean, Africans

most vulnerable towards HIV/AIDS/STIs transmission

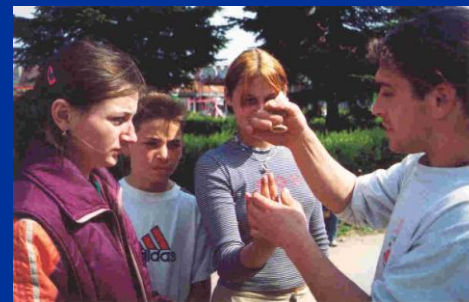
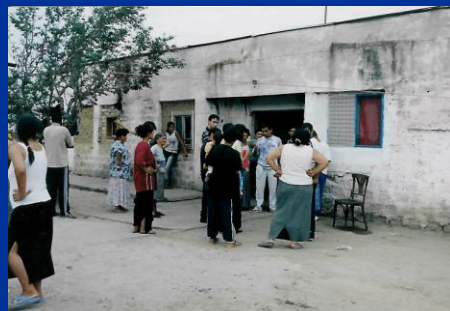
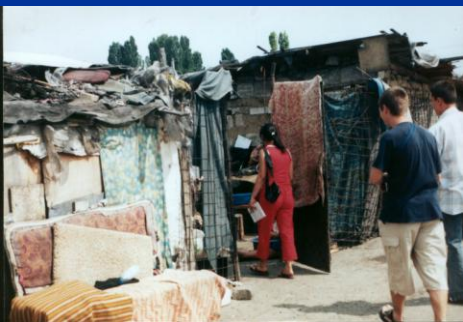
- Minorities – Roma

535.140 persons self declared to be members of the roma ethnic minority, (60,1% - in rural areas)

- Migrant groups – Chinese, Korean, Africans

At a glance

Outdoor flashes...

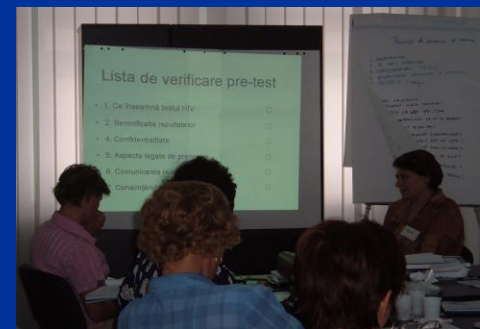


01.11.2010

20

At a glance

Indoor flashes...



01.11.2010

27

At a glance

DTP flashes...



INFECTIA CU HIV/SIDA

IZPUS **Sabaja Copii**

CUM TREBUIE SĂ NE PROTEJĂM DE INFECTAREA CU HIV, HEPATITĂ B ȘI C

PRECAUȚII UNIVERSALE:

- Dacă ai venit în contact cu sângele altui persoană (de exemplu sau încercând să o ajuti), atunci:
 - Dacă ai rănit sau pierdut, cu oțel ascuțit și
 - Dacă un obiect tăcut (ca de exemplu o foarfecă sau un șurub) a intrat în contact cu sângele altui persoană (de exemplu un medic, o asistentă medicală (Bătrânețea și SIDA))
- Dacă sângerarea nu este foarte puternică, încercați să ajutați persoana să își oprească sîngerul
- Puneți-l în îndemână pansamente sterile, curate, materialele textile (ca de exemplu, o cămașă) sau hârtie, cât mai curând posibil, astfel încât să nu se atingă de altă persoană sau de alte obiecte.
- **NUNCA!** Dacă nu este necesar să acorde ajutor medicalizat unei persoane care sîngeresează și numai dacă aveți cel puțin 12 ani, puteți interveni în caz de urgență, puteți folosi mâinile sau degetele dvs.
- În cazul unui:
 - **utilizării**, dacă aveți, mănuși de unică folosință, înainte de a pune și după dezinfectați o rană (în lipsă, puteți folosi o pungă sterilă).
 - **pierderii** a sîngerii, utilizați un produs pe care îl puteți aspira după aceea (pansament steril, șervețel curat, de hârtie, de ceară etc.).
 - **punerii** articolelor păstrate de sânge într-un sac de plastic, înainte de a le arunca la coșul de gunoier.
 - **accidentării** sîngerii cu produse ascuțite, de exemplu:
 - **spatulei** sau periei imediat suprafețele murdare de sânge, dar numai cu mijloc protejat de mînuși. Dacă nu puteți dezinfectați suprafețele cu o soluție dezinfectantă (de exemplu dezinfectant de uz casnic), spălați-le cu apă caldă.
 - **utilizării** pe mâini imediat după ce ați avut contact cu sângele de la altă persoană.
 - **consumabilelor** medicale (ca de exemplu) păstrate de sânge și de altă fluida ale organismului trebuie dezinfectate special în condițiile strict controlate și utilizate numai după dezinfectarea specială.
 - **lingeriei**, înainte de a pune de sânge trebuie de spălate în apă caldă, separat, în condiții speciale, după ce ați avut contact cu sângele de la altă persoană.
 - **dacă** această nu este posibilă în condiții speciale, trebuie să trebiți micșor dezinfectate sau protejate pe bază de clor și înainte de a fi aruncate.
- **Fiecare** persoană trebuie să aibă propria:
 - **PERIȘĂ DE DENTI**
 - **FORFECIȚĂ DE MANȘONIERĂ SAU CINGHERĂ**
- **Fiecare** persoană trebuie să aibă în casă:
 - **pansamente sterile** (de exemplu);
 - **mănuși de cauciuc**;
 - **soluții de dezinfectant**: alcool sanitar, alcool iodat, apă oxigenată.

Obiectul „atipic de cruzor” trebuie evitat, întrucât există un risc mare de infectare cu HIV ori cu hepatita B și C.

SIDA Helpline 0 800 800 033

IZPUS **Sabaja Copii**

SIDA HELPLINE
0800 800 033




SERVICIU GRATUIT DE CONSILIERE TELEFONICĂ, CU GARANȚAREA CONFIDENȚIALITĂȚII ȘI ANONIMITĂȚII CONVOBORIRII

Compartiment financiar al Uniunii Europene
prin Programul Marie


Coordonator: Romanian Harm Reduction Network
Autor: OPERATIONS RESEARCH

Raport de cercetare




Evaluarea riscurilor de infectare cu HIV prin comportamente de injectare în rândul consumatorilor de droguri

Mai 2004

romanian harm reduction network 

GÂNDIRE POZITIVĂ



IZPUS **Sabaja Copii**

LA CE TE GÂNDEȘTI?

Bărbatul se gîndește la sex de 4 ori pe minut.
Femeile se gîndește la sex de 6 ori pe minut.
In fiecare minut, 10 persoane sunt infectate cu HIV.

GÂNDEȘTE CU PREZERVATIV

durex
www.durex.com

Presă și consumatorii de droguri



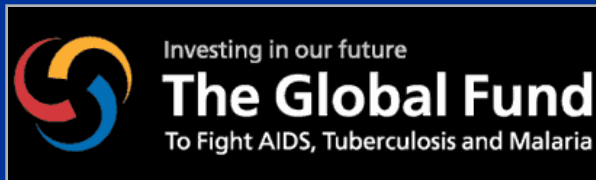
romanian harm reduction network **OR OPERATIONS RESEARCH**

Efecte Secundare Ale Terapii Antiretrovirale

Introducere
schimbarea tratamentului
odorață
rezistență
sfaturi

At a glance

Our funders in the last year..



ROMANIAN MINISTRY
OF LABOUR,
SOCIAL SOLIDARITY
AND FAMILY

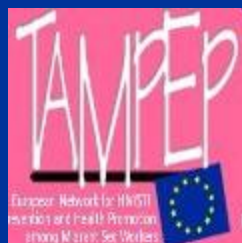
BORDER|NET



OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTES



Fundația pentru
Dezvoltarea
Societății
Civile



ARAS looks forward to continuing these projects, strengthening existing networks and services, and expanding social assistance to people at risk and living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you for your time.