

GLOBAL FUND OBSERVER (GFO), an independent newsletter about the Global Fund provided by Aidspace to over 7,000 subscribers in 170 countries.

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"The Aidspace Guide to Round 8 Applications to the Global Fund – Volume 2: The Applications Process and the Proposal Form" is now available in French and Spanish. The next two articles report this news in French and Spanish.

[4. ANNONCE: Les versions française et espagnole du "Guide de l'Aidspace sur les candidatures à la huitième série de demandes de subvention au Fonds mondial - Tome 2: Processus de soumission d'une demande de subvention et formulaire de proposition" sont publiées](#)

Le tome 2 du "Guide de l'Aidspace sur les candidatures à la huitième série de demandes de subvention au Fonds mondial" vient tout juste d'être publié en français et en espagnol.

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El Volumen 2 de "La Guía de Aidspace para las Propuestas al Fondo Mundial de la Ronda 8" acaban de ser publicadas en francés y español.

[6. EXCERPTS: Two Excerpts from "The Aidspace Guide to Round 8 Applications to the Global Fund – Volume 2: The Applications Process and the Proposal Form"](#)

Excerpts from Volume 2 of Aidspace's Round 8 guide are provided on how to respond to a question on the proposal form asking applicants to provide a one-page summary of a particular disease element, and on how to respond to a question asking applicants to briefly describe their country's current prevention, treatment, care and support strategies.

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1. ANNOUNCEMENT: Aidspace White Paper "Providing Improved Technical Support to Enhance the Effectiveness of Global Fund Grants" is Published

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Before the Global Fund was established five years ago, the critical challenge in the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria was coping with the shortage of money. But now that the Global Fund is in a position to give grants worth over a billion dollars per year, the critical challenge has shifted. It now consists of two things: developing adequate capacity; and overcoming a range of technical and management barriers to smooth project implementation. One key – but not the only one – to tackling these barriers is the provision of effective technical support (TS) (also known as technical assistance).

Last month, Aidspace published a white paper which tackles two linked questions: What problems arise in the provision of adequate, timely, appropriate and effective TS to projects financed by the Global Fund? And what can be done about these problems? The white paper, entitled "Providing Improved Technical Support to Enhance the Effectiveness of Global Fund Grants", can be downloaded from www.aidspace.org/aidspacepublications.

The first main problem area discussed in the white paper is that *TS needs are usually identified and met too late in the Global Fund grant cycle*. Underlying factors here include:

- CCMs and PRs are often in denial regarding grant difficulties
- Even where there is no denial, there is often a reluctance to ask for TS
- M&E systems are inadequate
- The Fund's system for detecting grants in difficulty is insufficiently effective
- Getting TS is time-consuming

Recommendations that the white paper offers for dealing with this include:

- Divide the Fund's grant proposal process into two stages – pre-proposal, and full proposal. And require both stages to include a TS Plan.
- Provide incentives for PRs and CCMs to identify problems early
- Replace the Fund's existing system for detecting grants in difficulty with a three-level online "Grant Progress Reporting System (GPRS)"

The second main problem area discussed is that *the TS that is provided often does not meet grantee needs. In particular, it usually does not build local capacity*. Underlying factors here include:

- "TS seekers" and appropriate "TS providers" have difficulties finding each other
- TS is too often supplier-driven and too often North-based
- TS too often has a short-term focus
- There is no global knowledge-base on TS
- Language and cultural barriers often prevent effective TS provision
- The main form of TS that is needed is often for someone to provide "proactive coordination" among the in-country stakeholders; but often no suitable person is available to play this role
- TS is rarely evaluated

Recommendations offered for dealing with this include:

- Encourage, within each large country or region, the establishment of a two-level TS provision system
- Create a web-based "TS marketplace"
- Strengthen local TS capacity
- Monitor effectiveness of TS

The third main problem area discussed is that *TS is under-funded, and GF partners do not collaborate sufficiently regarding TS provision*. Underlying factors here include:

- Nobody has a clear mandate to provide GF-related TS
- GF partner agencies do not communicate/coordinate adequately
- Loss of institutional memory is a major problem
- TS providers are often unaware of each other's lessons learned

Recommendations offered for dealing with this include:

- For each country/disease combination, choose a "lead agency" to coordinate TS issues
- For each country, develop an in-country forum of partners (or strengthen it, if it exists) to discuss TS needs and related issues
- Develop a forum through which TS funders and TS providers can mutually discuss lessons learned and best practice

These issues were discussed at the first "Global Fund Round Table", organized in 2007 by Aidsplan. The meeting consisted of a private "conversation" between twenty leaders representing government, civil society and multilateral agencies. These leaders, including Peter Piot, head of UNAIDS, and Mark Dybul, head of PEPFAR, did not attempt to agree on recommendations. They agreed instead that Aidsplan would produce this white paper, based in large part on problems that were discussed at the Round Table, and including recommendations generated before and after the Round Table by Aidsplan and others.

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2. COMMENTARY: Dropping the Ball

by Wycliffe Muga

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If you stopped an ordinary man in the street here in Kenya and told him that there is a *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria* which gives money to help Kenya fight the three diseases, he would probably be pleasantly surprised. For not many people here have any idea that such a fund exists.

And if you then told him that at present, Kenya is only receiving about half of the money it could receive from this fund – not because the money is being diverted to private bank accounts or any of the usual reasons why Kenya fails to get money from global funding institutions, but because the people charged with preparing proposals and submitting them to the Fund have been unable to come up with proposals which are acceptable to those who control these funds, despite the enormous need – the likely response would be one of outrage.

For if you live in a country which is always seeking financial assistance from "Western donor organisations", you will assume that if there is one thing that the government is obliged to do well, it is securing ever increasing funds from such sources.

And in a country where far too many people die of the diseases which this money is intended to fight, anything less than a perfect proposal prepared well in advance would seem like criminal negligence.

For each of Rounds 1 through 6, the Global Fund's announcing of its "Call for Proposals" led to a flurry of activity in most developing countries: CCMs met, task teams were put together, consultants were sought, and in some cases it seemed that the entire Ministry of Health ground to a halt. As the deadline for proposal submission got closer, people got more and more frantic, and CCM members were often given minutes rather than days to review the completed proposal before signing.

It was largely because of this "controlled chaos" that the Fund agreed two years ago that the Call for Proposals will always be on March 1. Thus, people know months beforehand when the Call will be issued and when the proposal forms will become available. The idea is to enable CCMs to spend those extra months planning what their forthcoming proposals will focus on, and, when necessary, seeking technical support.

And even if the CCMs are still not as organized as they should be, you would at least expect the relevant multilateral agencies to be well prepared.

So it came as a real surprise when one month AFTER this year's Call for Proposals, rather than two months BEFORE it, UNAIDS headquarters sent out an email to UNAIDS offices around the world, instructing them to take action supporting CCMs as they prepare their proposals and seek technical support.

This was in response to a statement signed by over seventy civil society organisations from around the world, challenging UNAIDS to set a goal of “an acceptance level of 70 percent for HIV/AIDS applications to the Global Fund for Round 8”, rather than the 40 percent that has occurred in the past.

This challenge received a positive response from Michel Sidibe, the Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS, who not only accepted this “ambitious goal” as being “doable”, but went on to state that he was “personally monitoring” the support that is being provided by UNAIDS.

This is all very good, but it does not address the fundamental question here: How can it possibly be justified that this great effort is being made this late in the day??

This was not some unexpected deadline which was arbitrarily imposed on the CCMs. It is a deadline that comes around every year, on a date that is known well in advance.

Everybody dropped the ball here – the civil society groups that pressured UNAIDS to take action, but didn't do so until well after the Call for Proposals; UNAIDS itself, for not getting moving on this until it was pushed by the civil society groups; and those many CCMs that delayed strategizing regarding their Global Fund applications until months later than they should.

[Note: This is the third of a number of GFO Commentaries by Wycliffe Muga (muga@aidspan.org). Wycliffe, a Kenyan journalist, is the BBC World Service's "Letter from Africa" correspondent, and last year served as the BBC's "Letter from the United States" correspondent during a fellowship at MIT. He has also been a columnist for Kenya's Daily Nation and Standard newspapers, and is currently a columnist for the Nairobi Star. The views expressed here are his own.]

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3. ANNOUNCEMENT: French and Spanish Versions of "The Aidspan Guide to Round 8 Applications to the Global Fund – Volume 2: The Applications Process and the Proposal Form" are Released

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French and Spanish versions of Volume 2 of "The Aidspan Guide to Round 8 Applications to the Global Fund," in two separate editions for single- and multi-country applicants, are now available at www.aidspan.org/guides. The English editions of Volume 2 were posted last month. For a full description of the contents of the guide, see Issue 86 of GFO (available at www.aidspan.org/gfo). The next two articles report this news in French and Spanish. Following that, two excerpts are provided from the English version of the guide.

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4. ANNONCE: Les versions française et espagnole du "Guide de l'Aidspan sur les candidatures à la huitième série de demandes de subvention au Fonds mondial - Tome 2: Processus de soumission d'une demande de subvention et formulaire de proposition" sont publiées

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[Editor's note: This article is an adaptation in French of an article that appeared in English in GFO Issue #86.]

Le tome 2 du "Guide de l'Aidspan sur les candidatures à la huitième série de demandes de subvention au Fonds mondial" vient tout juste d'être publié en français et en espagnol. On peut le télécharger sans frais à l'adresse www.aidspan.org/guides où l'on trouve également d'autres guides de l'Aidspan.

Le tome 2 ("Processus de soumission d'une demande de subvention et formulaire de proposition") explique le processus de demande de subvention, décrit les nouveautés de la huitième série et donne des directives sur les étapes à suivre pour remplir le formulaire de proposition de la série 8.

Il est publié en deux volets (un volet pour les candidats pays seul et un autre pour les candidats multipays) puisque le Fonds mondial a préparé deux versions du formulaire de proposition de la série 8.

Le tome 2 étant assez volumineux, les lecteurs ont le choix de télécharger le guide en entier, ou des parties précises du guide.

Le tome 2 n'a pas pour but d'indiquer au lecteur ce que "doit" contenir la demande qu'il compte présenter au Fonds mondial. Il vise plutôt à démystifier le processus de soumission d'une demande de subvention et à préciser les attentes. Il part du principe qu'il n'y a pas de méthode universelle à suivre pour remplir le formulaire de proposition. Il encourage les candidats à exposer clairement leurs plans de lutte contre le VIH/SIDA, la tuberculose ou le paludisme et à constituer un dossier solide qui convaincra le Fonds mondial de la viabilité de leurs plans et de la capacité de ceux-ci à donner les résultats escomptés. Les candidats doivent en outre convaincre le Fonds mondial de leur engagement envers le plan et de leur capacité à le mettre en œuvre.

Voici les sections principales du deuxième tome:

Chapitre 1: Introduction

- Quels projets le Fonds mondial appuie-t-il?

Chapitre 2: Les nouveautés de la huitième série

- Formulaire de proposition simplifié
- Deux formulaires de proposition, et non un seul
- Financement à deux voies
- Le partage des coûts par opposition à la contrepartie financière
- Critères de recevabilité des candidats de pays à revenu moyen supérieur
- L'établissement du niveau de revenu d'un pays
- Renforcement des systèmes de santé
- Renforcement des systèmes communautaires
- Consolidation des subventions
- Les questions de genre

Chapitre 3: Renseignements généraux sur le processus de soumission d'une demande de subvention de la huitième série

- Versions du formulaire de proposition
- Endroits où se procurer des copies du formulaire de proposition
- Autres documents et liens pertinents
- Processus de soumission d'une demande de subvention
- Directives générales pour remplir le formulaire de proposition

Chapitre 4: Étapes à suivre pour remplir le formulaire de proposition de la série 8 - Candidats pays seul

- Rubriques 1 et 2 du formulaire de proposition
- Rubriques 3 et 4 du formulaire de proposition
- Rubrique 5 du formulaire de proposition
- Annexe D du formulaire de proposition

(Le tome 1 du *"Guide de l'Aidspan sur les minipropositions à la huitième série de demandes de subventions au fonds mondial"* sous-titré *"S'y prendre tôt"* est déjà publié en anglais, en français et en espagnol à l'adresse www.aidspan.org/guides. Le tome 1 donne des directives sur la façon dont les ICN peuvent gérer le processus d'élaboration de la proposition, y compris le processus visant à solliciter des minipropositions. On y retrouve aussi une analyse détaillée des points forts et des points faibles des propositions soumises dans le cadre des appels de propositions précédents fondée sur les commentaires formulés par les membres du Comité technique d'examen des propositions [CTEP].).

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5. NOTICIA: Acaban de ser publicadas las Versiones en Español y Francés de “La Guía de Aidspar para las Propuestas al Fondo Mundial de la Ronda 8”.

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[Editor's note: This article is an adaptation in Spanish of an article that appeared in English in GFO Issue #86.]

El Volumen 2 de “La Guía de Aidspar para las Propuestas al Fondo Mundial de la Ronda 8” acaban de ser publicadas en francés y español. La misma está disponible de manera gratuita en www.aidspar.org/guides, donde también encontrará las otras Guías de Aidspar.

El Volumen 2 (“El Proceso de Solicitudes y el Formato de Propuesta”) describe el proceso de las solicitudes y lo nuevo en la Ronda 8, así como da una guía paso por paso sobre como llenar el formato de propuesta de la Ronda 8.

El Volumen 2 tiene dos ediciones, una para los solicitantes para un solo país y otra para los solicitantes para varios países, eso debido a que el Fondo Mundial preparó dos versiones del formato de propuesta de la Ronda 8.

Debido a que el Volumen 2 es bastante largo, los lectores tienen la opción de descargar toda la guía o sólo porciones específicas de la misma.

Esta guía no pretende indicarle a los lectores lo que deberían decir en sus propuestas al Fondo Mundial. El objetivo es desmitificar el proceso de presentación de propuestas y proveer una orientación clara sobre lo que se espera del mismo. Esta Guía está basada en la premisa que no existe una sola manera “correcta” de completar el formato de propuesta. La misma alienta a quienes vayan a presentar propuestas a que describan claramente sus planes para enfrentar al VIH/SIDA, la tuberculosis (TB), o la malaria; así como demuestren, de manera convincente, que esos planes son viables, capaces de producir los resultados anticipados y que las personas que los prepararon están (a) comprometidas y (b) tienen las destrezas necesarias para implementarlos.

Las secciones principales del Volumen 2 son las siguientes:

Capítulo 1: Introducción

- ¿Cuáles iniciativas recibirán el apoyo del Fondo Mundial?

Capítulo 2: Lo Nuevo en la Ronda 8

- Formato de Propuesta Simplificado
- Dos Formatos de Propuestas en Vez de Uno
- Financiamiento a Doble Vía
- Compartición de Costos vs. Financiamiento a Contrapartida
- Criterios de Elegibilidad para los Países de Renta Media-Alta
- Determinando el Nivel de Renta del País
- Fortalecimiento de los Sistemas de Salud
- Fortalecimiento de los Sistemas Comunitarios
- Consolidación de la Subvención
- Género

Capítulo 3: Información General sobre el Proceso de Solicitudes de la Ronda 8

- Versiones del Formato de Propuesta
- Donde Puede Obtener Copias del Formato de Propuesta y sus Anexos
- Otros Documentos y Vínculos Relevantes
- Proceso Para Enviar una Propuesta
- Orientación General Sobre Como Llenar el Formato de Propuesta

Capítulo 4: Guía Paso por Paso para Llenar el Formato de Propuesta de la Octava Convocatoria – Solicitantes para un Solo País

- Secciones 1 y 2 del Formato de Propuesta

- Secciones 3 y 4 del Formato de Propuesta
- Sección 5 del Formato de Propuesta
- Anexo D del Formato de Propuesta

(El Volumen 1 de “La Guía de Aidspace para las Propuestas al Fondo Mundial de la Ronda 8” subtulado “Anticipando el Trabajo” ya está disponible en inglés, francés y español en www.aidspace.org/guides. Entre otras cosas, el Volumen 1 da una orientación cómo los MCPs pueden gestionar el proceso de elaboración de la propuesta, incluyendo el proceso para solicitar subpropuestas en el país. El Volumen 1 también incluye un amplio análisis de las fortalezas y debilidades de la propuestas presentadas en anteriores rondas de financiamiento, con base en los comentarios emitidos por el Panel de Revisión Técnica).

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6. EXCERPTS: Two Excerpts from “The Aidspace Guide to Round 8 Applications to the Global Fund – Volume 2: The Applications Process and the Proposal Form”

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Following are two sample excerpts from “The Aidspace Guide to Round 8 Applications to the Global Fund – Volume 2: The Applications Process and the Proposal Form,” whose publication in English was announced in GFO #86 and whose publication in French and Spanish is announced above.

Excerpt #1: Summary of the Disease Element

This excerpt constitutes guidance from Aidspace on how to respond to a question on the proposal form asking applicants to provide a one-page summary of a particular disease element (i.e, HIV, TB or malaria) in their proposal.

The purpose of the summary is to provide a short overview of the disease element. You should try to stick to the one-page limit, though this will not be easy given all the information the Fund says should be included here. Remember, you will have many opportunities to describe your programme [later on the proposal form]. The summary should just be a bird’s eye view.

The natural tendency is to fill out the summary last, because it summarizes the information in the rest of the proposal. Our own experience, however, has been that it is a good idea to produce a draft of the summary about half-way through the proposal-writing process. There is a lot of value in being forced to summarize the programme in a few short paragraphs, even though the summary may have to go through several drafts before it is satisfactory. That exercise leads to everyone having a clearer sense of the “story” that the proposal has to tell. Once the rest of the proposal has been completed, you can review your draft of the summary to ensure that it is consistent.

China provided the following summary of its Round 7 HIV proposal:

China’s migrant population is estimated at approximately 120 million, and growing. The Chinese Government places migrants high on its policy agenda. This project will scale up prevention and care for Chinese rural-to-urban migrant workers (*nongmingong*), a huge population that is particularly vulnerable to HIV, and a potential bridge to the general population.

The proposal targets the provinces that receive the most migrants, including Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin (Municipalities), and Guangdong, Zhejiang, Fujian, and Jiangsu (Provinces). As major centers of manufacturing and economic growth centers, these target provinces will provide a significant proportion of country counterpart funds, thus ensuring sustainability.

The project approach integrates policy level actions with high-quality HIV prevention, treatment, and care. High quality Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and HIV services will be selectively designed and carefully targeted, but integrated within broader healthcare delivery systems and development approaches. Priority will be placed on zones of concentrated vulnerability, economic sectors, or gender. Coverage will be ensured by partnerships between government agencies, participating businesses, Non-government Organizations (NGOs) and community healthcare providers. The project will mobilize the funds, in-kind resources and delivery networks of the private sector.

Some innovative aspects of the proposed work include:

- Service delivery through multiple channels with strong NGO and private sector participation.
- Prevention will emphasize behaviour change communication (BCC) approaches taking into account the special characteristics of the migrant population in each setting.

The comprehensive prevention package includes BCC, quality condoms and accessible STI, HIV testing and counselling and treatment services. An underlying priority will be to reduce pervasive stigma and discrimination in China through enforcement of existing non-discrimination policies, effective communication strategies, and partnerships with private sector and civil society.

The project is embedded in China's evolving institutional framework for health and HIV:

- The Principal Recipient (PR) is an established governmental agency in China with authority and means to ensure a multi-sectoral, harmonized approach.
- The program will add high technical value by pioneering and scaling up evidence-based methods for meeting the multiple needs of the migrant population.

In terms of concrete outputs, the program will deliver:

- HIV/AIDS prevention service to 3,200,000 vulnerable migrants, targeting risk behaviours that have led to high rates of sexually transmitted infections in migrant sourcing industries.
- The program will provide STI treatment to 350,00 migrants, HIV testing and counselling services to 800,000 migrants, and care and treatment to over 5,000 migrant People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs).

In the above, China managed to provide a very succinct overview of the entire project; keep to the one-page limit; include some epidemiological information, but very briefly; indicate the geographic reach of the project; describe the overall approach of the project; refer to some innovative aspects of the project; explain how the project fits within China's health and HIV framework; and describe what outputs the project will produce. This is a good model for other applicants to follow.

Excerpt #2: National Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Strategies

This excerpt constitutes guidance from Aidsplan on how to respond to a question on the proposal form for single-country applicants asking them to briefly describe their country's current prevention, treatment, care and support strategies.

You are being asked to do three things: (a) describe the current national prevention, treatment, care and support strategies; (b) explain how these strategies are consistent with the pattern and burden of the disease; and (c) describe the improved outcomes these strategies are expected to produce. In addition, the R8 Guidelines for Proposals state that if the strategies have changed recently because of changing epidemiology, then this should be explained. We suggest that if the *understanding* of the epidemiology has changed recently, or if the level of political commitment to having a truly epidemiologically based strategy has changed recently, this should also be explained here.

Applicants should try to be succinct, and should avoid getting into too many details. We offer the following suggestions concerning how your response can be organised. These suggestions assume that there is a strategic plan in place guiding the national response.

- Provide the title of the strategic plan, as well as the dates covered by the plan.
- Indicate when the plan was developed.
- Briefly list the objectives and/or priority areas of the plan.
- Under each objective or priority area: briefly describe the main strategies; explain how the strategies are consistent with the epidemiology; and briefly describe the expected outcomes.
- If there have already been some achievements as a result of the national strategy, briefly describe these, either under each objective or priority, or in a separate section.

You should not provide information here that is not being asked for. For example, you are not being asked to describe the weakness of the national strategy; you will be asked to do this in a later section. Nor are you being asked how the national strategy is being monitored.

The following extract from the Kenya Round 7 HIV proposal [which applies only to the prevention part of the response] demonstrates how information for this section can be presented concisely:

Prevention of New Infections

HIV and AIDS prevention strategies focus on expanding key prevention interventions such as sexual behaviour change, counselling and testing, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infection (STI), prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, safe blood and post and exposure prophylaxis. Prevention strategies are also oriented towards targeting particular population groups that are at higher risk of HIV infection. Groups that are particularly vulnerable include commercial sex workers and their clients, injecting drug users, discordant couples, women and young girls, migrant workers, prisoners and uniformed services (police, military personnel).

The main prevention outcomes anticipated include the following:

- Less than 10% of girls and 20% of boys have sex before age of 15.
- Condom use at most recent high-risk sex in 15-24 age range from at least 40% for women 65% for men.
- At least 85% of women and 85% of men in age 15-15 identify ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- Less than 23% of infants born to HIV+ mothers will be HIV+.

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END OF NEWSLETTER
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This is an issue of the GLOBAL FUND OBSERVER (GFO) Newsletter.

GFO is an independent source of news, analysis and commentary about the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (www.theglobalfund.org). GFO is emailed to over 7,000 subscribers in 170 countries at least twelve times per year.

GFO is a free service of Aidspace (www.aidspace.org), based in Nairobi, Kenya. Aidspace is a non-governmental organization that serves as an independent watchdog of the Global Fund, promoting increased support for, and effectiveness of, the Fund.

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GFO is currently provided in English only. It is hoped later to provide it in additional languages.

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For information on all approved proposals submitted to the Global Fund, see www.aidspace.org/globalfund/grants

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