

## **GFATM COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM**

Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006, at 3.30 pm, in the Conference Room of the Anti Malaria Campaign, Public Health Complex, 555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha Colombo 05.

### **Present:**

Mr. Ranjith Maligaspe	-	Secretary/MOH, Chairman/ CCM
Mr. Shirley Tissera	-	Congress of Religions/ CFPA, Vice Chair/CCM
Dr. W.P.Fernando	-	Consultant/ GFATM & VBDC, MOH
Dr. R.R.M.L.R.Siyambalagoda	-	Director / AMC
Dr. Chandra Sarukkali	-	Director / NPTCCD
Dr. Lalith Chandradasa	-	Director / GFATM Project, Sarvodaya
Prof. Carlo Fonseka	-	University Grants Commission (Academia)
Ms. Swarna Kodagoda	-	Alliance Lanka
Dr. Aberra Bekele	-	UNICEF
Mr. M.I.M. Iqbal	-	Sewa Lanka Foundation

### **Observers:**

Ms Hiranthi Ratnayake	-	Local Fund Agency
Dr. K. Sivagnanan	-	Mo / Coordinating GFATM Project -NPTCCD

### **Excused:**

Dr. V.I. Jayasuriya	-	Ceylon National Association for Prevention of TB
Dr. W.A.Fredinand	-	IMPA
Prof Jennifer Perera	-	SLMA (Out of the Country)
Mr. S.K.D.Dasanayake	-	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

### **Absent:**

Dr. Nimal Edirisinghe	-	Director / STD/AIDS
Dr Agostino Borra	-	WHO Representative to Sri Lanka
Dr. Chris Nonis	-	Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
Mr Samson Lal	-	Lanka Plus
Mr. D.M.L.Gunaratne	-	Family Planning Association
Dr. (Mrs.) K. Navaratne	-	World Bank
Mr. S.W.Gunawardana	-	JSSF

## **Proceedings**

At the commencement, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Shirley Tissera (Vice Chair). However subsequently the chair was taken over by Mr. Ranjith Maligaspe (Chairman) who arrived later.

### **1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting**

Minutes were confirmed as proposed by Ms. Swarna Kodagoda and seconded by Prof Carlo Fonseka

### **2. Matters arising from the minutes**

#### **Submission of Round 6 Proposals to the GF**

Dr. Fernando said that proposals were submitted with regard to all the three diseases (AIDS, TB, and Malaria) before the deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2006.

#### **Decision regarding NGO representation in the CCM**

At the last meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2006, Dr. Lalith Chandradasa (Sarvodaya) presented the scheme which Sarvodaya would follow to select NGOs after Calling for Expressions of Interest, through newspaper advertisement. At today's meeting he presented the scores obtained by the 25 NGOs who have applied. The criteria of scoring include period of existence of NGOs since registration, coverage of the country through branch organizations, experience in foreign and locally funded projects, and working experience. According to earlier CCM decision six NGOs are to be selected. The following 6 NGOs have scored the highest marks in descending order.

- 1 The Family Planning Association
- 2 Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya
- 3 Sewa Lanka Foundation
- 4 Rural and Community development Cooperation
- 5 Alliance Lanka
- 6 Foundation of Social Welfare & Cultural Development, North Western Province

The CCM decided to select these 6 NGOs to the CCM, and to officially invite them to nominate members to the CCM. It was also decided to request the respective NGOs that the nominees should be persons who are in a position to take decisions and to express the views of the relevant NGO, during CCM meetings.

The CCM expressed their gratitude to Sarvodaya, and specially to Dr Chandradasa, for helping the CCM in this selection.

### **3. Request by PR2 to increase the allocation for the research study entitled “ KAP study on the usage pattern, net shape preference and sleeping habits of community”**

Dr. Punsiri Fernando informed that the recommendation of the CCM to increase the allocation for above research study, has been already conveyed to the GF

### **4. Appointment of district level M & E Officers**

The CCM recommendation on this matter too, has been already conveyed to the GF. Dr. Chandradasa inquired as to who would bear the expenditure for this item. Dr Fernando said that it would be done through the PR1 Malaria Round 1 & Round 4 projects, from the M & E component

### **5. Suggestion to transfer the activity of “ Purchase of LLINs” from PR2 to PR1**

Dr. Chandradasa has made a request to the Chairman CCM, that the above activity be transferred from PR2 to PR1, because the efforts to obtain a waiver on duty and taxes from the Ministry of Finance and Planning has failed, and therefore there is no way that Sarvodaya, as a NGO, could pay the duties and taxes. The Director General of the Ministry of Finance and Planning has informed that “ The Secretary, Ministry of Textile Industry Development is of the view that Sri Lankan manufacturers of mosquito nets are capable of supplying required quantities of impregnated mosquito nets. Therefore, considering the impact on domestic mosquito net making industry due to import of big quantities of mosquito nets on duty free basis, Treasury is not in a position to consider your request favorably”

Dr Punsiri Fernando said that this activity is a priority component in the Malaria project and it would be essential to complete this activity soon. He has had discussions with the Ministry, and has been informed that there is no objection for this transfer and the Ministry is in a position to pay the duty and taxes if counterpart funds are available and if the Treasury has no objection. These have to be verified by the Ministry. However if the activity is transferred, then distribution of these nets will be shared by Sarvodaya and the Ministry. Any allocation set aside by Sarvodaya for clearance and transport of these nets to district level, has to be transferred to PR1. Dr. Chandradasa agreed to this.

### **6. Use of Media to promote eco- friendly vector control methods**

Dr. Chandradasa said that, due to the financial constraints his suggestion is that previously prepared TV spots be used for telecasting. Radio spots also can be broadcasted. The CCM agreed to this.

## **7. Reimbursement of cost of subsistence and accommodation to the CCM members who perform field visits (inspection of project work)**

The members were of the view that it would be appropriate to follow the government procedure in payment of cost of lodging and subsistence to CCM members who undertake field visit to review project activities i.e.

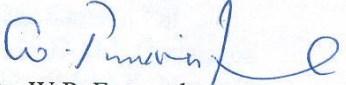
- Full-payment if travel involves more than 12 hours away from Colombo and includes night stay out of Colombo
- Half- payment if period spent out of Colombo is more than 6 hours and does not include a night out stay

The suggested rate which is more than the usual rate paid to public officers is necessary, because obviously the present rate in the public sector is thoroughly inadequate to obtain paid accommodation and meals. Infact public officers often have to find alternative facilities with colleagues in the department who are working in outstations. This practice cannot be expected from CCM members, the great majority of whom are non-governmental persons. Furthermore when CCM members of government sector and non- governmental sector travel together for CCM field visits, they have to be remunerated in a uniform manner.

The funds for M & E activities by CCM members come to the CCM secretariat from UNICEF. Dr Bekele, the UNICEF representative to the CCM requested that these CCM decisions be incorporated in the minutes, to enable him to take this matter up with UNICEF authorities.

### **The functions of the Project Management Unit**

Dr. Chandra Sarukkali, Director / NPTCCD heavily criticized the project office and said that there is excessive delay in obtaining approval for proposals, submitted to Ministry through project office. Dr. Punsiri Fernando, Project Consultant who is in charge the PMU said that all proposals have to be scanned to ensure that they conform to the Circular issued by the Ministry on making payments for activities from foreign funded projects. He said that in most of the proposals very important information is missing such as name of the person coordinating programmes, what categories of people are attending the programmes and as to what their normal duty stations are. Dr. Sarukkali said that the previous officers who scanned the proposals submitted them for Ministry approval, as they were, and there were no problems. Dr. Fernando said that he is not ready to perpetuate any lapses just because that has been the past practice and that he is not ready to recommend any proposal for funding through the project fund, until the budget conforms to Ministry Circulars on disbursements of foreign funds.

  
Dr. W.P. Fernando  
Consultant- GFATM & VBDC  
Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition

26/9/06

