

Summary Report of the  
Technical Evaluation  
Reference Group (TERG) of  
the Global Fund

Working Group Meeting

Geneva, Switzerland 12-14 June, 2006

## Introduction

This document reports on the TERG Working Group meeting, which took place from 12-14 June, 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland. It provides a summary of key issues discussed and the TERG's recommendations. The agenda for the meeting and participant list are attached as Annex A.

As recommended during the 4<sup>th</sup> TERG meeting, a working group of the TERG met to provide recommendations on the development of the integrated package of studies to guide the larger Five-Year Evaluation effort, and to review and discuss preliminary findings from the initial priority studies to inform strategy development. The objective of this working group meeting was to make concrete recommendations to the Global Fund on preliminary results of the initial studies as part of the Five-Year Evaluation of the Global Fund, and to advise on contracting for the development of the Inception Report for the Five-Year Evaluation. Specifically, the TERG:

- Held a half day retreat to review its methods of work
- Reviewed preliminary findings of the Global Fund 360° Stakeholder Review
- Reviewed interim findings of the Global Fund Portfolio Review study and advised on aspects for further analysis
- Reviewed the preliminary plans for Global Fund impact measurement and recommended next steps for planning and implementation of impact measurement studies
- Made recommendations on the contracting process for development of the full package of studies for the Five-Year Evaluation
- Reviewed and discussed method of work and timeline for Five-Year Evaluation, and plans for next TERG meeting

## 1.0 360° Stakeholder Review

### 1.1 Background

In response to TERG recommendations emerging from the 4<sup>th</sup> TERG meeting, the Global Fund 360° Stakeholder Review was initiated as an initial priority study of the Five-Year Evaluation. The TERG reviewed major findings of the first and second stages of the 360° Stakeholder Review, including the outcome of key stakeholder interviews and the preliminary results of the online stakeholder survey, and recommended specific areas for further analysis. The 360° Stakeholder Review has generated a rich data set on stakeholder opinions on Global Fund performance, and results show that opinions of Global Fund performance are generally positive. As one of the first major products of the Five-Year Evaluation, the TERG emphasized the importance of sharing the results of this study as well as the overall plans for the Five-Year Evaluation at the Global Fund Partnership Forum to be held in Durban, South Africa July 2006.

### 1.2 Discussion & Recommendations

- Aspects to be considered in additional analysis should include an examination of the country perspective versus donor and multilateral perspective, response of PLWHAs, responses by sub-group and by region, and an analysis of non-responses to understand possible biases in the response rates.
- Results of the Stakeholder Review should be presented at the Partnership Forum and to the extent possible, the data set should be made available in the public domain.
- The Five-Year Evaluation and Stakeholder Assessment discussion should be well integrated and have high visibility in the Global Fund Partnership Forum.
- Action: Chair and Vice-Chair to follow up with Partnership Forum Steering Committee

## **2.0 Global Fund Portfolio Review**

### **2.1 Background**

The Portfolio Review is a key study to help inform both the strategy development process and the Five-Year Evaluation and was initiated in response to TERG recommendations at the 4<sup>th</sup> TERG meeting. The Secretariat has contracted with consultants Ruairi Brugha and Sam McConkey from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for the conduct of this study. The study's objectives are to inform the overall evaluation of uses of Global Fund financing related to scale-up of disease interventions versus gap-filling efforts; and to describe the extent to which the Global Fund portfolio is composed of evidence-based interventions focused on geographic areas and/or populations of greatest need. The TERG reviewed preliminary results and plans for initiation of the broader review. The TERG made recommendations on priorities for data collection and the timetable for conduct of the study.

### **2.2 Discussion & Recommendations**

- The TERG recognizes the critical importance of the Portfolio Review and emphasizes that a staggered approach to the Portfolio Review is required to answer the more immediate needs of both the strategy development process and the longer-term needs of the Five-Year Evaluation.
- It was emphasized that much of the information related to Global Fund fit must be generated at country level. For the purpose of the Evaluation the portfolio review may be expanded to include case studies.
- The TERG suggests that the approach should include a desk analysis of at least 30 grants, supplemented by readily-available information from within the Global Fund information systems along with case studies where possible.
- To examine situations in which the Global Fund may have inadvertently funded the "wrong" things, TERG suggests to conduct country case studies with the support of disease experts.
- Action: Consultants to incorporate recommendations in study methodology and provide report to next TERG meeting.

## **3.0 Planning for Impact Measurement**

### **3.1 Background**

Impact evaluation is a key component of the Five-Year Evaluation and questions on impact measurement have also been raised by the Policy and Strategy Committee (PSC) as part of the strategy development process currently underway. The TERG recommended the initiation of planning for the 2008 impact measurement evaluation at its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Secretariat has contracted Joseph Keating and Anastasia Gage from Tulane University for the initial design and planning of the impact evaluation, including identification of: current impact measurement efforts for HIV/AIDS, TB, & malaria; major gaps in impact measurement; how to measure the Global Fund's contribution to impact at aggregate level; how to support existing impact assessment efforts and how to assess linkages between levels in measurement framework. The TERG reviewed the initial plans and timeline for impact measurement for the Five-Year Evaluation and made recommendations for broadening engagement with partners and increasing investment in improving systems, processes and country capacity to measure impact.

### **3.2 Discussion & Recommendations**

- TERG members emphasized the need to measure exposure to interventions (availability of services and effectiveness of communications) as part of the evaluation of impact, the need to select countries for in-depth evaluation activities and identify data gaps in those countries; and the need to anticipate an investment beyond that already committed through the grant portfolio.
- The TERG recognized that important efforts are currently underway to assess and strengthen the quality of data reported by grantees. However, further specific activities and investments are needed for impact evaluation.
- It was proposed that a 2008 Impact Evaluation Task Force of various global M&E partners be formed to work directly with countries to support additional data collection efforts.
- The TERG agreed TERG member Ties Boerma will take primary responsibility to prepare an operational plan for impact evaluation in at least 5 countries in consultation with partners including the RBM MERG, TB Strategic and Technical Advisory Group and UNAIDS MERG. It is proposed that the plan be based on existing analytical approaches and materials of established technical partners. It is anticipated this evaluation would be supplemented by a less intensive analysis of impact in at least 5-10 countries. Appropriateness of impact indicators will be assessed throughout the process.
- The operational plan will include a description of evaluation framework, partners, budget and resource requirements and will be available in early August for distribution to the TERG in advance of the next meeting.
- The Tulane University team will provide the third piece required for the impact evaluation plan which will include description of existing modelling and estimation methods, data availability for those models and outcome-impact information available from the Global Fund grant portfolio.
- These efforts should also be linked to the PEPFAR / strategic information focal points meeting to be held in July 2006 in Johannesburg.
- Action: formal proposal to be prepared by TERG member Ties Boerma

## **4.0 Global Fund Five-Year Evaluation Inception Report**

### **4.1 Background**

In response to TERG recommendations emerging from its last meeting, the Global Fund Secretariat launched a request for proposals for development of the Five-Year Evaluation Inception Report on 19 May, 2006 (RFP HQ GVA-06-018). The competitive process for development of the Inception Report was not productive primarily due to a clause in the Statement of Work which stipulated that the organization awarded the contract would be ineligible to compete for any further contracts for the conduct of studies related to the Global Fund Five-Year Evaluation. The Global Fund Contracts Unit thus advised that a sole source justification would be relevant in this situation and provided further advice on approaching firms. Based on this advice, the Global Fund contacted Social and Scientific Systems (SSS), a firm previously recognized by the TERG as strong in evaluation, to ascertain their interest and availability. SSS confirmed both interest and availability and their intention to prepare a technical and cost proposal, to be submitted 22 June. Sabine Gabriel and Patricia Chatsika from the Global Fund Contracts team attended the TERG meeting during this session and provided further explanation.

### **4.2 Discussion & Recommendations**

The Secretariat presented the current situation, the possibility of sole source justification for a non-competitive award and options for Inception Report development. The Contracts Unit informed the TERG that, in this case, a sole source justification is consistent with Global Fund

procurement policy and confirmed that the timeframe is acceptable. The Contracts Unit specifically cited the following section of the Procurement Policy:

11. *Open competition is the preferred method for practices at the Global Fund. However the Global Fund may award a contract to an entity on the basis of other than a bidding process under the following circumstances:*

- a) *A contract is awarded under the circumstances of a compelling urgency;*
- b) *The expertise and skills needed for the scope of work can only be fulfilled by one vendor or is proprietary;*

After discussion of the options, the TERG agreed that the Global Fund should engage in negotiation with Social and Scientific Systems. The TERG was assured that the timeline for completion of the product is unchanged and that a draft plan will be submitted to the TERG for review in advance of the next TERG meeting.

The TERG therefore specifically recommends the Global Fund should:

- Enter into with negotiations with SSS for development of the Inception Report.
- Ensure the conduct of a critical, technical review of the Inception Report by the TERG, with additional high-level input on the Report from technical partners such as the Center for Global Development. This additional external review should occur during the interval in which TERG members will be reviewing the Inception Report.
- Highlight the following issues for special attention in the Inception Report: CCMs, LFAs, civil society, harmonization and alignment, and the provision of technical assistance; and consider accelerating the implementation of related studies.
- Action: Secretariat to follow up with SSS.

## **5.0 Additional recommendations**

- The TERG requests the Secretariat to give an update on progress on CCM and LFA monitoring and management at the next meeting.

## **6.0 Next meeting**

The Fifth TERG meeting will be held 31<sup>st</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 in Cuernavaca, Mexico. At this meeting the TERG will review the final reports of the Stakeholder Assessment, Portfolio Review and Five-Year Evaluation Inception Report. The TERG will also review the formal study protocol for the Impact Measurement study as well as progress of the 2008 Impact Evaluation Task Force.

### **Draft Objectives for the 5<sup>th</sup> TERG Meeting:**

- Review final report of the Global Fund 360° Stakeholder Review
- Review final report of the Global Fund Portfolio Review
- Review Operational Plan for Impact Measurement prepared by TERG member Ties Boerma for intensive analysis of impact in at least five countries
- Review Global Fund impact measurement modeling and estimation study protocol prepared by Tulane University team and recommend next steps for implementation
- Review draft Inception Plan of detailed studies to complete the Five-Year Evaluation

## ANNEX A

### MEETING AGENDA & PARTICIPANTS LIST

#### Meeting objectives:

1. TERG Retreat to review methods of work
2. Review findings emerging from the Global Fund 360° Stakeholder Review
3. Review interim findings of the Global Fund Portfolio Review study
4. Review preliminary plan for Global Fund impact measurement
5. Decide contracting process for development of package of studies for Five-Year Evaluation
6. Review method of work and timeline for Five-Year Evaluation, and plans for next TERG meeting

#### Monday June 12<sup>th</sup>

Venue: NH Hotel Geneva

<b>15.00 – 17.30</b> Inclusive of coffee break	<b>TERG Retreat</b>  <b>Venue: Salon Opéra, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, NH Hotel, Geneva</b>	TERG members
<b>17.30 – 18.30</b>	<b>Debrief with Secretariat</b>	TERG/Secretariat
<b>19.00</b>	<b>Reception and Dinner – NH Hotel</b>	

#### Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup>

Venue: Hope Plaza, The Global Fund

<b>1</b>	<b>9.00 – 9.30</b>	<b>Opening, introduction, agenda and expected outcomes of the meeting</b>	R. Korte
		Chair for morning session: Professor Korte	
<b>2</b>	<b>9.30 – 11.00</b>	<b>Review of findings emerging from the 360° Stakeholder Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review major findings of Stakeholder Analysis report based on key stakeholder interviews</li><li>- Review of preliminary results of 360° online survey</li><li>- Discussion and recommendations including next steps</li></ul>	Secretariat
	<b>11.00 – 11.15</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>11.15 – 12.30</b>	<b>Review of interim findings of the Portfolio Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discussion and recommendations</li></ul>	Secretariat

	<b>12.30 – 14.00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>14.00 – 15.30</b>	<b>Review of preliminary plan for Global Fund impact measurement</b>	Secretariat
		- Discussion and recommendations	
		Chair for afternoon session: TBD	
	<b>15.30 – 15.45</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>15.45 – 17.00</b>	<b>Summary of Day One discussions and recommendations</b>	Secretariat
		- Identify items requiring further clarification	
<b>6</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>Dinner (location TBD)</b>	

**Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Venue: Hope Plaza, The Global Fund**

<b>7</b>	<b>09.00 – 10.30</b> Inclusive of coffee break	<b>Discussion of options for development of a costed package of studies for the Five-Year Evaluation</b>	R. Korte Secretariat (SIE and Contracts)
		Chair for morning session: Professor Korte	
	<b>10.30 – 10.45</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>10.45 – 12.30</b>	<b>Review of timelines, workplan and deliverables</b>	Secretariat
		- Products for Five-Year Evaluation and timing in relation to Board committee meetings	
		- Objectives and agenda items for 5 <sup>th</sup> TERG meeting to be held 31 August – 1 September 2006	
		- Guidance from TERG on working relations	
		- TERG recommendations and conclusions	
<b>9</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>Closing</b>	

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