

Minutes of the meeting

Of the Country Coordination Mechanism of the National Tuberculosis and National HIV/AIDS/STI Control Programs (CCM TB/AIDS)

Date: May 24, 2012

Venue: Ministry of Health, Conference room

Agenda of the meeting:

I. Results (summary) of the process of GF grant renewal application development and activity of Principal Recipients (IP UCIMP and PAS Center) – raporteur Oleg Barba, CCM Secretariat Responsible.

II. Presentation and approval of application for the consolidated HIV grant renewal, phase II of implementation, offered to Moldova by the Global Fund to support the realization of national programs to prevent and control HIV/AIDS:

1) Activities and resources planned for implementation in Phase II by the Principal Recipient (PR) IP UCIMP RSS – reporter Victor Volovei, Director, IP UCIMP/PCU

2) Activities and resources planned for implementation in Phase II by the Principal Recipient (PR) PAS Centre - reporter Andrei Mosneaga, Deputy-Director, PAS Center

III. General information on the first visit to Moldova made by Tatiana Vinichenko – the Global Fund Portfolio Manager (FPM) for Moldova –Tatiana Vinichenko, FPM

IV. Miscellaneous

Participants:

CCM members, according to the Government decision nr 375 from May, 6, 2010

1. Andrei USATII, CCM Chair, Minister of Health (MH)– represented by Gheorghe Turcanu (deputy-minister of Health);
2. Iurii BUCINSCHI, CCM Vice-Chair, Chief of Direction, State Chancellery;
3. Tatiana POTANG, CCM Vice-Chair; Deputy-Minister of Education (ME) – represented by Galina Gavrilita;
4. Igor CHILCEVSCHI, CCM Vice-Chair, President of the League of PLWHA;
5. Octavian BODISTEANU, Deputy-Minister of Youth and Sports (MYS)– represented by Aliona Dumbraveanu (MYS);
6. Victor BARBANEAGRA, Deputy- Minister of Finance (MF)– represented by Natalia Chihai (MF);
7. Vladimir GROSU, Deputy-Minister of Justice – represented by Svetlana Doltu;
8. Dumitru URSACHI, Deputy-Minister of Internal Affairs (MIA);
9. Sergiu SAINCIUC, Deputy-Minister of Labor, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) – represented by Diana Doros;
10. Ștefan GHEORGHIȚĂ, Director AIDS Centre;
11. Victor VOLOVEI, Executive Director of PCU;

12. Kaarina IMMONEN, UNDP Country Delegate – represented by EvgheniiGoloscceapov;
13. Gabriela IONASCU, UNAIDS Coordinator in Moldova;
14. Jarno HABICHT, Chief, WHO Office in Moldova – represented by Silviu Ciobanu;
15. Boris GALCA, UNFPA Coordinator in Moldova;
16. Cornel RASCANU, EU Delegation to Moldova;
17. Victor URSU, Director, Soros Foundation Moldova;
18. Viorel SOLTAN, Director PAS Center – represented by Andrei Mosneaga;
19. Alexandru CURASOV, Director, Regional Center for Community Policies (CRPC);
20. Ala IATCO, President, UORN – represented by VeaceslavMulear;
21. Antonita FONARI, President, AIDS Network;
22. Veaceslav MULEAR, GenderDocM;
23. Uzun SIDOR, Chief of Medical Department, Gagauzia Region;
24. Serghei OSADCII, TB Control Department, Eastern region;
25. Alexandru GONCEAR, HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Eastern region.

Invited persons:

1. Tatiana Vinichenko, Global Fund Portfolio Manager for Moldova (FPM)
2. Olga Komarova, Program Officer (FPM)
3. Cristina Gaberi, MH
4. Lilia Gantea, MH
5. Nelea Prodan, MIA
6. Victor Burinschi, PCU
7. Svetlana Plamadeala, PCU
8. Stela Gheorghita, CNSP
9. Liliana Domente, IFP
10. Elena Romanenco, IFP
11. Ana Ciobanu, IFP
12. Sofia Alexandru, IFP
13. Silvia Munteanu, AFEW
14. Emilia Rusu, UNODC
15. Iurie Osoianu, AIDS Center
16. Svetlana Popovici, AIDS Center
17. Nicolae Bordeniuc, AIDS Center
18. Iuliana Sandu, AIDS Center
19. Tatiana Butenco, AIDS Center
20. Iurie Osoianu, National Company for Health Insurance (CNAM)
21. Vitalie Slobozian, Soros Foundation
22. Liliana Gherman, Soros Foundation
23. Liliana Caraulan, PAS Center
24. Stela Bivol, PAS Center
25. Liliana Talpa, IDOM
26. Vitalie Morosan, AO „AFI”
27. Natalia Ursu, GenderDocM
28. Ruslan Poverga, NGO New Life/Viata Noua
29. Liubovi Nemcinova, SIDO-SRM
30. Nadejda Cornetel, PriceWaterHouse Coopers
31. Tatiana Cotelnic, National Center for Health Management (CNMS)
32. Oleg Barba, CCM Secretariat
33. Violeta Teutu, CCM Secretariat

Discussions and decisions

The CCM TB/AIDS meeting was moderated by the Deputy Minister of Health - Mr. Gheorghe Turcanu.

The deputy-minister Turcanu, in his opening speech welcomed all the participants at the meeting, introduced the GF guests and announced the meeting agenda. Further, Mr. Turcanu gave the floor to the first rapporteur.

Subject # 1

Mr. Oleg Barba, CCM TB/AIDS Secretariat Responsible informed the audience on the process of HIV grant periodic review (phase II) application development, which the CCM/TWGs (Technical Working Groups) and the two PRs (IP UCIMP RSS and PAS Center) have followed since January 2012 in accordance with the GF grant periodic review policy and the six core application requirements stated in the GF's CCM application Guideline from May 2011:

- **The context** – a transparent and participative process that lead to the decision not to apply for the Transitional Funding Mechanism, but apply for the periodic review of the consolidated TB & HIV grants in phase II. Within this process: a) CCM preserves the intervention/grant scope set up in phase I; b) PRs and partners identify and exhaust all possibilities to optimize and make the existing sources more efficient; c) reprogramming targets essential services (prevention, vulnerable groups, treatment, monitoring of the treatment and PMTCT); and d) if the country does not identify resources to cover the deficit for 2014, it will review the 2014 budget presented today.
- **Actions undertaken by the CCM Moldova to meet the 6 CCM application requirements defined by the GF:** 1) *application development transparency* – 5 meetings of HIV TWGs and community of PLHA, and meeting minutes shares and placed on CCM website; 2) *grant implementation oversight* – a two year oversight plan approved by the GF in 2010, ordinary CCM and TWGs meetings, meetings of the NCE (National Committee of Experts) in October 2011 and June 2012, field visits (2 in 2011 and 2 in 2012-sem.I), quarter and semester reports submitted by PRs and placed on websites; 3) *avoidance of conflicts of interests* – the policy of conflict of interests developed and approved in 2006, interested institutions/persons do not participate in the voting process; 4) *ensure the membership of the community of PLWHA within CCM* – 2 CCM members represent PLWHA, 1 member represents the LGBT community and 1 member - the UORN; 5) *ensure a transparent and formal process of NGO representation in CCM* – the process accomplished in 2010 and stated in the CCM Regulations; and 6) *formally and transparently select 1 or 2 PRs* – PRs selected(in accordance with the GF and MO requirements) for the implementation of the consolidated grant, audit evidence of programmatic, financial, M&E progress, high performance rate (A1-PAS and B1-UCIMP), and grant reallocations amongst PRs discussed within TWGs.

No questions asked or objections being made to the presentation, the meeting moderator asked the two PRs to speak about activities and resources planned for implementation in the second phase.

Subject # 2

Mr. Victor Volovei (IP UCIMP RSS) presentation focused on the following aspects:

- **The impact of GF/Board new policies and decisions on grant approval for Moldova (HIV component)** – i.e. illness burden, level of national income, level of counterpart contribution (20%), 10% budget optimization, 50% of grant/activities to focus on key populations, joint PRs application per malady and funds reallocation among PRs, and support of services initially approved by the TRP.
- **The time frame of application development** (draft development: 01.02 – 15.05 2012; the application review process: 15-24.05.2012; meetings of TWGs: 17.01, 16.03, 6.04, 03.05, 15.05; CCM approval of application and its submission to the GF Secretariat - 24- 31.05.2012
- **The structure of the HIV consolidated grant, phase 2:**
 - Support to key services approved by the TRP for the consolidated grant, R 6 inclusively;
 - Support for priority activities stated in the National Program for HIV Control and Prevention (2011-2015), especially – 1) prevention of HIV/STIs infections, especially amongst key populations; and 2) diminish the epidemic impact by offering treatment, care and support to people affected by HIV/AIDS;
 - Reorganization of activities under 5 main objectives;
 - 10% budget adjustment;
 - Reallocation of grant resources among PRs;
 - Adjustment of Performance indicators and other requirements.
- **Total budget coverage for the National Program of HIV/AIDS Control (2011-2015) – in MDL:**

Objectives	Budget 2011 - 2015		
	Budget total	Public Budget (state+CNAM)	% Public budget
1. Prevention of HIV/STIs infections, especially amongst key populations	306 843 586	6 408 659	2 %
2. Diminish the epidemic impact by offering treatment, care and support to people affected by HIV/AIDS	398 239 165	148 223 750	37%
Total National Program	1 005 673 695	323 888 777	32%

- **The budget for phase II, 2013-2014, available resources**

PR	Budget 2013	Budget 2014	Budget phase 2
IP UCIMP RSS	€ 155. 459	€ 158. 245	€ 313. 704
	Economies € 1. 257. 420	Reallocations € 1. 320. 324	€ 2. 577. 744
TOTAL	€ 2. 891.448		

- **The Consolidated HIV grant: MOL-H-PCIMU, phase 2 (2013-2014):** total budget for 2 years - EURO 2 891 448 to attain 2 objectives – 1) Prevention of HIV/STIs infections, especially amongst key populations (IDUs, CSWs, MSM) - EURO 874 129; and 2) Ensure HIV patients’ access to treatment, M&E and prevention of infection transmission from mother to child - EURO 1 835 093. The budget also include EURO 182 226 for the project Management (2013 total and 2014 – 9 months)

At the end of his presentation Mr. Volovei stated the following grant implementation:

- **Risks:** a) for 2014 - a ½ year budget deficit for treatment, PMTCT, and prevention amongst target populations; b) costs per unit calculated on the basis of 2011 contracts (for 2014 inclusively); c) macroeconomic indicators not taken into account when developing the budget; d) governmental commitments with regard to essential services should be respected.

Following the first presentation, Deputy Minister Turcanu opened the Q&A session.

Mr. Alexandru Curasov, CRPC, expressed his concern with regard to the budget deficit forecasted for 2014 and the risk of essential/treatment services interruptions. At the same time, Mr. Curasov expressed the gratitude of PLWHA to CCM and domain partners for ensuring so far universal access to treatment services. PLWHA hope that this access will be maintained in future, especially after the completion of the GF grant, and in Moldova there will be a clearer mechanism of drugs procurement. This general opinion was stated in a formal letter addressed to CCM Chairman by participants at the National Marathon *Run for Life*, which was organized in Moldova within 10-20 May, 2012 in support and solidarity with all people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Further on, Mr. Andrei Mosneaga, deputy Director of the PAS Center (PR 2) mentioned that the HIV application development represented a very active and transparent process with lots of discussions and ideas expressed within TWGs, which made the application writing more complex. In his presentation, Dr. Mosneaga stated:

- **The impact of GF grants decisions on Moldova** and the consolidated HIV grant (MOL-809-G06-H) – a 10% decrease in the budget (EURO 4,609,268) versus EURO 5,121,409 initially approved by the TRP.
- **Reallocation of financial resources for essential services** (from the PAS Center to UCIMP) – EURO 1,320,000 = EURO 901,790 (non-contracted budget in 2012) + EURO 418,209 (budget from phase 2: 2013-2014)

- **Objectives of the HIV consolidated grant: phase 2 (2013-2014):** 1) Prevention of HIV infection in target groups (IDUs, CSWs and MSM); 2) ensure access for PLWHA to treatment, treatment monitoring and prevention of infection transmission from mother to child; 3) capacity development and sustainability ensuring – with a EURO 347,971 budget for 2 years; 4) support providing to PLWHA, IDUs and ensuring service institutionalization – EURO 2,662,582 for 2 years; and 5) ensure civil society and target populations commitment to promote rights of PLWHA – EURO 527,016 for 2 years. The grant foresees EURO 653,454 for project administration and management, shared by PAS, sub recipients and audits.
- **The summary of the consolidated budget for phase 2 (2013-2014), Euro**

<i>Grant / PR</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
MOL-T-PCIMU(IP UCIMP RSS)	1,889,592	1,001,855	2,891,447
MOL-809-G05-T (Centrer PAS)	2,109,778	2,081,244	4,191,022
TOTAL	<u>3,999,370</u>	<u>3,083,099</u>	7,082,469

- **Aspects to be considered by the CCM TB/AIDS:** a) the importance of state contribution, which should increase on a yearly basis. b) In future, chances to get GF grants will gradually diminish. c) That is why CCM and national authorities need to consider how to cover in time the needs and means for providing key services (harm reduction, substitution treatment, and support to PLWHA, their communities and civil society). d) interventions/services provided to target populations and ARV drugs have financial coverage till mid 2014.

Following Mr. Mosneaga's presentation, the Health deputy-minister opened the session for commentaries, Q & A:

- ✓ Q: What are the costs of ARV treatment per year? A: About EURO 900.000.
- ✓ Mr. Chilcevschi, regretting certain problems within the community of PLWHA, speaks on behalf of the League of PLWHA and wanted to stress that Mr. Curasov, does not represent the whole community of PLWHA. Mr. Chilcevschi asked everybody to be correct, as concerns for ARV treatment interruptions are not fully grounded, since national partners try to avoid such interruptions and the Prime Minister of Moldova, Vladimir Filat, promised \$ 1 mln to help nationally respond to the HIV/AIDS malady.
- ✓ Mr. Gheorghita, AIDS Center, highly appreciated the transparency and all enormous efforts undertaken by PRs, TWGs and civil society to develop the application. The application focuses on ARV treatment and it's worth mentioning that Moldova registers a treatment adherence comparable to other countries in the region. The treatment services were decentralized. The M&E is improving. Two regional social Centers to support PLWHA are operating already and soon the 3rd and 4th will open

their doors. And thanks to the involvement of all partners, Moldova hopes to improve its national indicators.

- ✓ Mr. Boris Galca, UNFPA, considers of high importance implication of all institutions to ensure access to the ARV treatment, especially the need to annually increase the contribution from the national budget, thus preparing it to gradually cover all ARV treatment costs. Obviously, the burden will increase, but fortunately the annual treatment costs are decreasing. So, it is essential now to start committing negotiations between the Government, GF and all partners, thus avoiding treatment interruptions in 2014. UNFPA highly appreciates the activity of PRs and the registered results, especially during the last years.
- ✓ Mr. Volovei requested the implication of the Government in the improvement/amendment of the Regulations on Public Acquisitions, which currently causes larger costs for drugs. As a response, deputy-Minister Turcanu promised the implication of the MH to solve the issue. In this respect, UNFPA recommended for consideration the UN acquisition system. The PAS representative warned the audience about the stipulations of the TRIPS Law and the norms on intellectual property rights.

At the end of the meeting GFPM for Moldova, Ms. Tatiana Vinichenko was asked to give a general impression about her first visit to Moldova. Ms. Vinichenko expressed her gratitude for the Moldovan hospitality and regretted for not having enough time to meet all partners. FPM highly appreciated the efforts of MD to control HIV infection, lots of initiatives and so many levels of community involvement. Grants and PRs work very well, which is proved by good ratings. Most important thing, though, it is for good work to bring real/positive changes to real people.

Despite so many efforts, the TB situation was not so good in phase I. More needs to be done to improve the DOTS system and provide better support to patients at all treatment stages. And hopefully, the newly opened community centers will help improve the system.

For the HIV component, the GF hopes that the HIV restructuring and infrastructure improvement will bring good results and the renovated DDVR section will be operational soon.

The GF wants also more clarity on timing and consistency of treatment costs planned till 2014, while sources for social assistance are planned till the end of 2014. Also, not very clear is the Framework of mid-term expenses, what exactly are the resources allocated for. So, GF would appreciate more clarity on Government's plans to gradually cover treatment costs from local resources.

Concluding all meeting discussions, Health Deputy-Minister Turcanu promised to inform Minister Usatii about all concerns and suggestions. At the same time, Mr. Turcanu asked all CCM members, PRs and partners to review their expenses and identify alternative resources needed to ensure full access to essential services in 2014.

Finally, Mr. Oleg Barba, asked the present and represented CCM members to vote: 1) the CCM HIV grant renewal application for phase 2. All members present/represented at the meeting, except for the 2 PRs, voted and signed the application. 2) In favor or against the appointment of current PRs for the second phase of TB and HIV grants implementation.

CCM decisions (see the formal CCM Resolution # 3):

- Confirm the two current PRs (IP UCIMP RSS and PAS Center) as PRs of TB and HIV consolidated grants implementation in phase II.
- Approve the final version of the HIV grant renewal application for phase II presented by the PRs IP UCIMP RSS and PAS Center.
- Request the CCM Secretariat to submit the application to the GF Secretariat in accordance with the GF technical requirements.

CCM Secretariat

May 26, 2012