

**Minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> meeting of Country Coordinating Mechanism Sri Lanka held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, at 2.00pm, in the Conference Room of the Anti Malaria Campaign, Public Health Complex, 555/5, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.**

**Present:**

Mr. Shirley Tissera	- Congress of Religions/ CFPA (Vice Chairman / CCMSL)
Dr. R. R. Abeyasinghe	- Project Director, GFATM Projects MOH/Focal Point
Dr. Nimal Edirisinghe	- Director / NSACP
Dr. AKSB De Alwis	- Director / NPTCCD
Mr. David Bridger	- UNAIDS
Dr. (Mrs.) K. Navarathne	- World Bank Mission
Dr. Moazzem Hossain	- UNICEF
Mr. D.A.D.N.C. Wimalarathne	- Rural & Community Development Association
Ms. Swarna Kodagoda	- Alliance Lanka
Mr. M.I.M. Iqbal	- Sewa Lanka Foundation

**Observers:**

Dr. Sange Thinly	- WHO/SEARO
Dr. Supriya Warusavithana	- WHO
Dr. S.L.G Jayasuriya	- IMPA
Dr N. Punchihewa	- SLMA
Dr. Kapila Sooriyaarachchi	- CNAPT
Dr. G. Weerasinghe	- Collage of Venereologists
Dr. K. Buddhakorala	- Collage of Venereologists
Mr. H S P Ranaweera	- Project Accountant / GFATM
Ms. Malsha Piyasena	- PR2 /Sarvodaya
Ms. Meenu Guneratne	- PR2 /Sarvodaya
Mr. Saman Ranathunge	- NPTCCD

**Excused:**

Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage	- Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition (Chairman/CCMSL)
Dr. Ajith Mendis	- Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition
Dr P.G. Mahipala	- Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition
Dr. S. Deniyage	- Director/AMC

Prof. Carlo Fonseka	- University Grants Commission
Dr. Chris Nonis	- Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
Dr. L. P. Chandradasa	- Director GFATM Project / Sarvodaya
Dr. Agostino Borra	- WHO Representative Sri Lanka
Ms. Hiranthi Ratnayake	- Local Fund Agency (PWC)
Ms. Kusum Wasala	- Wason Foundation

**Absent:**

Mr. S.K.D. Dassanayake	- Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
Mr. Gamini Wanasekara	- The Family Planning Association
Ms. Princy Mangalika	- Lanka Plus

**Proceedings**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Shirley Tissera, Vice Chair CCMSL due to absence of Dr Athula Kahandaliyanage, Chairman CCMSL. Mr. Tissera welcomed the members for the first meeting of the CCMSL in the New Year and also welcomed Dr. Sangay Thinley to the meeting.

**2. Confirmation of the Minutes of 67<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The minutes were proposed as being in order by Dr. S Jayasuriya and seconded by Ms. Swarna Kodagoda, subject to the changes discussed.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

Dr. AKSB De Alwis, D/NPTCCD stated that the motorcycle issue has been resolved and that the motor cycles have already been distributed to the recipient PHIs as planned. Dr Abeyasinghe indicated that no invoice had yet been received by the project office and said that it was important to effect payment as early as possible due to the grant closure at end February.

**4. Round 1 grant closure plans**

Dr. Abeyasinghe informed that the CCMSL needed to approve the Grant Closure Plans prepared in respect of the two Round 1 Malaria grants of PR1 & PR2 and the Round 1 TB grant prepared by PR1. He explained that it is suggested to request the GFATM to consider the massive crisis situation currently affecting many of the grant funded districts with large scale civilian displacement and the resulting humanitarian crisis with the potential for serious disease outbreaks in the conflict affected Northern districts. On the advice of the MOH the PRs had

been requested to solicit the cooperation of the GFATM to extend the grant closure period for up to four months to continue essential grant related activities during this period as a means of preventing a further deterioration in the humanitarian crisis situation. Accordingly the PRs had prepared grant closure plans which were considered by the CCMSL. The CCMSL decided to unanimously approve the grant closure plans prepared by the PRs and submit them for approval by the GFATM. Considering the existing situation in the Northern Province the CCMSL also decided to request the GFATM to favourably consider the grant closure plans.

### ***5. Round 8 Proposals***

Dr RR Abeyasinghe informed the CCMSL that the Round 8 Malaria proposal submitted had been accepted by the Board of the GFATM at its November 2008 meeting as a Category 2B grant. He also explained that the GFATM Board had decided on a mandatory 10% cut in the budgets of all proposals in Phase 1 of round 8 grants accepted for funding. Accordingly the budget of the malaria proposal had been revised and further reductions were made in response to TRP clarifications which have largely been accepted by the TRP. Further clarifications raised by the TRP had also been addressed and submitted to the GFATM. He also informed the CCMSL that LFA had been instructed to begin PR assessments and accordingly the LFA had already begun assessment of the new PR2 – Tropical Environmental Disease & Health Associates (TEDHA). Repeat PRs (PR1- Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition & PR3- Sarvodaya) had also been informed that assessments would begin shortly.

### ***6. Round 9 Proposals***

In the absence of Dr. PG Mahipala Chairman of the HIV Subcommittee Dr N. Edirisinghe stated that satisfactory progress had been achieved in the round 9 proposal development process and invited Drs. Punchihewa and Weerasinghe to comment on the progress to date. They explained that several rounds of meetings had been conducted with all stakeholders, selection and consultations with national and international consultants formulating the proposal and meetings of the Technical Group. Accordingly the SDA of the proposal have already been identified and costing has begun. Dr. Edirisinghe was confident that the proposal could be ready for Mock TRP by mid April. Dr. Warusavithana stated that Mock TRP was being facilitated by WHO in the latter half of April. Dr R R Abeyasinghe requested the completed proposal to be submitted to the CCM Secretariat by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 as the CCM component has to be completed and CCM approval obtained before the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

Dr. D. Bridger expressed the view that having an approved National HIV Policy would assist in successful acceptance of the proposal and securing funding. Dr. Edirisinghe explained that the Draft HIV Policy had been prepared and submitted to the Ministry. The CCM requested D/NSACP to explore the possibility of having the National HIV Policy adopted as early as possible.

### **7. CCM Funding**

Dr R R Abeyasinghe informed the CCM that funding for 2009 had been received from the Global Fund to the Sarvodaya account as nominated by the CCM. Accordingly he stressed the importance of carrying out the activities detailed in the application for funding including the website of the CCMSL. He requested members to provide individual profiles of themselves and the organizations they represent and possible links to their own websites.

Dr. Abeyasinghe also informed the CCMSL that registration of the CCMSL as a Trust was being carried out by the Ministry Legal Division.

### **8. Membership of the CCMSL –**

The CCM SL welcomed the following new members Dr Moazzem Hossain as the representative from the UNICEF, Dr. AKSB De Alwis as Director/NPTCCD, Dr. S. Deniyage Director/AMC. In addition the CCM also welcomed Dr. K. Sooriyarachchi representing CNAPT as an observer.

### **9. Round 6 TB Project – performance of SLMA as a SR of PR2.**

Dr. Chandradasa has written to the President SLMA with copy to CCMSL indicating that the performance of the SLMA in fulfilling activities undertaken by them was not satisfactory. Dr. Punchihewa representing SLMA stated that there had been several problems relating to the implementation of project activities by the Communicable Diseases Subcommittee of the SLMA tasked with carrying out this programme of work. She explained that the SLMA had already addressed these issues and would be submitting a new workplan according to which targets would be achieved. She indicated that some of the problems were due to a delay in release of funds as there was an initial delay in receipt of funds from the GFATM.

### **10. Request for reprogramming of Round 1 TB funds by D/NPTCCD**

Dr. De Alwis explained that there is considerable savings in the Round 1 TB grant and requested the approval of the CCMSL to finalize a procurement of an automated culture system for the Central Laboratory at Welisara. He explained that this procurement was planned earlier

to be carried out using MOH funds and accordingly tender procedure was completed. However due to shortage of funds the MOH could not complete this activity with an estimated expenditure of approx. US \$ 83000. Considering the importance of the request and the availability of funds the CCMSL decided to recommend this procurement to the GFATM.

Dr. De Alwis also requested the approval of the CCM SL to utilize funds saved for the World TB Day activities scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The CCMSL decided to recommend this request to the GFATM.

### **11. Fund Portfolio Manager**

The GFATM has informed that Ms. Malavika Bakshi Rao is the Fund Portfolio Manager for Sri Lanka. The CCMSL warmly welcomed the decision of the GFATM and acknowledged the work done by Ms. Sylwia Murray as the Acting FPM for Sri Lanka.

### **12. Education Component of the Round 6 HIV GF Project**

Dr Edirisinghe informed that the problems with regard to the Education Ministry have been sorted out and that the project is now continuing satisfactorily.

Dr. Edirisinghe requested the approval of the CCMSL to release funds necessary for completion of the activity 2.1.2.5 Training of Teachers to the Education Ministry as this would facilitate more effective implementation. The CCMSL decided to recommend that the total funds (US \$ 7500) be released to the Education Ministry in two installments subject to the condition that physical and financial progress is reported to D/NSACP by the Education Ministry.

### **13. TB Round 1 Phase 2 payment- CNAPT**

Dr R R Abeyasinghe explained that funds (US \$ 1.39 Million) had been disbursed by the GFATM but were yet to be received in the country. After receipt of funds the payments could be released to the SRs.

### **14. Other Matters**

14.1. The CCMSL noted the untimely demise of Dr. H. W. Perera who represented CNAPT as an observer at the last meeting of CCMSL and expressed its condolences to the family of Dr. Perera.

14.2. Dr. Warusavithana explained that Dr. Agostino Borra WHO Representative for Sri Lanka will be completing his assignment to Sri Lanka on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. She also introduced Dr. Sangay Thinley as the new Acting WR Sri Lanka. The CCMSL welcomed Dr. Thinley and noted

with appreciation the contribution of Dr. Borra to the CCMSL and to the control of three diseases in the country.

14.3. Ms. Malsha Piyasena representing Dr. Chandradasa explained that it was proposed to obtain the support of Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) as an SSR to carry out awareness programmes among estate population under the Round 6 Phase 1 Tuberculosis component. The CCMSL decided to request Sarvodaya to advertise for this with short notice (1 week) due to time constraints and to make an appropriate selection based on a transparent procedure.

14.4. Dr. Chandradasa had informed the CCMSL that Sarvodaya proposes to purchase an additional 96,600 nos. LLINs utilizing savings from Round 1 Malaria component, as this indicator was not fully realized as yet according to the Workplans agreed with GFATM. Dr. Abeyasinghe explained that Sarvodaya had obtained approval from the FPM for this activity and had requested MOH to facilitate the procurement by way of paying the local taxes. Considering the emergency situation in the Northern Province the Secretary MOH had approved carrying out this purchase with the use of government counterpart funds to pay taxes based on an agreement with Sarvodaya that half the quantity of LLINs would be distributed by the MOH through the Regional Medical Officers of the Anti Malaria Campaign. Procurement and supply will be carried out through the nominated Procurement Agent of the GFATM.

14.5. Dr. Edirisinghe explained the findings of a study carried out among the population of the estate sector and sought a change to the proposed communication strategy detailed in SDA 3 (activity 3.3). It was explained that the proposed change would be carried out within the budget allocation already indicated for this activity. Considering the usefulness of the proposed change in more effectively reaching the target population the CCMSL decided to recommend this change to the GFATM for approval.

14.6. Dr. Edirisinghe requested approval of the CCMSL to utilize funds saved in activity 2.1.1.3 in the Education Sector of the Round 6 HIV project to procure two additional Desk Top Type personal computers to be used by the education sector coordinator's office. As adequate funds were available in the savings the CCMSL approved this procurement.

14.7. Dr. Abeyasinghe explained that the MOH had exhausted all the funds identified for Round 1 malaria control activities under the phase 2 of the grant. He explained that already Sarvodaya was funding continued activities under Round 1 up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Accordingly he requested the CCMSL to approve the release of up to US \$ 60,000 to MOH to carry out the proposed grant closure activities successfully (this sum includes the proposed grant closure

budget estimate and expenses already incurred by MOH for project activities). This request was approved by the CCMSL.

14.8. Mr. Bridger requested that a brief presentation on progress of grant related activities be made by all PRs at CCM meetings to facilitate a more effective oversight function of the CCMSL. This proposal was accepted by the CCMSL and it was decided that brief presentations would be made by all PRs commencing from the next CCMSL meeting.

14.9. Mr. Bridger also pointed out that several matters pertaining to CCMSL had been pointed out in the evaluation of CCMSL: carried out at the request of the GFATM. He proposed that the CCMSL arrange a one day retreat to consider this report and enhance the functioning of the CCMSL. This proposal was accepted by the CCMSL and it was decided to explore the possibility of raising necessary funds for such a retreat.

#### **15. The Next CCM meeting**

The date for the next meeting will be notified to the members in due course.



Dr R R Abeyasinghe  
Focal Point CCM  
2009.05.18