

Dear Leadership of SC and AFC,

We write on behalf of the Implementers Group to thank the Secretariat and partners for the 18 months of hard work that went into developing the proposed KPI targets, which will be tools we can use for collective accountability in delivering impact. As work on the targets continues through your Committees, here are some guiding thoughts:

Uphold Global Fund commitments to transparency and accountability - The KPI targets can have a significant effect on our countries' economies and health programmes. However, the current methods of target-setting are highly technocratic, and draw on mathematical modeling, data sets and assumptions that are not accessible to the average government official or civil society leader. With respect to the founding principles of the Global Fund, the Secretariat and technical partners must plan extensive and clear communication about how targets are derived, so that implementers are given what we need to make informed decisions about national-level targets.

Need for a better process that is both ambitious and country-led: The current process of developing the proposed KPI targets has taken place at high speed, and has been led by international experts -- but with little input from government, civil society, or affected communities in implementing countries.

The models used to develop these targets align with the Global Plans, but miss realities that Implementers contend with on a daily basis: significant data gaps, weak health systems, challenges with cash absorption, laws that criminalize key populations, armed conflict, natural disasters, and more that combine to make ending the epidemics -- the aim of all three Global Plans -- a distant dream in many of our contexts. The models also rely on scaled-up domestic financing commitments by implementers. However, the October 2016 IMF economic forecast highlights increasing uncertainty in the global economy -- in part, caused by Brexit, US and European election results in 2016-17, and other world events.

Practical conversations about target-setting must be had in implementing countries, emphasizing the need for greater ambition and the need to fill data gaps. Modelers and CCMs should work together with affected communities to drive a process of consultation and ethically sound data collection to produce national-level targets that can a) be incorporated into NSPs and used in Global Fund concept notes, b) contribute to mid-strategy review and update of the Global Fund targets, and c) lay the foundation for stronger global targets for the next Global Fund investment case.

This approach should also include an operational plan to fully involve affected communities in the processes of designing and implementing both data collection and target-setting. We call on the Global Fund and partners to encourage and support more inclusive target-setting consultations at the country level, and to draw on these to inform a mid-strategy review and adjust of the global targets. In the next Global Fund investment case, global targets should be aggregated from the ground up.

Better health data must guide the response: This process has highlighted the critical need for reliable, ethically gathered health data everywhere the Global Fund invests. Some of the KPI targets are based on models that are in turn based on estimates. Others are benchmarked based on the Global Plans (which are highly aspirational) and on averaged data from very diverse country contexts. In particular, the benchmarked targets must be better grounded in reality, or the Global Fund will risk making commitments on which it cannot deliver.

We commit to doing all we can as Implementers to lead and challenge one another to strengthen data systems, in partnership with the community response and with respect for the rights of people vulnerable to the three diseases. We call on the Global Fund and other partners to support these efforts.

Finally we are of the view that the consultations to be done in January and February with the advisory group should be face to face. This in our view will allow for proper interaction and ensure we get the best product. Doing this crucial meeting on a call may not be beneficial and convenient to the implementers.

Allan & Natalya