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E.D. Report Provides Updates on CCMs, Round 8 Grants, Other Topics

The Global Fund is developing a comprehensive performance assessment framework designed to enhance its ability to identify CCMs that need assistance. As well, fund portfolio managers (FPMs) have been instructed to actively participate in CCM meetings and to liaise more regularly with CCM members. This information was contained in the “Report of the Executive Director,” presented to the Global Fund Board at its meeting in Geneva at the end of April 2010.

The report also revealed that the Global Fund Secretariat has been organising CCM-specific regional meetings; and that, to date, about 300 CCM members have participated in these meetings in South and West Asia, South America, and West and Central Africa. Five more regional meetings are planned for 2010.

In addition, the report said that the Global Fund’s new dashboard oversight tool is being used by CCMs in 14 countries. GFO reported on the new tool in Issue 116, at www.aidspan.org/gfo (see “Global Fund Provides CCMs with New Tool for Grant Oversight”).

The E.D.’s report contained information on a variety of topics, including the following:

Round 8 grants. Of the 147 Round 8 grants, 113 (77%) were signed within the 12-month deadline; 16 were signed after being granted a three-month extension; and 18 remained to be signed. Two of these 18 grants have been given an indefinite extension because the nominated PR has been suspended (with respect to grants signed before Round 8). For Round 8, the average elapsed time between proposal approval and first disbursement was 10.7 months. Delays were due to a number of factors, including the volume and complexity of grants, lengthened negotiations due to the need to find “efficiency gains,” and the growing number of proposals (as more countries adopt dual-track financing).

Dual-track financing. Thirty-four percent of Round 9 proposals nominated both a non-governmental PR and one from the public sector. Civil society and private sector PRs constituted 40% of the PRs nominated in Rounds 8 and 9, more than double the percentage in previous rounds.

Phase 2 renewals and grant performance. In 2009, 79 Phase 2 renewals were signed, with a total value of \$1 billion. Grant performance continues to be strong. Of the grants renewed in 2009, 32% were rated A at the time of renewal, 58% B1, 9% B2, and only 1% C. Sixty-one percent of the grants received a “Go” rating, while the remaining 39% received a “Conditional Go” rating.

LFA performance evaluations. The LFA performance evaluation system is now in use. So far, this system has led to the retendering of contracts with poor performing LFAs in five countries.

Additional Safeguard Policy (ASP). The countries whose grants are currently being managed under the ASP are Chad, Cuba, Haiti, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Zimbabwe. The Global Fund invokes the ASP when it believes that accountability for the use of Global Fund resources is weak and that its assets would otherwise be exposed to an unacceptable level of risk.

Active and inactive grants. In March 2010, 600 grants were being implemented or were in negotiation, and 256 were inactive. Of the latter, 85 had been formally closed and 157 were in the process of being closed. Eight grants were continuing to supply lifesaving services under the Continuity of Services Policy.

Single stream of funding. One of the first (if not the first) single stream of funding grant agreement was signed with Fiji's Ministry of Health, Women and Social Welfare. It involved the consolidation of two TB proposals from Rounds 8 and 9. Preliminary estimates are that the number of grant consolidations will reach 35 by 1 July 2010 and more than 60 by the end of 2010. The system of funding applications will undergo a major redesign in time for Round 11, to reflect changes in the grant architecture.

Voluntary Pooled Procurement. PRs from 37 countries (representing 68 grants) have joined the Voluntary Pooled Procurement (VPP) system. Discussion are ongoing with PRs from another 20 countries. The VPP has now registered 130 orders, with a total value of \$335 million. Ten countries have signed up for capacity building and supply chain management assistance.

Affordable Medicines Facility – malaria (AMFm). The Global Fund will soon sign master supply agreements with the six artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) manufacturers that are currently eligible. The Fund expects that first-line buyers in the fastest moving countries will be able to order co-paid ACTs starting this month, for delivery in August 2010.

PMTCT. As part of its initiative to scale up PMTCT programmes, the Global Fund, working with a number of partners, has identified opportunities for reprogramming in nine countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. The scaling up involves a switch from the use of single dose nevirapine to more effective dual or triple ARV therapy. For more information, see “Opportunity to Reprogramme Grants to Improve PMTCT Treatment,” in GFO 120, at www.aidspan.org/gfo.

The E.D.'s report also revealed that In December 2009, theGlobal Fund was granted official observer status by the United Nations GeneralAssembly.

The "Report of the Executive Director" is at

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