

## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY

(Refers to document [GF/B18/4 Addendum, The Gender Equality Strategy](#))

### I. Introduction And Background

The Global Fund recognizes that gender inequalities are a strong driver of the HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics. The Global Fund is therefore committed to supporting programs that ensure equal and equitable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for the most vulnerable populations, including women and girls, men and young boys, sexual minorities<sup>1</sup> and those most at-risk.

At its meeting in November 2008, the Global Fund Board approved the Gender Equality Strategy, which outlines the vision and strategic direction of the Global Fund to ensure that gender issues are taken into account in all aspects of the Organization's work and funding. This Strategy document focuses specifically on the need to strengthen responses for women and girls. A separate but complementary strategy on sexual minorities is currently being finalized for approval at the May 2009 Board meeting. In order to realize the Gender Equality Strategy, a three-year implementation plan is being developed.

The Gender Equality Strategy is fully described in the Addendum to the Report of the Policy and Strategy Committee:

[www.theglobalfund.org/documents/board/18/GF-B18-04\\_ReportPSC\\_Addendum.pdf](http://www.theglobalfund.org/documents/board/18/GF-B18-04_ReportPSC_Addendum.pdf)

The four main objectives of the "Gender Equality Strategy" are:

**Objective I:** Ensure Global Fund's policies, procedures and structures effectively support programs that address gender inequalities.

**Objective II:** Establish and strengthen partnerships that effectively support the development and implementation of programs that address gender inequalities and reduce women's and girls' vulnerabilities, provide quality technical assistance, and build capacity of groups who are not currently participating in Global Fund processes but should be.

**Objective III:** Development of a robust communications and advocacy strategy that promotes the Gender Equality Strategy and encourages programming for women and girls and men and boys.

**Objective IV:** Provide leadership, internally and externally, by supporting, advancing and giving voice to the Gender Equality Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> Sexual minorities: men who have sex with men, transgender, bisexual and lesbian populations.

## II. Achievements by Objective

**Objective I: Ensure Global Fund's policies, procedures and structures effectively support programs that address gender inequalities.**

In 2008, just before the endorsement of the Gender Equality Strategy, there were concrete achievements in the following key areas:

1. To facilitate efforts to scale up a gender-sensitive response to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the Global Fund's Round 8 Proposal Form and Guidelines were modified from previous rounds.<sup>2</sup> As with all other guidelines, the gender guidelines have not changed for Round 9, but efforts are being made with partners through technical assistance to give more guidance.
2. Fact sheets on Gender and fact sheets on Sexual Minorities were included in the Round 8 guidelines for applicants to encourage them to develop their proposals with due consideration of the different needs of women and men, boys and girls, and sexual minorities.
3. Guidelines for the Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) now emphasize not only gender balance in terms of CCM membership but also in terms of female leadership and knowledge, skills and expertise on gender issues.

As a result of the above actions including technical assistance from partners, many countries expanded the breadth of interventions for vulnerable groups in their Round 8 proposals. However, as in Round 7, very few proposals were truly gender transformative or gender sensitive: "They failed to include any real discussion on whether particular groups are under-represented in accessing and/or receiving prevention, treatment, and/or care and support services relevant to the particular country context".

(see TRP Report to the Board on Round 8 Proposals, 7 November 2008, available at: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/trp/reports/>; and the "Report on the Gender analysis of round 8 HIV/AIDS proposals").

Within the few months after approval of the Gender Equality Strategy, additional steps have been taken to address the different objectives of the Strategy:

1. A gender work plan for 2009, with concrete activities, deliverables, timelines and budget, has been developed and included in the Knowledge Management Unit work plan for 2009.
2. A Gender Portfolio Review and Analysis of Rounds 1 –7 grants and proposals was undertaken to determine the extent to which the projects provided appropriate interventions to ensure equal and equitable access to services. The analysis was done on 126 particular disease components of the original proposals and Grant Agreements from 34 different countries, representing all regions and all rounds.<sup>3</sup>
3. An analysis of responses to Round 8 proposal forms was done to provide a quantitative analysis of applicants' responses to the gender-related questions introduced in the Round 8 proposal form, as well as to assess the applicants' stated level of gender expertise. This analysis shows that CCM, Sub-CCM and Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) membership

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<sup>2</sup> See Board Decision Point GF/B16/DP26, *Scaling Up a Gender-Sensitive Response to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by the Global Fund*, which requested "...revisions to the Guidelines for Proposals for Round 8 to encourage applicants to submit proposals that address gender issues, with a particular reference to the vulnerability of women and girls and sexual minorities."

<sup>3</sup> See Draft of report *Integration of Gender in Global Fund Grants: A Gender Portfolio Review and Analysis of Rounds 1 –7*.

and leadership continue to be male-dominated. Women represent only 30 percent of the total membership and 24 percent of the combined CCM, Sub-CCM and RCM leadership<sup>4</sup>.

4. An analysis of gender responsiveness of round 8 HIV/AIDS proposals witnessed a much larger range of intervention categories being proposed, with specific gender responsive components being linked to intervention categories, but few proposals in Round 8 were deemed to be gender sensitive or transformative<sup>5</sup>.

**Objective II: Establish and strengthen partnerships that effectively support the development and implementation of programs that address gender inequalities and reduce women's and girls' vulnerabilities, provide quality technical assistance, and build capacity of groups who are not currently participating in Global Fund processes but should be.**

1. The approved Gender Equality Strategy was shared with partners during the Partnership Forum in Dakar in November 2008. The recommendations from the Forum have been considered in the development of the implementation plan for the Strategy.
2. Discussions with partners (e.g., UNDP, UNAIDS, Open Society Institute) have started to explore areas of collaboration in the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy.

**Objective III: Development of a robust communications and advocacy strategy that promotes the Gender Equality Strategy and encourages programming for women and girls and men and boys.**

1. The gender advisor participated in advocacy work on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and protection of mothers and children (Paris, Dakar and Ouagadougou).

**Objective IV: Provide leadership, internally and externally, by supporting, advancing and giving voice to the Gender Equality Strategy.**

1. The Gender Advisor started work in the GF Secretariat in November 2008.
2. An Advisor on Sexual Minorities in the Knowledge Management Unit is under recruitment.
3. A gender focal point in the Performance, Impact and Effectiveness Unit is under recruitment.
4. An Internal Gender Task Team (IGTT) has been created within the Global Fund secretariat to work with the Gender Advisor on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy.

### III. Next Steps

The Global Fund is developing a three-year implementation plan for the Gender Equality Strategy. The plan will be prepared in close consultation with partners and will be ready by 17 March 2009. The implementation plan will be shared widely and vigorously pursued in collaboration with partners.

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<sup>4</sup> See *Report on Analysis of responses to round 8 proposal form gender-related questions, CP\_Analysis\_R8\_Gender questions in PF\_17Dec08\_Final*

<sup>5</sup> See *Report on the Gender analysis of round 8 HIV/AIDS proposals, CP\_Analysis\_R8\_Gender Responsiveness HIV\_19dec08\_Final*

#### IV. References

1. Gender Equality strategy; [www.theglobalfund.org/documents/board/18/GF-B18-04\\_ReportPSC\\_Addendum.pdf](http://www.theglobalfund.org/documents/board/18/GF-B18-04_ReportPSC_Addendum.pdf)
2. TRP Report to the Board on Round 8 Proposals, 7 November 2008, available at: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/trp/reports/>
3. Integration of Gender in Global Fund Grants: A Gender Portfolio Review and Analysis of Rounds 1 –7
4. Report on analysis of responses to round 8 proposal form gender-related questions, CP\_Analysis\_R8\_Gender questions in PF\_17Dec08\_Final
5. Report on the Gender analysis of round 8 HIV/AIDS proposals, CP\_Analysis\_R8\_Gender Responsiveness HIV\_19dec08\_Final