

Minutes
of
Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council Meeting: 16

The expanded PAAC meeting with broad representations of the CSO/CBO beyond the PAAC members was held at the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health on July 2, 2018 at 14:00.

Objectives:

- to discuss and agree the GF Program Split for the 2017-2019 allocation period

Attendees:

<i>Tamar Gabunia</i>	URC, CCM Vice Chair
<i>Irma Khonelidze</i>	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), Deputy Director, PAAC member
<i>Ketevan Stvilia</i>	NCDC, GF HIV Program Manager
<i>Maka Danelia</i>	NCDC, GF TB Program M&E officer
<i>Mzia Tabatadze</i>	Consultant, “Alternativa Georgia”
<i>Nino Tsereteli</i>	Consultant, Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health - Tanadgoma, executive director, PAAC member
<i>Irine Javakhadze</i>	
<i>Maia Tsereteli</i>	NCDC
<i>Tsira Merabishvili</i>	NCDC
<i>Konstantine Labartkava</i>	NGO “New Vector”, PAAC member
<i>Tinatin Kotrikadze</i>	MSF
<i>Khatuna Todadze</i>	Center for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction
<i>Maka Gogia</i>	HIV program director, Georgia Harm Reduction Network
<i>Zaza Avaliani</i>	National Center for TB and Lung Diseases, Director
<i>Nana Kiria</i>	National Center for TB and Lung Diseases, Deputy Director
<i>Lali Janashi</i>	TB Coalition
<i>Davit Jikia</i>	TB Coalition
<i>Eka Sanikidze</i>	TB Coalition
<i>Giorgi Magradze</i>	Georgia Health Promotion and Education Foundation, PAAC member
<i>Nikoloz Mirzashvili</i>	Georgia Patients Union
<i>Lasha Tvaliashvili</i>	NGO “Real People, Real Vision”, PAAC member
<i>Davit Ananiashvili</i>	NGO, Georgia + Group, PAAC member
<i>Davit Kakhaberi</i>	NGO, Equity Movement, PAAC member
<i>Paata Sabelashvili</i>	ECOM, MSM community
<i>Nana Nabakhteveli</i>	LFA
<i>Giorgi Soselia</i>	MdM, Advocacy Officer
<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 the GF Program Split for the 2017-2019 allocation period.

Dr. Gabunia presented the audience justification of the Program Split which is based on the detailed assessment and analysis of funding needs. Initially, she talked about the GF proposed Program Split: based on the Global Fund Board Decision in November 2016 on the allocation of resources for the 2017-2019 allocation period, Georgia has been allocated US\$ 15,588,062 for HIV, TB and building resilient and sustainable systems for health, including 8,412,986\$ for HIV (allocation utilization period: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022) and 7,175,076\$ for TB (allocation utilization period: 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022), in addition recommended level for RSSH component during the new allocation period is 9.3%. It was also noted that the 2017-2019 allocation amount is dependent on meeting co-financing requirements, and 25% of Georgia's allocation will be made available upon additional co-financing commitments. Total minimum additional allocation for both programs is US\$ 3,897,016. Dr. Gabunia also briefly talked about the previous commitments of domestic financing – committed and commitment met: commitment met versus committed was more in 2015-2018 for HIV program unlike TB but commitment met for both Programs was more than committed. For the next allocation period, the estimated domestic additional allocation for both programs exceeds the amount of minimum additional allocation requested by the Global Fund. According to the Global Fund proposed Program Split 56% of funding is for HIV and 46% for TB. It was underlined that the changes in the proposed Program Split should be justified and the rational decisions for the both programs should be made. Special considerations will be: programmatic needs, funding gaps and how those gaps will be covered through the Global Fund money (for instance staff salaries, facilities storage costs and etc. will not be covered by the Global Fund).

TB Program needs: according to the new strategic plan the total estimated budget in 2019-2022 is USD 53,646,777. Dr. Gabunia presented to the audience the funding needs for the TB Program in 2020-2022 and potential funding sources and talked about the funding gap as well. It was underlined that the gap is mainly due to the increased staff salaries, which should be covered by the state and medical facilities' increased operational costs. Once again it was noted that this gap will not be covered through the Global Fund. Dr. Gabunia briefly overviewed the 2019-2022 co-financing scenario, including state contribution and its increasing trend for all objectives of the strategy. In this scenario, considering government take over on currently GF supported roles, the GF support that can be effectively utilized by the National TB Program is 6.1 ml with 2.03 ml allocations annually in 2020-2022. Hence, it is possible to reallocate the remaining amount (about 1 million) from TB to HIV program.

HIV Program needs: the need for HIV/AIDS program is approximately 22-23 ml annually in 2020-2022 and the funding gap is 3.5ml\$. Although HIV program funding gap is less than TB program funding gap, the latter gap cannot be covered by the GF. The additional 1 ml reallocated from TB program will ensure the expansion of HIV prevention interventions in MSM population, which is the most vulnerable group in Georgia, and will enable the effective utilization of Global Fund support.

Dr. Tamar Gabunia presented to the audience the proposed and revised Program Split:

Initial Program Split	Revised Program Split	Amount to be relocated from TB to HIV Program
HIV \$8,412,986.00	\$9,348,442.47	
TB \$7,175,076.00	\$6,239,619.53	\$935,456.47
Total \$15,588,062.00		
HIV 54%	HIV 60%	
TB 46%	TB 40%	

Dr. Gabunia opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. Irma Khonelidze provided the attendees with information on Program Split for the previous grants and stressed the fact that during the new allocation it is important to relocate funds in way that they are fully and effectively utilized since according the GF new policy cost extension will no longer be possible. Dr. Khonelidze addressed the audience to provide justified comment on the revised Program Split.

Dr. Zaza Avaliani, Director of the National Center for TB and Lung Diseases, thanked Dr. Gabunia for developing the Strategy document and noted that TB Center was actively involved in the development process including the budget elaboration process; therefore has no comments on the revised Program Split.

Mr. Konstantine Labartkava, thanked the consultants on behalf of CSO/CBO representatives for involving them in the Strategy development process. He also underlined the importance of the Global Fund Assistance and also the role of existing strong local inter-agency linkages and cooperation in the development of civil and community organizations in Georgia.

No conflicting views on the revised Program Split were expressed from other group members and the Program Split was agreed with the PAAC and broad representations of the CSO/CBO beyond the PAAC.

At the conclusion Dr. Irma Khonelidze summarized the meeting and thanked the participants.

Decision points:

- the initial GF proposed Program Split for the 2017-2019 allocation period was revised and the following distribution was agreed: 40% for TB and 60% for HIV Program;
- PAAC recommends the revised Program Split to the CCM for final endorsement.

Minutes prepared by Tamar Zurashvili

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