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of the Global Fund

The Global Fund's strategic initiatives focus on deliverables and outcomes

In operationalizing its strategic initiatives, the Secretariat has ensured that each initiative has a “sharp focus” on deliverables and outcomes, with strong accountability for delivery, a spokesperson for the Secretariat says.

“In all Strategic Initiatives, release of the funds is contingent on the implementing entities fulfilling deliverables that are objectively verifiable and are on the critical path for delivery on the outcomes,” Peter Hansen, Head of the Technical Advice and Partnerships Unit, told Aidspan.

The strategic initiatives are one of three streams of funding in the \$800 million catalytic investments pool. Strategic investments have a budget of \$194 million. The other two streams — multi-country approaches and matching funds — have budgets of \$250 million and \$356 million, respectively. (The breakdown of the \$800 million has changed a few times since the catalytic investments were first announced.)

There are 14 separate strategic initiatives (see the table for details).

Table: List of Global Fund's strategic initiatives

Name and Objective

TB: Finding Missing TB Cases

Address specific barriers to finding tuberculosis cases; develop innovative approaches to accelerate finding; scale up tools and approaches

MALARIA 1: Malaria Elimination

Accelerate efforts in 21 countries to achieve the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria to eliminate malaria in at least 35 countries by 2030

MALARIA 2: Catalyzing Market Entry of New LLINs

Introduce new technologies in Africa to counter the threat of insecticide resistance (in conjunction with \$33 million matching funds for catalyzing market entry of new LLINs)

MALARIA 3: Piloting Introduction of RTS,S Malaria Vaccine

Contribute to the development of an updated WHO policy recommendation on the use of the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine in young children in sub-Saharan Africa

RSSH 1: Community, Rights and Gender

Build upon progress made in strengthening engagement of civil society and communities most affected by the three diseases in Global Fund processes

RSSH 2: Sustainability, Transition and Efficiency

Accelerate the implementation of Global Fund's Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing Policy

RSSH 3: Technical Support, South to South, Peer Review and Learning

Support health systems and effective HIV, TB and malaria programming

RSSH 4: Data Systems, Generation and Use

Strengthen health information systems and surveillance; enable country systems to collect, report on and use data; support program impact and thematic evaluations and epidemiological reviews

PSM 1: Diagnosis and Planning

Strengthen countries' diagnosis and planning; support countries to use methodologies and tools to assess procurement and SC systems; support countries in data analysis and systems planning

PSM 2: Innovation Challenge Fund

Support research, development and testing of SC system models; support development of new tools and guides for evaluating SC systems; promote adoption of modern SC technologies

PSM 3: Developing local resources

Support capacity building in countries for development and implementation of national guidance and best practices; support inter-country collaboration and sharing

PSM 4: Pre-Qualification of Medicines and In Vitro Diagnostics

Ensure products international quality, safety and performance standards

TERG: Prospective Country Evaluations

Document the results of Global Fund-funded programs and share lessons learned

Emergency Fund

Support the provision and continuity of essential prevention and treatment services for HIV, TB and malaria during emergency situations that cannot be funded simply through the reprogramming of existing grants

Total

Of the total budget of \$194 million, initiatives totaling \$153 million have been approved by the Grant Approvals Committee (GAC) and are in the implementation phase. One initiative — the Innovation Challenge Fund — is still under development. The \$20 million Emergency Fund does not require GAC approval; these funds go through the Executive Grant Management Committee and are administered by the Grant Management Division.

Of the \$194 million total, just under \$50 million is being administered by the World Health Organization (WHO) through a Cooperative and Financial Agreement, which was [announced](#) by the Global Fund. When it approved the funding for strategic initiatives, the Board mandated that for three of the initiatives — Finding Missing TB Cases

, Piloting Introduction of RTS S,S Malaria Vaccine, and Pre-Qualification of Medicines and In Vitro Diagnostics — the funding be given to the WHO. The Secretariat has asked the WHO to also provide technical support for the Malaria Elimination strategic initiative as well as parts of three RSSH strategic initiatives.

The Global Fund has signed agreements with the WHO, Stop TB and Roll Back Malaria. In the case of two strategic initiatives — Malaria Elimination and Finding Missing TB Cases — the agreements link financing directly to measurable improvements in health outcomes at country level. For Malaria Elimination, the WHO will receive the funding in full only if the countries identified as priority achieve measurable milestones on the path to eliminating malaria, based on reductions in the number of malaria cases. For Finding Missing TB Cases, the WHO and Stop TB will receive the funding in full only if an additional 1.5 million missing TB cases are found in the 13 countries that are part of the initiative (Bangladesh, DRC, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania and Ukraine).

The first progress updates from the technical partners are expected at the end of this month.

Aidspan has reported separately on the Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative [here](#) and [here](#).

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