

**Minutes of the 83rd CCM meeting  
June 15, 2016  
Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia**

**Participants:**

#	CCM members	
1	David Sergeenko	Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia CCM Chair
2	Tamar Gabunia	URC LLC USAID funded Georgia Tuberculosis Prevention Project Chief of Party CCM Vice-Chair
3	Amiran Gamkrelidze	NCDC&PH, General Director PR of GFATM grants
4	Nino Badridze	On behalf of Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze - General Director Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, SR
5	Zaza Avaliani	National Center of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Director, SR
6	Khatuna Todadze	Center for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction, GFATM funded methadone substitution therapy program, SR
7	Archil Talakvadze	Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs
8	Tamaz Marsagishvili	Deputy Minister of Education and Science

9	Irine Javakhadze	Ministry of Finance, Chief Specialist of Budget Department/State and Consolidated Budget Formulation Division
10	Tamta Demurishvili	Ministry of Corrections, Head of Medical Department
11	Tamar Sirbiladze	USAID, Health and Social Development Office, Director
12	Rusudan Klimiashvili	WHO Georgia, Head of Country Office
13	Lela Bakradze	UNFPA, Assistant Representative
14	Tsisana Shartava	Alternate member. On behalf of Archimandrite Adam - Vakhtang Akhaladze  Patriarchate of Georgia, Head of Public Health Department
15	Zurab Vadachkoria	Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University
16	Lasha Abesadze	Alternate member, on behalf of Konstantine Labartkava NGO New Vector , Board Chairman, SSR
17	Izoleta Bodokia	NGO HIV/AIDS Patients Support Foundation, Director, SR
18	Paata Sabelashvili	MSM Constituency
19	Madlena Khutsishvili	CBO PAPA
20	Maia Butsashvili	NGO HRU, Director
21	Kakha Kvashilava	NGO GHRN, Board Chairman, SR
22	Tamar Bortsvadze	NGO Mdm, Senior Advocacy Officer

23	Lela Tsakadze	NGO Winners Club, Founder
24	Nikoloz Mirzashvili	Former TB Patient, Patients' Union, Board Member
25	Nino Osepashvili	Alternate member, on behalf of Natia Loladze, NGO Georgia Red Cross Society, President
Guests/invitees		
26	Irakli Katsitadze	LFA, team leader
27	Irma Khonelidze	NCDC&PH, Deputy General Director GFATM PIU, Director
28	David Ananiashvili	NGO "Georgia Plus Group", Director
29	Alexander Asatiani	NCDCPH, GFATM HIV M&E Officer
30	Giorgi Kutchukhidze	NCDCPH, GFATM TB M&E Officer
31	Magda Kostava	NGO Hera XXI
32	Beso Kazarashvili	CBO "PAPA"
33	Ketevan Chkhatarashvili	Curatio International Foundation, President
34	Akaki Zoidze	Curatio International Foundation, Consultant
35	Mzia Tabatadze	Curatio International Foundation, Consultant
36	Eka Sanikidze	TB Coalition, ACSM Specialist
37	Tamar Kashbadze	Ministry of Corrections, Medical Department
38	Noe Kinkladze	MoLHSA, Head of Economic Department, Consultant to Oversight Committee
Secretariat		
39	Irina Grdzeldze	Executive Secretary
40	Natia Khonelidze	Administrative Assistant

## Agenda

15:00 – 15:10	<p><b>Opening speech /remarks/ endorsement of the agenda/ endorsement of the minutes of the 82nd CCM meeting</b></p> <p>Mr. David Sergeenko - CCM Chair, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia</p>
15:10 – 15:15	<p><b>Addressing the members with the request to declare the presence of the Conflict of Interest</b></p> <p>Secretariat</p>
15:15 – 15:25	<p><b>Brief update on the 35<sup>th</sup> Global Fund Board meeting</b></p> <p>Mr. Archil Talakvadze – Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs</p>
15:25 – 15:40	<p><b>Introduction of the outline of Transition and Sustainment Plan</b></p> <p>Mr. Akaki Zoidze - Curatio International Foundation, Consultant</p>
15:40 – 15:50	<p><b>Discussion</b></p>
15:50– 16:05	<p><b>GFATM funded project “To increase coverage and quality of preventive interventions through provision of comprehensive HIV prevention package to PWIDs” - barriers for implementation</b></p> <p>Mr. Kakha Kvashilava – GHRN, Acting Executive Director</p>
16:05 – 16:20	<p><b>HIV and TB grants implementation status</b></p> <p>Ms. Irma Khonelidze – NCDCPH Deputy Director, GFATM PIU Project Director</p>
16:20– 16:30	<p><b>Report of the Oversight Committee</b></p> <p>Mr. David Ananiashvil – Chair of the Oversight Committee</p>
16:30 – 16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dashboard for HIV grant Period 1 and TB grant Period 8</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr. Alexander Asatiani – NCDCPH, GFATM HIV M&amp;E Officer</p> <p>Mr. Giorgi Kuchukhidze – NCDCPH, GFATM TB M&amp;E Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introducing of the Oversight Committee recommendations</b></li> </ul> <p>Mr. David Ananiashvili – Chair of the Oversight Committee</p>
16:45– 16:55	<p><b>Oversight Committee membership renewal/endorsement of the renewed composition</b></p> <p>Ms. Irina Grzelidze – CCM, Executive Secretary</p>
16:55- 17:10	<p><b>AOB/announcements</b></p>

	<p><b>Global Fund Supported TB Regional Project (TB REP) implementation – outcomes of the WHO Regional Meeting in Copenhagen</b></p> <p>Ms. Tamar Gabunia – CCM Vice-Chair, USAID funded Tuberculosis Prevention Project, Chief of Party</p>
17:10	<p><b>Closure of the meeting</b></p>

**David Sergeenko** – greeted the participants and thanked them for coming. The Chairperson overviewed an agenda and addressed the members with the request to declare the presence of the Conflict of Interest if any, to fill out the CoI forms and to raise any comments/objections with regard to the agenda items of the 83rd CCM meeting if any.

*The agenda of the 83rd CCM meeting was endorsed; the minutes of the 82<sup>nd</sup> CCM meeting were endorsed.*

*The COI forms were filled out and are kept at the CCM Office. None of the CCM members presented at the meeting declared the presence of COI in respect to the agenda of the 83rd CCM meetings.*

**David Sergeenko** – gave the floor to **Mr. Archil Talakvadze**.

**Archil Talakvadze** – presented to the members the detailed outline of the 35th Global Fund Board meeting. The main focus was given to the following topics: Global Fund’s 5th Replenishment; new allocation methodology and concern of some countries regarding criteria set; sustainability and transition; KPI (key performance indicators) document; catalyzed investment; OIG report.

*Comment: In addition to a verbal presentation the package of the material of the Board meeting provided by Mr. Archil Talakvadze has been shared with the CCM members through e-mail.*

*It was announced that Mr. Archil Talakvadze was appointed as a member of the Global Fund Ethics and Governance Committee; Georgia’s mandate to serve as a Board Member from EECA Constituency has expired. It was agreed with the members that two nominations from the country for EECA Constituency membership will be presented.*

**David Sergeenko** – gave the floor to **Mr. Akaki Zoidze**.

**Akaki Zoidze** – presented to the audience the first outline of the Transition and Sustainment Plan (the table and presentation are attached). The document had been reviewed by PAAC before submission to the CCM. Mr. Zoidze outlined the main content of the explanatory note (attached) and briefly reviewed the methodology and approaches. Afterwards he described strategic objectives and examples of possible activities under each objective. The presenter specially underlined that key activities are presented for illustrative purpose and the work on their further elaboration and finalization will be continued. At this stage only the main

directions based on findings from Transition Preparedness Assessment are presented to the CCM for discussion and agreement. He stressed the importance of the prioritization of implementable activities for sustainability. Mr. Zoidze underlined that in the context of ongoing developments and possible changes of the health care landscape, the TSP will require update by the end 2017. The importance of final endorsement of the document at governmental level was highlighted.

*A comprehensive discussion followed.* The audience thoroughly discussed the proposed outline. The following issues were under the special focus of the audience: implementation arrangements of the plan; feasibility of activities; state law on procurement; the need to focus on improving efficiency of the TB and HIV programs; already functioning mobile laboratories; legislative base in terms of the drug use and drug use testing; need for consideration of analysis of already implemented activities such as steps undertaken towards liberalization of drug legislation (e.g. amendment to Order #239/N of 2001); sustainability of financing for prevention programs; the importance of synergizing HIV prevention efforts with the Hep C elimination program; the rationale for government investment in capacity building for CSO personnel and identification of all potential funding source to support CSO involvement in TB and HIV responses; regulatory mechanisms for private providers to retain the TB services beyond the mandated period; integration of health information system for both diseases into already developed and currently being piloted E-Health System; performance based financing to improve treatment outcomes; the need for strengthening the National TB Program governance by focusing on currently existing structure; sustainability of the results of re-training of primary health care physicians on TB.

*The CCM agreed that the working process on elaboration of the Plan including the key activities will be continued with participation of all stakeholders, the consultations and brainstorming sessions will be held.*

**The CCM approved the proposed strategic objectives of the TSP.**

**David Sergeenko** – gave the floor to **Mr. Kakha Kvashilava**.

**Kakha Kvashilava** – presented to the audience barriers for implementation of GFATM funded program “To increase coverage and quality of preventive interventions through provision of comprehensive HIV prevention package to PWIDs” which is implemented by GHRN in 11 cities of the country through 14 service centers. In addition, the GHRN has been actively involved in the Hep C screening process for the last year. Mr. Kvashilava noted that during the years over time the escalation of the situation with the police emerge such as detention and involuntary drug testing of social workers, tracing of outreach vehicles, tracing of the beneficiaries entering and leaving the service centers. Such activities from the police side hinder the program implementation. The problem is especially acute in Adjara Region. Mr. Kvashilava referred to the meeting held with the MoIA in February, 2016 and reaching agreement on balancing of the relationship with policemen though noted that the information received from the service center revealed that activities of the police still created risks for program implementation. Afterwards, Mr. Kvashilava presented to the audience the information received from the service centers on the concrete facts hindering the program implementation. The rapporteur stated that there are some cases of police presence during the overdoses though these facts are not of systematic nature. Mr. Kvashilava outlined the complex character of outreach activities within the target beneficiaries. Mr. Kvashilava expressed his concern regarding the fact that the tripartite memorandum of understanding is still unsigned despite the agreement reached. The rapporteur underlined that given

circumstances jeopardize the performance of the indicators set within the GF program as well as efficient implementation of Hep C Elimination program. He expressed his hope that corrective measures for avoiding the barriers in the future will be taken.

**David Sergeenko** – opened the floor for discussion.

**Archil Talakvadze** — presented to the audience the main components and outcomes of the last three year reform period. He focused on the following issues: the amendment to the order to Order #239/N of 2001 dramatically reduced the cases of death caused by the overdose; in consultation with CS the regulations with regard to street drug testing have been changed. Within two months of mentioned regulatory changes the number of street drug testing was reduced by half, the detection rate was fixed as 51% versus 30% observed earlier, there is no single case of persons imprisonment solely due to drug use during the year of 2015; the recent legislative changes initiated by the Ministry of Justice makes distinction between the possession for personal use and possession for drug smuggling and the period of sentence has been differentiated; the high accessibility for PWID including those for previous history of drug use to Hep C elimination Program; the abolishment of upper limit for Harm Reduction Programs for clients to engage; recognition by the MoIA the need for scaling-up of coverage of harm reduction activities especially in terms of liberalization of drug-regulations for illegal consumption; government's contribution in detox programs; the main resources of activities of MoIA are directed towards addressing illicit drug traffic; MoIA's support to the Four Pillar drug policy. Mr. Talakvadze outlined the aspects of collaboration with the CS. The Deputy Minister referred to the meeting with the representatives of the GHRN and Deputy Ministers of Ministry of Internal Affairs where the cooperation format for future direct communication to urgently address any activity from the policy side hindering programs implementation was agreed. The Deputy Minister noted that isolated cases may still happen taking into account big number of police staff though they are not of systematic nature and will be effectively addressed by the management of the institution. Mr. Talakvadze referred to the cases reflected in the letter and presented at the meeting by Mr. Kvashilava providing the rationale behind, outcomes of them and the steps undertaken by the MoIA towards their settlement. Mr. Talakvadze expresses his surprise that instead of direct communication with MoIA the GHRN preferred to send formal letter which delayed the immediate solutions and communication. Deputy Minister referred to the notion of Mr. Kvashilava regarding acuteness of the problem in Adjara region and addressed him with the question whether these facts were communicated to the Deputy Ministers as per an agreement reached between MoIA and GHRN. Mr. Talakvadze confirmed the political commitment from MoIA side for smooth implementation of harm reduction program. The Deputy Minister urged Mr. Kvashilava to present any cases of problems of systematic nature if such exist. Mr. Talakvadze reiterated that the reform is being implemented by the Government. Mr. Talakvadze expressed the readiness to present to the CCM at the next meeting all possible scenarios of the decriminalization of the drug use. Finally, Mr. Talakvadze confirmed that the main scope of activities of MoIA is directed towards fighting with illicit drug trafficking and presented to the audience the results on successful work undertaken in this dimension.

**Lasha Abesadze** – on behalf of the IDU community expressed the idea that the regulatory changes are not sufficient and many cases of the misconduct from police side are observed.

**Paata Sabelashvili** – strongly criticized the existing drug-policy and regulations and stated that repressive measures against drug users are still in place urging for radical changes of the existing situation.

**Archil Talakvadze** – expressed the readiness to continue the communication in working format.

**David Sergeenko** – resumed the discussion and stated that the issues raised for discussion will be considered and discussed in the working format with MoIA.

**Due to the fact that the previous discussion took longer than planned the Chairperson offered to submit to the CCM the OC report and dashboards with OC recommendation through e-mail.**

**The CCM agreed with proposed alteration of the agenda.**

**Comment: the CCM was provided by the OC report and the OC recommendations were agreed with the CCM in on-line format.**

**David Sergeenko** - gave the floor to **Mr. Irina Grdzeldze**.

**Irina Grdzeldze** – one more time presented to the CCM the process of OC membership renewal.

As a result of above mentioned the following persons were nominated by:

**Civil sector (three seats):**

1. Tamar Bortsvadze – MDM, Senior Advocacy Officer, CCM member
2. Maya Butsashvili – HRU, Director, CCM member
3. Nikoloz Mirzashvili- Former TB patient, Patients’ Union, Board Member, CCM Member
4. Eka Sanikidze – TB coalition, ACSM Specialist, non-CCM member

**Government sector (three seats):**

1. Nino Berdzuli - Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, PAAC Chair person- non CCM Member
2. Tamar Kashibadze – Ministry of Corrections of Georgia, Medical Department, Regulatory Division, Chief Specialist- non CCM Member

**BL/ML donors (1 seat):**

1. Rusudan Klimiashvili - WHO Georgia, Head of Country Office

Ms. Grdzeldze addressed the audience with the request to raise any questions to the candidates for OC membership. The candidates were asked to leave the meeting room for the period of discussion and decision-making. The CCM discussed the candidates and the issue of the elections was put to the vote.

*As a result of the vote Ms. Tamar Bortsvadze, Ms. Maya Butsashvili, Mr. Nikoloz Mirzashvili, Ms. Nino Berdzuli, Ms. Tamar Kashibadze, Ms. Rusudan Klimiashvili were unanimously elected as OC members. Ms. Eka Sanikidze was offered to serve as a consultant to the OC.*

*The candidates were called back to the meeting room and the results were announced. It was announced that the renewed OC will have to present to the CCM the candidacy of the OC Chair for final agreement. The members of the CCM expressed their gratitude to the former OC members: Mr. Valeri Kvaratskhelia, Mr. Giorgi Khechinashvili, Ms. Tamar Sirbiladze, Ms. Mari Chokheli and to Mr. David Ananiashvili for chairing the committee and for his commitment, dedication and hard work as CCM member and the Chair of the Oversight Committee.*

**Tamar Gabunia** – gave the floor to **Ms. Irma Khonelidze**.

**Irma Khonelidze** – updated the members on current status of GFATM grants implementation.

The NFM GEO-H-NCDC grant has been approved by the Global Fund Board. The Grant Confirmation has been submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers and once the approval is secured will be sent back to the Global Fund with in-country signatures. Implementation period of the grant is July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019.

The contract with current HIV SRs has been extended for two months period to ensure continuity of the activities and to proceed with procurement procedures.

6-months no-cost extension for the GEO-T-NCDC grant was approved by the Global Fund. Thus the grant has been extended till December 31, 2016. TB grant negotiations to be completed by July, 2016.

The issue of transfer of the assets procured by former PR, GPIC to programs implementers has been agreed with the CCM. The PR will act accordingly and further inform the CCM on the process.

wambo.org (e-procurement platform) training will be held within the framework of GF country visit. The details of seminar and a brief description of the system were presented to the audience. The brief on the seminar will be provided later on.

The Global Fund approved using the funds saved under the TB grant for construction of two TB ambulatories. The necessary procedures are on-going. Ms. Khonelidze extended special thanks to Mr. David Sergeenko for negotiating this issue with the Global fund.

**David Sergeenko** – referred to the meeting with Mr. Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund where the support of the Global Fund in terms of the negotiating of the procurement was done. As for the implementation tool it is necessary to coordinate this issue with the Regulatory Agency of the Ministry and Mr. Valeri Kvaratskhelia, Deputy Minister to ensure that the quality of the product is observed.

**The floor for announcements was opened.**

**Zaza Avaliani** – announced that the project proposal submitted by the NCTLD within the framework of call for proposals of French 5% Initiative has been approved for financing. Mr. Avaliani briefly overviewed the goals and objectives of the proposal aimed at continuous medical education of the TB personnel for clinical management of MDR and XDR Tuberculosis in the context of new anti-TB drug implementation and surveillance of X/MDR-TB Transmission in the country. The proposal was selected among 35 applications, the project will last three years, budget amount is equal to 669, 000 Euro. Mr. Zaza Avaliani highly emphasized the innovative nature of the project and the treatment regimens introduced.

**Tamar Gabunia** – briefed the audience on the outcomes of the WHO Regional Meeting in Copenhagen. The strategic directions and goals of Global Fund Supported TB Regional Project (TB REP) were outlined. Ms. Gabunia highly emphasized the coordinating role of the CCM and the role of WHO Country Office in the future process of program implementation in the country.

**Mzia Tabatadze** – announced the launch of the project financed by Stop TB Partnership that will be implemented by Curatio International Foundation. The one-year project is aimed at strengthening of TB CSOs, and enhancing their involvement in national TB response. The project will be implemented in two phases. Within the first phase, Ms. Nona Turusbekova, the Stop TB Partnership consultant visited Georgia to conduct baseline assessment of CSOs and community system engagement in the national TB response. Based on the assessment findings, detailed work plan will be developed for the Phase II. Ms. Tabatadze thanked TB stakeholders who were present at the CCM meeting for their cooperation and meeting Ms. Turusbekova during the assessment mission.

**Kakha Kvashilava** – referred to the facts of policemen’s misconduct and got interested if the investigations had started. He reiterated that activities of the police jeopardize the program implementation and this should be stopped.

**Tamar Gabunia** – stated that taking into consideration the nature of the issues it would be much more appropriate to continue discussion in the format of working meetings directly with MoIA as proposed by Mr. Archil Talakvadze. The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for having attended and announced the meeting as closed.

## **Decisions:**

### **1.To endorse the proposed outline of the TSP**

### **2.To endorse the following composition of the Oversight Committee:**

Tamar Bortsvadze – MDM, Senior Advocacy Officer

Maya Butashvili – HRU, Director

Nikoloz Mirzashvili- Former TB patient, Patients’ Union, Board member

Nino Berdzuli - Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia,  
PAAC Chairperson

Tamar Kashbadze – Ministry of Corrections of Georgia, Medical Department,  
Regulatory Division, Chief Specialist

Rusudan Klimiashvili - WHO Georgia, Head of Country Office

**To appoint Ms Ekaterine Sanikidze, TB Coalition, ACSM Specialist as a consultant to the Oversight Committee**

**David Sergeenko**

CCM Chair

**Natia Khonelidze**

CCM Administrative Assistant

Annexes:

1. TSP Table
2. Presentation on TSP outline
3. Explanatory note from CIF