



Investing in our future

The Global Fund

To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Sixteenth Board Meeting
Kunming, China, 12 – 13 November 2007

GF/B16/13
Board Input

SCALING UP A GENDER-SENSITIVE RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA BY THE GLOBAL FUND

OUTLINE:

1. The Global Fund and its partners are aware of the need to scale up a gender sensitive response to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This paper summarizes some concrete actions that were proposed at the Global Fund's Replenishment meeting in Berlin on September 26-28, 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

1. The Global Fund recognizes that gender issues play an important role in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and proposes to reinforce its gender focus in the Secretariat's internal mechanisms and operations.

2. To better integrate women's rights and gender equality in its internal mechanisms, the Secretariat proposes to develop a gender policy and appoint a gender focal point to operationalize and monitor the policy. Systematic training on the gender issues linked to the three diseases for all Secretariat staff would also strongly enhance sensitivity. Gender expertise within Global Fund structures also should be strengthened, for example through revised Country Coordinating Mechanisms' composition guidelines, and a review of the Technical Review Panel's membership.

3. There is also a need to strengthen and mainstream gender in the Global Fund Secretariat's operations. In this regard, and in light of country level evidence, strategic partnerships should be scaled up ahead of Round 8, and innovative approaches to more comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Family Planning programmes encouraged. Additional criteria for grant eligibility, monitoring and evaluation should be developed to measure gender sensitivity, and the next edition of the Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit ought to include additional guidelines on indicators to address gender equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health.

PART 1: BACKGROUND

1. The reduction of gender inequalities, the empowerment of women and the reduction of violence against women and girls are widely recognized as essential elements in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Under the leadership of the German Government, the G8 this year agreed to promote a gender-sensitive response to the three diseases through programmes and grants financed by the Global Fund¹. This initiative and the need to scale up in-country advocacy and technical capacity for more integrated and gender-sensitive services were reinforced at the Global Fund Replenishment Meeting in Berlin on September 26-28, 2007.

2. At the initiative of Germany, the Global Fund Replenishment meeting set the scene for concrete discussions on gender in a special side event where civil society and international partners shared experiences and strategies. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Board and the Executive Director all expressed their firm commitment to integrate gender issues more substantially into the Global Fund's processes and operations.

3. The country-driven business model of the Global Fund means that it typically relies on local and international partners to support countries in preparing grant proposals. However, evidence from country experiences suggests that more can be done by the Global Fund to respond to the challenges of results-oriented gender programming. This paper reflects on a series of possible measures the Global Fund could take to:

- i. Better integrate gender issues in the Global Fund's mechanisms; and
- ii. Strengthen and mainstream gender in the Secretariat's guidelines and processes.

PART 2: INTEGRATING GENDER ISSUES IN THE GLOBAL FUND'S MECHANISMS

1. The following initiatives have been proposed:

- i. Many Global Fund stakeholders have called for the Secretariat to develop a gender policy targeted at addressing the issues which make women and other vulnerable groups at risk for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and impact on their human rights. Such a policy would outline the role the Global Fund can play in promoting equal access to prevention, treatment and care.
- ii. Germany proposed that the Global Fund appoint a full time gender focal point within the Secretariat, a suggestion that was endorsed by civil society partners in Berlin². This would provide guidance to operationalize and implement the policy and monitor progress on set indicators.
- iii. Better knowledge of and increased sensitivity to gender issues can also be enhanced throughout the Secretariat by systematically including gender in staff training curricula.
- iv. Gender expertise can also be strengthened within Global Fund structures. For example, the PC will recommend to give special attention to the representation of vulnerable groups, including in particular women affected by the three diseases, in reviewing the composition guidelines of Country Coordinating Mechanisms. In addition, expanding the Technical

¹ G8 Chair's Summary, Heiligendamm, 8 June 2007: "Recognizing the growing feminization of the AIDS epidemic, the G8 in cooperation with partner governments support a gender-sensitive response by the GFATM, with the goal of ensuring that greater attention and appropriate resources are allocated by the Fund to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care that addresses the needs of women and girls".

² Civil Society Forum, 25th September 2007, Berlin, Germany

Review Panel membership to include individuals with relevant gender equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health expertise would ensure a more formal assessment of these areas.

PART 3: STRENGTHENING AND MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN THE GLOBAL FUND SECRETARIAT'S GUIDELINES AND PROCESSES

1. In accordance with its principle of country ownership, the Global Fund does not engage in proposal preparation or country programming. Extending and deepening strategic partnerships with international and local organizations, NGOs and networks focused on women's rights and empowerment is therefore key to developing and implementing health programmes that address gender issues. This should include partnerships with networks of men who have sex with men and other vulnerable groups.

2. At the Berlin Replenishment meeting, multilateral partners, civil society and community organizations pledged to actively support the preparation of Round 8 country proposals³. A report by AIDSPAN to be released in early 2008 is expected to provide further insights into the extent to which Global Fund grants address gender challenges in several African countries⁴. Partner efforts are crucial, as in-country advocacy and information, as well as the capacity to integrate services, need to increase dramatically to scale up gender-sensitive country responses. Dual track financing is expected to open additional opportunities for civil society including womens' groups to access grant financing through the Global Fund.

3. There is growing evidence that integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Family Planning with HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria measures improves impact⁵. The Global Fund Board could support the scaling up of such integrated proposals more explicitly by approving Round 8 guidelines that outline specific funding opportunities for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning. There has also been concern over the slow progress on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission programmes, and innovative comprehensive approaches aiming at integrating broader interventions on women's health and gender-based violence could enhance impact.

4. The Global Fund could also collaborate with partners to encourage research in the area of female controlled prevention, share best practices more widely and strengthen efforts to scale up proven prevention approaches.

5. A further potential initiative is to develop criteria to measure gender issues in grant eligibility, monitoring and evaluation. The Secretariat is already exploring ways to develop gender indicators and facilitate the collection of sex disaggregated data. The next edition of the Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit, jointly produced with international partners to advance the principles of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, could include specific guidelines for indicators to address gender equality for all three disease components.

³ International public donors (including Germany, Canada, Switzerland, Ireland, and the Netherlands) as well as private foundations and the private sector offered their services to provide additional expertise in reproductive health and rights in proposal writing and access to CCMs.

⁴ The report will assess the extent to which Global Fund grants address women's special vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in five African countries, i.e. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Malawi.

⁵ UN General Assembly Resolution: Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, New York, June 2006 - <http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2006/>

PART 4: NEXT STEPS

1. There are several areas where the Global Fund Secretariat can take immediate action in relation to its internal mechanisms and operations, to be more clearly described in a proposal to the XVIIth Board meeting in April 2008. These should include:

- i. Develop a gender policy for consideration by the PSC in March 2008;
- ii. Appoint a gender focal point;
- iii. Integrate gender sensitization into the staff training curriculum;
- iv. Review Round 8 guidelines to encourage proposals to address gender issues;
- v. Introduce dual track financing to increase civil society's direct involvement as Principal Recipients;
- vi. Develop gender sensitivity criteria for grant eligibility, monitoring and evaluation;
- vii. Ensure the inclusion of guidelines for gender specific indicators in the next edition of the Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit; and
- viii. Propose measures to the Board to increase the Technical Review Panel's gender expertise.

2. The Board should also call on Global Fund partners to intensify efforts to strengthen and deepen strategic partnerships to:

- i. Encourage the integration of gender components in national health strategies and grant applications ahead of Round 8; and
- ii. Promote comprehensive approaches and research to integrate gender issues, and in particular Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning, into the prevention, treatment and care of the three diseases.