

Minutes of the 45th CCM meeting

December 17, 2009

11:00

Venue: Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, Tbilisi

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;
Irine Kurdadze - First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia;
Koba Khabazi - Member of the Parliament of Georgia;
Zurab Vadachkoria - Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University;
Levan Baramidze - National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Deputy Director;
Tengiz Tsertsvadze - Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center, Board Chairman;
Iagor Kalandadze - Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases;
Khatuna Todadze - Research Institute on Addiction, Deputy General Director;
Akaki Lochoshvili - Global Fund Projects Manager;
Tamar Sirbiladze – USAID, Senior Health Advisor;
Nino Tsereteli – “Tanadgoma” Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health, Executive Director;
Zurab Danelia - Union of Victims of Conflict in Abkhazia "Tanadgoma"
Nata Avaliani - American International Health Alliance, Caucasus Regional Director;
Maia Kavtaradze - Project Coordinator, GOPA/KfW;
Rusudan Klimiashvili - WHO Country Coordinator;
Nikoloz Nasidze - MSCI, Program Director;
Elguja Meladze - Employers' Association of Georgia, President;
Iza Bodokia - HIV/AIDS Support Foundation, Director
David Ananiashvili - “Georgian Plus Group”, Director;

CCM Secretariat:

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

Guests/Observers:

Per Eklund - Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to Georgia;
Filippe Creach - TGF Fund Portfolio Manager;
Nino Khetaguri - TGF AIDS Project Coordinator;
Nino Kochishvili - EU Delegation to Georgia, Project Manager;
Natia Jokhadze – The Centre for National Educational Plan and Evaluation, Director;

George Zedginidze – Acting Head of Programs Department at the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia;

Agenda

11:00 – 11:10 Opening speech /remarks

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Chairperson of the CCM

11:10 – 11:20 Welcome speech /remarks

Mr. Alexander Kvitashvili, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

11:20 – 11:25 Welcome speech

Mr. Filippe Creach, TGF Fund Portfolio Manager

11:25-11:40 TGF Projects Implementation Status/main outcomes of 2009 EECA Regional Meeting - Sofia, Bulgaria - 24-26 November 2009

Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili - Global Fund Projects Manager

Mr. Filippe Creach, TGF Fund Portfolio Manager

11:40 – 11:50 Brief report on MSCI activities in the Region of Shida Kartli

Mr. Nikoloz Nasidze- MSCI, Program Director

11:50 – 12:05 Legal regulation of NTP

Mr. Iagor Kalandadze – Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases

12:05 – 12:20 Brief overview of the International Conference “Prison Health

Protection”, Madrid, Spain October 29-31, 2009

Mr. Levan Sharashidze - TB Technical Consultant, CCM

Ms. Khatuna Todadze - Research Institute on Addiction, Deputy General Director

12:20-12:25 Voting for Mr. Per Eklund, Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to Georgia as a new CCM member

12:25 –12:45 Brainstorming session: “How to organize promotion of healthy lifestyle in Georgian educational system as of 2010”

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants of the meeting and expressed her gratitude for their presence. Afterwards, the Chairperson introduced Mr. Per Eklund and put the issue of his election as a new CCM member to the vote.

The above mentioned person was elected unanimously as a member of the CCM.

Sandra E. Roelofs – congratulated Mr. Per Eklund and afterwards briefly outlined important developments in the field of healthcare system. Mrs. Roelofs stressed the importance of opening of Tuberculosis Center in Gori. The Chairperson mentioned opening of TB Regional Training Center scheduled for January. Afterwards the Chairperson presented brief information about the International Conference “Prison Health Protection” held in Madrid on October 29-31, 2009 that Mr. Levan

Sharashidze and Ms. Khatuna Todadze will present later. Mrs. Roelofs highlighted importance of establishment of CCM working group on Needle&Syringe Programs and Other Necessary Responses to HIV/AIDS in Prisons. The group will develop and submit the recommendations to the CCM and relevant authorities on the steps that are necessary to be undertaken to meet European standards. The Chairperson also mentioned the first meeting of the working group and stated that representatives from relevant ministries were present at the meeting. She noted that broad spectrum of the issues were discussed during the meeting. Afterwards the Chairperson mentioned the situation in the country related to H1N1 influenza, introduced the agenda and gave the floor to **Mr. Kvitashvili**

Alexander Kvitashvili – greeted the participants and congratulated newly elected CCM member. Mr.

Kvitashvili focused on H1N1 influenza and stated that Georgian Health Care system was well organized and 5 lethal cases registered in Georgia was mainly caused by late referral to the physicians.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked the Minister and gave the floor to **Mr. Filippe Creach**

Filippe Creach – greeted the participants and expressed his gratitude for inviting him to the CCM meeting. He highly praised the process of grant implementation in Georgia and achieving of universal access to treatment for HIV infected and TB patients. Mr. Creach noted that albeit the Round 9 TB proposal was not approved for funding Georgia should find best option that allow the country to continue treatment of TB patients and introduced two possible options. The first one is implementation of some interventions sufficient for continuation of treatment of TB patients which is possible under new TGF policy (CoS). And the second option is acceleration of funded RCC proposal and condensation it into two year of implementation. He noted that activities in Penitentiary system are performed quite successfully. Hard Reductions activities are also very well implemented in the country. While speaking about HIV Round 9 proposal Mr. Creach underlined the fact that the only remark of TRP concerned addressing of TB-HIV co-infection and saying that TB-HIV activities should be implemented in the country. **Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze** agreed with that and stated that laboratory testing for non-TB mycobacteria was not readily available in the country and Round 9 proposal envisaged establishment and development of Mycobacteriology laboratory with ability to detect wide range of mycobacteria.

Finally he highlighted importance of 2009 EECA Regional Meeting in Sofia and underlined significance of TGF – decision regarding grant consolidation.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked the **Mr. Creach** and gave the floor to **Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili**

Akaki Lochoshvili – presented information on main outcomes of 2009 EECA Regional Meeting held in Sofia, Bulgaria on 24-26 November 2009. The meeting was aimed at enhanced understanding of the Global Fund's evolving architecture and providing updated information on Secretariat guidelines and processes, providing a forum to share country experiences, best practices and implementation challenges; discuss optimization of CCM functioning and oversight, and compliance for grant eligibility. He gave special attention to the new TGF funding mechanism which envisaged development of proposals based on NSPA and stressed that Georgian proposals submitted to TGF were developed according to NSP.

Afterwards, he briefly outlined the issue of grant consolidation and stated that its mechanism could allow Georgia to solve the problems related to gap in TB financing. The rapporteur mentioned Board decision regarding reduction of the budget by 10% and further 9% reduction of funds and allocation of the sum in so called country reserve. The rapporteur presented new CCM funding policy. He also stated that they had encountered some problems related to procurement of good quality disposables and offered to develop the list of pre-qualification list for supplies and this issue had been raised by Georgian Delegation at the Regional Meeting. Then he briefly reviewed the implementation status of ongoing projects and stated that generally Georgia was in the period of shifting to the new phases and starting of new grants. The preparatory process of revealing the implementers has started.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked Mr. Lochoshvili and gave the floor to **Mr. Nikoloz Nasidze**

Nikoloz Nasidze – briefly overviewed MSCI activities in the Region of Shida Kartli. He stated that MSCI was implementing USAID funded Tuberculosis Treatment and Control Program which initially covered Tbilisi, Adjara and Poti. Shida Kartli region was added to address interruptions in TB treatment services due to the war. He noted that the four facilities were identified in Shida Kartli such as Kareli, Khashuri, Kaspi and Gori. The special attention was given to renovation of Gori dispensary due to the fact that about half of all new TB cases registered in Shida Kartli were in Gori. He stated that all difficulties related to allocation of premises for TB dispensary were surmounted and the renovation was successfully completed. Mr. Nasidze extended his special thanks to Mrs. Roelofs and Mr. Kvitashvili for their contribution and support. Mr. Nasidze also expressed his gratitude to USAID for support and specially underlined the role of Ms. Tamar Sirbiladze. Afterward the rapporteur briefly depicted other activities of MSCI in the region, such as trainings for TB and PHC medical staff, regular supportive supervisions. Special actions for IDPs are done: organizing separate training session for medical personals serving IDP camps to link them with existing TB services in Shida Kartli and Mtskheta-Mtianeti, donation of the furniture to medical facilities serving IDP's etc.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked Mr. Nasidze and gave the floor to **Mr. Iagor Kalandadze**

Iagor Kalandadze – introduced to the audience the Bill on amendments to the “Law on Public Health”. He briefly overviewed the articles of the Bill and focused on the following issues.

National TB Program, its structure, functions, management, reporting system, issues of financing, coordination with Government structures, NGO sector and International Organizations shall be regulated by the Government of Georgia. Prevention, case detection, treatment, information dissemination and other activities of healthcare facilities involved in TB control shall be regulated by the Normative Act of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs. The Bill incorporates articles stipulating compulsory isolation of TB patients with the purpose to reduce spread of TB. The terms and conditions of provision the families affected by TB with financial compensation is stipulated by the Bill. The document includes articles regulating sale of anti-TB drugs.

The presentation was followed with discussion and dispute. The issue of compulsory isolation raised special attention and concern.

Sandra E. Roelofs – presented a brief information of radio project for prisoners implemented in England and raised an issue to discuss the possibilities to introduce the similar initiative in some penitentiary establishments of Georgia and gave the floor to **Mr. Levan Sharashidze**

Levan Sharashidze – briefly overviewed International Conference “Prison Health Protection” held in Madrid on October 29-31. He specified the organizers, sponsors, participants of the Conference. Afterwards he presented HIPP, its main scope and objectives. He stated that speech of Mrs. Roelofs was highly ranked and in the official bulletin of the Conference was among the three most remarkable speeches of the Conference. He announced that the speech was allocated at the official web-site of the WHO. He also mentioned that STOP TB Partnership Geneva office expressed its appreciation with regard to the presentation and 4-year service of Mrs. Roelofs as STOP TB Ambassador.

Sandra E. Roelofs –gave the floor to **Ms. Khatuna Todadze**

Khatuna Todadze – briefly reviewed the conference held in Madrid and highly emphasized the importance of the speech delivered by Mrs. Roelofs. Afterwards, she depicted the input of Georgian Delegation to the conference and stated that one of the presentations was dedicated to commencement and implementation of the pilot Methadone Substitution program in Penitentiary establishment #8. Finally, Ms. Todadze overviewed Harm Reduction Programs implemented in Spanish Penitentiary Establishment.

Sandra E. Roelofs – discussed the possibilities of opening UNODC office in Georgia

Akaki Lochoshvili – briefed attendees on the current status and plans with regard of construction work.

Sandra E. Roelofs – underlined the importance of promotion of Healthy Lifestyle in educational system and developing of unified strategy. Chairperson expressed an idea of establishment of the working group possibly under the CCM for such purposes. She stressed that she would be personally involved in these steps. Mrs. Roelofs noted that target group could be extended for such groups as IDPs, prisoners etc., Though at this stage HLS will be promoted and integrated at the educational system.

Per Eklund – thanked Mrs. Roelofs and the CCM members for great honour to be admitted to the CCM membership. He stated that EC had been involved in health care reform in Georgia; the issues of Primary Health Care were given special importance. He mentioned Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in the South Caucasus (RHIYC) 3.5-year Regional project covering three Caucasian States: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The project envisaged the issues of Healthy Life Style. The national concept and curriculum of health and harmonious education were developed within the project. He expressed the readiness to share the document for facilitation of the work planned.

Irina Kurdadze – thanked Mrs. Roelofs for raising such an important issue. She emphasized importance of the two major components such as raising awareness and physical development. Afterwards she stated that the first steps in raising awareness should be done in pre-school education and noted that the Ministry of Education developed the standards for pre-school education aimed at raising awareness.

While speaking of school education she stated that the curriculum envisaged providing the pupils with information on Healthy Life Style within the framework of various subjects, especially natural science and social sciences. The curriculum should be reviewed and updated and this direction should be strengthened.

Ms. Kurdadze noted that the school infrastructure does not allow adequate implementation of physical training. The text-books are available only for 1-4 grades school-students. She stated that a discussion was held in the Parliament and the recommendation from Sport Committee was anticipated. She considered the idea of establishment of working group with broad representation as the most relevant for curbing acute problems observing in this field.

Akaki Lochoshvili – stated that TGF was working on this direction and a lot of material was developed.

Tamar Sirbiladze - briefed attendees on the projects of USAID which activities envisaged implementation of HLS components and future plans.

George Tsereteli – stated that a lot of material had been developed so far. Ministry of Education has resources for dealing with issues in terms of the material and human resources. Healthcare promotion strategy had been developed in the Ministry of Health. International Organizations pay a lot of attention to this issue. The coordination of efforts is needed to streamline all efforts. He greeted the idea that Mrs. Roelofs would be coordinating this work.

Decision:

1. New member, **Mr. Per Eklund, Ambassador, Head of European Commission Delegation to Georgia**, to be admitted to the membership of the CCM.

Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs

Natia Khonelidze

Chairperson of the CCM

Administrative Assistant to the CCM