



Minutes of the 43rd CCM meeting

July 3, 2009

17:00

Venue: Kobuleti, Hotel "Green House"

CCM Members:

Sandra E. Roelofs - Chairperson of the CCM;
Alexander Kvitashvili - Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
George Tsereteli - Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia;
Irakli Giorgobiani - First Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
Koba Khabazi - Member of the Parliament of Georgia;
Badri Balavadze - Adviser of the Medical Department Ministry of Penitentiary, Probation and Legal Assistance;
Paata Imnadze – National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, General Director;
Levan Baramidze - National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Deputy Director;
Tengiz Tsertsvadze - Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center, Board Chairman;
Khatuna Todadze - Research Institute on Addiction, Deputy General Director;
Archil Salakaia - Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases;
Akaki Lochoshvili -Global Fund Projects Manager;
Manoela Grozdanova - UNAIDS Country Coordinator for Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia;
Tamar Sirbiladze – USAID, Senior Health Advisor;
Zurab Danelia - "Tanadgoma", Union of victims of conflict in Abkhazia, Executive Director;
Nata Avaliani - American International Health Alliance, Caucasus Regional Director;
Maia Kavtaradze - Project Coordinator. GOPA/KfW;
Nikoloz Nasidze - MSCI, Program Director;
Elguja Meladze- Employers' Association of Georgia, President;
Nino Tsereteli - Tanadgoma Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health, Executive Director;
David Ananiashvili - "Georgian Plus Group", Director;

CCM Secretariat:

Eka Iashvili - HIV/AIDS Technical Consultant;
Natia Khonelidze - Administrative Assistant;

Guests/Observers:

Levan Antadze - Minister of Health and Social Affairs of Autonomous Republic of Adjara;
Jambul Surmanidze – The First Deputy Minister of Health and Social Affairs of Autonomous Republic of Adjara;
David Chkonia – Member of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara;
Vasil Tavartkiladze – The Chairman of Adjara Municipality;
Dimitri Tsetskhladze – Regional Coordinator of National TB Program;

Jemal Dumbadze – Director of Batumi Infectious Diseases Center;

Lia Jincharadze – Director of Batumi Center on Drug Addiction;

Khatuna Mamasakhlisi – representative of Kobuleti TB dispensary;

Inga Davitadze – representative of Department of Public Health;

Irine Kurdadze - First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia;

Lia Tavadze - Social Mobilization Advisor, UNAIDS;

Luc Janssens – Country Representative, MSCI;

Agenda

- 17:00 – 17:10** **Opening speech /remarks**
Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Chairperson of the CCM
- 17:10 – 17:20** **Welcome speech /remarks**
Mr. Irakli Giorgobiani, First Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
- 17:20 – 17:30** **Welcome speech /remarks**
Mr. Koba Khabazi, Member of Parliament
- 17:30 – 17:40** **Welcome speech /remarks**
Mr. Levan Antadze, Minister of Health and Social Affairs of Autonomous Republic of Adjara
- 17:40 – 17:50** **UNAIDS update on NSP and other priorities**

Mrs. Manoela Grozdanova, UNAIDS Country Coordinator for Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia
- 17:50 -18:00** **TGF Projects Implementation Status**

Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili - Global Fund Projects Manager
- 18:00 – 18:10** **Presentation of the TB proposal to be submitted to the RCC Wave 7**
Mr. Archil Salakaia – Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases
- 18:10 – 18:20** **Endorsement of the TB proposal to be submitted to the RCC Wave 7**
Election of the Principle Recipient to the RCC Wave 7 Country Proposal
Ms. Eka Iashvili – HIV/AIDS Technical Consultant
- 18:20 – 18:30** **Current malaria situation in the country**

Paata Imnadze - General Director, L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Diseases Control and Public Health

18:30 – 18:45 Presentations of the Heads of Regional AIDS and Tuberculosis Services.

Dimitri Tsetskhladze – Regional Coordinator of National TB Program.

Jemal Dumbadze – Director of Batumi Infectious Diseases Center

Lia Jincharadze – Director of Batumi Center on Drug Addiction

18:45 – 18:50 Voting for Ms. Irine Kurdadze, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia as a new CCM member

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants of the meeting and expressed special gratitude to Mr. Koba Khabazi and Ms. Eka Iashvili for their input in organizing outdoor CCM meeting in Kobuleti.

The Chairperson introduced the guests and the observers of the meeting and stated that Batumi TB Center, Infectious Diseases Center and Center on Drug Addiction had been visited prior to the meeting. She noted that the heads of above-mentioned institution would present achievements and challenges they faced later. Afterwards she introduced the agenda and gave special attention to importance of the RCC Wave 7 TB proposal to be submitted to TGF. She indicated the significance of involvement of the Ministry of Education and Science in the activities of the CCM and noted that agenda envisaged voting for Ms. Irine Kurdadze, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science as a new CCM member.

Afterwards, the Chairperson gave the floor to **Mr. Koba Khabazi**

Koba Khabazi – greeted the participants and underlined the importance of conducting outdoor CCM meetings in the regions. He also stresses the significance of the visits to the facilities in Batumi. Afterwards, Mr. Koba Khabazi brought to the attention of the audience the issue of Kobuleti TB dispensary and noted that rehabilitation of above-mentioned facility was a matter of high priority. Finally, he thanked the participants for coming and wished to the CCM members productive and efficient work.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Irakli Giorgobiani**

Mr. Irakli Giorgobiani – greeted the attendees. He highly praised efficient work of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Autonomous Republic of Adjara. He noted that the CCM members visited Regional AIDS and TB services and specially stressed the success of methadone substitution program implemented in the region and its anticipated expansion. He noted that a lot of investors expressed their willingness to put investments in the construction of the new hospitals. Deputy Minister also indicated that the project “100 new hospitals” was still operational and the company “Block Georgia” with the fund allotted by Czech Republic would construct a new hospital in the region. Afterwards, he noted that Adjara was an exemplary region in terms of implementation of 5 GEL health insurance policy and stressed that a lot of work left to be done countrywide in this direction. The speaker emphasized the effectual work of the subsidiary agency in the region.

Finally, he once again thanked the Minister of Health and Social Affairs of Autonomous Republic of Adjara for achievements and progress observed in the region.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Levan Antadze**

Levan Antadze – extend special thanks to the organizers of the meeting for conducting CCM meeting in the region of Adjara. He specified the progress achieved in Adjara in responses to AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and emphasized significance of the projects funded by TGF for the region. Mr. Antadze stressed great contribution of Mrs. Roelofs in overcoming the difficulties the region encountered in the process of combating the three diseases. He noted that Adjara was belonging to the hyperendemic malaria zone and a lot of major risk factors driving the three epidemics were observed in the region.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Ms. Manoela Grozdanova**

Manoela Grozdanova – expressed her appreciation with regard to attending outdoor CCM meeting in Adjara. Ms. Grozdanova briefed attendees on the process of development of National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Georgia. She mentioned new financing architecture of TGF and stated that 6 year NSP would be in compliance with upcoming funding possibilities from TGF. Ms. Grozdanova stressed that NSP was a national document and thus would be nationally designed and UNAIDS would support technically and financially the process of development. She briefly outlined the steps to be undertaken in the process of drafting the document. She stated that working groups composed of representatives of the Government, of civil society, of experts would be drafting and discussing the document which would be presented to the CCM and broader stakeholders for discussion at the national consultation meetings. The speaker noted that the process of selecting consultants and experts would be transparent and open. She also underlined that annual action plans would be developed and underlined the significance of M&E plan. Ms. Grozdanova specially emphasized the importance of costing and clear budgeting and noted that the document could be used as a fundraising tool for TGF and other donors and for the Government, the latter, according to Ms. Grozdanova was the most important as the sustainability of the National policy can only be ensured through the Government. Finally, she reiterated that the role of UNAIDS was mainly to support the process and to convince the Government to adopt it.

Sandra E. Roelofs – indicated that NSP would be a basis for next UNGASS.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili**

Akaki Lochoshvili – briefed attendees regarding the ongoing projects implementation. He informed CCM members that RP was working on the submission of the application for phase 2 funding for HIV Round 6 Grant (CCM Georgia recently received invitation for Phase 2 for above mentioned grant). Mr. Lochoshvili briefly updated the participants of the meeting regarding the status of the RCC proposal for the TB Round 4 Grant and said that Mr. Salakaia would provide detailed information regarding this issue.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs and the participants of the meeting expressed their deep gratitude to Dr. Archil Salakaia for his invaluable input in strengthening Tuberculosis control in Georgia and regret with regard to his leave due to his assignment abroad.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Archil Salakaia**

Archil Salakaia – stated that GDF and GLC monitoring missions were visiting Georgia. He noted that GDF mission visits were conducted annually and practically no major comments or recommendations were received during this year mission. The main concern was that GOPA/KfW was phasing out its assistance by the end of current year and the alternative sources of procurement

of first line anti-TB drugs should be found. The rapporteur stated that above-mentioned would be most probably ensured through TGF.

He also stated that the director of GDF would be visiting Georgia by invitation of Mrs. Roelofs.

It was the very first visit of GLC since Georgia launched and scaled up MDR TB treatment and it was mentioned by the visitors that Georgia was the first country among the post-Soviet countries which practically ensured 100% universal access to treatment. The most valuable outcome of the visit was GLC mission gives green light for continuation of the project. Also NTP received recommendations for improvement of MDR-TB management.

Afterwards, he introduced to the audience TB proposal to be submitted to RCC Wave.

He stressed that initially the needs assessment and identification of financial gaps were conducted. Then activities were incorporated into two proposals: Round 9 that had been already endorsed and submitted to TGF and RCC Wave 7 proposal.

He underlined that RCC Wave 7 proposal mainly supported the activities of Round 4 TB project and additionally envisaged procurement of first-line anti TB drugs.

He also stated that the proposal covered 5 year instead of 6 and thus it would be complementary to Round 9 TB proposal. He stressed that both proposal represented two integral parts of one consolidated proposal and thus TGF new trend towards consolidation of grants were met.

He also stressed that procurement of second-line anti TB drugs were also envisaged by RCC proposal.

Afterwards he introduced the budget and stated that according to the limitations imposed it was not exceeded 140% of existing grant. The budget for three years is EUR 3,845,071.

The rapporteur specified the main objectives of the proposal:

Objective 1: To strengthen National TB Control Programme capacity to ensure implementation of high quality stop TB strategy countrywide including penitentiary system

Objective 2: To ensure continuity of treatment and social support of M/XDR TB patients enrolled in second line TB treatment

Objective 3: To ensure sustainability of TB/HIV co-infection control activities

Finally Dr. Salakaia thanked the participants for attention and for giving high regards to the work done by him.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to Ms. Eka Iashvili

Eka Iashvili – introduced **Mr. Zurab Danelia** and **Ms. Nino Tsereteli** as the new members of the CCM elected by the PTF at the rotational basis.

Afterwards, **Ms. Eka Iashvili** addressed the members with the request to vote for the endorsement of the TB proposal.

The proposal received unanimous endorsement by the CCM members confirmed with signatures of the attachment C hardcopy by all attended permanent and rotational members of the CCM

Eka Iashvili - thanked the members and raised the issue, connected with the Principle Recipient of TGF grants.

She briefly reviewed the history and the activities executed by the Georgian Health and Social Projects Implementation Center and suggested to the members to nominate the Georgian Health and Social Projects Implementation Center as a sole candidate for acting as the principle recipient for the RCC Wave 7 proposal or nominate any other candidate. No other candidate for acting as the principle recipient for RCC Wave 7 was nominated by the attendees of the meeting.

The Health and Social Projects Implementation Center - the principal recipient of the ongoing TGF projects, was nominated as the 1st choice candidate for PR to the country proposal and on the basis of voting it was accepted unanimously the decision on becoming of GHSPIC the Principle Recipient of the RCC Wave 7 country proposal.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to Mr. Paata Imnadze

Paata Imnadze – stated that albeit the situation with regard to malaria was stable, the country should be on alert to minimize the risk of resurgence of malaria transmission and its spread. He noted that two cases of imported tropical cases were registered and no cases of autochthonous malaria had been reported this year so far. He mentioned the possibility of development of joint Georgia-Azerbaijan anti-malaria program for coordination of responses.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to Mr. Dimitri Tsetsckhladze

Dimitri Tsetsckhladze – briefly overviewed TB situation in the region and presented some data and statistics. He stated that about 600 cases are registered annually in Adjara. He noted that TB units were operational in all 5 district of Adjara with well developed infrastructure with exception of Kobuleti TB Dispensary where rehabilitation is needed. Mr. Tsetsckhladze indicated that both in-patient and out-patient services were functioning in the region and specially emphasized functioning of DOT units in the region and stated that 6 DOT units were operational in Batumi. Mr. Tsetsckhladze stated that in the districts with support of TGF they managed integration of primary health services in TB control in great extent. The rapporteur also mentioned that with support of donor organizations TB patients receive incentives. He expressed his gratitude to the Government and donor organizations for commitment and support. He specially underlined contribution of TGF, USAID, MSCJ. He stated that some bottlenecks were observed in Khulo district due to its geographical location. He also stressed the importance of the trainings conducted for medical staff and noted smooth supply of anti-TB drugs within the framework of NTP. Afterwars he stated that a lot had to be done especially in terms of broadening involvement of primary health care services in TB control and thanked Dr. Salakaia for his great input.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to Ms. Lia Jincharadze

Lia Jincharadze - stated that according to the data of the second quarter of the year of 2009 the total number of registered at the Center individuals were approximately 5.400; out of this number 950 individuals with the diagnosis of drug addiction. She noted that the trends towards widening age ranging and increase of number of women were observed. She highly appreciated the methadone substitution program and its importance for the Region and extended special thanks to Mrs. Roelofs and to Ms. Khatuna Todadze. Ms. Jincharadze stated that the program was commenced on February 2007 and 278 individuals addressed the Center with the request of inclusion in the program. As of data of May 2009 the program reached 167 individuals. Out of this number one is a woman and 14 are HIV infected. Ms. Jincharadze underlined the importance of social rehabilitation for the patients and stated that 42 patients were employed, out of this number 19 were employed with assistance of IOM.

Levan Baramidze – stated that commencement of State methadone program in the region would be a matter of high importance and also stated that implementation of rehabilitation program was planned.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to Mr. Zurab Danelia

Zurab Danelia - stated that the projects were being implemented successfully in Abkhazia and expressed hope that no obstacles for the implementation would be observed and addressed **Ms. Lia Jincharadze** with the question regarding the implementation of needle exchange program in the region.

Lia Jincharadze – stated that union “Imedi” was implementing the program in the region and no serious difficulties were observed in the process of its implementation.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Jemal Dumbadze**

Jemal Dumbadze – stated that Batumi AIDS Center was opened on September 8, 2005 and since then it provided services for the regions of Adjara, Guria and Poti. He noted that the number of HIV infected patients in the center was equal to 80 and among them 55 patients received ARV treatment. The rapporteur noted that rehabilitation of the Center was supported by TGF, LTD “Batumi Infectious Diseases Center”. He underlined that Batumi Infectious Diseases Center was the only medical facility with natural gas central heating. Afterwards, he specified the programs implemented in the facility. Mr. Dumbadze also stated that in the region were not registered the cases of MTCT during the last 5 years.

Sandra E. Roelofs – put the issue of election of **Ms. Irine Kurdadze, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia** as a new CCM member.

Ms. Irine Kurdadze was elected unanimously as a member of the CCM.

Irine Kurdadze - thanked Mrs. Roelofs and the members of the CCM for confidence and underlined the importance of the CCM work and of coordinated activities of the CCM and the Ministry of Education and Science.

Decisions:

1. To submit TB proposal to TGF RCC Wave 7
2. New member, **Irine Kurdadze, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia** to be admitted to the membership of the CCM.
3. The Health and Social Projects Implementation Center - the principal recipient of the ongoing TGF projects, was nominated as the 1st choice candidate for PR to the country proposal and on the basis of voting it was accepted unanimously the decision on becoming of GHSPIC the Principle Recipient of the RCC Wave 7 Proposal.


Alexander Kvitašvili

Vice Chair of the CCM


Natia Khonelidze

Administrative Assistant to the CCM