

DOCUMENTATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS & DISCUSSION WITH
VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE GLOBAL FUND MISSION

(February 15 – 19, 2011)

Compiled by:

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Global Fund Project

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Global Fund Mission Team:

1. Mr. Edward Greene, Sr. Fund Portfolio Manager
2. Ms. Fawzia Raheed, Sr. Policy Officer, CCM

16th February 2011: Discussion with Programme Officials and SRs

The Project Management Unit coordinated a meeting with the visiting Global Fund mission on the 16th February 2011 on the GF grant implementing issues. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Programme officer of the Department of Public Health. The following representatives from the PR, SR & LFA were present during the meeting.

1. Mr. Edward Greene, Sr.Fund Portfolio Manager
2. Ms. Fawzia Rasheed, Sr.Policy Officer, CCM
3. Mr. Tandin Dorji, CPO
4. Mr. SonamWangdi, NACP
5. Dr. Gembo Dorji, NACP
6. Mr. Tshewang Rinzin, NTCP
7. Mr. Tashi Dendup , NTCP
8. Mr. Kinley Dorji, Sr. Project Coordinator
9. Mr. Deshman Rai, Finance
10. Ms .Tshering Palden, Finance
11. Dr. Thinley Yangzom, VDCP
12. Mr. Sonam Dorji, BBCI (SR)
13. Mr. Yeshay Dorji, LFA
14. Ms. Karma Dechen, DYS (SR)
15. Mr. Jigme Thinley (PMT)
16. Ms. Suneeta Chetri, Asst. M & E officer
17. Mr. Karma, CCM Coordinator
18. Mr.Cheku Wangchuk

Discussion & Issues on Round 10 Proposals from Bhutan

Principal Recipient (PR) Nomination Issues

- Not meeting the eligibility criteria for Bhutan Round 10 Proposal due to non transparent process documented for the selection of PR as only Ministry of Health was considered as eligible PR for the Round.
- It was also mentioned that Conflict of Interest (COI) policy was not properly addressed as the Chair of CCM who was also the PR participated in the PR selection process.
- It was emphasized that in future CCM must ensure that PR selection id done through open call of expression of interest and properly documented.
- It was informed that TGF will soon be launching the revised CCM guideline and encouraged all including the ones in newly recruited CCM secretariat to read carefully and fully comply with the requirements.

- It was reported to GF mission that Bhutan's previous proposal were successfully when there was not even independent CCM secretariat functioning, no governance manuals in place etc and when most of the eligibility requirements were not met then. Further it was reported that Bhutan has now independent CCM secretariat and with many of the committees in CCM functioning. It was also reiterated that GF should have considered this positive developments while screening the proposals for eligibility.
- It was also reported that there was delay in communication from GF on the outcome to the Round 10 Bhutan which should have taken place in and around October 2011.

Malaria Programme Challenges and Issues

- It was reported that malaria programme would to propose to utilize the unspent balance from phase I (US\$ 105, 00) to be reprogrammed to be utilized for other activities. This was also approved by the CCM. The Fund Portfolio Manager approved the proposal.
- The FPM informed the forum that he only has the authority to approve re programming of 10-15% of the budget and work plan.
- The malaria programme reported to the forum that it has submitted the Training Plan to the LFA.
- It was also reported that the malaria programme will be applying for NSA application.
- All the remaining programmes were urged to submit the training plan before 28th of February 2011

Tuberculosis Programme Challenges & Issues

- The TB programme proposed for the procurement of 1st line drugs proposed form Round 6 grant around USD 87,000.
- The Sr. Fund Portfolio Manager (FPM) assured that the amount of USD 87,000.00 can be used to procure 1st line Anti-TB drugs, since it is already reflected in the approved work plan fro the year 4 and 5 of the Round 6 Phase 2 grant. However the FPM requested the programme to submit the detailed justification to support the procurement.
- It was also reported Round 4 close out plan activities disbursement money was more than approved budget and requested the TB programme to refund the excess money to GF.
- It was reported that from Round 4 TB closeout plan all the procurement activities have been initiated.

- Reprogramming of Round 4 close at plan not possible as per policy as it is a new activity not a continuity of previous.
- TB programme was urged to implement the close out plan activities before the March 2011. However the programme requested the FPM to extend the deadline from the Round 4 closure activities till the end of April 2011.
- Not to initiate any new activities from closeout plan it cannot be accomplished by end of April 2011.
- The FPM agreed to the proposal to utilize the balance fund of the procurement of the 2nd line Anti-TB drugs to procure high speed Centrifuge, Inspirator and training activities.

HIV/AIDS Programme ;Issues & Challenges

- It was reported that HIV/AIDS programme is likely to experience funding gaps with the withdrawal of World Bank and Round 10 proposal not approved
- It was reported that PSM plan for HIV/AIDS has been approved and also disbursement request for HIV/AIDS have been disbursed. The DR does have the budget for Training activities as the training plan is yet to be submitted by the programme.
- HIV/AIDS Programme was requested to coordinate and conduct external Joint review of the programme and it was agreed that the budget for the same could be utilized from the phase 2 overall savings
- NACP proposed that for the procurement of ARV drugs US\$ 40,000 budgeted vs a requirement of US\$ 16,000 – US\$ 18,000 for actual projection. It was proposed that unspent balance from proposal for reprogramming of the saving, not shifting the budget, the line and deferring objectives. The proposal for utilizing the unspent balance from ARV drugs was approved.
- Capacity building on procurement aspects related to Global Fund, PQR updating was requested.
- FPM proposed that TOR for auditing GF grants be developed jointly by RAA and GF. This has to be formally communicated to the PR so that the process can be initiated.
- The auditing of SR accounts was discussed in detail and it was urged that along with the PR audit reports, the SR audit report has also to be sent to TGF. But the issue on the timing of auditing of PR and SR accounts was raised as they may not happen simultaneously. PMT informed the floor that a request would be put up to RAA if the Global Fund Project as a whole can be conducted as a time to grasp the whole audit report.

- It was proposed that PR would require hands on training on the new PUDR format and there should be formal communication on the start date of using the new format to the PR.

Feb 16th 2011: Discussion with the representatives of the Multilaterals agencies for the strengthening of CCM

The meeting with the representatives of the Multilaterals was primarily to request support and strengthen to CCM Bhutan. .

Attendees:

1. Mr. Edward Greene, Sr. Fund Portfolio Manager, Global Fund
2. Ms. Fawzia Rasheed, Sr. Policy Officer, CCM
3. Dr. Nani Nair, WHO Representative
4. Ms. Vaithnee Jitjaturunt, Deputy Representative, UNICEF
5. Ms. Gepte Hingis, Resident Representative, UNICEF
6. Mr. Yeshey Dorji, Asst. Representative, UNFPA
7. Mr. Mark LaPrarie, Country Representative, World Bank
8. Mr. Yeshey Dorji, Team Leader, Local Fund Agent (LFA)
9. Mr. Kinley Dorji, Sr. Project Coordinator, PMT
10. Mr. Karma, CCM Coordinator
11. Ms. Suneeta Chhetri, Asst M& E Officer

Stringent policies of GF financing

- It was reported that Global Fund will be very stringent on its policies. This was mainly due to massive corruption cases and improper handling of Global Fund grants in some countries followed by exposure by the media on these issues, which caused the donors to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to gradually phase out.
- It was informed that with this stringent funding policy and of prioritising the financing for the extremely vulnerable areas/regions, makes it even more pertinent for every country to adhere to the GF policies and perform better. However it was informed that GF always supports for the life savings drugs.
- It was informed that TGF will soon be launching the revised CCM guideline and encouraged all including the ones in newly recruited CCM secretariat to read carefully and fully comply with the requirements.

Issues on Round 10 Proposals

1. The reason for not meeting the eligibility criteria for Bhutan Round 10 Proposal were due to the following:
 - The PR selection process was not transparent; the expression of interest (EOI) was not called for by the CCM.
 - The Conflict of Interest (COI) policy was not followed PR was involved in the selection of the PR selection process.
 - There was lack of documentation for the selection of PR as only Ministry of Health was considered as eligible PR for the Round.

Support to strengthen CCM

- The GF mission informed that it will take consultation from the multilateral organisation on its assistance to the country. The multilateral organizations were urged to strengthen its support to the CCM and partner with The Global Fund.
- GF mission highlighted t that due to fierce competition in future CCM must ensure that it not only performs better in its technical aspects but also complies with all the said criteria.
- Ms. Fawzia Rasheed offered to review the governance manual for CCM Bhutan.
- It was informed that there was a need for more awareness of the GF financing within the country
- It was informed that a TWG can be formed to review the overall work - finance, programmatic and M & E etc.
- The FPM agreed to share the comments made by LFA on quarterly reports to the CCM and the PR.

Funding for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB

- It was also reported that the malaria and TB programme will be applying for the second wave National Strategic Applications (NSA) and there was no funding for HIV. The NSA approved grant is for 5 years.
- It was reported that HIV/AIDS programme is likely to experience funding gaps with the withdrawal of World Bank and Round 10 proposal not approved.
- It was informed that he GF is also looking for an option to finance Maternal, neonatal and Child Health (MNCH).

- Health systems strengthening (HSS) was recognized as a separate component for accessing the Global Fund resources.
- The need to conduct a Joint external review of HIV/AIDS programme was highlighted by the forum. The Fund Portfolio Manager was open to utilize the unspent balance from phase 2 for the external review of HIV/AIDS Programme. The in country technical partners such as WHO, UNICEF were requested to support the Ministry of Health.

Round 11

- It was informed that the Round 11 call for the proposal will be announced by the secretariat sometime in Mid August 2011. The HSS will be part of round 11. It was informed that the same proposal can be reviewed and re sent for Round 11, for HIV financing.
- It was also informed that there are some changes in the disbursement process.

Feb 17th 2011: Discussion with the GNHC Officials:

The Mission team convened a meeting with the GNHC officials mainly to discuss on the:

- Fund flow issues
- Delayed Progress report
- Separation of CCM secretariat from MOH
- It was reported that GNHC would have no reservation for de linking CCM secretariat from MOH. However the GNHC raised their concern on the sustainability of the Secretariat in the long run and also on the requirements for co financing from the Royal Government of Bhutan for the Secretariat.
- GNHC has agreed to support this initiative and informed that the RGoB will facilitate the maintenance of the accounts as per the RGoB financial manual.
- On the delayed report, The mission raised their concern on the late submission of the progress reports by the PRs and inquired if it was necessary to route the progress report through the GNHC. The GNHC clarified that as a central coordinating agency it is essential for the GNHC to keep track of the fund flow and fund implementation status and it is very important for the GNHC to receive the progress reports on the donor funds. Moreover the GNHC also assured that with the mail management system within the organization no letters are kept pending for more than three working days. The GNHC also committed that in future it will facilitate and follow up with the PRs to submit the progress reports on time.

February 17, 2011: Meeting with the CCM members on the outcome of Round 10 Proposal

Contribute to common understanding of CCM guidelines

- It was informed that the CCM members consider the Secretariat and its staff as their own and see to it that they help facilitate on all matters related.
- CCM refer to the TOR of the CCM members, secretariat, contribute to better understanding to the CCM guidelines – governance manual, conflict of interest policy, oversight plan, etc.

Reflect the issues arising from SRP Process

- Screening for eligibility takes place prior to the review of proposals by the Technical Review Panel (TRP). Failure to comply with any one of the requirements may render an application ineligible for review by the TRP.
- Following deliberations of the Global Fund's Screening Review Panel, Bhutan CCM was determined non-compliant with the minimum requirements as set forth by the Board of the Global Fund and further detailed in "Clarifications on CCM Minimum Requirements".
- It was reported that it was necessary for the CCMs refer to the "Guidelines and Requirements for Country Coordinating Mechanisms", "Clarifications of CCM Requirements" and the "CCM Eligibility Requirements for Grants" before submission of the proposals.

CCM eligibility criteria

- CCM must demonstrate that they meet the six minimum requirements at the time of application in order to be eligible for funding.
- It was informed that the Global Fund is considering in making some changes to the eligibility criteria for Non-CCM proposals so that civil society organizations can help fill this gap.

Review the CCM oversight roles

- It was informed that the CCM members review the oversight plan.
- Set up independent PR selection committee.
- Emphasized on effective and efficient Oversight Committee

February 18, 2011: Meeting with the CCM Chairman

Clarification of the Round 10 proposal

It was informed that Mr. Edward Greene, Sr. Fund Portfolio Manager, met with PR, some of the SRs and Multilateral agencies and clarified on the reason for failure of the Round 10 proposal and suggested

The reason for not meeting the eligibility criteria for Bhutan Round 10 Proposal was due to the following:

1. The PR selection process was not transparent, the expression of interest (EOI) was not called for
 2. The Conflict of Interest (COI) policy was not followed PR was involved in the selection of the PR selection process.
 3. There was lack of documentation for the selection of PR as only Ministry of Health was considered as eligible PR for the Round.
- The CCM chair acknowledged the mistake made for not adhering to the rules for selection of PR which was rather overlooked at the time of proposal development.
 - CCM chairman directed the CCM secretariat to adhere to all the requirements in the future and to avoid unnecessary jeopardy of all the hard works put by the programmes in the future
 - Chairman urged the Project Management to submit the EOI for TB & Malaria for NSA application on time after getting the necessary clarification on the technical requirements and other issues.

THE END