

Minutes
of
Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council Meeting: 13

The PAAC meeting was held at the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health on March 29, 2018 at 16:00.

Objectives:

To discuss and agree on the outlines of HIV and TB Strategic plans as well as on the process, next steps and timelines for developing the documents

Attendees:

<i>Tamar Gabunia</i>	URC, CCM Vice Chair
<i>Irma Khonelidze</i>	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), Deputy Director
<i>Eka Adamia</i>	HealthCare Department, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
<i>Ia Kamarauli</i>	HealthCare Department, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
<i>Ketevan Goginashvili</i>	HealthCare Department, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
<i>Ketevan Stvilia</i>	NCDC, GF HIV Program Manager
<i>Tsira Merabishvili</i>	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
<i>Maka Danelia</i>	NCDC, GF TB Program M&E
<i>Ana Chagaridze</i>	Tbilisi City Hall
<i>Eliso Bichashvili</i>	Ministry of Corrections, Medical Department
<i>Ketevan Chkhatarashvili</i>	Consultant
<i>Nino Tsereteli</i>	Consultant, Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health - Tanadgoma, executive director
<i>Natalia Zaqareishvili</i>	UNFPA, Program Analyst, PAAC Member
<i>Davit Ananiashvili</i>	NGO, Georgia + Group
<i>Davit Kakhaberi</i>	NGO, Equity Movement
<i>Giorgi Gogua</i>	NGO, New Vector
<i>Maka Gogia</i>	HIV program director, Georgia Harm Reduction Network
<i>Natia Morchiladze</i>	MSF
<i>Nino Badridze</i>	Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, Head of Epidemiological Department
<i>Nino Lomtadze</i>	Head of Surveillance and Strategic Planning Department, Coordinator of the GF TB Program, National Center of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases
<i>Nana Nabakhtevili</i>	LFA
<i>Irina Grdzeldze</i>	CCM, Executive Secretary
<i>Natia Khonelidze</i>	CCM, Administrative Assistant
<i>Tamar Zurashvili</i>	PAAC, Policy and Advocacy Specialist

The meeting was opened by **Dr. Tamar Gabunia**, CCM Vice Chair, who welcomed the attendees and introduced the purpose of the meeting: To discuss and agree on the outlines of HIV and TB Strategic plans as well as on the process, next steps and timelines for developing the documents. She noted that the country is preparing new applications to submit to the Global Fund for the period of 2019-2022, the deadline for submission is set August 6, 2018. Update of HIV/AIDS and TB National Strategic plans (current strategies cover the following periods: for HIV/AIDS – 2016-2018 and for TB – 2016-2020), as well as revision of priority directions is required for this process. These will be subsequently reflected in the funding applications submitted to the Global Fund. It was also noted that HIV and TB activities of the Transition and Sustainability Plan will be integrated into the relevant strategies. Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council will be the main platform for discussions during the elaboration of strategic plans. Thematic working group meetings as well as individual consultations with key informants will take place between PAAC meetings. Strategy documents will be elaborated within the joint process and consultancy mode ensuring participation of all stakeholders (MoLHSA, NCDC, PR, service providers, SCO, CBO and private sector). Final documents agreed by the PAAC will be submitted for agreement to the CCM. The process of developing strategic plans will be completed by the end of June 2018.

Dr. Gabunia gave floor to **Dr. Ketevan Chkhatarashvili** (according to the contract signed with L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, she is working on the development of Georgia HIV/AIDS National Strategic document for the period 2019-2022). She briefly presented the outline of the documents and timelines for its elaboration. She also notes that she will be working together with the group of consultants hired by UNFPA.

Dr. Tamar Gabunia (according to the contract signed with L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, she is working on the development of Georgia TB National Strategic document for the period 2019-2022) presented the outline of TB Strategic Plan, talked about the rationale for its update, methodology, strategic priorities and key steps and timelines for its elaboration.

Following the active discussions PAAC agreed that the outlines presented by the consultants are comprehensive and include all important strategic priorities and further work will continue within the transparent and participatory process.

As a result of the discussions on the community involvement in the development process of HIV and TB strategies, it was agreed that ECUO project community organizations' consortium and TB coalition will serve as discussion platforms respectively and ensure community participation during the developments of the relevant documents. In addition, it was underlined that the PAAC members are responsible for the dissemination of the discussed issues and draft documents to their communities and constituencies as well as for sharing communities' and constituencies' feedback and concerns to the council.

Mr. Davit Kakhbari, from NGO Equity Movement, announced that ECOM support is ensured regarding the pricing of MSM component and the point of contact during the coordination process will be Mr. Paata Sabelashvili.

Ms. Ketevan Stvilia, GF HIV Program Manager, informed the audience that the national consultation was held in order to determine the estimated number of PLHIV and as a result this number for 2017 is 10500 cases. The numbers agreed within the national consultations will be used for defining various directions during the elaboration of relevant strategic document.

Mr. Davit Ananiashvili, the director of Georgia Plus Group, informed the audience on the launch of the GF new regional project “Partnership for equal access to HIV-related services in the EECA region” implemented by ECUO. The project envisages stimulation of community organizations, establishment of CBO consortiums (on March 22, 2017 the consortium was established uniting 5 CBOs), identification of community needs and problems, reflecting those in National Strategic Plan and ensuring the sustainability and funding of services delivered by CBOs.

Dr. Tamar Gabunia made another announcement regarding the program split: the issue concerning the distribution of funds across the diseases for the new allocation period will be discussed within PAAC and recommendation will be presented to the CMM.

At the conclusion Dr. Tamar Gabunia summarized the meeting and thanked the participants.

Decision points:

- The process will be transparent and participatory ensuring engagement of all stakeholders including MoLHSA, NCDCPH, PR, Service providers, Civil Society, Community and Private sector.
- The development process will include consultants’ meetings with thematic groups as well as individual consultations with key informants.
- Community consultancy for the process of developing TB and HIV Strategic Plans will be ensured through TB coalition and ECUO project community organizations’ consortium platforms respectively.
- PAAC agreed that the outlines of HIV and TB Strategic plans are comprehensive and include all important strategic priorities.
- The outlines will be shared for agreement among CCM members.

Minutes prepared by Tamar Zurashvili

Policy and Advocacy Specialist, PAAC