

OPEN LETTER

To:

Mr Mihai Tudose, Prime Minister

Mr Florian-Dorel Bodog, Minister of Health

Dear Sirs,

The below signing institutions kindly request you to take the necessary measures for ensuring the access of the population to prevention measures for HIV. We remind here the fact that, even though Romania is among the countries severely affected by communicable diseases (hepatitis, TB, HIV, syphilis etc.), the national health programs are reduced to diagnosis and treatment.

According to international recommendations (WHO¹, UNAIDS²), an efficient response to HIV infection requires an increase in the prevention efforts, both among the general public and the vulnerable groups. Nevertheless, in the last 15 years, most of the HIV prevention measures³ have been implemented by NGOs and funded mainly by international sources.

In the absence of focused national policies and efforts for HIV prevention, and in the absence of a funding mechanism for the non-governmental sector, between 2007-2016, the total number of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases increased in all groups (a total of 7,139 new cases, an average of 714 new cases/ year), with dramatic increases in vulnerable groups.

We stress the fact that national and European resources (for instance, those coming from the public budget and from the structural funds) allocated to health are not targeting HIV prevention, but cover only diagnosis and treatment provided by the public services and the training of medical staff.

As members of the Country Coordination Mechanism for HIV/AIDS and TB, we hereby request your support in ensuring the coordination and cooperation among all structures responsible for HIV/AIDS within the Ministry of Health, in order to implement the measures necessary for accessing the Norway and structural funds, which are available for funding HIV prevention in Romania.

Sincerely,



ARAS – Romanian Association Against AIDS, Maria Georgescu, Executive Director

¹ World Health Organization.

² Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

³ Excluding the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and testing activities.

ACCEPT, Florin Buhuceanu, Executive President

Youth for Youth, Adina Manea, Program Director

PSI Romania, Luiza Rotaru, Legal Representative

The National Union of Organizations of Persons Affected by HIV/AIDS (UNOPA), member of COPAC, Iulian Petre, Executive Director

„Marius Nasta” Institute of Pneumophtisiology, Prof. Dr. Gilda Popescu, Manager and Dr. Domnica Chiotan, National Correspondent for TB Data

Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation, Silvia Asandi, General Manager

Close to You Foundation, Angela Achiței, President

Association for the Support of Patients with Multidrug resistant TB (ASPTMR), member of COPAC, Ștefan Răduț, Vicepresident

Center for Health Policies and Services (CPSS), Dana Farcășanu, Executive President

Romanian Association of People with TB (ARB TB), Marius Dumitru, President

Society for Contraceptive and Sexual Education (SECS), Carmen Suraianu, Executive Director

Save the Children Romania, Gabriela Alexandrescu, Executive President

National Health Insurance House, Dr. Cristina Șiclovan, Superior Counselor, Directorate of Curative Programs

“Health Aid” Romania Foundation, Ernestina Rotariu, Executive President

For additional information, please contact us at:

e-mail: aras@arasnet.ro, tel: +(4021) 319.07.71