



## **For Impacts In Social Health**

**"Simple actions for greater impacts"**

*BP 8.768 Yaoundé, Tél : 22 01 01 16 ; Email : [fismtsida97@yahoo.fr](mailto:fismtsida97@yahoo.fr)*

**TB/HIV concept note elaboration process:  
Overview of the ongoing country dialogue  
in Cameroon.**

Beneficiary of the Global Fund (GF) to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria since 2004, Cameroon is one of the countries eligible for the New Funding model of the GF for an amount of 144 billion FCFA. This new dynamics put a focus on the engagement and participation of multi-stakeholders participation through ongoing country dialogue.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014, the CCM officially launched the New Funding Model (NFM) with 180 representatives of all the national stakeholders: civil society, the Most At Risks Populations (MARPS), People Living With HIV (PLWVIH), the private sector, technical and financial Partners, university institutes) for them to effectively participate to the process resulting in the elaboration of the new request for fund.

Within the framework of TB / HIV concept note, dialogues started with the review of the national strategic plans (NSP) which were made through a participative collaboration of national health programs, the civil society organizations, technical and financial partners, (UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF) and key affected populations (refuges, PLWHIV, MARPS<sup>1</sup>).

A strong participation of the civil society organizations, in particular the key affected populations, organizations of defense of gender and Women rights , organizations of defense of human rights and community based organizations, is essential to the efficiency of this consultative process. Thus, the TB/HIV concept note writing committee was constituted in April 2014 with 13 representatives of the civil society on the 25 members of this committee.

From then on, based on the analysis of the national strategic plan and guided by gender, Human Rights and the community system strengthening (CSS) considerations, the national dialogue has been conducted throughout the country:

- **26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014:** the CSO **For Impacts in Social Health (FIS)** organized a **training of the CSO (from the ten regions of Cameroon) on the independent monitoring of the Global Fund grants in Cameroon** facilitated by AIDSPAN (Global Fund Observer) which allowed to identify and to strengthen the capacities of CSO and Media to carry out watchdog work targeting GF systems and grants in Cameroon.
- **28th February 2014: Introduction to the New Funding Model.** FIS organized this workshop to introduce the new funding model to the CSO, focusing on their main role in the country dialogue process. The participants came up with a document called **“Declaration of Kribi”** addressing the taking into consideration of the significant implication of the of the Civil society Organizations in the Country Dialogue; the advocacy document was submitted to the CCM, the Ministry of Health and to the technical and financial partners)
- **March 2014: PLWHIV dialogues** conducted with Networks of people living with HIV/AIDS (RECAP<sup>2</sup>, AFSU, AFASO...) Human Rights Associations and technical and financial partners. Through many workshops facilitated by the UNAIDS, people living with HIV came up with their priorities in terms of prevention, treatment by addressing main issues such as Anti Retroviral Treatment breaks.

---

<sup>1</sup> MARPs: Most At Risk Populations

<sup>2</sup> Cameroonian network of people living with HIV

- **21th March 2014: MARPS participation.** The national policies put a focus on the key affected populations (44% in Yaoundé for the MSM<sup>3</sup>; 36 % for the SW<sup>4</sup>; 16, 2 % for the truck drivers and only 28,5 % of young people know their status) to decrease new infections in this group and improve the quality of their healthcare which is very often poor because of the legal context (laws against homosexuality) and sociocultural barriers. MARPS consultations were conducted thanks to the “*Project : Positioning MARPs in the Global Fund funding in Cameroon*” financed by GIZ initiative Backup, aiming at producing an advocacy document recording MARPs priorities for their inclusion in the TB/HIV concept note; through 3 workshops with organizations working with the key populations (MSM / LGBT<sup>5</sup> / SW / DU<sup>6</sup> / YOUNG PEOPLE).
- **06<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014: Workshop TB CSO on gender issues, Human rights and community system strengthening** conducted by the CSO For Impacts in Social Health (FIS) with 33 community leaders and representatives of the affected populations, to come up with recommendations for a better healthcare for beneficiaries. This training was facilitated by the national TB control Program (NTCP) which called up to a strengthening of the community interventions in terms of access and quality of the offered services.
- **May 2014: Contribution of Cameroon TB Group** who identified 33 priorities in terms of intensification of the TB and HIV detection, the strengthening of the partnership with the civil society organizations; the health system strengthening and the community system strengthening.
- **02th -16th June 2014: Research on the satisfaction index of the coinfectd patients.** This study was made by FIS in partnership with the National TB Control Program, thanks to the financial support of the GIZ initiative Backup. It aimed at assessing the level of the patients satisfaction in HIV and TB healthcare centers and collecting their main needs in terms of counseling and treatment for them to be taken into consideration in the TB/HIV concept note.
- **24th - 25th June 2014: Focus Group with TB key affected populations: the medical staff, the prisoners and the refugees** led by the OSC FIS in the east region Cameroon. The purpose of these focus groups was to bring these populations to identify their main needs with regard to gaps observed in the national strategic plans for them to be considered in the TB/HIV concept note.
- **02th - 03rd July 2014: Common Agenda for TB Communities.** Facilitated by STOP TB Partnership and organized by FIS the workshop’s objective was to adopt a common agenda regarding the priorities formulated by the TB communities with a focus on gender, Human

---

<sup>3</sup> MSM: Men who have Sex with Men

<sup>4</sup> SW : Sex Workers

<sup>5</sup> LGBTI : Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual, Transgender, Travestite and Intersex people.

<sup>6</sup> UD : Drug Users

rights and CSS considerations, the identified priorities were then introduced to the writing committee members of the TB/HIV concept note, the head of the NTCP and representatives of the CCM.

- **25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014: Workshop of the TB/HIV concept note review** organized by Cameroon TB Group thanks to the financial support of Stop TB Partnership. The workshop's goal was to allow 30 actors of the civil society to share on the country dialogue process and to participate to the review of the concept note so as to defend their priorities and formulate recommendations to the writing committee members of the TB/HIV concept note and the CCM.

Reports of each of these groups' consultations were submitted to the writing committee of the TB/HIV concept note and to the CCM for their consideration in the elaboration of the request for fund.

Submitted on the 15th October 2014, the preparation of the TB/HIV concept note effectively raised the challenge of the implication of all the stakeholders, with a significant engagement of the civil society organizations, the key affected populations, people living with diseases which developed their priorities considering the aspects of gender, Human Rights and the community system strengthening , addressing the problems of the access and the quality of the services and ensuring good healthcare for the affected populations. Just as the Vice-president of the CCM said: "***Effective policies on free access of health services have to be put in place because it would be utopian to believe that the Global Fund will be eternal and will continue to support the country in the way it has always done.***", (CCM infos, N°002 July 2014)

However, if the participation of the civil society was effective, the leadership of the CCM was strongly questioned in the supervision of the works during the process in this sense that:

- A precise calendar of the various dialogues of the various groups of the civil society was not developed by the CCM which had for consequence that every group organized its dialogues without taking into account what others were doing, what had already been done.
- The priorities developed by the civil society representatives were weakly considered during dialogues of the writing committee members of TB/HIV concept note.
- Besides, ideally, the Global Fund recommends one and only PR<sup>7</sup> for the joined (TB / HIV) grant, however to avoid leadership issues, the CCM choose three PRS for the implementation of this grant.

Above all, the effectiveness of this grant depends upon the commitment of Cameroon Government to give its contribution (20 %).

---

<sup>7</sup> Principal Recipient