



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**18th MEETING OF THE EAC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON
HIV & AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS**

**NAIROBI SAFARI CLUB
NAIROBI, KENYA,**

9th -11th May 2016

MEETING REPORT

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MAY 2016

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is currently finalising pending activities under the EAC HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (2012–2014/15) for the financial year 2015 /2016. The HIV AIDS programme, with support from the government of Sweden through SIDA, is currently winding down its operations for the financial year 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016. The EAC Secretariat convened the 18th Technical Working Group (TWG) on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs on 9th to 11th May 2016 in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya to discuss broad programmatic issues, including review of programme implementation, preparation for the High Level Dialogue on sustainable financing for Universal Health and HIV & AIDS coverage in the region, among others. The meeting was held in preparation for the upcoming Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health meeting scheduled for 22nd June 2016.

1.2 Convening of the Meeting

The EAC Secretariat convened the 18th meeting of Technical Working Group (TWG) on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs in accordance with the EAC Calendar of Activities for the year 2015/2016. The 18th meeting of the TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs was held from **9th to 11th May 2016 at Nairobi Safari Club, the Republic of Kenya**. The meeting's outputs will feed into the proceedings of the **EAC Think Tank on HIV Prevention and Control** scheduled for 12th to 13th May, 2016 and subsequently, to the 12th Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health and **22nd Ordinary Meeting of** the Sectoral Committee on Health later this year.

1.3 Constitution of the Bureau

In accordance with the Rules and Procedures of the East African Community, the meeting was chaired by **Dr. Robert Josiah**, Deputy Programme Manager National AIDS Control Programme, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Children and Elderly, United Republic of Tanzania and **Ms. Sarah Khanakwa**, Head of Resource Mobilization at the Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC), Republic of Uganda, was the rapporteur, supported by **the EAC Secretariat**.

The meeting was attended by members of the TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs from the EAC Partner States, Civil Society Organizations, and

Development Partner Representatives. A detailed list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

1.4 Agenda of the Meeting

The meeting considered the agenda and programme for the 18th meeting on the TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs and adopted it with minor changes. The agenda and programme for the meeting are hereto attached as **Annex II and III** respectively.

1.5 Remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting and encouraged them to focus on the meeting objectives in order to achieve the expected results of the meeting. He thanked the EAC Secretariat for their spirited efforts in promoting integration in the EAC, and wished the experts fruitful deliberations.

1.6 Meeting Objectives

The main objective of the meeting was to review progress of the programme implementation. Specifically the meeting aimed to;

- i. Consider programme progress for the period July 2015 to March 2016;
- ii. Update the meeting on the proposed EAC Regional Integrated Health Programme (ERIHP) 2016-2020, and map out strategies for mobilizing additional resources;
- iii. Consider the findings and recommendations arising from the evaluation of the EAC HIV and AIDS Strategic plan and implementation framework 2008 to 30th June 2015 and recommend ways and means of improving programme implementation;
- iv. Update members on the progress report from the Expert Working Group on sustainable financing for Health and HIV on progress with preparations for the High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Sustainable Financing;
- v. Finalize preparations for convening the regional High Level Dialogue on Sustainable Financing;

The expected outputs of the meeting were:

- i. Revised End of Strategic Plan evaluation report;
- ii. Adopted report on ‘Sustainable Financing Analysis of Universal Health and HIV Coverage in the East Africa Community’;

- iii. Finalised Issue Paper for the regional High Level Dialogue on Sustainable Financing;
- iv. Finalised programme for the High Level Dialogue; and
- v. Meeting report

2.0 Consideration of the various items on the agenda.

2.1 Presentation of the previous decisions of the Technical Working Group and Progress on the implementation of the EAC regional HIV and AIDS program

The EAC Principal HIV and AIDS Officer updated the meeting on the status of the implementation of the decisions of the 21st Sectoral Committee on Health held in October 2015, and the progress programme implementation for the period July 2015 to April 2016. The status of the previous decisions of the Technical Working Group and detailed progress report on the implementation of the EAC regional HIV and AIDS program are hereto attached as **Annex IV** and **Annex V** respectively.

The experts took note of the progress in implementation and commended the EAC and Partner States for the achievements. The expert made the following observations:

- The programme had the approved EAC HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs Multisectoral Strategic plan and implementation framework 2015 - 2020 that was still valid, yet a new programme document had been developed.
- Presentation on progress of previous decisions should have a clear citation of the decision/directive numbers of the Sectoral Council where applicable
- Need to gather relevant data in time to allow adequate time for preparing the regional Global fund application without delays.
- Need to explore and include climate change linkages to health and HIV and AIDS, so as to inform our strategic plans, in a bid to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The need to have continued engagement of the high level stakeholders in all Partner States, to ensure buy-in and commitment to participate in the High Level Dialogue on sustainable financing;
- Progress had been made in developing the regional report on implementation of the ESA commitments but the experts had not seen the draft. The experts further noted that UNESCO RST intends to disseminate this report during the upcoming International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference in Durban in July 2016. The experts

requested for the draft regional report on progress in implementation of the ESA Commitment in preparation for the IAS Durban conference in July 2016.

The 18th Meeting of the EAC HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs recommended to the 22nd EAC Sectoral Committee on Health to:

- a) **Take note of the progress made in implementation of the previous decisions of the TWG;**
- b) **Direct the EAC Secretariat to explore and include climate change linkages to health and HIV and AIDS in the newly developed EAC Integrated Health Programme 2016 -2020;**
- c) **Direct the EAC Secretariat to support continued engagement of the high level stakeholders in the Partner States, to ensure buy-in and commitment to participate in the HLD on sustainable financing;**
- d) **Direct the EAC Secretariat to submit the draft regional progress report on implementation of the ESA Commitments to the EAC Partner States for review by 20th May 2016 ;**

2.2 Updates on the progress of the Sustainable Financing initiatives, including the upcoming High Level Dialogue scheduled for June 2016

The EAC Principal HIV and AIDS Officer (PHAO) updated the experts on the progress made by the Regional EWG on sustainable financing for Health and HIV and AIDS in preparation for the HLD on sustainable financing for health and HIV and AIDS. He informed experts that the EWG in collaboration with UNAIDS Regional Support Team East and Southern Africa (UNAIDS RST-ESA) and Oxford Policy Management (OPM) had concluded the sustainable financing analysis for universal health and HIV coverage. The EWG had validated the ‘Sustainable Financing Analysis for Universal Health and HIV Coverage in the East Africa Community’ report hereto attached as **(Annex VI)**.

The experts were further informed that the EWG had developed an Issue Paper on sustainable financing for the EAC region **(Annex VII)** to guide the HLD meeting for the EAC region scheduled for June 2016. He also provided details on the planned HLD meeting as indicated in the concept note hereto attached as **Annex VIII**.

He highlighted the following issues that required further discussions

- The proposed number of delegates per Partner State
- Programme for the HLD
- Logistics for the meeting financing and other wise
- Selection/identification of high level experts to make presentations
- Selection of the Key note speaker

The PHAO also informed the experts about the available budget for the HLD from SIDA, highlighting the deficit.

The meeting commended the EWG on Sustainable financing and the EAC Secretariat on the good progress made in preparations for the HLD Meeting. They however made the following observations:

- The number of proposed delegates per Partner State was too big and would require a huge budget to sustain them during the HLD meeting.
- The issue paper was detailed and long, it required summarising in form of a synopsis for easy reading by the ministers at country level
- The need to convene in-country consultations to bring more key stakeholders on board for their buy-in and commitment to the Sustainable Financing (SF) processes;
- Need for each Partner State to identify in-country key stakeholders to engage in developing the country status reports on SF to be presented at the HLD.
- Members noted that the HLD is a very important meeting and therefore needs proper planning from the country level and regional level
- Importance of soliciting for commitment to support sustainable financing initiatives from both the Ministers responsible for Finance and Health, during the in-country consultations;

Following the detailed discussions, the EAC experts developed a standardized guide below to enable the countries develop country status reports on sustainable financing for presentations during the HLD meeting. The proposed guideline for country level presentations to the HLD meeting;

- a) *Summary of Macro economic situation*
- b) *Background – Health indicators*
 - *Return on investment*
 - *Investment Cases*
- c) *Funding levels*
- d) *Existing financing sources*
- e) *Gaps*
- f) *Available options for sustainable financing for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and HIV*

- g) Success stories and challenges*
- h) Road map towards achieving sustainable financing for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and HIV*

The 18th meeting of the Technical Working Group on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs recommends to the EAC Secretariat to:

- a) Submit a formal request to all EAC Partner States to develop country status reports on sustainable financing using the agreed upon guidelines by 17th May 2016;**
- b) Request the EAC Partner States to identify and engage key in-country stakeholders in developing the country status reports on sustainable financing to be presented by the Ministers responsible for Finance during the HLD meeting;**
- c) Urge members of the EWG on sustainable financing to take the lead in convening in-country preparations for the HLD meeting; and**
- d) Request for technical and financial assistance from development partners to facilitate the convening of the HLD meeting in June 2016**

2.3 Consideration of the draft report on End of Strategic Plan Evaluation for the EAC HIV&AIDS Programme 2008-2015

The EAC Secretariat has conducted an End of Strategic Plan Evaluation for the EAC HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs regional Multisectoral Strategic Plan and Implementation Framework 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2015. The evaluation was conducted during the months of February and March with its main objectives being to:

- i. Assess the achievements of the project against the set objectives and targets;
- ii. Assess the cost effectiveness and impact of the programme;
- iii. Document lessons learned from the programme implementation; and
- iv. Identify areas for improvement in the next phase of funding

The consultant, **Prof. Paul Bukuluki** from Makerere University presented the preliminary findings of the end of strategic plan evaluation to the members in the meeting. The Evaluation report is hereto attached as **Annex IX**.

The experts took note of the achievements and challenges of the implementation of the strategic plan and observed that:

- The consultant had not included a list of key informants/respondents that participated in the assessment;

- The report had no section on how the analysis was conducted and has a weak methodology ;
- The report did not highlight private sector participation and engagement among the overarching recommendations;
- The report failed to highlight the weak regional response on TB, and make a recommendation on how TB should be strategically integrated in the EAC strategies
- MIPA principles were not articulated in the context of Regional Civil Society
- The report should also show how the EAC performed in terms of the set indicators (the impact of the EAC HIV program). However, since there were no clear indicators at the beginning of the strategic plan to aid in measuring the outcome, the consultant may look at planned activities vs achievement
- Cost-effective analysis of the strategic plan should be included in the report;
- The acknowledgement section is not comprehensive ;
- The environmental impact assessment section does not include issues of health and HIV, and need to ensure that these are enforced at all level.
- Current provisions for holding private sector to account for funds allocated under EIA for impact mitigation including health and HIV and AIDS and Gender were not well enforced so as to benefit the health sector;

The 18th TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIS recommends to The 22nd Sectoral Committee on Health to:

- a) Take note of the end of Strategic Plan Evaluation report;**

The 18th TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIS recommends to the EAC Secretariat to:

- b) Urge the consultant to take note of the key observations by the TWG, incorporate necessary changes in the report, and submit the final draft end of Strategic plan Evaluation report by 20th May 2016**
- c) Submit the revised draft end of Strategic plan Evaluation report to the Partner States for review by 22nd May 2016;**
- d) Explore and develop a regional strategy/mechanism for strengthening the implementation of impact mitigation interventions for health, HIV and AIDS under all capital**

infrastructure development projects at both national and regional level.

2.4 Updates on the African Union Commission (AUC) Health Experts meeting

The EAC Principal HIV and AIDS Officer updated members on the proceedings of the AUC Health Experts meeting held 24th to 26th April 2016 held in Addis Ababa. The experts received updates on:

- i. African Health Strategy (2016-2030);
- ii. Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030) for the implementation of the Continental Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
- iii. Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;
- iv. Common Africa Position on the High Level Meeting on AIDS (8-10 June 2016);
- v. Concept document on the establishment of the African Health Volunteers Corps;
- vi. Proposal for a Roadmap for Demographic Dividend

He reminded the experts that all documents were to be approved by the AU Ministers of Health 21st May 2016, on the margins of the World Health Assembly.

The EAC Principal HIV and AIDS Officer requested members to take note of the new developments, review the documents, and make input before the Ministerial session in Geneva. All documents discussed at the AUC experts meeting are available at

<http://www.au.int/en/newsevents/27513/meeting-health-experts-working-group-au-specialized-technical-committee-health>.

The experts took note of the updates and pledged to organize themselves at country level to review the instruments and develop position papers for the ministers that will attend the meeting

The 18th TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs recommends to the 22nd Sectoral Committee of on Health to direct the EAC Secretariat to harmonise and coordinate the process of country consultations on relevant instruments in preparation for key high level meetings.

2.5 Update on the proposed EAC Integrated Health Programme (EIHP) 2016-2020

The PHAO presented the Integrated Health Programme (EIHP) 2016–2020; which is the overarching programming document integrating interventions under HIV and AIDS, Sexual Reproductive Health, gender and immigration sectors. He informed experts that the programme is informed by the current global drive for integration, and the need to improve cost effectiveness in programming.

He presented the structure of the EIHP document, which highlighted the;

- Background to EAC; introduction, situation analysis, problem statement , achievements
- Goal, purpose objective, Strategic Actions
- Vision, Mission, Goal, objectives, core values and principles, and policy guidelines
- Resource needs and programme sustainability
- Monitoring and evaluation

The experts took note of the EIHP and commended the EAC Secretariat for developing a well-articulated EIHP. They welcomed the integration but were concerned about having parallel documents including the EAC HIV and AIDS, TB and STI strategic plan and implementation framework 2015 -2020.

The following observations were made after the presentation;

- Some outputs are stated as indicators – these need to be rephrased
- That interventions on sustainable financing are considered under objective 4 instead of having sustainable financing as an independent objective;
- TB was not strongly presented in the programme document, – need specific interventions and deliverables on TB
- The EIHP did not have adequate focus on non-communicable diseases in general, yet there is a notable epidemic transition in the EAC Region.
- The use of the word ‘refugees’ and internally displaced persons (IDPs) is narrow, instead use ‘**migrants**’
- There is a regional programme on TB called ‘**Challenge TB Eastern Africa**’ that is implemented in 5 countries in the Eastern and Horn of Africa (covering 3 EAC Partner States- Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania) with support from USAID. The members noted the need to contact challenge TB for collaboration

The 18th TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIS recommends to the 22nd Sectoral Committee on Health to:

- a) Take note of the EAC Integrated Health Programme 2016 - 2020;**
- b) Direct the EAC Secretariat to review and incorporate proposed changes into the EIHP and submit the revised final EIHP programme 2016 – 2020 for consideration by the Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health;**
- c) Direct the EAC Secretariat to explore opportunities to strengthen the TB component in the EIHP in collaboration with regional and international TB partners including Challenge TB.**
- d) Constitute a small team to integrate TB programing in the EIHP program;**

2.6 Updates from Implementing Partners updated the Experts on their programmes.

2.6.1 Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium (KANCO)

The meeting was informed that KANCO is a national CSO implementing a regional Harm reduction programme among People who Inject Drugs (PWID) in 8 countries. The programme which commenced in October 2015 is funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. The experts were further informed that the program covers the broader Eastern Africa Region and the Indian Ocean Islands of Mauritius and Seychelles, and aims to increase access to essential HIV and Harm Reduction Services for people who inject drugs. A detailed presentation is hereto attached as **Annex X**.

The following comments were made by the TWG after KANCO's presentation;

- The experts noted that the issue of drug abuse is handled as security issue and this is normally leaves out the health component; plan for a mechanism to include drug abuse in the health program at regional level
- The data provided in the regional programme about drug abuse was not representative in some instances, and required updating.
- Some areas indicated missing data for some Partner States and the meeting was informed that information could be provided by experts from relevant Partner States.

2.6.2 Presentation by Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations (EANNASO)

The meeting was updated on the operations of EANNASO's Regional Communication and Coordination Platform (RCCP), supported by the Global Fund. A detailed presentation is attached as **Annex XI**.

2.6.3 Briefing by the East Africa Health Platform (EAHP)

Members were informed that the EAHP draws its mandate from the Consultative Dialogue Framework inform of operationalizing the East Africa Community Treaty provision on engaging non States actors including the Private Sector, Faith Based Organisations, Civil Society and pharmaceutical companies.

The TWG took note of the intention of the EAHP management to formalise collaboration with the EAC Secretariat and Partner States.

2.6.4 Presentation by the East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA)

The expert from ECSA-HC updated the meeting on their operations including existing projects and programmes. These include the EAPHLN project and the ECSA-Uganda SRL Global Fund regional project. He informed the meeting that the EAPHLN project aims to support establishment of a network of efficient, high quality, accessible public health laboratories for the diagnosis and surveillance of TB and other communicable diseases in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania & Uganda with ECSA and EAC is supporting regional activities.

He further informed the experts that the first phase of the project had come to an end and the project was now in its second phase that a five year \$78 million regional initiative.

For the ECSA- Uganda SRL Global Fund Regional Grant, he informed members that the focus is on;

- Regional- NRLs – Lab Networking
- Trainings – SRL services; Technologies and Lab accreditation
- Regional Disease Monitoring and Operational Research
- Quality Lab services to Key Populations

2.6.5 Presentation by FHI 360

The Chief of Party for the USAID Cross-Border Health Integrated Partnership Project (CB-HIPP) programme updated the experts on the activities they had implemented, including

- Data collection in Kenya (Busia, Malaba, Port Victoria/Sio Port, Taveta) and Uganda (Busia, Malaba, Majanji) and data analysis is ongoing
- CB-HIPP worked with NASCOP to conduct a cross-border KP training for 52 health workers drawn from Busia County, Kenya and Busia and Tororo districts Uganda
- Discussions are planned between USAID and EAC with a proposed quarterly meeting to update on CB-HIPP progress and discuss project implementation

The following comments were made after presentations by the implementing partners;

- Members observed that the implementing partners were not providing regular update on the operational, programme processes to the EAC secretariat. The EAC Secretariat was therefore not in position to provide updates and relevant support to the Partner States on issues regarding the projects.
- The experts raised concerns that the EAC Secretariat lacks a framework/mechanism to track programs of regional implementing partners.
- The experts noted that there was no clear formalized mechanism for communication between regional implementing partners (who were purportedly collaborating with the EAC Secretariat) and the EAC Secretariat
- Observed reluctance among implementing partners to willingly share information on programme implementation

The experts took note of the various programmes as presented by the implementing partners.

The 18th TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIS recommends to the EAC Secretariat to:

- a) **Engage KANCO and other partners implementing the Harm reduction programmes, to establish a regional Expert Working Group (EWG) on harm reduction;**

- b) Urge regional implementing Partners to submit quarterly updates (at least one page) to the EAC Secretariat;**
- c) Establish a regional reporting framework / mechanism to enhance accountability and reporting among implementing partners in the EAC region; and**
- d) Develop and sign Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to formalize working relationship with regional implementing partners and EAC Secretariat for better coordination, operations and accountability.**

2.7 Proposed roadmap to hosting the High Level Dialogue on Sustainable financing for the EAC Region

The rapporteur of the Expert Working Group on sustainable financing presented a synopsis of the work undertaken by EWG. These include

- i. Development of the sustainable financing Analysis for Universal Health and HIV coverage for the EAC region;
- ii. Issue paper on sustainable Financing analysis
- iii. Programme for the HLD

The experts took note of the progress made in preparing for the HLD meeting.

The final program for the HLD meeting scheduled for 23rd June 2016 are attached hereto as **Annex XII**.

Comments on the presentation included;

- Members agreed to have final product as the ‘Adoption of the Action Framework on sustainable financing for the EAC Region’
- The experts noted the need to have interactive session with inputs from development partners, civil Society

The 18th TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIS recommends to the Regional Think Tank to:

- a) Take note of the report on sustainable financing analysis for universal health and HIV coverage for the EAC region;**
- b) Adopt the regional report on sustainable financing analysis for universal health and HIV coverage for the EAC region; and forward the same to the 12th Sectoral Council of Ministers of health for consideration; and**
- c) Adopt the programme the concept note and final program for the HLD meeting,**

2.8 Consideration of the implementation arrangement for the minimum package of services for key and vulnerable populations along transport corridors in East Africa

The PHAO presented the implementation arrangement for the minimum package of services for key and vulnerable populations along transport corridors in East African Community to the experts. The chapter highlights the roles of different stakeholders, detailing financing, monitoring and evaluation arrangements, among others. The experts reviewed the chapter and provided inputs, attached hereto is the **Annex XIII**.

The 18th TWG on HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs recommends to the EAC Secretariat to:

- a) Incorporate the revised chapter in the minimum package of services for key and vulnerable populations along transport corridors in East African Community; and**
- b) Submit the final draft of the minimum package of services for key and vulnerable populations along transport corridors in East African Community to the 12th Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health for approval.**

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 2130hrs.

Signed on this 11th day of May 2016

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**Dr. Ahmed Mohammed
Khatib**

Dr. Shaban Mugerwa

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