

Minutes
of
Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council Meeting: 1

The PAAC meeting was held at the NCDCPH on April 20, 2016 at 16:00.

Objectives:

Setting the scene for transition planning; definition of PAAC role and responsibilities; presentation of programmatic and financial sustainability planning survey findings; presentation of planning methodology and expert team.

Attendees:

Nino Berdzuli – Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
Ekaterine Kavtaradze - Deputy Executive Director, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDCPH)
Natalia Zakareishvili – UNFPA, Program Analyst
Dali Usharidze – New Way
Eliso Bichashvili – Ministry of Corrections of Georgia
Tamar Kashibadze – Ministry of Corrections of Georgia
Giorgi Magradze – Georgia Health Promotion and Education Foundation
Konstantine Labartkava – GENPUD
David Kakhaberi – LGBT Georgia
Irine Javakhadze – Ministry of Finance of Georgia
Sopio Aspanidze – Tbilisi City Hall
Tamar Bortsvadze – MDM
Giorgi Kutchukhidze – NCDCPH
Alexander Asatiani – NCDCPH
Giorgia Soselia – NCDCPH
Ekaterine Ruadze -NCDCPH
Ketevan Stvilia - NCDCPH
Nelly Solomonias – USAID Georgia TB Prevention Project
Maka Danelia – USAID Georgia TB Prevention Project
Nino Lomtadze – NCTLD
Ketevan Chkhatarashvili – Curatio International Foundation (CIF)
Giorgi Dobordjgenidze – CIF
Ana Zhulina – CIF
Merab Eliozishvili – CIF
Mzia Tabatadze - CIF
Thea Jibuti - TB expert, CIF
Nino Badridze – AIDS Center
Natia Khonelidze - CCM
Tamar Gabunia - CCM Vice-Chair, Chief of Party, USAID Georgia TB Prevention Project

Ms. Tamar Gabunia welcomed the meeting participants, presented the background information and gave brief overview of the transition planning objectives and process scope of work, as well as the functions and responsibilities of different involved parties (presentation attached).

In response to the question regarding the endorsement of the Transition Plan Ms. Gabunia stated that according to the plan the Transition Plan will be endorsed by the CCM and after that submitted to the Government for approval.

Ms. Ketavan Stvilia added that there is obligation towards the Global Fund to have the Plan endorsed by the Government no later than June 1 2017.

Ms. Ketevan Chkhatarashvili presented brief history of transition planning in different countries and survey of preparedness for transition and programmatic sustainability risk assessment. She presented in details the survey findings related to political and economic components of external environment and inputs, governance and programmatic components of internal environment. The recommendations were presented to the audience. Dr. Chkhatarashvili warned the audience that the countries that failed to succeed with transition demonstrated significant drawback in disease control, thus, data-driven decision-making and involvement of all stakeholders are extremely important. Besides, to ensure the smooth transition, the new model should be tested while GF is still in the country. The transition planning process was suggested to be divided into three phases. The first phase will be devoted to elaborating outline of the TSP, based on the agreed directions/areas and the priority objectives. The expert team will start with the revision of approved concept notes to avoid duplication of activities already covered in corresponding documents. In phase II TB/HIV TSP draft will be elaborated including costing and M&E components. The draft will be finalized and submitted to CCM in phase III. Dr. Chkhatarashvili overviewed the methodology and approaches that will be employed during the planning. Ms. Chkhatarashvili emphasized the importance of CCM sustainability and of identification of the body responsible for implementation of the Transition Plan. The latter to be decided by the Government. (presentation attached). Finally, Ms. Chkhatarashvili presented to the audience the team of experts.

The presentations were followed by discussion.

The discussion was structured among the following issues:

- CSOs contracting. It was mentioned that the current legislation of Georgia does not imply serious obstacles for contracting CSOs. All details of this issue to be thoroughly discussed during the working process;
- Other countries experience in terms of identification of the body responsible for implementation of the Transition Plan. It was noted that such experience does not exist at the moment. Croatia model was presented and discussed. It was explicitly noted that the Body should have sufficient legal authorities for executing such functions. Another option

can be specifications of the concrete bodies responsible for implementation of concrete components in the Plan endorsed by the Government.

- The importance of ensuring sustainability of the activities supported by other donors than the Global Fund was underlined;
- The sums to be included in the 2017 state budget. It was noted that BDD has been already submitted by NCDC to MoLHSA. It was also noted that TB and HIV Strategic Plans contain detailed financial parameters.

Ms. Chkhatarashvili announced that Euro Health Group has been contracted by both GIZ and the Global Fund to conduct a CCM Integration Study and emphasized the importance of the study results for transitional planning.

Ms. Stvilia announced that EHRN expressed its readiness to provide technical assistance. Ms. Gabunia underlined the importance of clear distinction of the functions and responsibilities among various involved parties. In this light detailed information on the assistance offered would be highly appreciated. Ms. Natalia Zakareishvili specified the involvement of UN in the transitional planning.

Afterwards the meeting participants discussed the timeframes of the process, the mandate and structure of the PAAC.

The group agreed on the methodology for developing the transition plan and on major milestones. The next step will be elaborating the plan outline for PAAC review and CCM endorsement. It was agreed that group members will have predefined reasonable time for comments and will be informed about the meetings at least one week ahead.

Tamar Gabunia thanked the participants for having attended and announced the meeting as closed.

Decision points:

1. Elaborate the transition plan according to the methodology as proposed by the CIF team
2. Have the transition plan outline reviewed by PAAC by mid-May and submitted for CCM's approval by the end of May

Tamar Gabunia

CCM Vice-Chair

Natia Khonelidze

CCM Administrative Assistant

