
Report of the Technical Evaluation Reference Group

42nd Board Meeting

GF/B42/09

14-15 November 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

Board Information

Purpose of the paper: This paper provides an update on the work of the Technical Evaluation Reference Group (TERG) in 2019.

Context

1. One of the five broad priorities for independent evaluation, as set out in the TERG Evaluation Plan 2017-2022,¹ is **to better understand and evaluate the pathways from investment to impact for all strategic objectives**. Prospective Country Evaluations (PCEs), launched in 2017, are the main methodology to understand and evaluate these pathways at the country level. PCEs are underway in eight countries (Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Mozambique, Myanmar, Senegal, Sudan, and Uganda).
2. As a priority, the TERG has **conducted timely and objective program, thematic and strategic reviews and evaluations**. Some thematic reviews, e.g. on technical cooperation partnership², provided opportunities for collaboration with Gavi. The TERG conducted a joint meeting with Gavi's Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) in 2019 and discussed further collaboration. TERG members will join steering committees of EAC-led evaluations, and vice versa, in the upcoming period.

Where are we now? Progress to date

3. Following Board approval of the Sustainability, Transition and Co-financing Policy (STC Policy) in April 2016, the Global Fund, in cooperation with countries and partners, began implementing the STC Policy during the allocation period 2017-2019. The TERG commissioned a Thematic Review of the STC Policy and presented its findings to the Strategy committee (SC) at the July 2019 meeting.³
4. The TERG commissioned the Market Shaping Strategy Mid-Term Review (MSS Review), to review the Market Shaping Strategy (MSS) approved by the Board in November 2015⁴, and presented the findings and recommendations at the October 2019 SC meeting⁵.
5. At the end of 2018, the TERG initiated a self- and peer- review of the TERG, which was transformed into an independent assessment of the TERG, managed directly by the SC leadership. Findings from the review were presented to the SC in July 2019 and will be incorporated into the larger discussion around monitoring, learning and evaluation (MLE – including independent evaluation) of the Global Fund.
6. The scope of the Strategic Review (SR) 2020 was developed in consultation with the Secretariat and the SC. The SR 2020 will assess the outcome and impact of Global Fund investments as well as the operationalization and implementation of the Global Fund's 2017-2022 Strategy across Strategic Objectives at its mid-term. The TERG has initiated the commissioning of SR 2020, which is due to start in November.

Key messages and priorities

Prospective Country Evaluation (PCE)

7. A PCE synthesis report focusing on funding requests and grant-making processes was discussed by the Strategy Committee (SC) in March 2018⁶ and a PCE synthesis report on grant implementation was discussed in 2019⁷. Recommendations related to access to funding have been incorporated into the upcoming funding request process, e.g., information notes, a new streamlined category for Focused countries, and better operationalization of matching funds. At the country level, PCE has

¹ See Annex 1 to GF/SC02/09 – Revision 1

² GF/SC09/06

³ GF/SC10/04

⁴ GF/B34/DP08

⁵ GF/SC11/05

⁶ GF/SC06/18

⁷ GF/SC09/08

led to **improvements in: process, data quality, data analysis, and strategic priorities, etc.**

8. The TERG intends to continue PCE implementation in the next allocation period respecting the initial intention for the PCEs to track progress of the current six-year Global Fund strategy. Noting the larger conversations around MLE, the Strategy Committee recommended that PCEs be continued at the same scale and scope for an additional year – i.e. until March 2021, while decisions on the financing for the remaining two years of PCEs (2021 - 2023) are pending. Key priorities for PCEs in 2020 include: a follow-up evaluation of country dialogue, funding request and grant making processes and real-time feedback for improvement, as well as on-going evaluation of grant implementation up to the end of the current allocation period.

STC Policy Thematic Review

9. The STC Policy Thematic Review found that the Global Fund Secretariat is transforming the work of the organization in line with the STC Policy. Skills and tools are in place and substantial gains have been made in helping lower middle-income countries with non-high disease burdens and upper middle-income countries to plan for and better manage transitions from external financing.
10. The TERG has categorized the STC Policy Review recommendations to make prioritization clearer. Given that the implementation of the STC Policy is still at an early stage, the TERG recommends that a follow-up review on post-transition outcomes should be undertaken in 2022. The TERG advises that efforts to strengthen sustainability be further prioritized in countries with higher disease burdens and lower economic capacity that are not currently required to focus on transition planning. Ten case studies conducted highlight several “promising practices” that the Global Fund Secretariat could take into consideration across countries.

Market Shaping Strategy Mid-Term Review (MSS Review)

11. The MSS Review found that the Global Fund Secretariat is delivering tremendous value in global health markets, which should be maintained, though there are ongoing missed opportunities and risks. For the Global Fund to significantly progress from “smart procurement” towards “proactive market shaping” it should: drive stronger health product management across all Global Fund-funded procurement; ensure internal teams and core partners align on issues, priorities and roles/accountabilities for specific product markets; and continue efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of market-shaping successes.
12. The TERG agrees with the four key prioritized actions proposed by the MSS Review, accompanied by recommendations as to how the actions may be best implemented, with two qualifications/additions. First, the TERG suggests considering expansion of the MSS-related KPIs in the context of the development of the next Global Fund Strategy. Secondly, the TERG suggests increased coordination with Global Drug Facility (GDF), enhanced visibility of TB product procurement by requesting GDF to share procurement information related to product selection and pricing, and joint decision making on new product introductions.⁸

TERG plans for 2020⁹

13. In addition to continuation of the PCEs for an additional year, the TERG plans to conduct one or two thematic reviews in 2020, especially reviews that are complementary to, and may provide significant inputs into, the SR 2020. The specific subjects for these reviews remain under discussion. The TERG considers a thematic review on HIV prevention would be particularly timely to inform guidance/suggestions for country dialogue and funding request development as well as inputs to global discussion on HIV prevention at end-2020.

⁸ GF/SC/11/04

⁹ GF/SC/11/13

14. The TERG plans to deliver preliminary findings from the SR 2020 to the SC in July to inform the development of the new strategy. Final reporting will be to the Board meeting in Quarter 4 of 2020.
15. There is on-going work and discussion on broader MLE functions in the Global Fund and the role of independent evaluations. This will continue to be discussed at the SC in 2020.

What are the next steps for Committees and Board?

16. The TERG looks forward to participating in further discussions with the Board on the overall MLE function, including independent evaluation and on the SR 2020 findings during the next year.

Annex: Further information

- [UPDATE ON TERG REVIEWS: 10TH STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING](#)
- [10TH STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING: CHAIR'S SUMMARY NOTES](#)
- [TERG'S SECOND SYNTHESIS REPORT ON PCE](#)
- [TERG'S UPDATE AND POSITION PAPER ON PCE](#)
- [POSITION PAPER: TERG EVALUATION PLAN 2017-2022 AND WORK PLAN 2017](#)
- [34TH BOARD PAPER ON MARKET SHAPING STRATEGY](#)
- [35TH BOARD PAPER ON STC](#)
- [POSITION PAPER: TECHNICAL SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP](#)