



December 07, 2015

Dr. Valeri KVARATSKHELIA
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social
Affairs of Georgia
Chairman of the Project Board

Dear Dr. Kvaratskhelia,

I present my cordial compliments and with reference to the letter dated 3.12.2015, on the first package of deliverables presented during the Board Meeting held on 20.11.2015, based on the *Agreement №P/350304/10 on state procurement of advisory services between the Ministry of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs of Georgia and the Global Alliance for Health and Social Compact LTD, dated 07 April of 2015*, I would like to communicate that the second package of deliverables is expected to be presented to the MoLHSA by mid-December and there will be a number of documents which complement the documents presented in the first package as underpinning detail pieces to those proposed interventions.

At the same time, I would like to express our full commitment and openness to discuss all the comments presented within the framework of a bilateral meeting during our next visit in Georgia, that will take place back-to-back to the second package of documents submission and have a comprehensive view from the both sides on the proposed interventions for the Georgian Health System.

Although, I would like particularly refer to the area of work under point 11 of our contract “*Creation of complex assessment tools for public health major risks and challenges and its adaptation*” and its description area of assessment approved by the Board Meeting on 9.09.2015 (Analyze the current framework (status) and the degree of readiness of the assessment tools for public health major risks and challenges; Develop recommendation to the MoLHSA on managing assessment tools for public health major risks and challenges).

The external consultant proposed the following methodology to tackle the mentioned objective based on 3 phases: inception phase - in-country assessment to identify expectations and determine deliverables; in-depth assessment phase – to assess the capacity of the public health system to respond to public health identified needs; production of deliverables - in line with identified list of expectations.

During the first in-country mission the consultant focused on discussing the expectations for deliverables under *Component 11 Creation of complex assessment tools for public health major risks and challenges and its adaptation* with key decision-makers at the MoHLSA (Mr. Valery Kvaratskhelia, Deputy Minister, Mrs. Ketevan Goginashvili, Head of Strategy Unit) and NCDC (Mr. Paata Imnadze, Deputy director, Communicable Disease Department: Anna Kasradze, Medical Statistics Department: Maia Kereselidze, Manana Tsintsadze and Ketevan Gambashidze).



The unanimous interpretation of the included language under component 11 was that it related to health threats and public health security only and the consultant was referred to NCDC to discuss with management regarding the priorities under this specific area - Public Health Threats. The interview highlighted the inclusion of the NCDC in the CDC's Global Health Security Initiative and the fact that most priorities are either covered or are planned to be covered by different donors, therefore the only unmet need was support to update Georgian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan. After literature review, the third-party assessment qualified Georgia as meeting most components for responding to public health threats.

As both self-assessment and third party assessment showed significant progress and little need in additional support, the decision was to not support Phases 2 and 3.

In the context of the above mentioned facts, I would like to highlight a tremendous discrepancy between the approved specifications in the ToR and for the first time expressed much wider expectations according to the letter dated 3.12.15 to GAHSC (*overall deficiencies of the current public health system; recommendations to unified system for disease control and public healthcare, development of legal framework and regulations to integrate it in the healthcare system, assessment and recommendations regarding institutional framework; assessment and recommendation for financial capacity; assessment and recommendations for infrastructure and equipment; recommendations to the role and place of preventive medicine in the development of the current healthcare system in Georgia*). Thus, the consultant followed the approved ToR and delivered the product accordingly.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our openness to discuss and clarify all those mentioned above and any other issues might emerge.

Looking forward to develop our bilateral partnership I present to you, dear Deputy Minister Dr. Kvaratskhelia, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours very truly,

Dr. Jean Elie MALKIN
President of the Global Alliance
for Health and Social Compact

