



Georgia Country Coordinating Mechanism

Reporting period: March – May 2017

The report outlines the main activities performed by Georgia CCM in the period covering March – May 2017

Background

Georgia Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) is a central mechanism for implementing Global Fund supported TB and HIV programs in Georgia. CCM creates a multi-stakeholder platform for country ownership and participatory decision making on HIV and TB related policy and programmatic issues. Georgia CCM includes representatives from both the public and private sectors, including government organizations, multilateral or bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private businesses and people affected by and living with the diseases. CCM's operations are regulated with the Government resolution #220 as of June 18, 2012 and the CCM Governance Manual effective from June 1st, 2015.

Oversight activities/CCM meetings

CCM Meetings

One CCM meeting was held during the reporting period (86th CCM meeting, April 10, 2017).

The current status of implementation of the Global Fund's projects, the report of the Oversight Committee, EHRN Initiative on Establishment of community-level M&E for NSP and OST in Georgia, Information on The Global Fund Regional Program Community Actions to Increase Access of MSM and TG People to HIV Services in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Outcomes of the meetings of community organizations aimed at better engagement in the processes of development of funding request and other important issues were presented and discussed. Following the discussions of accessibility to ambulatory services within Universal Health Care program for HIV infected people the meeting with the Head of the healthcare department of MoLHSA and the representative of the department was convened. The representative of the HIV community, CCM Vice-Chair and Secretariat were present at the meeting. HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination and lack of

information were identified as main reasons hindering the full usage of the services/benefits by HIV positive people offered by the State Program. The corrective measures were set up.

Meetings of the Oversight Committee/Site visits

One meeting of the Oversight Committee was conducted during the reporting period (May 24, 2017). The dashboards covering period of October – December 2016 (P2) and January – March 2017 (HIV-P3; TB – NFM P1) were discussed during the meeting. The Work Plan covering period of March 2017 – February 2018 was presented and agreed. The site visit to TB MA has been scheduled for June 2017.

Transitional Planning

Policy and Advocacy Advisory Committee (PAAC)

The 8th PAAC meeting was conducted on May 11, 2017. The objectives of the meeting were: to discuss the Global Fund comments on Georgian Transitional Plan and elaborate the comments of PAAC on proposed amendments and recommendations. It was agreed that the PAAC will continue working on its comments to the Global Fund feedback document on TSP in on-line format. Once finally agreed, the PAAC consolidated comments will be annexed to the minutes of the PAAC meeting and sent to the Global Fund. The audience discussed the document about a small-scale focused study conducted in Georgia in the framework of Community, Rights & Gender Technical Assistance (CRG TA) Program supported by the Global Fund. The collection of feedback from civil society and community actors on TSP was initiated by EHRN. The study was aimed at understanding the opinion of civil society on the content of this document and also at identifying possible needs for technical support for meaningful engagement of communities in the process of its implementation and monitoring. Extensive (and maybe even unprecedented – as stated in the document) efforts undertaken in Georgia to engage representatives of KAPs in the development of Georgia's transition plan are recognized by the document.

CCM Evolution Plan

Within the framework of the technical assistance by Euro Health Group as part of the continuation of the CCM evolution work the visit of the Consultants has been scheduled for June 26 – June 30. It has been agreed with the Georgian CCM through email communication and the preference was given to add functions of CCM Evolution Working group to the PAAC.

TB-REP HSS National Group Mechanism

No meeting was convened during the reporting period. However, the group members, with leadership from NCDC side, have been discussing the issue of anticipated shortage of human resource for TB program as most of TB specialists are very close to retirement age and the influx of young professionals is very low. The meeting was held at the Parliamentary committee for health and social issues on necessary measures to be taken to mitigate the risks. The following decisions were made:

- Agree to act immediately HR.
- Conduct operational research to identify the reasons of regional/district variability in TB detection.
- In two months' timeframe, to complete mapping and develop a detailed action plan for the selected facilities in need, including service delivery, staff retraining and financing / provider payment schemes.
- Review service delivery model with the objective of preserving vertical program to the regional level and consider integration into the PHC at lower levels.

TB Clinical Research Coordination Working Group

The meeting of TB Research Coordination working Group was conducted on May 29, 2017. The current status of on-going and upcoming clinical studies was presented to the audience and discussed.

endTB

The study is in an active phase of implementation. All necessary documentation is in place. In December 2016 the agreement within endTB 2nd component was signed between TB Center and MSF. The patients have been already enrolled in the study.

STREAM

The approval from MoLHSA and Local Ethic Committee was received; the initiation of the site and protocol training have been performed; the agreement to be signed in the next few days. The estimated date of patients' enrolment is June 2017.

STAND

The study was resumed in all sites in January 2017. Monitoring of two patients enrolled in study in Georgia (one of them interrupted treatment) will continue till September 2017; the study will be finished in all sites in December 2017.

NIX-TB

In February 20, 2017 the bilateral agreement was signed between TB Center and TB Alliance; in March 2017 the study was approved by MoLHSA; the initiation of the site and training of the participants of the study are planned by June 29-30; the enrollment of the first patient is anticipated by July 2017. The implementation period of Community Engagement Project is March 2017 - March 2019. The first meeting within the project was planned to be convened on June 8, 2017

GFATM grants

Currently two NFM grants are being implemented in Georgia.

NFM GEO-T-NCDC. Implementation period: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019

NFM GEO-T-NCDC. Implementation period: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2019.

June 25, 2017

The report is prepared by Georgia CCM Secretariat