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Another \$1.38 billion in grants from 2017–2019 allocations approved by Global Fund Board

On 13 December 2017, the Global Fund Board approved grants worth \$1.38 billion from the 2017-2019 allocations. This was the fourth batch of approvals from the 2017–2019 allocations, and brings the cumulative amount awarded to date to \$7.64 billion.

The Board approved funding for 26 grants emanating from 18 funding requests submitted by 12 countries. The Board was acting on the recommendations of the Technical Review Panel (TRP) and the Grant Approvals Committee (GAC).

The \$1.38 billion total included five matching funds requests valued at \$32.7 million. Interventions totaling \$447.9 million were added to the Unfunded Quality Demand (UQD) Register. Domestic commitments to the programs represented by the approved grants amounted to \$3.30 billion.

See the table for details.

Table: Grants approved from the 2017-2019 allocations – Fourth batch (\$US)

Applicant	Component	Grant name	Principal recipient	Amount approved	UQD
Burundi	Malaria	BDI-M-UNDP	UNDP	36,656,018	
	TB/HIV	BDI-C-UNDP	UNDP	35,644,804	
Ethiopia	RSSH	ETH-S-FMOH	Ministry of Health	27,581,142	5,081,900
Guyana	HIV	GUY-H-MOH	Ministry of Health	4,539,985	

	Malaria	IND-M-NVBDCP	NVBDCP	65,006,452	42,677,5
		IND-H-IHAA	Intl. H/A Alliance	20,566,233	
India	HIV	IND-H-NACO	NACO	111,525,269	72,275,5
		IND-H-PLAN	Plan International	12,027,687	
		IND-H-SAATHII	SAATHII	7,001,811	
	HIV	IDN-H-MOH	Ministry of Health	60,661,386	
Indonesia		IDN-H-SPIRITI	Yayasan Spiritia	32,116,331	37,841,7
	TB	IDN-T-AISYIYA	C.B. of AISYIYA	14,768,459	
		IDN-T-MOH	Ministry of Health	103,034,752	
Liberia	HIV	LBR-H-PSI	Pop. Services Intl.	6,000,000	
Mali	HIV	MLI-H-HCNLS	Haut CNLS	41,111,557	
	HIV	MAR-H-MOH	Ministry of Health	13,924,839	2,519,3
Morocco	TB	MAR-T-MOH	Ministry of Health	2,201,595	758,259
	Malaria	NGA-M-CRS	Catholic Relief Serv.	273,923,625	165,401
Nigeria		NGA-M-NMEP	Ministry of Health	9,397,231	
	HIV	PAK-H-NACP	Nat. AIDS Control Prog.	17,478,571	14,663,5
Pakistan		PAK-H-NZT	Nai Zindagi Trust	17,477,536	
	HIV	SSD-H-UNDP	UNDP	32,681,295	6,632,3
South Sudan	Malaria	SSD-M-PSI	Pop. Services Intl.	45,000,000	16,816,0
	TB	SSD-T-UNDP	UNDP	9,000,000	3,247,7
	HIV	TZA-H-MOF	Ministry of Finance	349,412,557	37,287,0
Tanzania	TB	TZA-T-MOF	Ministry of Finance	30,495,717	

Notes:

1. Amounts shown are upper ceilings.
2. For countries using euros, the amounts were converted to U.S. dollars at a rate of 1.1765 euros to the dollar.
3. The Ethiopia approved amount consists of allocated funding of \$24,000,000 plus \$3,581,142 from the Government of Spain through a Debt2Health agreement.
4. The domestic commitment shown for Ethiopia is for the three diseases.
5. The amounts approved include matching funds requests in the amounts of \$3,072,115 and \$278,937 for Indonesia HIV (IDN-H-MOH and IDN-H-SPIRITI, respectively); \$836,523 and \$14,550,152 for Indonesia TB (IDN-T-AISYIYA and IDN-T-MOH, respectively); \$8,000,000 for Tanzania HIV; and \$6,000,000 for Tanzania TB

As is customary, the approved funding is subject to availability of funding and will be committed in annual tranches. Where more than one grant has been approved for a component, the Secretariat has the authority to redistribute the approved amounts among the grants (except that any material change must be validated by the TRP).

Of the 18 funding requests, six were of the program continuation variety; six were full review and six were tailored. Six of the funding requests were from Window 1 (20 March), 11 from Window 2 (23 May) and just one from Window 3 (28 August).

In its report to the Board, the GAC said that the grants were found to be disbursement-ready by the Secretariat after a thorough review process and in consultation with partners. During grant-making, the GAC said, each applicant refined the grant documents, addressed issues raised by the TRP and GAC, and sought efficiencies where possible. The GAC endorsed the reinvestment of efficiencies in one of the following: (a) the same grant, in areas recommended by the TRP; (b) other disease components of the same applicant – where the TRP did not recommend reinvesting in the same grant; or (c) the general funding pool.

Judging by the end dates shown in the GAC report, more than three-quarters of the approved grants had a proposed start date of 1 January 2018. Since Board approval came only on 13 December, there won't be much time to get the grant confirmations signed by 1 January. It is possible that some countries will need to ask for short extensions of their current grants. However, we don't have any information to the effect that extensions will be required. We are reminded of the fact that, as we said above, when the grants go to the Board for approval, they are already disbursement ready.

See [separate article](#) in this issue on the approval of the Nigeria malaria grants.

More to come

There were 169 grants approved in the first four batches. The GAC met one more time in 2017, on 6-7 December, where it was expected to review 14 grants; a decision on these grants is expected on 12 January 2018.

Three more windows have been scheduled for 2018, as follows (with the TRP meeting dates shown in parentheses):

Window 4 — 7 February (TRP: 19-29 March)

Window 5 — 30 April (TRP: 3-11 June)

Window 6 — 6 August (TRP: 9-21 September)

Grant extensions

The Board approved costed extensions for four TB and HIV Nigeria grants involving total additional funding of \$166.9 million (taken from the 2017-2019 allocation). See [separate article](#) in this issue.

Additional matters

In its report, the GAC advised the Board that the Secretariat had approved an extension of the closure period of an HIV grant to Bosnia and Hercegovina “to facilitate the responsible closure and transition” of the grant.

The GAC also advised the Board that it had approved a 12-month extension to Iraq's TB grant to enable essential services to continue until the grant is fully integrated into the second phase of the Middle East Response regional (multi-country) grant in January 2019.

Aidspan reported on the approval of the first batch of grant approvals for 2017-2019 [here](#); on the second batch [here](#); and on the third batch [here](#).

Most of the information for this article was taken from Board Document GF-B38-ER03, Report of the Secretariat's Grant Approvals Committee. This document is not available on the Global Fund website.

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