

Dear Maren,

It seems that there is nothing more to discuss.

HQ should advise the CO and Shan how to prepare the 3MDG proposal and provide the final approval of the below mentioned modifications to the HIV intervention.

Thank you.

Birke

**From:** Paech, Maren [mailto:maren.paech@malteser-international.org]

**Sent:** 14 November 2013 17:37

**To:** Herzbruch, Birke

**Cc:** Scherrer Beate; OO, Minn Naing; Thet, Aye Aye; Serafin, Gerhard; Kaltenbach, Johannes; Ruhmich, Christof; Brenn, Isabel

**Subject:** AW: meeting minutes

Dear Birke, dear Beate,

I fully understand your argumentation. But there are new developments here which do not allow space for negotiation anymore. Christof offered to brief you on that via skype and will inform the team during the CPM.

That means for the 3MDG proposal and budget:

- Distribution of condoms is only possible to PLHIV and their partners
- No other condom distribution is possible (also not via PSI or peer group).

*Population Services International*

Towards 3MDG we suggest to argue as follows:

As we have to reduce the budget anyway, we like to focus on the ARV patients and therefore reduce the above mentioned activities.

As 3MDG wants to send the templates this week, it has to be discussed with them asap so they adjust the logframe and workplan accordingly.

*Secretary General*

Mr. Radtke is only in the office on 19<sup>th</sup> November to sign the project approval, so until then this has to be clarified in case he likes to see the proposal documents.

Best regards

Maren

**Von:** Birke Herzbruch [mailto:birke.herzbruch@malteser-international.org]

**Gesendet:** Donnerstag, 14. November 2013 02:52

**An:** Paech, Maren

**Cc:** Scherrer Beate; OO, Minn Naing; Thet, Aye Aye; Serafin, Gerhard

**Betreff:** RE: meeting minutes

Dear Maren,

*Deputy Secretary General*

I thought my email to Sid was clear on what is possible and what not in terms of condom distributions, available partners, practices and international standards for Malteser International.

I cannot believe that HQ is so resistant as not to see the writings on the wall of the new pope who publicly stated that condoms are permissible when it comes to HIV prevention. Why should Malteser be more catholic than the Holy Mother Church itself. This has to be renegotiated!

Hence, there cannot be any deviation from these practices in this point in time for the Special Regions. Condom distribution in Mong lar is covered through PSI but Pang Kham needs the peers and Malteser will still be the middle man in transport.

Also prevention starts with the FSW, this is where the circle of infection starts, not just with PLH and their partners, this approach does not bear any logic.

3MDG has changed its priorities over the last 2 years towards Harm reduction and we were lucky to get exceptional funding for the Special Regions for what we do. As you know 2014 will be our last year with 3MDG on HIV and then condom distribution through PSI will be no longer an option as condoms are provided by GF in Kind which is not acceptable for PSI due to their own branding.

But also, it should not matter whether this particular donor includes or not prevention now as an activity (by the way 3MDG prescribes itself to the NAP and supports all aspects of the national plan – incl. prevention – 3MDG has strongly urged us to get funding from GF for these prevention activities, just because 3MDG does not have the money for this does not mean they expect us to exclude prevention in the project) - what matters is what Malteser believes is part of a comprehensive HIV package. And in this sense Prevention through condoms is mandatory and not negotiable. Honestly, I cannot believe we are having this discussion.

For the time being and until the new HIV Aids Policy of Malteser is applicable, I suggest to proceed as planned with 3MDG, again this is the last year. Condoms are being distributed through partners for the time being at least throughout 2014. What comes afterwards should be discussed when we have the bridge in front of us. I know Sid wants to have a long term strategy on this but we are still in a grey area and let us have this space to 'phase out' of condoms if this is what HQ wants – however we cannot afford a radical change in an ongoing project for the time being.

If you need my support in talking to the Programme Director or anyone at HQ who needs to be convinced about the ethics and international standards of having condoms in a HIV project, feel free to contact me (or Dr. AAT!).

Best regards

Birke