



Minutes of the 46th CCM meeting

February 18, 2010

12:00

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

CCM Members:

Sandra E. Roclofs - Chairperson of the CCM;
Alexander Kvitashvili - Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
Mr. Robin Liddell - acting head of EU Delegation to Georgia, on behalf of Mr. Per Eklund, Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to Georgia;
Koba Khabazi - Member of the Parliament of Georgia;
Irine Kurdadze - Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia;
Paata Imnadze – National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Director;
Levan Baramidze - National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Deputy Director;
Tengiz Tsertsvadze - Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center, Board Chairman;
Igor Kalandadze - Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases;
Khafuna Todadze - Research Institute on Addiction, Deputy General Director;
Akaki Lochoshvili –GHSPIC, Global Fund Projects Manager,
Manoela Grozdanova - UNAIDS Country Coordinator for Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia;
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"
Maia Kavtaradze - Project Coordinator, GOPA/KfW;
Rusudan Klimiashvili - WHO Country Coordinator;
Nikoloz Nasidze - MSCI, Program Director;
David Ananiashvili - “Georgian Plus Group”, Director;
Elguja Meladze - Employers’ Association of Georgia, President;
Iza Bodokia - HIV/AIDS Support Foundation, Director;

CCM Secretariat:

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

Guests/Observers:

Sylvia Wüst - Regional Advisor for TB control programs in prisons for South Caucasus and Central Asian Republics;
George Gotsadze - UNAIDS consultant, Team Leader for 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan Development;
Mzia Tabatadze – UNAIDS consultant, Team member for 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan Development;
Ivdi Chikovani – UNAIDS consultant, Team member for 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan Development;
Tamar Gabunia – UNAIDS consultant, Team member for 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan Development;

Ketevan Goguadze – UNAIDS consultant, Team member for 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan Development;
David Asatiani – Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, Head of Healthcare Department;
Nikoloz Megrelishvili – Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, Head of the Medical Analysis and Control Unit of the Healthcare Department;
Nino Khetaguri – TGF HIV/AIDS Project Manager;
Nino Kochishvili – EU, Project Manager;
Lia Tavadze – UNAIDS, Adviser;
Amiran Gamkrelidze – WHO, National Coordinator for HIV/AIDS programs;

Agenda

- 12:00 – 12:10** **Opening speech /remarks**
Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Chairperson of the CCM
- 12:10 – 12:20** **Welcome speech /remarks**
Mr. Alexander Kvitashvili, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
- 12:20-12:30** **Voting for Mr. David Asatiani, Head of the Healthcare Department of the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance as a new CCM member /brief information on the priorities of the MCLA and general view on Harm Reduction programs**
Mr. David Asatiani – Head, Healthcare Department of the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance
- 12:30-12:50** **HIV/AIDS Situation and National Response Analysis: priorities for NSP 2011-2016**
Mr. George Gotsadze - Team Leader for NSP Development, UNAIDS consultant, Curatio International Foundation, Director
- 12:50-13:00** **Discussion/ endorsement of the resolution**
- 13:00-13:10** **Preparation for March 24, World TB Day**
Mr. Iagor Kalandadze – Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases
- 13:10 – 13:15** **Brief overview of Partner Consultation Meeting: Partnership to Strengthen Technical Assistance/ 25-26 January 2010, Geneva**
Ms. Eka Iashvili – HIV/AIDS Technical Consultant
- 13:15-13:30** **TGF Projects Implementation Status**
Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili - Global Fund Projects Manager

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants and thanked them for coming. Afterwards she introduced the guests and observers of the meeting and briefly overviewed the important developments of the recent period. The Chairperson especially emphasized significance of opening of Tbilisi Regional Training Center for Tuberculosis (TB-RTC-TB) and expressed her hope that by the end of current year the construction of the Center would be complete and it would become fully operational.

Mrs. Roelofs highlighted the meeting with Mr. Jamie McGoldrick - UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia, Mr. Roeland Monasch – UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Ms. Tamar Khomasuridze – UNFPA Assistant Representative and Ms. Lia Tavadze – UNAIDS Adviser held in the CCM office. A variety of vital issues were discussed during the meeting and one of them was limited health accessibility for HIV/AIDS and TB patients including those with mental disabilities.

The Chairperson noted that series of meetings would be convened at the MoLHSA to define the mechanism for eradicating the existing bottlenecks.

Mrs. Roelofs gave special attention to the drawbacks of UNICEF Country Programme Document (CPD) and specially underlined the vague and inappropriate wording of the Russian aggression against Georgia given in the document. She stressed that such approach was unacceptable and this fact would be adequately addressed.

Afterwards the Chairperson brought to the attention of the attendees the issue of voluntary blood donation, underlined its importance and urged for more active participation.

Then Mrs. Roelofs briefed attendees on the steps taken towards establishment of UNODC Regional office in Georgia. She noted that UNODC approved initiative of Georgian side and some technical problems such as office space could be solved. The Chairperson stated that assessment mission was anticipated in Georgia by March. She underlined that the main point in collaboration with UNODC would be to use their huge experience against spread of narcotics and related criminal activities and not to focus on HIV/AIDS programmatic issues. The Chairperson also stated that the issue would be put on the agenda during the visit of George Tsereteli - Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia to Vienna.

Afterwards, the Chairperson noted that official hand-over of TB control in prisons programme from ICRC to National authorities was scheduled for March 24. The Declaration overviewing TB in Georgian prisons was being prepared with support of ICRC.

Finally Mrs. Roelofs overviewed the agenda and gave the floor to Mr. Kvitashvili.

Alexander Kvitashvili – greeted the participants and briefed them on anticipated innovations in the field of insurance policy.

He stated that the list of medicines registered in Georgia was reviewed during the meeting with representatives of National Intellectual Property Center “Sakpatenti” and all bottlenecks observed in this field would be eradicated in the shortest period of time. The above-mentioned was especially important taking into account that the list of ambulatory medicines would be included in the insurance package. The minister highlighted the fact that insurance package was significantly enriched. While speaking of so called “cheap insurance” he noted that this mechanism would remain operational but with changed title.

Afterwards, he stated that tender for architectural design of Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center had been complete and the construction tender would be announced.

He also stated that commencement of rehabilitation of “Railway Hospital” and Zhvania Children’s Hospital was planned for next month and thus city healthcare facilities would be consolidated in Dighomi cluster.

Finally he announced that the discussion of current developments in hospital sector as well as other important issues would take place at the Parliament of Georgia, on February 19.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked Mr. Kvitashvili and gave the floor to Mr. David Asatiani

David Asatiani – thanked Mrs. Roelofs and stated that coordination of activities with the CCM and support of Mrs. Roelofs would greatly contribute to the process of implementation of medical reforms in the penitentiary system.

The rapporteur stated that within the framework of comprehensive reform of the prison healthcare system special attention would be given to infectious control namely HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C. Mr. Asatiani briefly overviewed the reform and pointed out that its main purpose was to equalize the healthcare services in the penitentiary system with those ones in civil society.

Afterwards Mr. Asatiani underlined that several components of reform's Action Plan had been already implemented, namely: dental cabinets were functioning in all penitentiary establishments, new medical cards had been produced, 12 physicians and 12 nurses received trainings on psychiatric healthcare, medical department was established and became operational. He stressed that within financial capabilities the medical points were furnished with medical equipment. The rest of the components would be implemented in the years of 2010-2013.

Mr. Asatiani highlighted importance of establishment of PHC units and stated that two pilot projects would be implemented in prison #8 and prison #6 in 2010.

He underlined that donor's support aimed at co-funding of reform's components would be highly appreciated especially in terms of limited budget.

While speaking of infectious diseases control and Harm Reduction activities he emphasized the role of OST pilot project implemented in Gldani №8 Penitentiary Establishment and extended his special thanks to Mrs. Roelofs and the Global Fund for contribution and support.

He also expressed his hope that in case of donors' support the program would be expanded and implemented in Western Georgia (Penitentiary Establishment #2).

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked **Mr. Asatiani** and addressed **Mr. Gamkrelidze** in his capacity of the co-chair of CCM Working Group on Needle & Syringe Programs and Other Necessary Responses to HIV/AIDS in Prisons in Georgia with question regarding date of convening the second meeting of the working group.

Amiran Gamkrelidze – noted that the CCM was dealing with organizational issues and readdressed the question to **Ms. Eka Iashvili**

Eka Iashvili – stated that the next meeting of the working group was scheduled for spring and expressed her hope that MCLA would be actively involved in activities of the working group.

Sandra E. Roelofs – reassured the audience that the main goal of the working group to elaborate recommendations for introducing needle and syringe programs and other needed prevention interventions in prisons in Georgia and implementation of such programs would be presumably possible next year.

Eka Iashvili – put the issue of election of **Mr. David Asatiani**, Head of Healthcare Department of the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, as a CCM member to the vote.

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

David Asatiani – thanked Mrs. Roelofs and the members of the CCM.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Mr. Gotsadze**

George Gotsadze – at the beginning of the presentation he briefly overviewed the preparatory work done by the team.

The work of the team had been discussed at the meetings of thematic groups. The material prepared had been submitted to the Steering Committee and after that National Consultations aimed at facilitating national dialogue and consensus building on key findings of the analysis of HIV/AIDS situation in Georgia and national response were held.

The rapporteur announced that at the time given on the basis of elaborated HIV/AIDS Situation and National Response Analysis strategic priorities for the 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic

Plan for Georgia were identified. If the priorities are endorsed they will be detailed elaborated and the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2011-2016 will be developed on their basis. He stated that the document would pass an external expertise by broad range of foreign partner-organizations. Completion of NSP is anticipated by June and it will be submitted to the CCM for revision and endorsement.

Mr. Gotsadze underlined that the comments and recommendations issued by AIDS Center which mainly concerned conceptual part of priorities and analytical part of the document were taken into consideration and reflected in the submitted documents.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – stated that important comments from the AIDS Center related to the treatment issues and infrastructure development have been considered and incorporated in the NSP, while treatment of hepatitis C among HIV/HCV coinfecting patients was neglected.

Prof. Tsertsvadze noted that the development of the plan should have been guided by the MoLHSA and the CCM from the very beginning. He expressed his opinion regarding the composition of working team and stated that it should have been more balanced. He underlined great contribution made by UNAIDS in development of NSP.

Afterwards he brought to the attention of the audience the issue of early diagnosis and treatment as the most efficient way to fight HIV/AIDS. The issue was put on the agenda at the 5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2009) in Cape Town and at the 17th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, San Francisco the abovementioned strategy was declared as a priority. Prof. Tsertsvadze expressed hope that Georgia would adequately react to such important developments. He also stated that early diagnosis and treatment was reflected in the proposed priorities but not in predominant position and expressed a notion on necessity to strengthen this direction.

George Gotsadze - stated that the component of Hepatitis C was included in the descriptive part of the Analysis.

Manoela Grozdanova – focused on the role and functions of UNAIDS in the development of NSP and stressed that the role of UNAIDS encompassed facilitation of the process. She underlined that the NSP was a national document and the decision-making bodies were CCM and national authorities. She pointed out that consensus on key issues were reached. Mrs. Grozdanova also mentioned the issues of resource allocation and cost-efficiency and stated that UNAIDS could apply for cost-efficiency evaluation for Georgia to identify the most realistic approach.

She agreed with Mr. Tsertsvadze regarding high importance of early diagnosis but mentioned that the UNAIDS supported multisectoral approach.

She addressed attendees with call that relevant ministries, state authorities share their comments regarding presented draft Situation Analysis to reflect those comments in the final version of the document.

Eka Iashvili – addressed Mr. Gotsadze with a request to take into consideration in the further working process Mr. Tsertsvadze's request regarding treatment of hepatitis C and reflect this component into the NSP.

Afterwards, Ms. Iashvili put into the vote the draft resolution on the priorities to be included in NSP 2011-2016.

The resolution received unanimous endorsement by the CCM members.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to Ms. Tamar Sirbiladze for brief announcement

Tamar Sirbiladze – announced that the USAID funded HIV prevention project would be implemented by **Research Triangle Institute (RTI)**. The subcontractors are: "Save the Children", "Bemoni", "Tanadgoma", "PATH" and several local NGOs. The project will last until December

2014. The activities will focus on prevention in primary risk groups and youth and stigma reduction. The budget of the project is equal to 6, 400.000 USD.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to Mr. Iagor Kalandadze

Iagor Kalandadze – briefed the attendees on the planned events dedicated to World TB Day falling on March 24th. He extended his thanks to MSCI, Tbilisi City Hall, PSP for support.

He stated that in March the competition for the best children's painting would be conducted in schools. During March various TV and Radio channels would be broadcasting material covering TB issues.

Afterwards he introduced the list of the events for Mach 24 and noted that the campaign would be conducted throughout the country. He specially emphasized significance of the charity telemarathon planned with the purpose to assist TB patients and their families.

He concluded his speech with a new slogan of the Stop TB Partnership: "On the move against TB. Innovate to accelerate actions"

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

Eka Iashvili – stated that according to the HIV/AIDS Law revised and adopted in November 2009 the CCM composition and procedures of the CCM activities should be regulated by the decree endorsed by the Government of Georgia.

She noted that the working group would be established in order to update CCM's decree before submitting it to the Government. She also noted that the needs identified during the development of the Situation Analysis namely necessity to enhance coordination of the national response and streamline system of reporting and accountability would be taken into account and the update decree as the current one should be in full compliance with TGF guidelines and UNAIDS "Three Ones" principle.

Afterwards the rapporteur overviewed Patner Consultation Meeting held in Geneva on 25-26 January. She stated that main objectives were as follows: to review the current policies, approaches and practices of the Global Fund and partners regarding provision of technical assistance; discussion of the actions to improve the effectiveness of technical assistance; development of recommendations to review at the Global Fund Board meeting in April 2010. She stated that on the sideline of the Meeting Georgian Delegation had a series of meetings with Fund Portfolio Manager, M&E officers, procurement officers, and representatives of the Finance Department to discuss the issue of consolidation of the HIV/AIDS Round 9 and RCC grants. Finally, she briefed the attendees on the procedures of the consolidation and stated that in case of absence of major obstacles signing of consolidated grant was anticipated by the first part of April.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili

Akaki Lochoshvili – announced that grant agreement for 2nd phase of HIV Round 6 project have been signed, while consolidation of HIV Round 2 RCC and R9 Grants (SSF) is in the final process of grant negotiation; it is expected that grant will be signed by April 2010. He stated that in order to ensure continuity of the treatment and based on the written notification of the Fund Portfolio Manager the tender for identification of sub recipients was announced before signing the grant agreement.

He introduced “single stream of funding” (SSF) as a feature of the new Global Fund grant architecture. The system simplifies reporting and management processes though comprises some difficulties associated with imperfection of detail procedures and grant consolidation mechanism. In addition, there is possibility of further reduction of consolidated grant by another 10%. Mr. Lochoshvili noted that RCC Round 4 TB proposals was approved and currently grant negotiations is under the negotiation. Signing of grant agreement is anticipated by March. Otherwise based on the written notification from the Global Fund the agreement with the SR will be signed before grant agreement signature; This will allow to ensure continuity of services in TB control countrywide and especially treatment of Drug Resistant TB patients enrolled in second line treatment.

Afterwards, Mr. Lochoshvili stated that financial gap in funding of TB control was anticipated due to failure of the TB Round 9 proposal which envisaged treatment of new Drug Resistant TB cases. Approximately 550 Drug Resistant TB patients need second line TB treatment annually.

Mr. Lochoshvili noted that the afore-mentioned difficulties could be overcome by using TGF mechanism “continuation of services”. This mechanism will allow country to finance main services of Drug Resistant TB diagnosis and treatment. He introduced to the audience the budget equal to 7.2 mln Euro for 2 years to be submitted to TGF within the framework of that mechanism. The budget was elaborated in close coordination with all stakeholders involved in TB control. The attendees approved the budget and agreed with the rapporteur to submit the proposal to TGF.

He mentioned that the procurement specialist from audit company, Local Fund Agent (LFA) was currently visiting Georgia and assessing procurement capabilities of Georgia Health and Social Projects Implementation Center (GHSPIC).

Mr. Lochoshvili mentioned that during the visit to Geneva the agreement regarding joint visit of the Global Fund to Georgia to solve all issues on HIV/AIDS grants consolidation had been reached.

Then, the reporter brought to the attention of the audience the issue of the assets left on the balance of GHSPIC after completion of some projects and expressed a notion to remove the afore-mentioned assets from the balance of GHSPIC and pass them to the service implementation organizations.

Finally, he raised an issue regarding methadone procurement quota and expressed a notion on more coordinated approach to the procurement as existing shortcomings would have a negative impact to timely supply of required quantity of methadone.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked the participants of the meeting for having attended and announced the meeting closed.

Decisions:

1. New member, Mr. David Asatiani, Head of the Healthcare Department of the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, to be admitted to the membership of the CCM
2. To adopt resolution identifying priorities for 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan

Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs

Chairperson of the CCM

Natia Khonelidze

Administrative Assistant to the CCM