



Georgia Country Coordinating Mechanism

Annual Report

Reporting period: February 29, 2016 – February 28, 2017

The report outlines the main activities performed by Georgia CCM in the period covering February 29, 2016 – February 28, 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 and 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

Four CCM meetings were held during the reporting period (82nd CCM meeting – March 9, 2016; 83rd CCM meeting – June 15, 2016; 84th CCM meeting – November 11, 2016; 85th CCM meeting - December 29, 2016).

The **82nd CCM meeting** was mainly focused on revisiting funding allocations to the HIV and TB programs (budget split revision), CCM membership renewal, establishment of PAAC and agreement on its composition. The dashboards covering Period 7, OC recommendations, grants implementation status, current status of the Global Fund Regional Program “Harm Reduction Works – Fund It!”, the issue of funding harm reduction programs in the context of the transition from donor’s support, main outcomes of the High Level Regional Dialogue hosted by Georgia in autumn 2015 were presented at the meeting. The CCM positively assessed the valuable opportunity on implementation of Law Atlas in Georgia; The CCM agreed on participation at the CCM Integration Study to be conducted by Euro Health Group.

During the **83rd meeting** CCM approved a proposed outline of the TSP and the renewed composition of the OC. The current status of GFATM grants, update on the 35th Global Fund Board meeting, implementation status of the GFATM funded project “To increase coverage and quality of preventive interventions through provision of comprehensive HIV prevention package to PWIDs” were provided to the audience. At the **84th CCM meeting** the OC activities, dashboards, grant implementation status were presented. The meeting was informed by OC

conclusions and recommendations on actions needed to improve the grants implementation. One of the focuses of the meeting was introduction of and discussion on the draft TSP. The overview of the CCM integration study report was presented to the CCM. The issue of receiving further technical assistance around the topic of CCM evolution was agreed. The members were provided by overview of the 47th Union World Conference on Lung Health, EECA Regional Consultation on Expanding Access to Affordable and Quality Assured Antiretroviral and Anti-tuberculosis medicines and TB and current status of TB-REP project.

Main focus of **the 85th CCM meeting** was introduction of TSP. As per decision of the meeting the consultations with PAAC and other relevant stakeholders was continued and the plan was unanimously approved by the CCM through e-voting on February 6, 2017. The Global Fund Allocation letter was discussed in details. Summary review of the CCM activities, grant implementation status were presented. The attendees were provided with the status update on Regional EECA TB-REP HSS National Group Mechanism as well as with the details on Advocacy Strategy for TB Outpatient Care Model within the framework of TB REP project. The meeting was informed on the results of the following study: Barriers and facilitators of adherence to TB treatment (implemented by CIF) and on the results of the baseline assessment of CSOs and community system engagement in the national TB response conducted within the project financed by Stop TB Partnership and implemented by CIF. Status update on the on-going and planned TB clinical studies was presented.

Meetings of the Oversight Committee/Site visits

4 OC meetings and 5 site visits were conducted during the reporting period. Out of these two visits were conducted in the regions. 10 sites were visited in total. The next OC meeting has been planned for March, 2017. The CCM has been regularly updated on all OC activities at the meeting an on-line. The reports on the oversight activities are regularly posted on the CCM web-site.

Site Visit Date	Location	Purpose
April 26, 2016	PR Office	To assess progress and challenges of the 4-month period of MA functioning
October 12, 2016	MSM resource Center	To discuss the current status of the implementation of the programme funded by GFATM (GEO-H-NCDC) and the interventions implemented by the LGBT community within the MSM population in Georgia.
November 1, 2016	New Vector	To discuss the current status of the implementation of the programme funded by the he Global Fund (GEO-H-NCDC) and the interventions implemented by the community-based organisation New Vector for people who inject drugs (PWIDs) in Georgia. Additional topics of discussion included implementation issues with the programmes, challenges that serve as barriers to covering more PWIDs with

		HIV secondary prevention services, and ways and mechanisms for improving the implementation of programmes
January 23, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Centre for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction - Gori Branch 2. TB Centre in Gori (Gorimed) 3. Step to the Future (harm reduction centre) 	To discuss the current status of the implementation of GFATM-funded GEO-H-NCDC programmes and to identify challenges that impede their operations. An additional goal was to meet the beneficiaries of those programmes to gain first-hand information about their satisfaction and needs in terms of service provision.
January 31-February 1, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infectious Diseases, AIDS and TB Regional Centre in Batumi 2. Georgian Harm Reduction Network (GHRN)/Imedi 3. Tanadgoma 4. HIV/AIDS Patients Support Foundation, Batumi branch 	To assess the current status of the implementation of GFATM-funded GEO-H-NCDC programmes and to identify challenges that impede their operations. To meet the beneficiaries of the programmes.
OC meeting date	Location	Purpose
March 7, 2016	NCDC	Discussion of the HIV and TB dashboards (P7)
May 30, 2016	NCDC	Discussion of the HIV (P1) and TB (P8) dashboards
July 13, 2016	MoLHSA	Orientation of new OC members on main aspects of OC functioning/ oversight tools, agreement on annual WP, Nomination of the candidacy to the position of OC Chair and the candidacy to the position of the member of Oversight Committee of the Regional Program “Harm Reduction

		Works – Fund it!”
September 26, 2016	MoLHSA	Discussion of the HIV (P2) and TB (P9) dashboards

CCM membership renewal

As a result of the CCM membership renewal the CSO representatives of the CCM are elected by their own constituencies through a transparent and documented process; the representation of TB CSO has been strengthened; adequate, balanced and proportional representation of CSOs in the CCM is ensured. The CCM members from Civil Sector are assigned by their own Constituencies to serve as a liaison with the CCM and to conduct effective communication between the CCM and the Constituencies. The Work Plans endorsed by the Constituencies define key communication tasks and responsibilities of the members which they need to fulfill as representative of the constituencies to ensure continuous feedback between the CCM and CS and effective communication upward and downward. The WPs clearly indicate the accountability of the CS representatives for this process.

As a result of CCM membership renewal the Civil Sector representation in Georgia CCM has been structured as follows:

14 CSO member-organizations (48% of total CCM membership).

Constituencies:

- 1) HIV NGOs – 3 members
- 2) TB NGOs - 2 members
- 3) HIV KAP IDU -1 member
- 4) HIV KAP MSM – 1 member
- 5) HIV KAP Other – 1 member
- 6) TB KAP – 1 member
- 7) People living with HIV/AIDS – 1 member
- 8) People living with or previously living with TB – 1 member
- 9) Faith-based organizations – 1 member
- 10) Academic/ educational/research institutions- 1 member
- 11) Private sector- 1 member

New CCM members’ orientation meetings

Following the CCM membership renewal 2 new CCM members orientation meetings were held. One of them was convened during the reporting period (April 5, 2016). In advance of the meeting an updated standard orientation package for new CCM members was sent to all CCM (in English and Georgian languages) and posted to the CCM web-site. All CCM members were invited to participate at the meeting in case of interest. CCM’s role, membership, mode of operations/current GFATM grants/transitional period, management of Conflict of Interest/ procedures of the G-CCM activities, principles of accountability and reporting, communication and information sharing, Oversight functions and committee were discussed during the meeting.

OC membership renewal

Following the procedural steps agreed at the 82nd CCM meeting the composition of the OC composition was renewed. The composition of the OC was approved at the 83rd CCM meeting.

Transitional Planning

Policy and Advocacy Advisory Committee (PAAC)

In order to ensure smooth transition from the Global Fund to the state funding of the TB and HIV programs, the Georgia Country Coordinating Mechanism in March, 2016 established the Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council (PAAC) with the mandate to assist CCM in identification of challenges of a transition period and advise on potential solutions. The PAAC engaged in advocacy efforts aimed at improvements in legislation, regulations, operational policies and practice standards related to TB and HIV prevention and service delivery. The key role for the PAAC was to guide the development of a sustainability plan aimed at ensuring universal access to quality HIV testing, prevention, care and support and TB diagnostic and treatment services with domestic resources. The plan provides a detailed framework for handover of the activities currently supported by the Global Fund to the state including the necessary regulatory changes for ensuring the effective transition for both TB and HIV programs. PAAC is composed of representatives of the main stakeholders including KAPs, people living with diseases, and organizations working in the fields of TB and HIV, experts from relevant institutions who are also CCM members. The PAAC is led by the Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs. A dedicated Policy and Advocacy Specialist was hired by the CCM to provide technical and operational support to PAAC.

7 PAAC meetings and 3 thematic meetings were conducted during the reporting period. 1st PAAC meeting (April 20, 2016); 2nd PAAC meeting (May 16, 2016); 3rd PAAC meeting (June 17, 2016); 4th PAAC meeting (September 7, 2016); 5th PAAC meeting (September 22, 2016); 6th PAAC meeting (November 7, 2016); 7th PAAC meeting (January 17, 2017); 1st PAAC thematic meeting (August 8, 2016); 2nd PAAC thematic meeting (September 27, 2016); 3rd PAAC thematic meeting (December 16, 2016). PAAC group successfully completed work on Transition plan which was approved by the CCM. However, there are the considerations towards sustaining Policy and Advocacy Advisory group as the consultation platform for CCM while working on Country Funding Request according to the Allocation Letter.

TB-REP HSS National Group Mechanism

National Group Mechanism under **Regional EECA TB-REP HSS** project was established by the CCM in September 2016. The Project is being implemented by PAC (Center for Health Policies and Studies) in collaboration with WHO Regional Office for Europe in eleven countries. The key role of the group is focused around the following: propose recommendations to highest governmental level on strategic directions for improving TB models of care and TB relevant health financing; Advice on practical, country feasible mechanisms for the implementation of TB models at the national, regional and local levels; Provide technical assistance and to develop and subsequently implement country-specific and – adapted HSS/TB Country Roadmaps, and country adapted TB-REP catalyzed innovative and sustainable TB health financing mechanism and people-centered TB models of care and/or or to seek external technical assistance in coordination and communication with the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The Group is entitled to ensure close collaboration and communication with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and WHO Country Office, other project partners and focal points at national level, and existing TB and HSS relevant groups and entities, such as the CCM and Intersectoral working group(s) on health and promote inter-sectoral partnership.

The 1st meeting of TB-REP HSS National Group Mechanism was convened on December 20, 2016. The objectives of the meeting were: to inform group members on TB-REP national group mechanism and its role; to define priority areas and technical assistance needs to improve TB control in Georgia through implementing people centered care models; to define modus operandi of the group. There is a plan PAAC and a recently established TB-Health Systems Strengthening working group to operate under the CCM umbrella to support the CCM and relevant line ministries in (1) developing concept of outpatient TB care model and its implementation mechanisms (2) preparing the Country Funding Request in response to the latest allocation letter (3) observing the policy development process aimed at sustainable delivery of HIV preventive services.

TB Clinical Research Coordination Working Group

TB Research Coordination working Group established by the CCM in 2015 continues its operations to coordinate research projects in TB. 4 meetings were conducted during the reporting period (August 22, 2016; November 4, 2016; November 25, 2016; February 28, 2017). The current status of on-going and upcoming clinical studies and means for strengthening community engagement were discussed during the meetings. The CCM has been regularly updated on planned and implemented clinical studies to ensure better coordination and harmonization either through an e-mail or at the CCM meeting.

Currents status of research activities is as follows:

endTB study – tripartite MoU (NCTLD, MoLHSA, MSF) was signed; agreement on cooperation between NCTLD and MSF has been signed; trial drugs and material have been provided to the NCTLD; patients screening/inclusion – has been activated;

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STREAM study – the study is in preparation stage, the anticipated timeline for entering into agreement – March 2017; Site Initiation Visit and Training confirmed on May 15, 2017; MoLHSA approval due March 24th 2017.

STAND (NC 006 (M-Pa-Z) study – currently resumed; the monitoring on two patients enrolled into the study will be continued until September 2017; the status of the study in Georgia has been inspected by the audit in February 2017, no deficiencies were revealed; the study will be completed in all sites in December 2017;

NIX-TB Trial – the agreement was signed in February, 2017; On March 6, 2017 the documentations were resubmitted to the MoLHSA; on February 23, 2017 the readiness of the site was assessed by the sponsor and in case of MoLHSA's approval the study will be initiated.

Civil Society Forum

On February 23, 2017 Civil Society Forum was organized to promote active participation of CSOs, TB and HIV KAPs and infected persons in national response to HIV/AIDS and

Tuberculosis. The forum was aimed at discussion of the main dimensions of the Transition and Sustainability Plan and the coordinated actions towards their implementation. The topics of HIV and TB control current initiatives and the role of the CSOs in their implementation, the transitional planning, Global Fund grants and future prospects of financing was covered during the meeting. The ways/barriers and possibilities of strengthened CSOs involvement in national response to Tuberculosis and AIDS, anticipated challenges of transitional period and role of CSOs in this process was actively discussed. The representatives of the CSOs, members of the CCM, the officials from the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, other representatives of Government Sector, International organization, the Global Fund attended the meeting. In order to increase meaningful participation of the CSOs both at the forum itself and in its preparation two consultative meetings with the representatives of the SCOs were held to define the concept of the forum (December 20, 2016 and January 10, 2017)

The media coverage of the event was ensured. The links to the CSO Forum media coverage are given below: Imedi Channel- Qronika 11:00

<http://mediamonitoring.ge/mms/includes/video/video.php?id=4277739>; Rustavi 2 Channel - Kurieri 15:00- <http://mediamonitoring.ge/mms/includes/video/video.php?id=4279017>; I

Channel - Moambe 12:00-

<http://mediamonitoring.ge/mms/includes/video/video.php?id=4278050>; Maestro Channel - 12:00-<http://mediamonitoring.ge/mms/includes/video/video.php?id=4278002>;

<http://kvira.ge/312691>; <http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/sazogadoeba/420166-thbilisshi-aiyshidisis-da-tuberkulozis-sferoshi-momushave-samoqalaqo-seqtoris-forumi-gaimartha.html?ar=A>; <http://jandacva.ge/aiyshidisis-da-tuberkulozis-sferoshi-moghvawe-samoqalaqo-seqtoris-forumi-gaimarta/>

CCM Integration Study

On May 10-17 Euro Health Group conducted CCM Integration Study in Georgia. The study was financed by the Global Fund and GIZ BACKUP Initiative and has been implemented in five countries. At the workshop held on May 17, 2016 Study Team's findings and options for CCM evolution were presented and discussed. The participants of the workshop discussed a road map for CCM evolution and needed technical support. The CCM integration study report as well as possibilities for obtaining additional technical assistance was discussed at the 84th CCM meeting held on November 11, 2016. The issue of receiving further technical assistance around the topic of CCM evolution was favorably received and agreed by the CCM. The anticipated timeline for receiving the TA is in the period of June-September 2017.

GFATM grants

The Global Fund approved the HIV and TB grants under NFM.

The implementation of NFM GEO-H-NCDC started on July 1, 2017. Implementation period: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019.

The implementation of NFM GEO-T-NCDC started on January 1, 2017. Implementation period: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2019

Preparation of new funding request

Georgia CCM has started the endeavors for making the development of a new funding request a transparent and inclusive process. The allocation letter was widely distributed and the prospects for future financing was brought to the attention of a broad audience attended the CSO Forum of February 23, 2017 to ensure effective information sharing and broader participation.

March 21, 2017

The report is prepared by Georgia CCM Secretariat