**ActionAid Malawi requests Global Fund Programme Partners to accelerate implementation with value for money**

ActionAid Malawi has requested partners under the Joint TB/HIV Global Fund Programme to put a little more effort and accelerate implementation of activities but with value for money, saying this will ensure that the two-year grant closes on a good note this coming December, 2017.

ActionAid Malawi Country Director, Grace Malera said this during a planning and review meeting for the Joint TB/HIV Global Fund Programme that took place at Sun and Sand Holiday Resort in Mangochi from 28-30 August, 2017.

In her remarks, Mrs. Malera, expressed concern on huge under expenditure as most SRs made presentations with a burn rate of below 65 percent. She, then, called for all the SRs to improvise new measures on how they are going to achieve their targets in the remaining implementation period.

“I will be happy to see each SR coming up with an acceleration plan by the end of this review meeting. This is the best forum to point out your challenges so that together we can provide tangible solutions for a smooth implementation of the remaining activities,” she said.

Among other things, Mrs. Malera advised the SRs to add value to their work. “It is my plea that the burn rates we present to the donor will tally with the success on the ground and that in all our activities, we will remain accountable to the beneficiaries with quality work,” she added.

While concluding her speech, Mrs. Malera mentioned about an external audit that Global Fund will be facilitating in due course; hence asked all SRs to be prepared to defend their credibility. She said she is aware of the current internal audit by ActionAid Audit Team that some SRs are undergoing, and advised them to use it to their advantage to prepare for the next audit if their organization is sampled.

“Let me put to your knowledge that this audit is part and parcel of the determining factors for Global Fund to grant us the next grant, which is supposed to run for three years, if approved. Besides, your individual performance as SRs will determine whether your organization should be taken on board if the next grant is successful. So let us all put more effort in preparing for this audit,” she continued.

The review meting gave each of the SRs an opportunity to present achievements, burn rate, lessons learnt but also challenges faced within the reporting period.

Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), one of the SRs, faulted delays in responding to emails as one of the contributing factors to the slow implementation of activities from both Principal Recipient and SR side. However, at the end of the review meeting, an ultimatum for responding to emails was agreed and formal procedures were put in place to guide in a situation where one party misses the deadline without giving proper reason.