

**8<sup>th</sup> NGO Consultation Meeting**  
**Bangladesh Country Coordinating Mechanism (BCCM)**  
Organized by: Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)  
Venue: THAMES SQUARE, 754 Satmasjid Road  
Room No. 602 (Level -5), Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209  
Date: Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

**Minutes on 8<sup>th</sup> NGO Constituency Consultation Meeting**

**Introduction:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> NGO constituency meeting was organized by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at THAMES SQUARE, 754 Satmasjid Road, Room No. 602 (Level -5), Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209. The meeting supposed to be held on the last week of June, 2017. However, the date of the meeting was pushed forward for observation holy month of Ramadan and for celebration of Eid-Ul-Fitar. WEDO was the organizer of the meeting as per the decision taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> NGO constituency meeting held at CARE Bangladesh Dhaka Office.

At the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> NGO constituency consultation meeting, Dr. Mohammad Kamrul Hassan, Director of WEDO welcomed all the members of the constituency. He said that it was a great privileged for WEDO to have the opportunity to arrange such an important meeting where all the major NGOs were the participants. Dr. Hassan expressed his gratitude to the members for their presence and contribution for making BCCM functioning well that would enhance the smooth operation of global funds activities in Bangladesh. The smooth operations would ensure the eradication of TB, Malaria and HIV AIDS from Bangladesh. On behalf of the elected members of the constituency, Dr. Hassan also thanked the BCCM secretariat for their technical and financial support to arrange the meeting.

A total of 26 participants were attended in the meeting and all participants of the meeting made self-introduction. As a host organization, the Director of WEDO, Dr. Hassan facilitated the meeting. He also invited Dr. Jahangir Hossain, Director of CARE Bangladesh and Mr. Manaj K Biswas, Coordinator of BCCM to join with him for facilitation and presentation.

Afterwards, the following agendas were shared for discussions:

**Agenda:**

- 1) Review of last meeting (7<sup>th</sup>) minutes and endorsement
- 2) Update on last (90<sup>th</sup>) CCM meeting and on oversight committee visits
- 3) Open Discussion on NGO Constituency Issues
- 4) Schedule next meeting (host, location, etc.)
- 5) Miscellaneous



## 1. Review of last meeting (7<sup>th</sup>) minutes and endorsement

Dr. Mohammad Kamrul Hassan requested Dr. Jahangir (the host of the 7<sup>th</sup> NGO constituency meeting) to share the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> NGO consultation meeting. Then, Dr. Jahangir welcomed the participants in the 8<sup>th</sup> NGO consultation meeting and explained the objectives of BCCM to the NGO constituency member. Later, he shared the summary of the issues and outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> NGO consultation meeting that was held at CARE Bangladesh Dhaka office on February, 2017. Based on the full consent of the members, the last meeting minutes was endorsed.

## 2. Update on last (90<sup>th</sup>) CCM meeting and on oversight committee visits

Mr. Manaj, Coordinator of BCCM provided an update on last two meetings (89<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup>) where several discussion and decisions were made and those had been shared among the participants. He informed that the 89<sup>th</sup> BCCM meeting was held on 19 February 2017 and the 90<sup>th</sup> BCCM meeting was held on 14 May 2017. He also confirmed that the next CCM meeting (91<sup>th</sup>) would be held on the first week of August.

After that, Mr. Manaj presented the Oversight Committee Activities from January to May 2017. The activities were:

- Site Visit to Cox's Bazar on 16-18 January, 2017
- Site Visit to PR HIV – icddr,b on 16 March 2017
- Oversee the Funding Request Submission to the GF for TB, Malaria and HIV for the period of 2018-2020
- 15<sup>th</sup> Oversight Committee meeting held on 09 May 2017
- Site visit to PR TB -NTP Dhaka Office on 21 June 2017

The site visit recommendation and the decisions of 15<sup>th</sup> oversight committee meeting (held on 9<sup>th</sup> May) were also shared with the participants. The printed copy of the recommendations and decisions were also distributed among the participants of the meeting.

Later, the BCCM coordinator shared the funding request submission to the GF for TB, Malaria and HIV for the period of 2018-2020.

- Funding requests have been submitted to GF Secretariat for
  - HIV and TB on 15 March 2017;
  - Malaria on 23 March 2017
  - GF Secretariat has submitted to Technical Review panel (TRP)
- TRP Recommended to start grant making for TB and HIV components
- Grant Negotiation will be done for
  - Malaria: 05-09 June 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland
  - HIV and TB: 02-14 July 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh
  - Final Document submission for Grant Approval Committee (GAC) by 17 July 2017
- Grant signing is expected by September 2017
- Grant Implementations: From January 2018



In connection with previous meeting, Mr. Manaj also updated that they are trying to produce newsletter since last year. Hopefully, from August, this year BCCM secretariat will be able to start to publish newsletter where the activities of BCCM, including success and problems will be highlighted.

### **3. Open discussion on NGO constituency issues**

The open discussion on NGO constituency issues was facilitated by Dr. Mohammad Kamrul Hassan and Dr. Jahangir Hossain. A number of issues were raised from the participants during the discussion. Those were as follows:

#### *Concern over less attendance in the meeting*

The first issue from the participants was the number of participants attending in the meeting. The number of the participant was smaller than the previous meeting i.e., in the 7<sup>th</sup> consultation meeting a total of 42 members was present. One of the participants was asking about the reason of less participation and questioning if the constituency is becoming less effective. In response, Dr. Hassan and Dr. Jahangir explained that the less participation might be for the meeting was held just after the Eid-UI-Fitar and some of the members were unable to attend as they were committed to attend other meetings on the same day. A few members had been suffering from "Chikungunia" fever so that they also apologized over telephone for not enabling to attend. Besides, a number of NGO offices are situated outside Dhaka that could be a reason also. Dr. Hassan informed the participants that all the members were invited to attend the meeting via email and for re-confirmation telephone called was made. In some cases, face-to-face communication was made to invite the members. Many of the members confirmed to attend. However, at the last moment, some of them canceled and others never communicated.

#### *Measures to be taken to increase the attendance*

To make the NGO consultancy more effective and to ensure more participation, some of the participants including Dr. Afroza, Executive Director of NUS proposed to provide travel allowance for participation in the meeting. In response, Mr. Manaj, Coordinator of BCCM said that it's not possible currently as there is no budget for member's attendance in the meeting from Global Fund.

Besides, one participant proposed to change the membership policy by adding clause like cancelation of membership for not attending in three successive meetings. Especially, those who are elected members must prioritize BCCM meetings as they are committed to do that during election process. If any of the elected members was unable to attend, he/she could nominate a representative from their respective organization. Dr. Jahangir informed that the issue was also discussed in the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, the members wanted more consultation to settle the issue.

Mr. Arif, Director of Damien Foundation suggested communicating the benefit of attending meeting to the member NGOs that would enhance their participation. Some other participants also agreed with him and added that since there is no direct benefit for NGOs, the members might less active in participating meeting. He also recommended using the network of PR to ensure more participation in the meetings.



Dr. Hassan of WEDO suggested that the member NGOs could be requested to nominate any responsible person from the member NGO to participate in the meeting if the focal person for BCCM of the NGO is not available.

#### *Regional consultation meeting for NGOs*

Dr. Samsun Nahar of BRAC suggested arranging more regional consultation meeting on specific disease based issues i.e., the diseases (TB/Malaria/HIV AIDS) which is prevalent in that particular area. It is also suggested that the NGOs those are not the member of BCCM but specialized and working on the related field in the region should be invited to participate in the regional meetings. Dr. Aforza of NUS added that the NGOs from that particular region could attend and contribute in the BCCM activities that would enhance the BCCM activities in Bangladesh.

#### *Membership*

There was a lively debate on the issue of membership in the meeting. Some of the participants were expressed their opinion to decrease the number of member in BCCM, they argued that the NGOs who were very active in the field of three diseases should only be the part of BCCM. On the other hand, some of the participants were in favor of increase membership. They expressed that more membership means more opinion from diverse context that would contribute more to BCCM activities as there would be thoughts from various perspectives. At the end of the discussion on the issue, all the participants reached in consensus to encourage more participation from NGOs that would make BCCM more effective.

#### *Expansion of BCMM NGO Constituency beyond Global Fund*

Dr. Afroza of NUS suggested, if possible, expanding the BCCM NGO Constituency area of work beyond Global Fund. She proposed to make the constituency a TB/Malaria/HIV AIDS disease centered platform, a forum not only focused on the Global Fund supported activities but also extend the focus on the other donors or self-funded activities on those three diseases in Bangladesh. She suggested the constituency should work in more integrated way and should search for other sources of fund from various funding agencies so that the fight against TB/Malaria/ HIV AIDS would be more sustainable. Majority of the participants agreed with her view. Dr. Jahangir informed that the issue was raised and discuss in the previous meeting also. However, more consultation would be needed on that issue later.

#### *More collaboration with government regarding exchange of information and report on TB/Malaria/HIV AIDS*

Some of the participants suggested increasing the collaboration between NGO and government regarding exchange of information and report on TB/Malaria/HIV AIDS. One of the participants expressed concern that the updated reports on the three diseases were not available and not easily accessible. In response, Dr. Jahangir said that the reports are available in related government websites. Mr. Manaj informed that the DG health has a very good MIS system; day to day updated reports are available and easily accessible. The NGOs could get the updated information by sending an application to DG Health. Besides, Dr. Aforza of NUS and Dr. Samsun Nahar of BRAC stress importance on working of government and NGOs more coherent and cohesive manner regarding sending report from the field.

*Affiliation/Recommendation Letter from CMM for NGOs*

In response to one issue regarding membership benefits, Mr Manaj, Coordinator of BCCM informed/proposed that the members of BCCM under NGO constituency could avail, if needed, affiliation/recommendation letter from BCCM. The letter could be used later as a support document when the member NGOs submit proposal or report to any donor agency or might be used in any other related purposes.

**4. Schedule next meeting (host, location, etc.)**

Mr. Sheikh Nazrul Islam, Project Director of FDSR had confirmed over telephone during the meeting to host and to organize the 9<sup>th</sup> NGO constituency meeting by November, 2017. The date and venue will be shared by Mr. Islam later.

**5. Miscellaneous**

Dr. Mohammad Kamrul Hassan informed that until conducting next meeting WEDO will coordinate the NGO constituency activities and on behalf of the NGO constituency. He requested to communicate with him, when required, to the Cell number 01715-025347 and email: [khassan75@gmail.com](mailto:khassan75@gmail.com)

As there were no other issue to discuss on that day, Dr. Hassan gave thanks to all the participants on behalf of WEDO for attending the meeting and their active participation and valuable contributions.



Dr. Md. Kamrul Hassan  
Director, WEDO  
Convener of the 8<sup>th</sup> NGO Constituency Meeting, BCCM