

GLOBAL FUND OBSERVER (GFO), an independent newsletter about the Global Fund provided by Aidspan to over 8,000 subscribers in 170 countries.

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In remarks made at the Global Fund replenishment meeting last month, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Health for Ethiopia, and Chair of the Global Fund Board, said that while the progress made in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria has had a significant positive impact on efforts to build strong health systems and improve maternal and child health, we need to invest significantly more in this integrated health system strengthening approach if we are to meet the health-related MDGs.

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Among other things, Volume 1 describes the changes that applicants should expect for the Round 10 proposal form, and provides guidance on how CCMs can manage the proposal development process, including the process of soliciting in-country submissions.

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1. NEWS: Letter-Writing Campaign Launched in Support of Universal Access, Funding for AIDS, and the Global Fund

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The International AIDS Society (IAS) has launched a web-based letter-writing campaign that allows individuals and organisations to add their voices to the call for universal access and for an increased political and financial commitment to AIDS and the Global Fund. The campaign is targeting members of the G20.

The G20 is a group of 19 countries plus the European Union which, collectively, comprise two-thirds of world's population, 80% of world trade and 85% of global gross national product. Until recently, those attending G20 meetings were finance ministers and central bank governors. However, the G20 has been growing in stature; in 2009, it was announced that the G20 will replace the G8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations.

The G20 will meet in Toronto, Canada on 26-27 June 2010 (overlapping with the G8 meeting). Countries that have donated to the Global Fund in the past, or that are considering donating now, will meet in New York on 4-5 October 2010 to discuss their pledges to the Fund for the period 2011-2013.

The IAS "call for universal access" website is at www.iasociety.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=404. The site enables anyone to send a letter to the heads of government of any or all of the G20 countries with just a few clicks of the mouse. Several different texts are provided, in English, French and Spanish, most of which are country-specific. In addition, the IAS encourages letter writers to include a personal touch and, where appropriate, to add text in the language of the country.

With respect to the Global Fund, the texts say that the Fund "has turned international investments in health into lifesaving services quickly and efficiently. Without increased financial support, however, this progress could be reversed, meaning millions more will become infected with HIV and die premature, avoidable deaths. Your leadership and influence can help change this."

The website also allows people to send a letter to the head of the African Union. That version of the letter calls on the African Union to work with G8 and G20 leaders to ensure that the global response to AIDS is high on their summit agendas.

One does not have to be from the African Union or a G20 country in order to send a letter.

In addition to the European Union, the G20 is made up of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Meanwhile, Shannon Kowalski of the Open Society Institute has posted some blog entries about Global Fund financing at <http://blog.soros.org/2010/03/the-cost-of-fighting-aids-tb-and-malaria>, <http://blog.soros.org/2010/04/the-global-fund-for-health-if-donors-pay-up> and <http://blog.soros.org/2010/04/the-human-cost-of-misplaced-priorities>.

– David Garmaise (garmaise@aidspan.org), Senior Analyst, Aidspan

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2. NEWS: More Investment in Health Systems Needed, Global Fund Board Chair Says

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The progress we have made in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria has had a significant positive impact on our efforts to build strong health systems and improve maternal and child health. However, we need to invest significantly more in this integrated health system strengthening approach if we are to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This was a central message in an address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Health for Ethiopia, and Chair of the Global Fund Board, to the opening session of the first conference of the Global Fund Third Replenishment, held on 24-25 March 2010 in The Hague.

"The international community's investment in health over the past decade has been one of the most positive stories in international development, and the Global Fund has been central to this success," Dr Tedros said. In his own country of Ethiopia, Dr Tedros said, Global Fund investments have had a dramatic effect. For example:

- More than 177,000 Ethiopians are receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) today (up from 1,000 in 2005) – with nine out of 10 patients surviving and thriving on treatment.

- The distribution of over 20 million bed nets, improved access to effective anti-malaria drugs, and the training and deployment of over 30,000 health extension workers has slashed the number of deaths caused by malaria by half in just three years.

In addition, Dr Tedros said, the Ethiopian Government’s accelerated initiative to build up its health infrastructure with a view to putting in place 15,000 health posts and 3,200 health centres around the country has also been fuelled by Global Fund resources.

However, despite our successes, Dr Tedros said, “the lives of millions across the world are still being lost to the three diseases, and to poor public health in general... AIDS, TB and malaria are still responsible for more than half the deaths of women of childbearing age in sub-Saharan Africa.” For this reason, Dr. Tedros said, “a decisive shift to invest more in the integrated approach to the health MDGs which the Global Fund’s flexible business model has allowed us, is vital, especially at this critical juncture.”

Dr Tedros said that while people in developing countries understand that the global economic slowdown presents a genuine challenge to donor governments, it is nevertheless true that in times of economic crisis, the biggest impact is felt by the world’s poorest countries. “We must not allow the economic crisis to disrupt the momentum gained by the Global Fund in addressing the dire challenges facing the world’s most vulnerable communities.”

Dr Tedros said that “the projections of the number of lives that can be saved [through further investment] are astounding – as are the number of lives that would be lost if we fail to do what needs to be done.”

Dr Tedros presented a comparison of estimated lives saved under two different resource needs scenarios. (The Global Fund recently presented donors with three resource needs scenarios for the period 2011-2013. Scenario 1, at \$13 billion, would allow for the continuation of funding for existing programmes, but new programmes could only be funded at a significantly lower level than in recent years. Scenario 2, at \$17 billion, would allow for the continuation of funding for existing programmes, and funding for new programmes at a level that comes close to that of recent years. Scenario 3, at \$20 billion, would allow for the continuation of funding for existing programmes, and for well-performing programmes to be scaled up significantly, allowing in turn for more rapid progress towards achieving the health-related MDGs.)

Dr Tedros said that comparing Scenarios 1 and 2 reveals that millions of lives are at stake in sub-Saharan Africa alone. For example:

- if we fund ARV treatment under Scenario 1 instead of Scenario 2, we lose the chance to save an extra half-million years worth of African lives by 2017.
- if we fund PMCT programs under Scenario 1 instead of Scenario 2, we lose the chance to save an additional 700,000 years worth of African lives in 2015 alone.
- If we fund insecticide treated bed net programs under Scenario 1 instead of Scenario 2, we lose the chance to save an extra five million years worth of African lives in 2015.

Because so much is at stake, Dr. Tedros said, “the year 2010 finds us at a critical juncture in our joint efforts to improve the health and the lives of the world’s most vulnerable people.”

– David Garmaise

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3. NEWS: Poverty Activist Calls on U.S. Government to Contribute Its Fair Share to the Global Fund

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Editor’s Note: This article contains extracts from a presentation made by Dr Joanne Carter, Executive Director of RESULTS, when she testified on 11 March 2010 before the Sub-Committee on Africa and Global Health, Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives.

We have a tremendous opportunity to accelerate our global health efforts by increasing our support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. I am honored to serve as the Northern Civil Society Delegate to the Global Fund Board, and proud of the annual Results Report released by the Fund just this week. This report should be required reading for any policy maker involved in shaping our global health strategy. I believe the Global Fund is the most effective tool we have in the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria....

The impact of the Fund has gone well beyond Millennium Development Goal 6 to reverse AIDS, TB and malaria, and extends to Goals 4 and 5 on child and maternal health by addressing the biggest killers of women and children. In Africa, AIDS, TB and malaria account for over half of all deaths of women of reproductive age, and malaria alone accounts for up to 18 percent of child deaths....

The Global Fund's impact has been truly global, with investments in programs and efforts catalyzed in 144 countries. These efforts have saved 4.9 million lives – and this is only the beginning. The coming years will bring more results more quickly as half of total disbursements by the Global Fund have been made within the last two years. The full return on our investment has yet to be realized.

The success of the Fund is not just what's been achieved, but in how it's been achieved. On a broad range of best practices – transparency, accountability, performance-based financing, country-led development – the Global Fund is on the cutting edge of translating aid effectiveness theory into practice....

By relentlessly focusing on value for money at all levels – management, implementation, and procurement – the Global Fund has identified \$1 billion in efficiency savings. Here's one example. Global Fund programs are required to procure commodities through a competitive process, and then report price information on key products like anti-retroviral drugs and bed nets to a publicly accessible database. This information facilitates cost comparisons, and gives leverage to other programs to negotiate lower prices.

Responding to country demand, the Global Fund has provided resources to strengthen national health systems as countries respond to AIDS, TB and malaria. Sixteen percent of Global Fund financing has gone to health system strengthening priorities like improving supply chain management and increasing the capacity for monitoring and evaluation.

In an effort to strengthen primary health care through investments in HIV/AIDS and malaria, Ethiopia has trained and deployed over 30,000 community health workers. The result is not only an astounding scale of up AIDS treatment, but rapid improvements in broader maternal and child health indicators. Between 2005 and 2008 – just three years – measles immunization rates have increased from 61 to 77 percent, and births attended by a health professional have jumped from 13 to 25 percent.

The Global Fund's flexible but targeted support for Ethiopia is enabled by a country-led approach. For the Fund, "country" means much more than just the central government. In fact, diverse civil society participation in proposal development is a prerequisite for Global Fund grant approval. This process results in funding disbursements that strengthens civil society voices and seeks to reflect who's actually delivering health services on the ground. Thirty-six percent of Global Fund grants are distributed to non-governmental organizations who are using these funds to take community based programs to a massive scale. For example, the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ), a network of faith-based organizations and a primary recipient of Global Fund financing, provides half of all rural health care services in Zambia.

2010 will be critical in determining if the Global Fund will be allowed to accelerate its successful efforts, or be forced to curb its growth – with dire consequences for AIDS, and TB and malaria. This year, other donors will make three-year funding commitments as part of the Global Fund's once-every- three-year replenishment conference. While the U.S. has not historically made a formal multi-year replenishment pledge, as the largest contributor to the Global Fund, our [fiscal year 2011] allocation will send an important signal to other donors. Flat or reduced funding will exert no leverage on other countries to increase their contributions, and might even trigger a downward spiral. Increased funding from the U.S. could change the course of the replenishment. The President's proposed \$50 million cut is alarming in light of its potential multi-year impact on other donor countries'

commitments, and would leave the U.S. well behind the \$1.75 billion that constitutes our fair share this fiscal year.

RESULTS is a U.S.-based NGO that endeavours to create long-term solutions to poverty by supporting programmes that address its root causes – e.g., lack of access to medical care, education, or opportunity to move up the economic ladder. For more information, see www.results.org. The full text of Dr Carter’s presentation is available at www.results.org/newsroom/dr._joanne_carter_testifies_before_congress/.

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4. NEWS: Report Features Stories of How The Global Fund Impacts Individuals

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The Global Fund has released a publication containing “up close and personal” short stories about how programmes supported by the Global Fund have saved and improved lives.

“Stories of Innovation and Impact – The Global Fund 2010,” a 28-page document, has 12 stories in all, from Ethiopia, Georgia, Jordan, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand and Zambia.

The Lesotho entry, for example, tells the story of Tokani Tokan, a child who lost both his parents and who now lives with other children (and takes care of them, too, because he is the oldest). Tokani wants his house back and is ready to fight for it. Tokani is getting help from the Federation of Women Lawyers, which handles legal cases on behalf of minors.

This is one of a series of documents released by the Global Fund in preparation for the 2010 replenishment meetings. All of the documents are available at www.theglobalfund.org/en/replenishment/hague/documents.

– David Garmaise

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5. NEWS: Global Fund Reports Progress on Increasing Aid Effectiveness

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The Global Fund says that six of its 13 aid effectiveness targets have been met, that one target has been nearly met, and that three others are within reach. This information is contained in *“The Global Fund 2010: Innovation and Impact,”* a report on results released by the Global Fund on 8 March 2010.

The 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which the Global Fund has endorsed, outlines five key principles: (1) country ownership of program design and implementation; (2) alignment with country priorities and systems; (3) harmonisation of donor efforts; (4) managing for results and (5) mutual accountability.

The Global Fund says that it implemented three actions in 2009 to boost aid effectiveness. First, the Fund undertook to monitor aid effectiveness in its overall grant portfolio on an annual basis. Second, the Fund instituted a system of providing feedback and support to CCMs and principal recipients to ensure aid effectiveness is incorporated into grant management. Finally, the Fund integrated aid effectiveness reviews into its assessment of the performance of individual grants during the Phase 2 renewal process.

According to the Global Fund, since Round 8, proposal forms and guidelines have provided guidance on how to improve the alignment of funded activities. In addition, the Technical Review Panel (TRP) uses aid effectiveness monitoring results to guide its review of grant proposals.

The Global Fund established its aid effectiveness targets for 2010 in consultation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Results are provided in the table below.

Table: The Global Fund aid effectiveness scorecard ¹

| Paris Declaration principle | Indicator | 2005 result | 2008 result | 2010 target |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ownership and alignment | Aid recorded in national budgets | 15% | 29% | 85% |
| | Grants aligned with country cycles | 62% | 75% | 90% |
| | Aid using public financial management systems | 39% | 42% | 59% |
| | Aid using national procurement systems | 33% | 87% | 55% |
| | Countries with parallel implementation units ² | 16% | 0% | 5% |
| Aid is predictable and untied | Ratio of actual versus expected disbursements | 90% | 106% | 95% |
| | Aid recorded as scheduled | 16% | 29% | 60% |
| | Untied aid | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Harmonisation with partners | Aid provided in support for program-based approaches | 74% | 79% | 66% |
| | Joint missions with other donors | 15% | 14% | 40% |
| | Joint analytic reports with other donors | 50% | 33% | 50% |
| Managing for results and accountability | Grants with transparent and monitorable performance frameworks | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | Grants aligned to national M&E systems | 73% | 84% | 90% |

¹ Source: Table 3.1 in “The Global Fund 2010: Innovation and Impact.” 2005 results are based on 32 surveyed countries, and 2008 results are based on 54 surveyed countries.

² For this indicator, the target calls for reducing the number of countries with parallel implementation units.

The Global Fund acknowledges that further improvements are needed to reach three targets towards which progress has been limited, namely joint missions with other donors, recording aid in national budgets and recording aid as scheduled.

The Global Fund says that it introduced some new policies in 2009 to improve aid effectiveness at the country level. For example, with respect to programme salaries, the Fund implemented a coordinated approach to compensate health workers and other in-country programme staff. Countries are now asked to provide evidence in their proposals about how salaries are harmonised with national levels or an interagency framework.

In addition, a framework has been developed to encourage the alignment of Global Fund financing with existing national cycles, particularly for financial management and results reporting. The framework also supports the increased use of country systems for procurement, financial management and M&E, where these are of sufficient quality.

Copies of “The Global Fund 2010: Innovation and Impact” are available at www.theglobalfund.org/en/replenishment/hague/documents.

– David Garmaise

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6. ANNOUNCEMENT: Volume 1 of “The Aidspan Guide to Round 10 Applications to the Global Fund” Is Now Available

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Aidspan has released the first volume of “The Aidspan Guide to Round 10 Applications to the Global Fund.” Volume 1, “Getting a Head Start,” is designed to assist applicants with the process of preparing proposals for Round 10, particularly in the period of time before the Global Fund officially launches Round 10.

Volume 1 contains a note on the implications for Round 10 of the Global Fund's new funding architecture, and describes the changes that applicants should expect for the Round 10 proposal form. Volume 1 also provides guidance on how CCMs can manage the proposal development process, including the process of soliciting in-country submissions. In addition, Volume 1 discusses factors that potential applicants should consider if they plan to submit a regional or Non-CCM proposal.

Further, Volume 1 discusses the considerations involved in deciding whether to apply and, for those who intend to apply, emphasises the importance of getting a head start. It describes what initiatives the Global Fund will support; explains who is eligible to apply; summarize the applications process; and provides a series of links where potential applicants can obtain information concerning the development of the technical content of their proposals. The information on technical content is considerably expanded from Aidspace's Round 8 guide.

Finally, Volume 1 provides a list of documents that the Global Fund recommends applicants read before they prepare their application.

Currently, Volume 1 is available in English only. French-, Spanish- and Russian-language versions will be posted by the beginning of May 2010. This is the first time that Aidspace's applying guide will be available in Russian.

"Volume 2 – The Applications Process and Proposal Form" will contain more details on the Round 10 applications process and will provide guidance on filling out the proposal form. It will be released as soon as possible after Round 10 is officially launched. The precise launch date is not yet known, but it is expected to be sometime in May 2010.

"The Aidspace Guide to Round 10 Applications to the Global Fund: Volume 1 – Getting a Head Start" is available at www.aidspace.org/guides. Applicants may also want to refer to the following Aidspace documents, both available at www.aidspace.org/aidspacepublications:

- *"Aidspace Report: Key Strengths of Rounds 8 and 9 Proposals to the Global Fund"*
- *"Aidspace Documents for In-Country Submissions"*

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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 8,000 subscribers in 170 countries at least twelve times per year.

GFO is a free service of Aidspace (www.aidspace.org), a Kenya-based NGO that serves as an independent watchdog of the Global Fund, and that provides services that can benefit all countries wishing to obtain and make effective use of Global Fund financing. Aidspace finances its work primarily through grants from foundations.

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

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