

Minutes of Meeting No. 4/25-107  
National Coordinating Committee to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
in the Republic of Tajikistan (NCC)

March 17, 2023

Dushanbe

Chaired by:

Ms. Matlubakhon Amonzoda Sattoriyon - Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, Chairman of the National Coordination Committee.

Participants:

Abdufatohzoda G. - Head of the Social Development Department of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Amirzoda A.A. - Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Population, Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Tajikistan, Davlatzoda K. - Deputy Minister of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan, Abdulzoda Z.N. - Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ibrohimzoda N. - Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Huseinzoda M. - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Safarzoda R.S. - Deputy Minister of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan, Nasriddinzoda R.Kh. - Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, Gafforzoda N. - First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Rahimzoda Sh.K. - First Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Youth and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Alizoda S.M. - Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Television and Radio under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Vahobzoda A. - Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Religion, Streamlining Traditions, Celebrations and Rites under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Lenny Montiel - UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Tajikistan, Safarov A. – officer, World Health Organization in the Republic of Tajikistan, Christopher Barrett - Director of the Health Programs, USAID missions in the Republic of Tajikistan, Khaidarova T. - Director of the NGO "Tajikistan Network of Women Living with HIV", Gulova F. - Director of the NGO "Equal Opportunities", Naimov S. - Director of the Association "Partnership to Stop Tuberculosis in Tajikistan", Egamberdieva D - director of NGO "Buzurg" and Karimova G. - director of the NGO "Zuhal " .

#### Missing participants:

Abdullozoda J. - Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan; Mirzoev N. - Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, Boybalazoda R. - Deputy Head of the Main Department for the Execution of Criminal Punishments of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan, Azizmamadov M. - Director of the public organization "Volunteer" (by valid reasons).

#### Invitees:

Kholov S. - Health Program Management Specialist of the USAID Mission in the Republic of Tajikistan, Sona Orbelyan - Project Manager for the Prevention and Control of HIV / AIDS and TB, UNDP in Tajikistan, Nurov R. - Director of the State Institution "Republican Center for the Protection of the Population from TB" of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, Soliev A. - Deputy Director of the state institution "Republican Center for the Prevention and Control of AIDS" of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, Avgonov Z. - Executive Secretary of the NCC, Nasibov O. - Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the NCC.

#### Agenda:

1. Approval of a Fund Request to the Global Fund Grant to fight HIV and Tuberculosis for the period 2024-2026.
2. Selection of the Principal Recipient for the new Global Fund grant to fight HIV and Tuberculosis for the period 2024-2026.

The Vice-Prime Minister opened the meeting of the National Coordination Committee and appreciated the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other partners, including USAID and WHO, for their continuous support in the implementation of national programs on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) in the Republic of Tajikistan. She noted that on December 16, 2022, the Fund Allocation Letter was received from the Global Fund for another cycle granted to the Republic of Tajikistan to fight HIV / AIDS and Tuberculosis and building resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH) amounting in total USD 25,964,147 for 2024-2026, the letter has been shared with all members of the NCC.

On the first point of the agenda, Dr. A. Amirzoda, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan mentioned that aiming at development of the country application for the Global Fund grant on Prevention and Control of HIV / AIDS and Tuberculosis in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2024-2026 years, based on the Orders (Prikazes) of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MOHSP) dated 06.09.2022, No. 650 and dated 21.09.2022, No. 686, intersectoral working groups for both HIV and TB were established comprising of the designated representatives of the National Coordination Committee to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria in the Republic of Tajikistan,

MOHSP, international and local non-government organizations working in the field of HIV and TB. International and local consultants were involved for the development of fund request, and a number of meetings of working group members held with the participation of consultants and representatives of the Global Fund, meetings of consultants with representatives of government agencies and public organizations were organized, including online meetings. By now, the working groups have finalized the country fund request for the amount of USD 25,964,147, which are US\$15,437,432 for HIV and US\$10,526,715 for TB. The Draft Fund Request was submitted to the NCC Secretariat and shared with all NCC members. Dr. Amirzoda asked members to approve the fund request to the Global Fund for the Prevention and Control of HIV / AIDS and TB in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2024-2026.

On the second agenda, Dr. Amirzoda A., Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Population, Republic of Tajikistan, noted that according to the Global Fund Qualification Requirements No. 2 (Open and transparent Principal Recipient selection process) for Country Coordination Mechanisms, the country should ensure an open and transparent selection process of the selection of the Principal Recipient. He added that for this purpose, several meetings were organized and held with the mission of the Global Fund to Tajikistan from February 24 to March 3, 2023, including online meeting held on February 18 of the current year. The selection of Principal Recipient of the Global Fund grant to control HIV and TB in 2024-2026 was discussed in the meeting with the Ms. M. A. Sattorien, Chairman of the NCC, with participation of the First Deputy of the MOHSP (G.M. Mukhsinzoda) and the Deputy of the MOHSP (A.A.Amirzoda). It was also discussed during the debriefing of the Global Fund mission with the First Deputy and Deputy of the MOHSP (Mukhsinzoda G. and Amirzoda A.), WHO representatives, the management of state institutions "Republican Center for the Protection of the Population from Tuberculosis" and "Republican Center for Prevention and Control AIDS conducted on March 3 of the current year. During these meetings, the Chairman of the NCC and the MOHSP management proposed to select the Principal Recipient of the new Global Fund grant from the structures of the MOHSP or to consider the election of the MOHSP structure as the lead implementer for the new Global Fund grant, followed by subsequent development of the capacity of this structure as the Principal Grant Recipient. The Global Fund Portfolio Manager, Mr. Davran Fayzan, noted that in the letter of notification (Annex A) of the Global Fund dated December 16, 2022 on the funds allocation to Tajikistan, there is a requirement for the organization that should implement the new Global Fund grant for the period 2024-2026 in the Republic of Tajikistan. Davran Faizan has mentioned that the aim of the Global Fund is to have the functions of the Principal Recipient transferred to the state structures in the future. However, the current situation shows that government agencies are not yet ready to fully assume the role of the Principal Recipient. He proposed to keep existing Principal Recipient and ensure the possibility of strengthening the capacity of the country for grant implementation. He expressed the willingness of the Global Fund to strengthen the structure and methodology of the newly established MOHSP structure to give more opportunities to strengthening their capacity during the next funding cycle of 2024-2026, and revisit this issue during the Global Fund's country application review process.

He proposed to the members of the National Coordinating Committee to elect the UNDP in Tajikistan as the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund grant to fight HIV and TB for the period 2024-2026 in the Republic of Tajikistan and to support the proposal of the MOHSP to establish a separate structure under the MOHSP that will take over the role of lead implementer of the grant in the future grant.

Based on the results of the discussion of the agenda, the meeting of the National Coordinating Committee decided:

1. To approve the country fund request to the Global Fund to Fight HIV and Tuberculosis for the period 2024-2026.

2. To approve the UNDP in Tajikistan as the Principal Recipient of the upcoming Global Fund grant to fight HIV and TB for the period 2024-2026, and submit it for consideration to the Global Fund.

3. To the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan:

3.1. To establish the structure under the MOHSP as the Lead implementer of the Global Fund grant during the period of 2024-2026.

3.2. Develop appropriate legislative documents, TOR related to the establishment and operation of this structure.

3.3. To contact the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for providing technical support in the development of this structure.

4. To the UNDP in Tajikistan to take necessary actions for strengthening human resources capacity of the newly established structure to be acting as the Lead Implementer in the future grant.

Vice Prime Minister,  
Chairman of the NCC

M.A.Sattorien