

Country Coordinating Mechanism for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Meeting Minutes

6th Myanmar Country Coordinating Mechanism (M-CCM) Meeting

12:00 to 13:30, 1 December, 2009 - Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Opening remarks: Chairperson, M-CCM – HE Professor Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister of Health

His Excellency Professor Kyaw Myint, Chairperson and Minister for Health, welcomed the M-CCM members and everyone for coming. He was pleased to announce that all three Round 9 proposals submitted by the M-CCM were recommended for approval. HIV was ranked as a Category 1 and TB/Malaria were ranked as Category 2. This success is due to the active involvement of all stakeholders. He expressed his thanks to all M-CCM members, TSGs, members of the MOCK review groups organized by WHO- SEARO, whose technical in-puts, unrelenting efforts and time expended, have made success possible. He said that he would also like to acknowledge the support and encouragement of the Executive Director of the Global Fund, Professor Michel Kazatchkine and the Board Members for the fairness shown to the proposals from Myanmar. He reminded that the TRP questions will need to be addressed as a next steps. He said that although efforts of Ministry of Health, its partners and stakeholders have obtained remarkable achievements in our fight against HIV, TB and Malaria, they still remain public health problems in Myanmar. With successful GF support the existing funding gaps will be met and resources will be available for scaling up the activities in the overall national response and disease specific key results. He requested all including the PR to look again at the budgets to successfully conclude the negotiations.

1. Approval of the Minutes of minutes of the last M-CCM meeting (29 May 2009)

Dr Saw Lwin, Deputy Director General Department of Health, presented an overview of meeting minutes from the 5th M-CCM meeting held 31 March 2009. There were no comments received and the Chair requested to minutes to be endorsed.

2. Global Fund Board decision and Global Fund Secretariat visit

Dr. Saw Lwin presented the decisions of the GF Board which were communicated to the M-CCM Chair (presentation attached). He also presented the next steps to be taken. The TRP has raised some queries and responses need to be provided to them within the given time limits. The M-CCM is given 8 weeks to have a satisfactory response to the TRP clarifications after the Independent Budget Review (IBR). The Category 2 proposals are then given another three months to finalise their responses, [in addition to the time of 8 weeks for initial response.](#)

Since all three components have been recommended for approval, the TRP has requested the PRs to identify savings that will occur through this. The TRP has requested an independent budget review. The results of these may have some implications on the budgets of individual SRs.

The Global Fund Secretariat has sent a 3 member mission to Myanmar to discuss with stakeholders the next steps to be undertaken for the grant negotiations (details to be found in the attached presentation). Some of the key points to be considered when planning for the implementation of the grants are:

- 3 monthly financial and programmatic reporting will be applied
- Rigorous spot checks at service delivery sites will be carried out
- Audits at both PR & SR levels will be conducted
- Direct payment from GF to suppliers may be considered
- More frequent visits by GF teams can be expected

A crucial issue for successful implementation of the Global Fund grants will be the smooth functioning of LFA and PRs. Joint monitoring visits, and .spot checks will be important. Multi-entry visa for key global fund staff and most necessary staff from PR and LFA may already be needed during the grant negotiation phase.

M-CCM decision points:

- TSGs to take lead in timely responding to TRP clarification, with PR participation and M-CCM to coordinate, approve and submit
- PRs to start looking on team establishment and discussions with SRs, SSRs
- PRs and SR/SSRs to start identify efficiency savings in the budget
- Involving 3Df and GAVI in future M-CCM Meetings as observers

3. TRP recommendations and plans to complete the TRP clarification process

a) HIV proposal

Dr. Khin Ohnmar San presented the TRP recommendations. HIV proposal is one of only 5 Category 1 proposals for this round. 8 weeks are given to respond to the TRP questions [after the receipt of the IBR findings](#).

The TRP commented in general positively on the proposal. The requests for clarification concern the potential complementarity and/or overlaps with GAVI and the reason for renting rather than purchasing vehicles.

The NAP proposed:

- That discussions with the GAVI team be held to respond the TRP
- That the M-CCM provides guidance on the issue of renting/procuring vehicles
- That the TSG will meet on 18th December. The clarifications for the TRP will be drafted and submitted to the M-CCM for approval and submission to the TRP

Dr. Saw Lwin added that the response should not be very complicated in the case of the HIV proposal. For example the M-CCM requested the SRs and PRs not procure vehicles because for the Round 3 the GF did not allow the procurement of vehicles.

b) TB proposal

Dr Moe Zaw, Assistant Director of National TB Programme, presented the TB proposal and the TRP comments. The TRP considered the TB proposal technically sound.

The NTP proposed some detailed initial responses to the points raised by the TRP (see presentation for details).

c) Malaria proposal

Dr. Than Win, National Programme Manager VBDC, presented the malaria proposal and the TRP comments.

Dr. Leonard Ortega, WHO WR a.i., thinks that the three major weaknesses can be easily responded to. However, he expressed concern about the 10% cut. He pointed out that the malaria programme is costly due to its operation in remote regions. The rental of vehicles is indeed very expensive and he suggested that the M-CCM reconsiders the purchase of vehicles.

Julia Kemp, DFID, mentioned that the request on clarification on GAVI presents an opportunity to identify synergies on HSS. H.E. the chair expressed his support to this idea. The GAVI should be invited to the next M-CCM meeting as an observer.

John Hetherington, PSI, mentioned that the 10% cut (termed efficiency gain) is a global goal and that the Global Fund Secretariat is given the responsibility to assess the potential reduction on a case by case basis. In the case of Myanmar the cuts may not forcibly need to be that high since the funding gaps are so big. There should be the aim to identify efficiencies, but ideally these would translate into higher targets.

Sun Gang from UNAIDS extended the congratulations and pledge of UN system support, wherever it is possible, for a successful running of GF programme from Bishow Parajuli, CCM member and UN RC/HC for Myanmar, who could not join this meeting due to prior commitments.

It was suggested that some of the unmet needs may motivate the application of GF Round 10 grant.

4. Timeline for grant negotiation by Principal Recipients

Sanjay Mathur, UNOPS and Naida Pasion, SC US, presented a tentative timeline for the work that the PR is expected to undertake. The timeline would lead to a grant signing in July 2010, which will in turn lead to a first disbursement by September 2010 and will constitute an earlier start than anticipated in the proposal. While this timeline is ambitious, the PRs think that we should aim for an early start.

The PRs shared concerns on challenges they are facing, since they will have to pre-finance the period up to the grant signing. The availability of visas for the staff included in grant negotiations will be also be crucial.

5. AOB

John Hetherington, PSI, informed the M-CCM on recent changes of members from INGO constituency to the M-CCM and TSG due to departure and arrival of staff. The international NGOs held recent elections to replace and confirm members as follows:

The following organizations were elected, changes are marked with underline:

TSG TB

- PSI (John Hetherington)
- Malteser International (Jean-Louis Moser)
- AHRN (Wily de Maere)
- World Vision (Naing)
- MSF-H / AZG (Peter Paul de Grot)
- No alternate INGO elected

TSG Malaria

- PSI (John Hetherington)
- Save the Children (Naida Pasion)
- Merlin (Paul Sender)
- World Vision (Naing)
- MSF-H / AZG (Peter Paul de Groote)
- No alternate INGO elected

TSG HIV

- PSI (John Hetherington)
- Alliance (Choo Phuah)
- MSI (Sid Naing)
- MDM (Anne Lancelot)
- Alternate INGO: Save the Children (Andrew Kirkwood)

CCM

- PSI (John Hetherington)
- MSI (Sid Naing)
- Save the Children (Andrew Kirkwood)
- Merlin (Paul Sender)
- Alternate INGO: MDM (Anne Lancelot)

Julia Kemp, DFID, requested an update to the joint review of the fund flow mechanism of the 3DF implemented by WHO, which was raised in the 3rd CCM meeting. She also suggested to discuss the governance manual of the M-CCM in-depth during one of the next meetings and to organize trainings for M-CCM members on how the global fund is functioning. This will help the M-CCM members to define the roles and responsibilities they will have to assume in grant implementation and oversight.

Closing remarks

H.E. Professor Kyaw Myint again thanked all the members. He requested the TSGs to prepare the respond to the TRP queries as soon as possible. The meeting adjourned at 13:15.