

OBJECTIVE
01

To increase accountability and visibility of CSOs toward the public including measures to improve enabling environment for civil society

PODIATRY (FOOT CARE)

CYPRUS TURKISH DIABETES ASSOCIATION

Wearing nail polish is not a foot care

Photo: Public service announcement film about podiatry



ABOUT THE CYPRUS TURKISH DIABETES ASSOCIATION

The Cyprus Turkish Diabetes Association was founded in 1994 with the primary goal to improve the lives of diabetics and their families. It primarily focuses on creating solidarity among people with diabetes, conduct research, provide training and implement campaigns to raise public awareness. They hope to increase the quality of life of the people with diabetes and their relatives, as well as work for a future without diabetes.

THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Installation of a podo suction drill at the Foot Care Unit of the Cyprus Turkish Diabetes Association Premises' Foot Care Unit in January 2017.

An advocacy report to the duty bearers highlighting the importance of podiatry services, specifically (but not only) for people with diabetes.

STORY OF THE ACTION

The Cyprus Turkish Diabetes Association has been providing foot care services by an expert podiatrist at their premises. Through the Grow Civic action, they renewed their broken "podo suction drill" which was instrumental to the treatment and quality of services.



Photo: Public service announcement film about podiatry

"Since there are no podiatry services in the healthcare system in the northern part of Cyprus, our association receives special permission from the local body responsible for health to provide diabetes patients with this service. By providing foot care, we succeeded in enabling our patients to access their health rights."

Caner Arca

Following the installation of the new podo suction drill, the association developed a questionnaire to gather statistical data from the patients which revealed that they had been providing podiatry services to a broader audience than expected. In fact, from the 1 January to the 31 of March 2017, the association treated 209 patients, where only 93 of them had diabetes. The treatments varied from ingrown toenails, to corns, or fungal infections. The research also proved that podiatry services are needed by a larger group in the community.



Photo: Public service announcement film about podiatry

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The Cyprus Turkish Diabetes Association has been providing foot care services for many years, enabling patients to access quality healthcare. Their Grow Civic supported action maintained a well-needed service, while advocating for a broader scope of patient's rights, and raising awareness on the necessity of a podiatry service to the duty bearers. The association developed a comparative statistics report of people with diabetes in the northern part of Cyprus and those in potential need of podiatry services. They also underlined the necessity of this service and the importance of increasing its accessibility by offering it at different "public hospitals".

"While presenting the report of this action to the local body responsible for health, we again highlighted the fact that there is no podiatrist position within the healthcare system. Our request to open positions at "public hospitals" to serve the whole community was deemed appropriate. The opening of podiatry positions at all "public hospitals" in the northern part of Cyprus will enable many young individuals to be trained to become experts in the field, and higher education structures might consider opening departments to provide further education on this matter."

Caner Arca



Photo: Public service announcement film about podiatry

During the implementation of the action, the association also wanted to highlight the podiatry issue so they produced a public service announcement film on foot care to increase awareness.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The association is dedicated to providing high-quality health services, while raising awareness on the importance of lifestyle changes to prevent diabetes.

TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION

- www.diyabetdernegi.com
- info@diyabetdernegi.com



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