



Investing in our future

The Global Fund

To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Response to the 7 Recommendations Raised at the May 9th FBO Briefing

1. **Where CCMs don't have adequate representation by FBOs, send the message that their proposals will be at risk.**

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2. **If CCMs seem closed to requests from local faith-based and community level groups in the proposals they submit, turn them down until they change. Establish guidelines that assure that CCM submissions with significant FBO participation will more likely be funded.**

The Global Fund recognizes that only through a country-driven, coordinated and multi-sector approach involving all relevant partners will there be a significant impact on the reduction of infections, illness and death from the three diseases. As a result, a variety of actors, each with unique skills, background and experience, are involved in the development of proposals and decisions on the allocation and utilization of Global Fund financial resources.

To secure broad representation, the Global Fund provides guidelines to ensure that membership in the CCM be broadly representative of a variety of stakeholders, each representing an active constituency with an interest in fighting one or more of the three diseases. Each constituency brings a unique and important perspective, thus increasing the probability of achieving measurable impact against the diseases.

The Global Fund welcomes the participation of civil society, including FBOs, in CCMs. While there is no legal requirement mandating that a particular group within civil society participate (with the exception of people living with or affected by the disease) in CCMs, the Secretariat does apply a screening process before a proposal submitted by a CCM is referred to the Technical Review Panel as a way to ensure that all formal requirements for a functional CCM are met. In the case of non-compliance the Secretariat refuses to consider such proposals. The Global Fund's guidelines on CCM and its composition can be accessed at: www.theglobalfund.org/pdf/Clarifications_CCM_Requirements.pdf. The guidelines and requirements are subject to constant review by the Board and any suggestions or concerns should be brought to the attention of the Board.

More general information on CCMs is available at:

www.theglobalfund.org/en/apply/mechanisms/guidelines/. In addition, contact information for CCM members is also available on each country page on the Global Fund website.

3. **If there is a hint of anti-faith bias on the part of individuals on the Global Fund board, staff, or Technical Review Panels, as some people in this country believe, undertake education efforts and make personnel changes to better reflect the true nature of the populations we are seeking to reach.**

As an innovative public-private partnership, the Global Fund seeks to engage with and work alongside partners from various sectors, including civil society and the faith community at every level of its country-driven model. For example, to ensure that there is broad understanding of the faith community, the Global Fund Secretariat has taken internal education on "faith literacy" very seriously. Every Fund Portfolio Manger has been provided with the recently published guide on FBOs and their engagement with international organizations [**Scaling Up Effective Partnerships: A guide to working with faith-based organizations in the response to HIV and AIDS**]. Any indication of anti-faith bias would be addressed by senior management of the Global Fund.

4. **If there is widespread prejudice at the CCM level against FBOs and other civil society institutions, open up an alternate route for proposals to be considered and funded.**

In its April Board meeting, the Global Fund took significant steps towards strengthening the role of civil society, including faith-based organizations and the private sector in the Global Fund's work. Board Decision Point 14 (see attached) details some of the steps that the Global Fund plans to take to ensure that civil society and the private sector are able to play a critical role in both Global Fund policy development and implementation and oversight of Global Fund grants. One recommendation (*see below*) that has major implications for faith-based organizations is a dual track financing system for Global Fund grants:

- *The routine inclusion, in proposals for Global Fund financing, of both government and non-government Principal Recipients (PRs) for Global Fund grants (“dual-tracking financing”). The Board recommends the submission of proposals with both government and non-government PRs. If a proposal does not include both government and non-government PRs, it should contain an explanation of the reason for this;*

While this option already exists the Global Fund expects to see many more countries appoint at least one Principal Recipient from the government and one Principal Recipient from civil society. We would like to see the successful models that already work in Zambia, Nigeria and other countries to be applied much more widely. The appropriate Board committees and the Secretariat are taking the necessary steps to implement these recommendations for the launch of Round 8 in early 2008.

5. **If lack of knowledge and capacity is perceived to be a problem at the level of grassroots groups, simplify the procedures and documentation and more proactively encourage other partners to help these small groups build their capacity. Also, strengthen capacity of governments to work with FBOs.**

Board Decision Point 14 (see attached) also addresses strengthening the role of civil society within the Global Fund through the increased funding of community systems.

The Board recommended:

- *The routine inclusion in proposals for Global Fund financing, of requests for funding relevant measures to strengthen the community systems necessary for the effective implementation of Global Fund grant*

This includes programs by FBOs and is meant to facilitate proposals coming from smaller grassroots organizations. This decision point will be implemented in Round 8 and individuals are encouraged to be in touch with the board delegations working on the details of this proposal. For every round the guidelines are revised to ensure they are as user-friendly as possible.

6. **If it is administratively impossible for the Fund to deal directly with hundreds or thousands of small FBOs and community-based groups, make it easier for intermediary organizations such as religious health networks to bundle them into consolidated proposals, and adjust financial accounting procedures and monitoring and evaluation requirements to make them feasible for working with a multitude of small groups. Also, why not fund more regional and umbrella projects, an FBO strength?**

The Global Fund *does* accept consolidated proposals from large religious networks such as those in recent years from the Churches Health Association of Nigeria (CHAN) and the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) as well as regional proposals like the Lubombo grant in southern Africa.

Beginning with their Round 1 HIV/AIDS grant, in recognition of CHAZ's provision of 30 percent of all health care services the Government of Zambia signed a memorandum of understanding with CHAZ to serve as a Principal Recipient and identify and fund all faith-based sub-recipients through their umbrella network of FBOs and health facilities. In particular the money sub-granted to those

FBOs went to fund home-based care and other health initiatives where FBOs have historically had a comparative advantage.

The Global Fund would indeed welcome a closer cooperation with faith-based umbrella organizations and is recognizing their crucial role in facilitating the submission of high quality proposals.

More information on the regional and umbrella proposals can be found by country in the Search Centre section on the Global Fund homepage:

<http://www.theglobalfund.org/programs/search.aspx?lang=en> .

7. **If there is uncertainty about the level of Global Fund resources going to FBOs, invest a little staff time into gathering those data.**

The Global Fund is working to improve its data management systems to better capture recipient and sub-recipient information. We are currently pilot testing a financial tracking approach aimed at capturing more detailed budgetary and expenditure information about funding that goes to sub-recipients. Based on the outcome of this pilot-test, we anticipate enhancing our financial tracking mechanism during the second semester of 2007. We hope to have this information for the entire portfolio available no later than mid-next year, depending on the final decision on how to request the information from the Principal Recipients.

In addition at the beginning of 2007, the Global Fund asked Principal Recipients to provide high level budget information that examined programmatic areas and sub-recipients. This budget analysis found that approximately 30 percent of ongoing grants went to NGOs, including faith-based and other community-based organizations.

The Global Fund is also planning to hire consultants who are knowledgeable about FBOs and can help analyze existing data to get a better picture of the true involvement of FBOs in the Global Fund structures and procedures.