



Minutes of the 48th CCM meeting

June 11, 2010

16:30

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

CCM Members:

Sandra E. Roelofs - Chairperson of the CCM;
Alexander Kvitashvili - Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
Irine Kurdadze – Deputy Minister of Science and Education;
Nino Kochishvili – EU projects manager, on behalf of **Per Eklund**, Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to Georgia;
David Asatiani – Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, Head of Healthcare Department;
Paata Imnadze – National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Director;
Tengiz Tsertsvadze - Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center, Board Chairman;
Khatuna Todadze - Research Institute on Addiction, Deputy General Director;
Iagor Kalandadze - Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases;
Akaki Lochoshvili –GHSPIC, Global Fund Projects Manager;
Lia Tavadze - UNAIDS adviser, on behalf of **Manoela Grozdanova**, UNAIDS Country Coordinator for Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia;
Tamar Sirbiladze – USAID, Senior Health Advisor;
Maia Kavtaradze - Project Coordinator, GOPA/KfW;
Rusudan Klimiashvili - Head of WHO Country Office;
Nikoloz Nasidze - MSCI, Program Director;
David Ananiashvili - “Georgian Plus Group”, Director;
Elguja Meladze - Employers’ Association of Georgia, President;
Anna Kasradze – Sub-Manager, on behalf of **Izoleta Bodokia**, HIV/AIDS Support Foundation, Director;

CCM Secretariat:

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

Guests/Observers:

Zurab Danelia – Georgian Harm Reduction Network, Deputy Chairman of the Board, on behalf of **David Otiashvili**, Board Chairman;
Mamuka Djibuti – RTI International, GHPP, Project Director;
Nino Khetaguri – TGF. HIV/AIDS Projects Manager;

Agenda

16:30 – 16:40 **Opening speech /remarks**

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Chairperson of the CCM

16:40 – 16:50 **Welcome speech /remarks**

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

16:50 - 16:55 Sharing of PTF's recommendations on TGF Round 10 Call for proposals/
**Introduction of the two members elected by PTF on the
rotational basis for one year term**

Ms. Eka Iashvili – HIV/AIDS Technical Consultant

16:55 - 17:10 Projects Implementation Status/ Country Plans on Round 10
Proposals (HIV and TB)

Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili - Global Fund Projects Manager

17:10 - 17:25 Optimization of AIDS services/ information on the HIV/AIDS proposal to be
submitted to TGF 10th Round Call for Proposals

Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze, Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical
Immunology Research Center, Chairman of the Board

17:25 - 17:35 Brief overview of Wolfheze Workshop held in the Hague on May 31- June 3/
information on the TB proposal to be submitted to TGF 10th Round Call for
Proposals

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

17:35 – 17:55 Discussion/ making decision on submitting HIV/AIDS and
TB proposals to TGF 10th Round Call for Proposals

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants and thanked them for coming. Then the Chairperson introduced the agenda of the meeting and focused on important developments of the recent period and upcoming events. She stated that cooperation with UNODC had been launched and opening of the Regional or Country Office in Georgia was anticipated. She highlighted significance of the meeting with Mr. Temur Iakobashvili, State Minister for the Reintegration Issues held earlier this day and stated that acute health problems existing in the region of Abkhazia were discussed. The Chairperson noted that she would be personally involved in the steps towards confidence building and expressing of good will to the population of the region.

Then Mrs. Roelofs briefly outlined the meeting with Mr. Goof Buijjs, Manager of the Schools for Health in Europe network (SHE), and stated that the possibilities of developing and implementing the national health promoting school program were discussed. She pointed out that the program would be implemented at inter-ministerial level (Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Health) and stressed that the National Conference was scheduled for March 2010.

Afterwards, the Chairperson underlined importance of the semi-official visit to Baku held in May and noted that the variety of health issues had been discussed. She highlighted the meeting with the Minister of Health of Azerbaijan where the First Deputy Minister of Health of Georgia discussed insurance system in Georgia. She also mentioned site visits among which the Thalassemia Center set up by First Lady and which is very necessary in Azerbaijan because of consanguinity.

Then Mrs. Roelofs underlined the significance of the meeting with Mrs. Carla Bruni-Sarkozy and noted that the healthcare issues such as AIDS, TB, Maternal and Child Health, oncological diseases were discussed. She mentioned that next year France would be a host country of the annual G8 summit. During the meeting the issue of cooperation between France and Georgia in the context of G8 health

projects with Georgia as a cooperation partner country was discussed as well. The next meeting with Mrs. Carla Bruni-Sarkozy is planned for September 21 in NYC, on the sidelines of the United Nations 64th General Assembly on MDGs.

Afterwards the following planned events/meetings were brought to the attention of the attendees.

Voluntary blood donation at the Institute of Haematology and Transfusiology scheduled for June 16 within the framework of Blood Donor Week;

Meeting with Ms. Zsuzsana Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe scheduled for June 17;

Meeting of the Association of Hospitals planned for June 15. The association was established by the initiative of Mr. Mikheil Dolidze, Medical Deputy General Director of the Gudushauri National Medical Center who used to serve as a Technical Consultant to the CCM;

The Chairperson stated that June 26 was observed as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Chairperson stressed that UNAIDS had announced the vacancy for the position of M&E working group team leader and noted that final selection of the candidate was anticipated by June 15.

Finally, Mrs. Roelofs noted that the next CCM meeting was scheduled for August 19. She stressed the importance of that meeting taking into consideration the fact that final HIV/AIDS and TB proposals would be discussed for further submission to TGF and called upon to attendance and active participation.

Afterwards, Mrs. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Kvitashvili**.

Alexander Kvitashvili – greeted the participants and briefly overviewed important developments observed in the healthcare sector. He stated that he was planning to participate in official visits to Switzerland, Ireland and Germany. He underlined the importance of the visits planned and added that businessmen of the three countries specified above were greatly interested in making investments in the health sector of Georgia.

Afterwards the Minister outlined the current situation in the healthcare system in terms of insurance policy and underlined that funding of the state programs had not been reduced and on the contrary they would be expanded using the funds saved.

Then Mr. Kvitashvili noted that the principal agreement with USAID with regard to creation of unified general database had been reached.

Finally he overviewed the acute health problems in Abkhazia and stated that the population of the region was receiving medical care in Tbilisi. Patients from Abkhazia are registered in the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center, National Center for TB and Lung Diseases and other clinics.

Paata Imnadze – stated that Polio immunization coverage in Abkhazia was too low and according to WHO recommendations additional vaccination should be conducted there.

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

Eka Iashvili – greeted the audience and introduced the representatives of the RTI International and Georgian Harm Reduction Network, two new rotational members elected by PTF at the 32nd meeting held on June 2 and congratulated them with the CCM membership. Then she briefed the attendees on the recommendations issued by PTF to the Council.

To develop and submit HIV/AIDS proposal focused on Most at Risk Population (MARPs) in the framework of Round 10;

To invite a consultant to facilitate the process of elaboration of the proposal;

To define new criteria for NGO rotational representation in the CCM;

Afterwards she briefly overviewed the visit to Baku with special focus on the visits to Narcological Center, AIDS Center and TGF office.

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

Akaki Lochoshvili – at the beginning of his speech he outlined the situation regarding TB control and stated that to cover the gap anticipated beyond ending of Round 6 grant due to the failure of the Round 9

TB proposal the country submitted request for the funding for Continuity of Services (CoS). The letter from the CCM Chairperson and the CCM Vice Chair to Mr. Kazatchkine were issued and sent to TGF. According to the answer received the application from our country was not in full compliance with the CoS policy. Accordingly the request was revised to make it in line with the policy. Afterwards he presented the main components and budget of the revised proposal. The rapporteur underlined the importance of the components of the proposal especially in terms of sustainability of universal access to TB care.

Mr. Lochoshvili requested CCM members to make a decision for endorsement of the proposal and its re-submission to TGF

The audience agreed with the rapporteur and decision was made unanimously.

Afterwards he stated that Georgian Delegation at Wolfheze workshop had the preliminary meetings with Mr. Jean -Pierre Zellweger, free lance consultant, who could provide Georgia with technical assistance in the endeavor to develop country TB proposal for Round 10 which would reflect the components of the Round 9 proposal revised according to TRP comments. Afterwards, Mr. Lochoshvili stated that submission of the consolidated proposal was more optimal and it would be a subject of further discussion.

The rapporteur stressed that the rehabilitation of Ksani Medical Establishment was about to be completed and urged Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance and Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs to search for funding to purchase the furniture.

Then Mr. Lochoshvili briefed attendees on the possibilities to Georgia's participation at Round 10 Call for proposals in terms of HIV/AIDS. He informed CCM members that each eligible country had two possibilities of participation: through general funding channel and a special MARPs channel. He expressed a notion to submit proposal focused on MARPs.

At the discussion followed the audience expressed concern regarding exclusion from the proposal of some components of the ongoing TGF projects which had crucial importance for the country. According to the opinion of all attendees ARV treatment in Abkhazia should be an integral part of the proposal submitted to TGF especially taking into account the alarming HIV/AIDS situation and high HIV prevalence in the region. As for palliative care attendees discussed all possible ways for funding of such an important component including the possibilities to increase governmental support and searching for external donors' support.

While speaking of construction/rehabilitation of Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center he mentioned that architectural design of the building was under development and was expected to be ready by end of July. The document will provide the information regarding the total cost estimate and afterwards cost-sharing between the State and TGF budget will be decided.

Mr. Lochoshvili stated that some obstacles in financing of consolidated grant had been observed earlier and noted that fortunately the disbursement notification had been received.

He pointed out that evaluation of the efficiency of "Voluntary Pool Procurement" would enable country to make a decision on continuing of using this new mechanism or resetting to a previous one.

Mr. Lochoshvili presented HIV R6 Grant close out plan and asked for endorsement. He also mentioned assets procured through the grant that had to be handed over to Sub-Recipient (SR).

CCM members endorsed the close out plan.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – he brought to the attention of the audience the important issue of the necessity for optimization of AIDS services in the country and establishment of the National AIDS Programme for such purpose in analogy with the NTP.

He referred to the National TB programme (NTP) and stated that November 10, 2009 #372/o order of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs was a legal base for establishment and functioning of NTP.

Moreover, the Bill on amendments to the “Law on Public Health” which regulates NTP structure, functions, management, reporting system, issues of financing, coordination with Government structures, NGO sector and International Organizations had been prepared. Those issues had been put on the agenda and discussed at the CCM meetings.

Prof. Tsertsvadze underlined the significance of similar regulation for the AIDS services and the crucial importance of establishment of the National AIDS Programme for the country especially taking into account the quantity of AIDS stakeholders in the country.

He specially underlined that the main decision-making body would remain the CCM and National AIDS Programme and its coordinator would be accountable to the CCM as to the One AIDS/TB coordinating authority in the country.

Afterwards, Prof. Tsertsvadze briefly reviewed Round 10 funding possibilities.

The rapporteur found it more realistic to submit the proposal focused on MARPs and therefore agreed with the previous speaker.

He presented the very draft outline of the proposal entitled “Early detection, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users”

He underlined that the proposal should be in line with the most efficient strategy to fight HIV/AIDS - early diagnosis and treatment. Prof. Tsertsvadze stressed that 7 interventions out of 9 interventions described in the “WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users” were reflected in the proposal.

Afterwards, he presented the main components of the draft document.

HIV testing of all IDUs in the country should be conducted. The following services such as: Methadone Substitution Therapy, early ARV treatment, STI prevention and treatment, Hepatitis B immunization, diagnosis and treatment, TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment would be provided to HIV positive persons according to their needs.

Prof. Tsertsvadze underlined the importance of such strategy and stressed that in case of funding and implementation of the activities described above HIV incidence rate in the country would be significantly reduced.

Finally he expressed the notion that early diagnosis and treatment strategy should be strengthened and reflected in the 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan (NSP) in a more concentrated way.

While answering the question regarding hiring an external consultant Prof. Tsertsvadze greeted that idea in general but noted that HIV/AIDS proposals had been elaborated with internal resources so far and they had always been highly ranked by TGF.

Khatuna Todadze – thanked the rapporteur and expressed her satisfaction that Mr. Tsertsvadze’s opinion was corresponding with hers and stressed the importance of sustainability of the services envisaged by the Round 6 grant especially Methadone Substitution Programme in the penitentiary system.

At the discussion followed the attendees came to an agreement to develop the proposal for Round 10 focused on MARPs.

Sandra E. Roelofs – summarized the remarks and stated that the agreement to develop and submit HIV/AIDS proposal focused on MARPs to TGF Round 10 Call for Proposals was reached.

She underlined the importance of including services for the population of Abkhazia in the new HIV/AIDS proposal which is in line with the policy of Georgia. She specially underlined that such actions had nature of humanitarian, economic assistance and did not include any political elements.

The decision to develop and submit HIV/AIDS proposal focused on MARPs to TGF Round 10 Call for Proposals was made unanimously.

Alexander Kvitashvili – stated that he did not have any principal objections to the idea of establishment of National AIDS Programme. He expressed the idea on more precise definition of the possible amendments to the law and wording/text of the order to avoid any duplication. This issue will be a subject of a further consideration and discussion between the Ministry of Health and Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Mr. Levan Sharashidze** for a brief announcement

Levan Sharashidze – he stated that on May 28, 2010 an extension of the EXPAND-TB (Expanding Access to New Diagnostics for TB) Project was signed. The goal of the project is to accelerate access to diagnosis for patients at risk of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

This project represents the collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI), the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) and the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (GDF) is funded by UNITAID. WHO-GLI is responsible for project oversight and normative guidance, while FIND is responsible for management of the project, including assistance with the introduction of new diagnostics and their proper use. FIND also participates, with the GLI, in laboratory assessments to identify the activities required and provide long-term, on-site mentoring with support from laboratory experts. GDF coordinates and manages procurement and delivery of diagnostic equipment and supplies for recipient countries. The project's initial budget of 26,129,897 USD will be increased to 87,561,982 USD under the new agreement. According to the initial agreement in 2008, the project was planned to run until 2011 and cover 16 countries. The expanded agreement will continue through 2013 and cover a total of 27 countries. The partners engaged in this project have as their goal making available the new diagnostic technologies and laboratory services needed to diagnose MDR-TB available, while rapidly transmitting know-how for technology transfer and ensuring new tools are properly integrated within TB control programmes. EXPAND-TB has full commitment by the ministries of health of the recipient countries and works on a model of best-practices, learning-by-doing, and optimizing resources for laboratory strengthening at country level. All mentioned above is especially important taking into consideration that Georgia was and remains the participant-country of the Project.

Igor Kalandadze – stated that the WHO and FIND mission visited Georgia and a tripartite agreement between FIND, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs and NTP had been prepared.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Mr. Igor Kalandadze**

Igor Kalandadze - briefly overviewed Wolfheze Workshop held in The Hague on May 31- June 3, its main scope and purposes. He stated that the main recommendations issued at the workshop were as follows: strengthening of work among migrants in big cities and direct collaboration between TB facilities.

He stated that series of working meetings with KNCV management were held in the framework of the workshop. During the meetings the agreement regarding the opening of a library at the National Center for TB and Lung Diseases was reached. Conducting of the first international training at the Tbilisi Regional Training Center for Tuberculosis was planned as well.

Afterwards he stated that NTP was planning to elaborate TB proposal to be submitted to TGF in Round 10. Since April, 2010 RCC 7 has been operational. Round 6 project will be complete in June. Due to the failure of Round 9 proposal submission of the Round 10 proposal has a paramount importance for the country.

Preliminary meetings with Jean -Pierre Zellweger were held in The Hague. His visit is anticipated by June 21. The rapportuer reiterated the readiness to develop and submit Round 10 Proposal to the CCM for discussion and further submission to TGF.

The audience agreed with Mr. Kalandadze and decision to develop and submitting TB proposal to TGF Round 10 Call for Proposals was made unanimously.

Sandra E. Roelofs - assigned CCM secretariat with the task to ensure public announcement of the Round 10 Call for Proposals.

The Chairperson addressed the audience with the request to develop a vision of HIV/AIDS and TB proposals to be submitted to the 10Th Round launched by TGF and present to the next CCM meeting for final consideration.

The Chairperson thanked the attendees for having attended and announced the meeting closed.

Decisions:

- 1. To admit to CCM rotational membership for one year term RTI International and Georgian Harm Reduction Network;**
- 2. To approve and re-submit revised proposal for "Continuity of Services" of Round 6 TB grant to TGF;**
- 3. To approve and submit close out plan for Round 6 HIV/AIDS grant;**
- 4. To announce publicly TGF Round 10 Call for proposals;**
- 5. To develop and submit proposal on HIV/AIDS focused on MARPs to the Round 10 launched by TGF;**
- 6. To develop and submit proposal on TB to the Round 10 launched by TGF;**

Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs

Chairperson of the CCM

Natia Khonelidze

Administrative Assistant to the CCM