



The Global Fund

Partnership forum 

Dakar, Senegal, 8 - 10 December 2008

LISTENING

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GLOBAL
FUND PARTNERSHIP FORUM
DAKAR, SENEGAL, 8-10 DECEMBER 2008**

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE PLENARY OF THE PARTNERSHIP FORUM:

The 2008 Global Fund Partnership Forum expresses its appreciation to Senegal for ensuring it has no HIV restrictions related to entry, stay or residence and encourages other countries to follow this example.

The Partnership Forum also affirms the Board's decision not to hold meetings in countries that restrict the travel of people living with HIV, and urges the Board to continue to follow these issues closely.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please find below the recommendations from the Third Partnership Forum to the Global Fund Board.

PARTNERSHIP AND GENDER (WOMEN AND GIRLS)

Recommendation 1:

We recommend that the Board instruct the secretariat to **ensure** that the implementation plan for the gender equality strategy is produced in consultation with women's organizations and other groups working on gender equality, and that it has specific, measurable goals and objectives with indicators to track progress by the fund and countries against defined benchmarks and within defined time frames. This implementation plan should reflect progress at the country level, **in particular, linking disbursements with outcomes for girls and women.**

Recommendation 2:

The Board instructs the Secretariat, in consultation with women's groups and other groups working on gender equality to produce guidance on the kinds of activities that the Global Fund will champion and finance and that are needed to serve women and girls, drawing on existing evidence and practice.

Recommendation 3:

The Board should ensure that existing and new partnership agreements of the Global Fund include a component on technical assistance and capacity building for programs for women and girls, including appropriate accountability mechanisms. These arrangements should be coordinated to facilitate access from countries.

Recommendation 4:

The Board instructs the Secretariat to **encourage** and **support** country implementers, to request financial assistance in their proposals to access in-country and international expertise on programming for women and girls. This will allow countries to produce strong needs assessments, develop national strategic plans, review and revise existing funded programs and establish specific indicators that will support the achievement of Gender Equality Strategy for women and girls.

Recommendation 5:

The Board should formalize the setting up of an advisory group comprising women's organizations and other groups working on gender equality to support the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy

PARTNERSHIP AND GENDER (SEXUAL MINORITIES)

Preamble:

The discussion group assumes that in taking this important work forward the Global Fund will ensure that terminology is inclusive, in other words, ensuring that 'sexual minorities' refers to all people whose sexual orientation, gender identity and/or sexual behaviors do not conform to majority norms and values including: men who have sex with men, women who have sex with women, individuals who are transgender, transsexual and intersex. Sexual minorities can also include marginalized heterosexual behaviors and gender roles including non-monogamous sex and sex work. The group also assumes that the Global Fund will ensure that the draft sexual minorities' strategy is completed in a timely manner following a broad and clear consultation process. The strategy is expected to acknowledge and reflect the diverse regional experiences around sexual minority issues including levels of criminalization and persecution

Recommendation 1: Inclusion

The Board is requested to strengthen Country Coordination Mechanism guidelines to ensure inclusion of all groups who are disproportionately affected by the three diseases, regardless of epidemic type.

The Board is requested to commit to all Global Fund consultative meetings appropriately involving all key affected groups, particularly the underrepresented groups that include transgender people and women who have sex with women.

Recommendation 2: Evidence

The Board is requested to require countries to work within the framework of 'know your epidemic' and 'know your response' strategies in their approach to the three diseases. National strategy applications that do not explicitly include sexual minorities should not be recommended for funding.

Recommendation 3: Regional and National Non-CCM Proposals

The Board is requested to develop clear criteria and mechanisms to support the submission of regional and national proposals for sexual minorities and other criminalized, vulnerable and marginalized groups so that they do not need CCM approval and to ensure that they will be accepted from countries which fall outside of country income eligibility criteria beginning with Round 9.

Recommendation 4: Human Rights and an Enabling Environment

The Board should ensure that the Global Fund shows leadership in recognizing the importance of decriminalization as an essential element in responding to the three diseases. The Board is requested to create more scope for human rights based proposals that seek to influence the enabling legal and policy environment for successful outcomes for the three diseases in relation to criminalized and vulnerable groups. Proposals should require an analysis of legal and policy barriers to implementation of effective programs for sexual minorities and a plan to address those barriers. Indicators should be developed to track the impact of these interventions.

Recommendation 5: Enhancing the Capacity of Global Fund Secretariat and Structures to work more effectively with Sexual Minorities

The Board is requested to ensure enhanced capacity and competence of the Global Fund Board, Secretariat, Technical Review Panel, Technical Evaluation Reference Groups and other structures, in relation to sexual minorities. In particular it is asked to

routinely assess levels of expertise and competence on areas of sexual minorities within the Secretariat and within key Global Fund structures including the governance and CCM structures and to have an appropriate training and sensitization plan in place by end of 2009.

PARTNERSHIP AND DEMAND

Recommendation 1:

The credibility of the Global Fund as a sustainable and predictable financing mechanism is at stake because of the gap in pledges of approximately 5 billion US\$ to meet the projected demand in 2009 and 2010 (including Rounds 9 and 10 and NSAs). It is recommended that the Board and the Secretariat adopt an emergency resource mobilization strategy, including communicating publicly the full and detailed financing gap and the timeline on which new pledges are needed.

The Board is strongly recommended to take every available opportunity to encourage new pledges for 2009 and 2010, including the 2009 Mid Term Review, an early replenishment meeting in 2010 and rigorously exploring innovative financing mechanisms.

Recommendation 2:

Recognizing that increase in demand also depends on effective functioning of CCMs the Global Fund should work more strongly with its partners to monitor and validate the in-country CCM oversight role through e.g. mechanisms for increased transparency, democratic election processes and increased and equal stakeholder inclusiveness and participation (like trade unions, sexual minorities), as a major instrument for increasing demand.

Recommendation 3:

The Global Fund should urge and enable CCMs to actively promote partnership with the private sector for program co-creation, co-investments and capacity development. To this effect, enhanced approaches should be implemented and lessons learned shared by 2010 to inform Global Fund policy. Likewise, the Global Fund should incentivize the private sector to contribute core competences and resources to the Global Fund and Country programs. To this effect, innovative global and in-country initiatives need to be developed (with a range of approaches including fiscal measures) to inform a 2010 Board decision.

Recommendation 4:

The Global Fund is recommended to develop and implement a communication and media strategy that supports all phases of proposal development and identifies critical factors for successful proposals. The Global Fund is asked to ensure that all relevant stakeholders participate in the CCM throughout the grant development process, including grant signing and publicizing grant information. The Global Fund is urged to ensure implementation of NSAs to commence in Round 10 in conformity with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Recommendation 5:

Resources for global health should be directed to aid modalities that are transparent, accountable and produce results. The Global Fund should advocate for this in allocation of ODA for health by donors. In this context, the Board should (a) encourage donors to

support transparent reporting on the impact of aid on health, which enables stakeholders to fully participate in policy dialogue and monitoring donor and partner country performance; and (b) encourage CCMs to engage in health sector policy dialogue and other national planning and budget allocation discussions.

Recommendation 6:

In order to increase the sustainability and predictability of the resources, the Resource Mobilization Task Team should explore options to develop a mutually agreed global burden-sharing framework for resource mobilization in line with the demand.

PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION:

Recommendation 1: Governance and Accountability

Board to task the Secretariat to develop **an accountability framework, process, and action plan that identifies key triggers** to prevent and solve failing grants, that defines who is responsible to act, and that will require action by the Secretariat, CCM, partners, and implementers.

Recommendation 2:

Board to recommend to CCMs and RCMs to develop a governance manual to **define roles and responsibilities, with terms of references and related accountability mechanisms,**

- of CCM and RCM members,
- of other coordinating mechanisms (e.g. AIDS, TB, Malaria, Health) and
- of partners (e.g. multi-laterals, bi-laterals, international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, national civil society and private sector).

Recommendation 3

Board to request the Secretariat to specify in the communications strategy **the communication flow requirements** between all stakeholders and partners, in-country and with regional and global levels, in all UN languages, to ensure greater access and transparency of information.

Board to urge CCMs to use parliamentary processes to report and account on expenditure, performance and future projections of Global Fund grants

Recommendation 4: Technical Support

Board requests the relevant Board Committee (or sub-committee) to review and identify **specific action required** by the Global Fund **to address the lack of coordination and funding of technical support provision and capacity development for grant recipients** and CCMs from country, regional and international partners (including, but not exclusive to, non-governmental organizations, academia the private sector, the United Nations agencies, and horizontal government collaboration).

Recommendation 5: Broader Coordination (Discussed, not reviewed by all)

Requests the Global Fund Secretariat to update the grant proposal application form to require countries to articulate how they will maximize opportunities to integrate their responses to the three diseases and with broader HSS, CSS, and SRHR activities.

Requests the Policy and Strategy Committee to develop a strategy and recommendations for the engagement of CCMs in the IHP+ country compact process.

PARTNERSHIP AND IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendation 1: Civil Society

The Board of the Global Fund should dedicate a **separate stream of funding** in 2009 specifically for **local civil society and community based organizations** to build their capacity to perform their various roles on the CCM, which include representing their constituencies and performing oversight. Specific indicators should be developed and used to monitor the effectiveness of civil society engagement on CCMs starting with Round 10.

Recommendation 2: Transparency

The Board of the Global Fund should improve transparency of Global Fund-related processes by the end of 2009, specifically by:

- Reinforcing and implementing the **conflict of interest policy**, including concrete sanctions, at all levels by 2010.
- Requiring the CCM to publish and disseminate, including through the Global Fund website, the CCM's internal rules and procedures, meeting schedule, key decisions, calls for proposals, etc.
- Making the templates of the reporting forms available in all six UN languages.

Recommendation 3: CCMs

The Board of the Global Fund should further improve capacities of CCMs in 2009 by:

- Significantly increasing the funding available to CCMs to support secretariats and developing a comprehensive methodology to evaluate the amount of funding required by the CCM Secretariats to perform their functions effectively.
- Developing a plan for improving the capacity of CCMs to perform their oversight, demand creation, and reporting functions based on documented best practices, and identify technical partners and mechanisms to implement the plan.

Recommendation 4: CCMs

The Board of the Global Fund should revise the **PR selection guidelines** for CCMs to give priority to **national entities** (including civil society) if they can demonstrate their capacity to comply with Global Fund requirements, by 2010. If national capacity does not exist, measures should be included in Global Fund grants to build such capacity.

Recommendation 5: TA

The Board of the Global Fund should develop and implement mechanisms to encourage CCMs to collaborate with TA providing partners present within countries to improve the quality of implementation. The Global Fund should develop tools to monitor the collaboration between CCMs and TA providing partners by the end of 2009. The Global Fund should encourage TA to facilitate regional proposal development and implementation.

Recommendation 6: LFAs

The Global Fund Board should ensure that LFAs establish or strengthen their expertise in **public health management** in order to provide stronger financial and programmatic oversight.

LFA reports (with the exception of confidential reports) should be shared with PRs prior to submission to the Global Fund Secretariat, and with CCMs upon submission, starting

immediately. By the end of 2009, the Global Fund Board should review the policies related to producing and disseminating LFA reports.

Recommendation 7: Procurement and Health Systems :

The Global Fund Board should explore the possibility of regional joint procurement of goods and services to further reduce costs, build regional systems, and improve coordination by the middle of 2009.

The Global Fund Board should develop policies on funding for salaries and salary top-ups for health workers by the end of 2009.