

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

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Volume 2 of “The Aidspace Guide to Round 11 Applications to the Global Fund” is now available in English. Volume 2 explains the applications process, describes what is new for Round 11, and provides guidance on how to fill out many of the questions on the Round 11 proposal forms – both the regular proposal form and the common HSS proposal form.

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This article contains three excerpts from Volume 2 of “The Aidspace Guide to Round 11 Applications to the Global Fund.”

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Most readers of *Global Fund Observer* who responded to a survey conducted by Aidspace are happy with the content, shape, style and quality of GFO. However, respondents said there is room for improvement.

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With respect to an article that appeared in *GFO 155*, an official of the Australian Government has asked *GFO* to explain that, at this time, the government has made no commitment to host the Global Fund’s next mid-term replenishment meeting.

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Several new publications have been released – a reference guide on strengthening health systems (HSS) through Round 11 Global Fund proposals; a manual on faith-based organisations and the Global Fund; an action alert on Round 11; and a resource kit from the World Health Organization and UNAIDS.

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## **1. NEWS: Global Fund Board Chair Resigns Due to Illness**

*Vice-Chair to serve as Interim Chair until new elections are held*

On 16 August 2011, the Global Fund announced that Martin Dinham has resigned as Chair of the Global Fund Board “due to an unexpected deterioration in a long-standing health condition.”

Dinham was elected Chair for a two-year term in May 2011, at the same time as Mpho Ramatlapeng was elected Vice-Chair. Ramatlapeng, who is Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the Kingdom of Lesotho, will serve as Interim Chair until new elections can be held. Under the Global Fund’s participatory governance model, the positions of Board Chair and Vice-Chair alternate between the donor block and the implementing country block. Because Dinham had been nominated by the donor block, his replacement will be nominated by the same block.

Dinham joined the Global Fund Board after a career in the British civil service, most recently as Director General for International Issues in the United Kingdom’s Department of International Development (DFID). “I am sure that I express the collective sentiments of the Global Fund’s Board when I say that this is sad and unexpected news for Martin and his family, and we send our thoughts and best wishes for an early recovery,” said Simon Bland, the Global Fund Board Member for the United Kingdom and Australia and DFID’s Head of Global Funds.

Professor Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund, expressed the Secretariat’s sincere gratitude for Dinham’s service to the Global Fund. “Immediately from his May appointment, Martin provided clear leadership and demonstrated a level of commitment to the Global Fund that was inspiring to those working with him.”

*Information for this article was taken from “Global Fund’s Board Chair Martin Dinham Steps Down Due to Illness,” Global Fund [press release](#), 16 August 2011.*

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## **2. ANNOUNCEMENT: Volume 2 of Aidspan’s Round 11 Applying Guide Released**

*Volume 2 includes guidance on filling out the proposal forms*

Volume 2 of “The Aidspan Guide to Round 11 Applications to the Global Fund” is now available in English at [www.aidspan.org/guides](http://www.aidspan.org/guides). Volume 2, entitled “The Applications Process and the Proposal Forms,” comes in two versions: one for single-country applicants and one for multi-country applicants.

Volume 2 explains the applications process, describes what is new for Round 11, and provides guidance on how to fill out many of the questions on the Round 11 proposal forms – both the regular proposal form and the common HSS proposal form. The guide also includes a number of extracts from proposals that were approved for funding in past rounds.



- If there have already been some achievements as a result of the national strategy, briefly describe these, either under each objective or priority, or in a separate section. Alternatively, or in addition, describe what outcomes are expected when the strategic plan is fully implemented.

### **Excerpt #2: Discontinued activities (from existing grants):**

The guidance from the Global Fund on the proposal form encourages applicants to use the consolidated proposal development process as an opportunity to re-programme funding from previous grants. No official guidance is given as to what situations might warrant such re-programming.

There are a few situations in which a CCM might propose that activities resourced through existing Global Fund grants be discontinued if its Round 11 consolidated proposal is approved.

One situation is when a strategy has been found to be ineffective, or has never been evaluated and is thought to be minimally cost effective. One example of this could be a mass communication campaign involving television, radio and billboards encouraging the general population to change behaviour. Another example could be programming for the general population of young people when only a few young people are at high risk.

A second situation is when national funding is used to fund activities that were previously funded with Global Fund grants. Examples of this could be an increase in governmental funding of opiate substitution therapy for heroin dependence, or increased governmental food supplementation for people living with HIV.

A third situation is when a change in practice occurs such that a certain set of activities is no longer needed. For example, campaigns to encourage people to attend voluntary counselling and testing services may no longer be needed as the number of people under treatment increases. Or, pamphlets on PMTCT may no longer be needed as testing practices in antenatal clinics change.

### **Excerpt #3: Performance framework**

In the Performance Framework, the applicant is required to provide information on key indicators – including, for each indicator, baselines numbers and targets for each reporting period or each year of the proposal.

The Global Fund Secretariat told Aidsplan that all impact and outcome indicators listed in the logframe – see Section 4.3 (a) – should also be included in the performance framework. While the logframe may also contain other indicators focusing on outputs and processes, only a selected number of these indicators should be included in the performance framework – preferably those that focus on outputs.

Typically, performance frameworks include 3-10 impact and outcome indicators – the number is often at the high end of the range for MARPS proposals – and between 10 and 15 output indicators.

In its report on lessons learned from its review of Round 10 proposals, the TRP said that applicants should focus more on outcome and impact indicators, and should make sure that these indicators are meaningful. In addition, the TRP said, applicants should ensure that they include indicators to measure the quality of interventions.

The framework itself is relatively easy to complete; extensive instructions are included in the template. Here are some things to watch out for, based on an analysis Aidspace did of TRP comments on about 30 performance frameworks attached to Round 10 proposals:

- Ensure that the indicators in the performance framework are aligned with the goals, objectives and SDAs described in Section 4.3. (Concerning one Round 10 TB proposal, the TRP said, “The only impact indicator provided reflects treatment success rates, while the proposal aims to increase the number of cases notified.”)
- Ensure that your indicators are meaningful. (Concerning one Round 10 HIV proposal, the TRP said, “ ‘Number of sex workers benefiting from at least one preventive activity’ is not an adequate indicator of the possible impact of behaviour change communication activities.”)
- Where possible, use outcome indicators rather than process or output indicators. (Concerning one Round 10 HIV proposal, the TRP said, “The [absolute] number of HIV-positive pregnant women who receive complete ARV prophylaxis would have been better expressed as a proportion of the total number of HIV positive-pregnant women.”)
- Where possible, use indicators that are already being used by national plans or strategies.
- Ensure that you include information in the performance framework on how indicators will be measured. (Concerning one Round 10 TB proposal, the TRP said, “It is unclear how the indicator ‘Attitude of people towards tuberculosis, social cost and stigma’ is to be measured. Is it by a stigma survey?”)
- Ensure that you provide all of the information requested in the performance framework.

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#### **4. NEWS: Concerns about Reporting Relationships of CCMs, PRs and LFAs Raised at Regional CCM Meeting**

Having both the principal recipients (PRs) and local fund agents (LFAs) report directly to the Global Fund Secretariat – and, in the process, bypassing country coordinating mechanisms (CCMs) – has usurped the CCM’s oversight role.

This was the view expressed by several CCM members attending the Global Fund’s first regional workshop for CCMs in the East African and Indian Ocean Islands (EAIO) region. The workshop, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5-7 July 2011, was aimed at enhancing the capacity of EAIO CCMs in order to achieve what the Secretariat referred to as “the right impact.”

The issue of reporting relationships was raised on the first day of the workshop. Questions such as the following were posed to the Secretariat team participating in the workshop:

- “Why does the Fund encourage PRs to report directly to the Secretariat and vice versa, without going through CCMs – and then turn around and say the CCM is not doing its job when things go wrong?”
- “Why is the LFA allowed to report information directly to the Secretariat without copying the CCMs, even when this is information the CCMs should know and, in some instances, act on?”

The Secretariat team responded to these questions by acknowledging that there is a disconnect between CCM oversight and PR oversight, and that this may be caused by the

reporting relationships. However, the Secretariat encouraged CCMs to be proactive. “You select the PRs and they are answerable to you,” the team said. The team also stressed the importance of CCMs enforcing their right to information on grant performance from PRs at all stages of grant implementation.

David Winters, the Secretariat’s CCM Manager, said that as a donor, the Global Fund requires PRs, as fund recipients, to submit reports on grant performance. However, he said, these reports – as well as all communications between PRs and the Secretariat – should be copied to the CCMs. If this is not happening, Winters said, then the CCMs should find out why.

A fair amount of time at the workshop was spent discussing areas where the Global Fund Secretariat said that EAIO CCMs needed to improve performance – areas such as country ownership; ensuring that the money received is used for its intended purpose; transparency; accountability and multi-stakeholder participation.

The Secretariat team also stressed the importance of ensuring that all constituencies (as outlined in the CCM Guidelines document) have adequate representation on the CCMs. The team expressed concern about under-representation on some CCMs of (a) people living with the three diseases and (b) women. The Secretariat added that women were frequently under-represented in CCM leadership positions (e.g., chairs and vice-chairs).

Other concerns raised by the Secretariat team were as follows:

- conflict of interest, particularly with respect to decisions by the CCM to (perennially) use the same PRs and SRs;
- under-utilisation of the funds available from the Global Fund to support CCM operations; and
- the need to involve more non-CCM members – such as watchdog organisations and advocacy groups – to help monitor grant implementation.

According to the Global Fund, the EAIO region has received about 20% of all the Fund’s disbursements, making it the largest of the Fund’s eight regions.

This first CCM workshop for the EAIO region was well attended, with a total of 115 participants. All twelve CCMs (Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zanzibar) were represented. Others in attendance included representatives of bilateral and multilateral technical partners, such as UNAIDS and Roll Back Malaria. About 20 Global Fund Secretariat staff were present, including many fund portfolio managers.

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## **5. NEWS: Readers Provide Feedback on GFO**

*Aidspan survey finds that most respondents rate GFO highly, but many have suggestions for how it can be improved*

Most readers of *Global Fund Observer (GFO)* who responded to a survey conducted by Aidspan are happy with the content, shape, style and quality of GFO. However, respondents said there is room for improvement in terms of the topics covered, the types of articles and the overall look of GFO.

These were some of the main findings of a survey conducted by Aidspace in the first half of 2011. More than 10% of subscribers provided feedback, a very high response rate for a survey. GFO has about 8,500 subscribers, up 15% over the past year and a half.

More than 90% of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the statements that “GFO is helpful and practical to my work” and “GFO has increased my understanding of Global Fund issues.” A very high proportion (94%) of respondents agreed that GFO articles were “easy to understand.” About 83% of respondents indicated that they “always” or “sometimes” forward GFO to colleagues and friends.

Respondents said that GFO should produce more stories from the ground, including examples of good practice as well as comparative case studies of different grants and different countries. Respondents also asked for more analytical and academic articles related to the Global Fund.

In addition, respondents said that GFO should be available in more languages. (*Editor’s note: Currently, GFO is available only in English; however, there are plans to expand to other languages.*)

Among survey respondents, 52% were nationals of high-income countries versus 48% of middle- and low-income countries. However, 56% were physically located in middle- and low-income countries versus 44% in high-income countries. (It is not known what the split was among subscribers who did not respond to the survey.) A majority of respondents were involved in Global Fund-related activities at the country level, mainly as implementers, technical consultants, members of country coordinating mechanisms (CCMs) and local fund agents (LFAs).

The questionnaire asked respondents whether they thought something similar to GFO was required for other global health institutions. More than two-thirds (68%) felt that other global health institutions needed to be monitored in the same way that GFO monitors the Global Fund.

*A report on the survey findings has been prepared by Charles Marwa, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Aidspace. Entitled, “What Readers Think about Global Fund Observer: Results from a survey conducted by Aidspace,” the report is available [here](#).*

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## 6. EDITOR’S NOTE: Australia

In *GFO 155*, on 9 August, we wrote that the Global Fund’s mid-term replenishment meeting will likely be held in Australia in March. We have been asked by an Australian Government official to state that at this time, the Australian Government has made no commitment to host the mid-term replenishment meeting.

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## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: HSS Reference Guide; FBO Manual; CSAT Action Alert; Resource Kit from WHO and UNAIDS

### HSS Reference Guide for Round 11 Proposals Released

A reference guide on strengthening health systems (HSS) through Round 11 Global Fund proposals has been issued. The reference guide, developed by Health Systems 20/20, is an

updated version of a Global Fund health systems strengthening toolkit previously developed by HS 20/20, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative. The Round 11 reference guide is available in English [here](#). French- and Spanish-language versions should be posted by the first week of September.

The updated version includes expanded information on the strength and weaknesses of Global Fund HSS proposals, an annotated list of additional resources, and guidance on incorporating human rights initiatives in HSS proposals.

### Manual on FBOs and the Global Fund Released

Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (U.S.) has issued a manual, entitled “Faith-Based Organizations and the Global Fund: Working Together to Save Lives.” The manual describes ways in which FBOs can most effectively work with the Global Fund, and provides examples of best practices that FBO implementers are using. The manual can be downloaded [here](#).

### CSAT Releases Action Alert on Round 11 Call for Proposals

The Civil Society Action Team (CSAT) has issued an action alert on “Round 11 Call for Proposals: Opportunities for Civil Society Organizations,” available [here](#). The action alert provides information of changes for Round 11, and contains a list of actions that CSOs can take, including discussing the CCM process for gap and needs assessment, advocating for greater attention to civil society participation, and getting involved in the development of Round 11 proposals.

### WHO AND UNAIDS Release Resource Kit for Round 11 HIV Applicants

The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS have released a resource kit for applicants seeking funding for HIV components in the Global Fund’s Round 11. The resource kit is actually a web page on the UNAIDS website [here](#). The “kit” contains a series of technical resources on topics such as gender, nutrition, stigma and discrimination, and drug resistance.

UNAIDS also released a toolkit specifically for HIV applications to the targeted pool of funding. The 118-page toolkit, which was developed by the AIDS Projects Management Group (APMG) with support from UNAIDS, includes a series of 13 actions points to help strengthen proposals targeting key populations. The toolkit is available in a Word file on the UNAIDS website [here](#). UNAIDS says that a web version will be available soon.

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END OF NEWSLETTER  
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This is an issue of the *GLOBAL FUND OBSERVER (GFO)* Newsletter.

**We welcome suggestions for topics we could cover in GFO. If you have a suggestion, please send it to Bernard Rivers, the Editor of GFO (see contact information below).**

*Author:* All articles in this issue were written by David Garmaise ([david.garmaise@aidspan.org](mailto:david.garmaise@aidspan.org)), Aidspace's Senior Analyst, with the exception of Article 4, which was written by Arnold Wafula, a Senior Programme Officer at Aidspace.

GFO is an independent source of news, analysis and commentary about the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria ([www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)). GFO is emailed to over 8,000 subscribers in 170 countries at least twelve times per year.

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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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For information on all approved proposals submitted to the Global Fund, see [www.aidspan.org/grants](http://www.aidspan.org/grants).

People interested in writing articles for *GFO* are invited to email the editor, above.

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