



Minutes of the 49th CCM meeting

August 10, 2010
10:30

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;
Irakli Giorgobiani – First Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
Levan Kobaladze – Adviser to the Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, on behalf of **George Tsereteli**, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia;
Papuna Petriashvili – First Deputy Minister of Finance;
Irine Kurdadze – Deputy Minister of Science and Education;
Vakhtang Akhaladze - Head of Patriarchate Public Health Department;
Koba Khabazi - Member of the Parliament of Georgia;
Zurab Vadachkoria – Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU)
David Asatiani – Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, Head of Healthcare Department;
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;
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;
Mamuka Djibuti – RTI International, GHPP, Project Director;
Zurab Danelia – Georgian Harm Reduction Network, Deputy Chairman of the Board, on behalf of **David Otiashvili**, Board Chairman;
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;
Anna Kasradze – Sub-Manager, on behalf of **Izoleta 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:

Mikheil Dolidze – Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
Nino Khetaguri – TGF, HIV/AIDS Projects Manager;
Ketevan Gogvadze – Team member for 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan Development;

Amiran Gamkrelidze – WHO, National Coordinator for HIV/AIDS programs;
Nino Gulua – TGF, HIV/AIDS Programs Coordinator

Agenda

- 10:30 – 10:40** **Opening speech /remarks**
Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Chairperson of the CCM
- 10:40 – 10:50** **Welcome speech /remarks**
Mr. Alexander Kvitashvili, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
- 10:50-11:00** **Presentation of HIV/AIDS proposal to be submitted to TGF Round 10th Call for Proposals**
Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili – Global Fund Projects Manager
- 11:00-11:10** **Presentation of TB proposal to be submitted to TGF Round 10th Call for Proposals**
Mr. Iagor Kalandadze – Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases
- 11:10–11:20** **Discussion/endorsement of the proposals to be submitted to the Round 10th Call for Proposals**
- 11:20–11:25** **Election of the Principal Recipient to the 10th Round Country Proposals**
- 11:25-11:35** **Presentation of the 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan**
Ms. Ketevan Gogvadze – expert, Team member for 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan Development;
- 11:35-11:45** **Discussion/endorsement of the 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan**

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants and thanked them for coming. The Chairperson underlined importance of the meeting in terms of the issues to be discussed and the decisions to be taken. Mrs. Roelofs stated that the deadline for submission of the proposals to TGF Round 10 was approaching and that the agenda envisaged endorsement of TB and HIV/AIDS country proposals.

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

Alexander Kvitashvili –greeted the participants of the meeting and announced that Mr. Mikheil Dolidze, Medical Deputy General Director of Gudushauri National Medical Center, former consultant to CCM was appointed as the Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. He highly praised Mr. Dolidze’s personal and professional skills and experience and wished him every success in his new position.

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

Akaki Lochoshvili – presented to the audience main components and budget of HIV/AIDS Round 10 proposal. He stated that an external expert, Mrs. Tamar Gabunia was hired to facilitate the process of proposal development.

The overarching goal of the proposal is reducing transmission of HIV among MARPs and achieving improved survival of individuals with advanced HIV infection in Georgia by accelerating preventive and treatment interventions among most at risk populations through improving coverage, encouraging evidence-informed practice and assuring service quality.

The proposed program aims to contribute towards:

- Preventing the further spread of HIV through reducing transmission of HIV among IDUs and their sexual partners
- Achieving improved survival among HIV infected IDUs

Seven major objectives are identified to achieve the overarching goal:

1. Increase the coverage and quality of preventive interventions targeted at IDUs
2. Scale up preventive interventions among prisoners
3. Scale-up agonist maintenance therapy (AMT) and improve access to psycho-social support for IDUs
4. Increase survival and improve quality of life of HIV positive IDUs and their sexual partners
5. Sustain HIV treatment and care capacity in conflict region of Abkhazia focusing on IDUs and their sexual partners
6. Generate evidence base on progress in behavior modification among MARPs and effectiveness of preventive interventions to inform policies and practice
7. Minimize the impact of stigma and discrimination on the access to HIV interventions for IDUs in healthcare settings

Afterwards he underlined necessity to prove government's commitments towards increased state funding in palliative care services for PLHIV.

Mr. Lochoshvili stated that the decision on Round 10 country proposal will be made in December which in case of approval will be followed by 6 month grant negotiation period. Based on aforementioned a significant gap is anticipated even in case of approval of the country proposal. The bridge funding mechanism will reduce the gap up to three month period. Sustainability of the treatment and ensuring continuity of Methadone Program has a crucial importance for the country. "Continuity of Services" (CoS) mechanism allows country to cover anticipated gap in the most appropriate way. Thus, he recommended to the CCM to submit to TGF close out plan for Round 6 HIV/AIDS grant including the proposal for the "continuity of services" of Round 6 HIV/AIDS grant. Afterwards, he presented to the CCM members its main components and budget. Mr. Lochoshvili requested CCM members to endorse the introduced close out plan with the request of CoS.

The members approved close out plan for Round 6 HIV/AIDS grant including the proposal for the "continuity of services" of Round 6 HIV/AIDS and decision to present it to TGF was made unanimously.

Akaki Lochoshvili – raised an issue regarding the letter from the Permanent Mission of Georgia at the UN Office in Geneva which addresses the decision point regarding Global fund Privileges and Immunities and kindly reminded attendees that the objection should be given.

Sandra E. Roelofs – briefly overviewed XVIII AIDS International Conference and the meetings she had within its framework. The Chairperson mentioned a breakfast for high level participants organized by Georgian Mission in Vienna and personally by her that had a significance importance for the networking. The invitees of the breakfast expressed deep appreciation to the trends observed

in Georgia in fighting HIV/AIDS and the achievement in this field. Mrs. Roelofs highly emphasized a meeting with Dr. Kazatchkine, TGF Executive Director.

The Chairperson mentioned introduced by TGF co-funding mechanism between the national government and the GF and noted that it was high time to initiate and establish even modestly such approach in Georgia.

The Chairperson stated that she attended the event “Born HIV Free” and highlighted its importance. Mrs. Roelofs stressed significance of the Vienna Declaration and stated that she herself along with Mr. George Tsereteli and Mr. Irakli Giorgobiani signed it adding their voices to the call for more rational and scientifically sound drug policies to strengthen HIV prevention for people who use drugs. She stressed that their signatures on the document reinforced recognition that harm reduction programs can provide numerous benefits and they are much more effective than prohibitions. The Chairperson stated that this event and particularly endorsement of the Declaration by Georgia were under the focus of mass media.

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

Iagor Kalandadze – presented to the attendees consolidated TB proposal to be submitted to TGF Round 10.

He stated that the proposal was a resubmission of the Georgia Round 9 TB proposal in view of arising needs to strengthen and sustain TB control in the country.

The Round 10 consolidated TB application along with the WHO/EXPAND-TB project is aimed at further strengthening laboratory capacity in Georgia for the diagnosis of TB. This includes implementation of new technologies for the rapid diagnosis of drug resistant TB including MDR- and XDR-TB as well as sustaining and strengthening the capacity to perform drug resistance testing (DST) and drug resistance surveillance.

Round 10 consolidated proposals is developed for “Sustaining universal access to quality diagnosis and treatment of all forms of Tuberculosis including M/XDR -TB”

Goal of the proposal: To reduce the burden of tuberculosis in Georgia by sustaining universal access to quality diagnosis and treatment of all forms of tuberculosis including M/XDR-TB.

The project interventions are structured around six main *Objectives*:

1. To strengthen National TB Control Programme management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation and capacity building
2. To improve diagnosis of all forms of TB including M/XDR-TB
3. To ensure quality treatment of all forms of TB including M/XDR-TB
4. To ensure adherence to TB treatment by intensive patient support and follow up
5. To ensure sustainability of collaborative activities for control of TB / HIV co-infection;
6. To inform TB control actions by evidence-based information deriving from operational research

The attendees agreed with the components of presented proposals.

Eka Iashvili – stated that elaboration of TB and HIV/AIDS proposals were in concert with all stakeholders in the country. It has been transparent and participatory process. The announcement on Round 10 Call for proposals was allocated at the website of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, at the web portal of the Global Fund and published at the local newspaper “24 saati”. Series of meetings were conducted; all components were reviewed by the CCM members.

Afterwards, she addressed the members with the request to vote for endorsement of the proposals.

The proposals received unanimous endorsement by the CCM members confirmed with signatures of the attached hardcopy by all permanent and rotational members of the CCM.

Eka Iashvili - thanked the members and raised the issue of election of Principal Recipient (PR) for TGF grants. She noted that announcement with call to submit the applications for being elected as a PR was publicly announced. Ms. Iashvili suggested to the members to nominate the Georgian Health and Social Projects Implementation Center (GHSPIC) as a sole candidate for acting as the Principal Recipient for the Round 10th Proposals taking into consideration a long experience and high professionalism of this institution and the fact that no other applications were received.

The Health and Social Project Implementation Center - the Principal Recipient of the ongoing TGF projects, was nominated as the 1st choice candidate for PR to the country proposals and on the basis of voting it was accepted unanimously the decision on becoming of GHSPIC the Principal Recipient of the Round 10 Proposals.

Ketevan Gogvadze - introduced to the attendees 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan (NSP) which was developed through transparent national process that involved working groups, steering committee members and broad group of stakeholders that participated in the three national consultations. The document was reviewed by AIDS Strategy and Action Plan (ASAP), the key decisions were made and approved by the CCM. The rapporteur briefly outlined the structure of the Plan and stated that the overarching goal of NSP was to stabilize epidemic growth, primarily within the most-at-risk population (MARPs) and improve health outcomes for PLHA, through improved coordination and strengthened advocacy of the national response. The following strategic areas were identified with the purpose to achieve the goal set: enhance coordination and advocacy efforts for the national response (strategic priorities: increase capacity of the CCM's secretariat and provide it with the required systems/instruments, assure adequate financing of HIV/AIDS interventions, carry out necessary advocacy to create adequate environment for national response); improve quality and scale up prevention interventions (strategic priorities: prevent spread of HIV among MARP, prevent HIV transmission within health care settings, prevent Mother-to-Child HIV transmission, HIV prevention among youth); maintain universal access to ART and improve treatment outcomes (will be achieved through sustaining and in case of need increasing current access level to ART, improved treatment adherence, strengthening ART management capacity, strengthening management of opportunistic infections and co-morbidities); assure adequate care and support for the PLHA (the Plan aims at assuring current level of care and support to PLHA, although, needs driven expansion is envisaged for future); strengthen Health Care Capacity (strategic priorities: strengthen regulatory system and assure higher quality services, assure necessary investments in the infrastructure).

While speaking of necessary financial resources the rapporteur stated that two possible funding scenarios were elaborated. Scenario #1 envisages full mobilization of resources and completed implementation of NSP, while scenario #2 assumes the case when financial crisis challenges NSP implementation and thus only activities of great importance are funded under the current NSP.

The necessary financial resources were presented to the attendees.

Alexander Kvitashvili – noted that state funding had been increased and reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to further expansion of state programs.

He referred to the issue of the eligibility and stated that some donors were considering adjusting eligibility to performance based criteria for those countries that did not qualify for funding because of income levels. Georgia would welcome if the GF considers the same approach

At the discussion followed the attendees agreed with the components of presented Plan.

Eka Iashvili - put the issue of endorsement of presented 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan to the vote.

Georgia 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan was endorsed unanimously by all attended permanent and rotational members.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to attendees for brief announcements.

Iagor Kalandadze - stated that visit of GLC was planned by end of September.

Lia Tavadze – announced that Mr. Denis Broun, Director of Regional Support Team for Europe and Central Asia was planning to visit Georgia by September or October, 2010. She stated that concluding national meeting will be convened to present the 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan.

Sandra E. Roelofs – stated that Mr. Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS expressed his willingness to visit Georgia.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – briefly overviewed workshop "Building Human Capacity for Research in HIV, TB and HCV" organized by the Georgian Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, the Center of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, Atlanta Emory University, New York State University and Johns Hopkins University and highly emphasized its significance.

Afterwards he referred to the breakfast organized by First Lady of Georgia within the framework of XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna. He highly praised its importance in terms of the issues discussed and its broadly representative character. Various key international stakeholders and highly ranked officials attended the event. He specially underlined presence of Dr. Eric Goosby, the United States Global AIDS Coordinator at the ceremony. He reiterated significance of this event and underlined the role of Mrs. Roelofs.

Khatuna Todadze - stated that Mr. Julio Montaner, the President of the International AIDS Society (IAS) in his closing speech highly emphasized the role of Mrs. Roelofs in successfully conducting XVIII Conference and expressed his gratitude to her for signing the Vienna Declaration.

Sandra E. Roelofs – stated that meeting with Mr. Goof Buijs, a manager of the Schools for Health in Europe (SHE) network and training will be conducted in Likani in September. The National Conference will be convened early next year.

Irine Kurdadze – stated that national curriculum was being reviewed and updated at the moment. The final draft will be ready by end of August. She stressed that the issues of Healthy Life Style would be integrated in the curriculum in more optimal way.

Amiran Gamkrelidze – noted that meeting organized by WHO "Accelerating the implementation of collaborative TB/HIV activities in the WHO European Region" had been conducted in Vienna prior to the XVIII International AIDS Conference. He stressed that speech of Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze entitled "Viral hepatitis, HIV and TB in injecting drug users: how to manage co-infections?" was ranked as the best speech at the meeting. He also announced that newly revised "Antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection in adults and adolescents" had been posted at the WHO website and Dr. Tsertsvadze was among the co-authors of the document.

Rusudan Klimiashvili – briefed attendees on the meeting of Ms Zsuzsanna Jakab - WHO Regional Director for Europe with First Lady of Georgia. Mrs. Roelofs was offered ambassadorship for MDG goals. At the time given the exact wording of the title is being elaborated.

Sandra E. Roelofs – stated that it was a great honor to her to be WHO Ambassador. The Chairperson noted that close collaboration with Mrs. Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, First Lady of France

had been established. The possibilities to introduce joint project on reducing maternal and child mortality at the United Nations General Assembly are being discussed.

Mrs. Roelofs noted that she established contact with Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy, UN Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Innovative Financing for Development. The meeting with Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy is planned and the possibilities for Georgia being a partner-country of Innovative Financing for Development will be discussed.

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

Decisions:

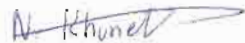
- 1. To approve and submit close out plan for Round 6 HIV/AIDS grant including the proposal for the "continuity of services" of Round 6 HIV/AIDS grant to TGF;**
- 2. To endorse HIV/AIDS and TB country proposals for submission to TGF Round 10 Call for proposals;**
- 3. To elect the Health and Social Project Implementation Center as the PR of the Round 10 Proposals.**
- 4. To endorse 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan**

Alexander Kvitashvili



Vice Chair of the CCM

Nafia Khonelidze



Administrative Assistant to the CCM