



Bangladesh Country Coordinating Mechanism (BCCM)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
BCCM Secretariat

Subject : Meeting with Damien Foundation on Performance evaluation
Date (day) : 13 November 2023 (Monday)
Meeting Chaired By : Md. Saidur Rahman, Additional Secretary (Admin and WH), HSD
Other participants : Total: 12 (Committee member-06, Demien Foundation-03 and BCCM Secretariat-03)
Venue of the meeting : Mini Conference Room, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Meeting Steered By : Manaj Kumar Biswas, BCCM Coordinator, BCCM Secretariat

Meeting Agenda:

Agenda Item	Title of Agenda Item	Facilitators
Agenda Item: 1	Presentation on Performance of Demien Foundation as SRs (PR-BRAC) under The Global Fund Grant	Demien Foundation
Agenda Item: 2	Communication Related to dis/continuation as SRs under The Global Fund grant (GC7)	BCCM Secretariat
Agenda Item: 3	Review of documents related to SRs selection process under the Global Fund grants	BCCM Secretariat

At the outset **Chair of the meeting Md. Saidur Rahman, Additional Secretary (Admin and WH), HSD, MOHFW** and the Chair, Expert Committee welcomed all participants. He requested BCCM Coordinator to steer the meeting according to the predetermined agenda.

Background of the meeting: Mr. Manaj Kumar Biswas, BCCM Coordinator informed the meeting that communication regarding reduction of their working areas by PR-BRAC from Damien Foundation Headquarter located in Belgium (attached as annexure A) has been raised in 49th BCCM oversight Committee meeting. Damien Foundation (DF) also requested support to continue their current partnership. After discussion, the meeting formed has formed a committee to review the claim of Damien Foundation. As per decision, BCCM Secretariat has organized this meeting.

Summary of discussion:

Damien Foundation: Dr. Mahfuza Rifat, Country Representative, Damien Foundation Bangladesh delivered a detailed presentation (attached herewith as annexure B) on the activities of Damien Foundation in Bangladesh since 1972. She highlighted followings issue:

1. Started to work with Leprosy in Bangladesh in 1972. Started TB program in 1994 and expanded coverage of Leprosy also.
2. Pioneered in implementation of the MDR TB treatment and different combination of drug to TB treatment in Bangladesh
3. Implementing The Global Fund grants as Sub-Recipient (SR) under PR-BRAC in Round 3, year 2004.

In the concluding remark, she requested CCM interventions to continue their works as current status.



BCCM Coordinator informed the meeting that BRAC has sent an official communication to Damien Foundation describing the new coverage where the coverage has been reduced to 05 districts (fully where 04th Upazilla was under BRAC previously) from 13 district (attached as annexure C). Now it is confirmed that PR-BRAC has not excluded Damien Foundation from the consortium but drastically reduced their working area.

The Committee Member: Kazi Zebunnessa Begum, Vice Chair (CSO), BCCM and Expert Committee member queried about the prior communication of documentation. If any, she requested to share. She also asked whether BRAC shared any review of performance with NTP or TB Technical Committee.

Dr. Asif Mujtaba Mahmud, TB Expert Member of BCCM Oversight Committee informed the meeting that neither Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM), which is an independent Expert review of the program, nor the epidemiological analysis (Epi analysis) suggested any observation or changes.

Director General of Health Services: Prof. Dr. Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, Director General, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) opined that all PRs and SRs are working under National TB Program. Thus, BCCM and MOHFW should take care of the program from the view of national interest and may participate in review and discussion on the program activities beyond BCCM scope of work.

Damien Foundation: Country Representative, Damien Foundation Bangladesh confirmed that they did not receive any communication regarding the issue. Country representative, Damien Foundation also referred her presentation that, subnational level target setting based on flat national estimate is not a correct scientific approach. BRAC is evaluating the performance using subnational target based on the flat national estimate, without considering the positive trend.

BCCM Secretariat: BCCM Coordinator also informed the meeting that Richard Cunliffe, Senior Fund Portfolio Manager, The Global Fund has clearly mentioned in 82nd BCCM meeting about the SR selection process which is the sole responsibility of The PR. The BCCM and its committees can select PRs but can not intervene selection of SRs. However as sudden change of implementing entities may disrupt the program implementation, BCCM can review the issue and suggest necessary action. Moreover, BCCM endorsed the funding request with the list of SRs. Thus, BCCM can consider this as a compliance issue when the listed SRs are dropped at the beginning of the implementation. The Global Fund “Grant Regulation” (Attached here as annexure D) also described that PRs are responsible for SRs performance (Section 4.3). He requested the committee member to review all these documents (provided in the meeting folder) and take decision accordingly.

The Chair of the meeting requested Damien Foundation to send the issue in writings to the Oversight Committee member. He also assured that this Expert Committee will also discuss the issue with PR-BRAC. After discussion and review of documents, this expert committee will communicate their suggestion and recommendation.

Decision: *The meeting decided to that the Expert Committee headed by Additional Secretary (Admin & WH) would meet with PR BRAC separately and analyze information from DF and BRAC then make the recommendations to find out the solution stated in the letter from Damien Foundation Head Quarter, Belgium.*



Having no other issues to discuss, the Chairperson thanked all participants for their attendance and active participation and wrapped up the meeting.

 13.11.23
(Md. Saidur Rahman)

Additional Secretary (Admin and WH),
Health Services Division, MOHFW;
Chair, BCCM Oversight Committee
and
Chair, BCCM Expert Committee