Global Fund Observer

NEWSLETTER

Issue 209: 12 February 2013

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ARTICLES:

1. COMMENTARY: More Information on the New Funding Model, Please

by Kate Macintyre and David Garmaise

This is a plea for the Global Fund to become more active in communicating information about the new funding model to its broad audience of people working on and interested in Global Fund matters.

For a multilateral agency like the Global Fund, the development of a new funding model (NFM) is extremely complex and time-consuming, as is the transition from the rounds-based system. All of this needs very careful planning and attention to detail from all involved. It also needs a good communication strategy to ensure that those affected by the NFM understand what is happening.

Discussion of the design of this new system has been ongoing for at least 12 months, yet new details are emerging with every iteration. In addition, there are elements of the NFM that have not yet been fully defined; some aspects won't be finalised until after the transition period. This is understandable,

but it is also frustrating to observe.

Through this period, the biggest complaint that we have heard from people in the field is that they are not being kept informed.

It is now almost three months since the last Board meeting, where a number of very important decisions were made about the NFM. In the interim, people have been given very little information by the Global Fund on developments that have occurred since the Board meeting, or on what actions remain to be taken and when – unless they happen to be part of the consultations organised by the Secretariat.

The consultations are important both to impart information and to obtain input. But, consultations alone don't constitute a *complete* communications strategy. For one thing, not everyone can participate in the consultations, for obvious logistic and linguistic reasons. For another, many of the representatives of constituencies participating in the consultations are limited in their ability to get the word out to everyone in their constituencies who are interested.

The Communities Delegation on the Global Fund Board said in a statement released at the end of January that "there remains a lack of clarity" concerning the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in the NFM process, and that community knowledge and understanding of the NFM is "extremely limited." The statement went on to say that "there have been few strategic and resourced efforts to strengthen community knowledge on changes in Global Fund processes."

In a letter sent on 13 December 2012 to Mark Dybul, who was then the incoming Executive Director of the Global Fund, a group of 19 civil society organisations (CSOs) from Africa called on the Global Fund to provide capacity building for civil society "to understand the NFM" and to allow civil society to more effectively participate in implementation of the NFM at country level.

We think that the Secretariat could and should be more proactive. It has the ability to communicate directly to CCMs and PRs. Of course, this won't reach everyone, but it would help.

The Secretariat should also be issuing frequent updates on NFM developments on its website – via its News Flash, or its NFM pages, or elsewhere. The precise vehicle for communicating the information does not matter all that much because Aidspan stands ready to disseminate the information to the almost 10,000 subscribers of Global Fund Observer (GFO), and to provide relevant links to the Global Fund website.

Now, that's an offer we don't think the Global Fund can refuse.

Note: We offered the Global Fund Secretariat the opportunity to comment on a draft of this commentary. A spokesperson for the Secretariat responded as follows:

> *"We can always do more on communications around the new funding model. Over the past month, communication has been focused on consultations with a wide variety of partners to explain key changes in the model and to give partners the opportunity to help shape the transition approach. We will communicate more when we launch the new funding model later this month."*

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 8 February 2013.]

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2. NEWS: John Parsons Appeals Dismissal

Defamation lawsuit also filed

An attorney for John Parsons, the former Inspector General of the Global Fund, who was dismissed from his post on 15 November 2012 for alleged "unsatisfactory performance," has filed an appeal of the decision before the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The attorney also filed a defamation claim on Mr Parsons' behalf in connection with a news release issued by the Global Fund Board on the date that Parsons was terminated.

A spokesperson for the Global Fund told GFO, "We are aware that the lawsuit has been filed with the International Labour Organization. We are confident that the International Labour Organization will handle it in a thorough and conscientious manner."

GFO Issue 203 contained an article about the dismissal.

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 12 February 2013.]

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3. NEWS: Advocates Meet in Amsterdam to Strategise
on Global Fund Resource Mobilisation

Seventy members of the Global Fund Advocate's Network (GFAN) gathered in Amsterdam on 28–30 January to strategise on ways to advocate for more resources for the Global Fund. The meeting was organised and hosted by International Civil Society Support (ICSS).

The three-day session included presentations from Global Fund Secretariat staff on the 2013 replenishment drive, and from UNAIDS, Stop TB Partnership, Malaria No More and Healthgap about some of the opportunities and challenges in HIV, TB and malaria advocacy. Participants also heard from Mark Dybul, just one week into his job as Executive Director of the Global Fund.

Previous meetings of the type have focused on resource mobilisation in donor countries. What distinguished this meeting was that it brought together advocates from the North and the South to jointly strategise about resource mobilisation in both settings. Almost 40% of the participants were from the South.

Advocates identified a number of events already scheduled for 2013 that provide opportunities to advocate for a fully-funded and effective Global Fund. These include not only events that most people are already familiar with – such as the G8 and G20 meetings, World AIDS Day (and TB Day and Malaria Day) – but also events such as the BRICS Summit on 26–27 March ("BRICS" stands for the emerging nations of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa); the African Union meetings

in March and May; and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development on 1–3 June.

Noting that progress has been made on the implementation of a financial transactions tax (FTT) in Europe, advocates pledged to redouble efforts to ensure that some of the proceeds from the FTT are used to support the Global Fund and health and community systems strengthening.

Advocates concluded that messages from the Here I Am campaign need to be heard not only in the donor capitals but also in implementing countries. The campaign uses the voices of people affected and infected by the three diseases to explain why the work of the Global Fund is so important. Often people in implementing countries are not aware that their community health centres or their medicines (for example) are supported by the Global Fund.

In addition, advocates decided that greater use of social media and other modern communication techniques (such as bulk texting) will be a critical part of GFAN's advocacy work for the 2013 replenishment.

The meeting participants also spent some time discussing the Global Fund's new funding model (NFM) and how the NFM will affect key populations.

"The GFAN meeting was a very important one because of where we are in the global fight against the three diseases," Peter van Rooijen, Executive Director of ICSS, said. "The activists and advocates in Amsterdam know that in the Global Fund the world has a unique tool that has had tremendous impact not only for saving lives but also for developing and strengthening communities and health systems."

However, Mr van Rooijen said, serious concerns remain regarding some of the changes at the Global Fund, including the impact and process of implementing the NFM. "Advocates believe the success of resource mobilisation and of the NFM go hand in hand," he said. "Despite the daunting to-do lists that all 70 participants left the meeting with, the overwhelming sense was one of hope that we can persuade world leaders to see the value and urgency of being bold now and fully fund the Global Fund."

Copies of many of the slide presentations used during the meeting are available on the ICSS website at http://icssupport.org/documents.

ICSS also organised a session on 27 January on the Post-2015 agenda discussions, debates and negotiations. (This refers to what will happen to the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs] after 2015.) This meeting was attended by most of the GFAN meeting participants plus some of the participants from a consultation on the NFM that had been organised by the Communities Delegation on the Global Fund Board a few days before (see GFO article). The 27 January meeting was preliminary in nature; nevertheless, it was agreed that further collaboration and engagement are needed to promote the need for the "Post–MDG" to include health goals that are specifically related to HIV, TB and malaria.

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 8 February 2013.]

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## 4. NEWS: "PR of Last Resort" Expands the Reach of Global Fund

UNDP has worked as a PR in 42 countries since 2003

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) believes that the Global Fund grants it has managed have performed well despite the fact that UNDP only steps in as a principal recipient (PR) "of last resort." The UNDP says that the partnership between the two organisations has enabled the Global Fund to implement grants in countries with difficult circumstances.

"About 84% of the grants managed by UNDP are currently rated A or B1 by the Global Fund," Håkan Björkman, the Cluster Leader for the UNDP's Partnership with The Global Fund Unit told GFO. "Some of the best performing grants are in Belarus, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Haiti, South Sudan and Zimbabwe," he said.

The graph below shows the performance of UNDP grants in comparison with grants managed by government and civil society PRs. The graph was prepared by Aidspan using grant performance data from the Global Fund.

**Graph: Average performance rating of Global Fund grants
managed by UNDP, civil society PRs and government PRs**
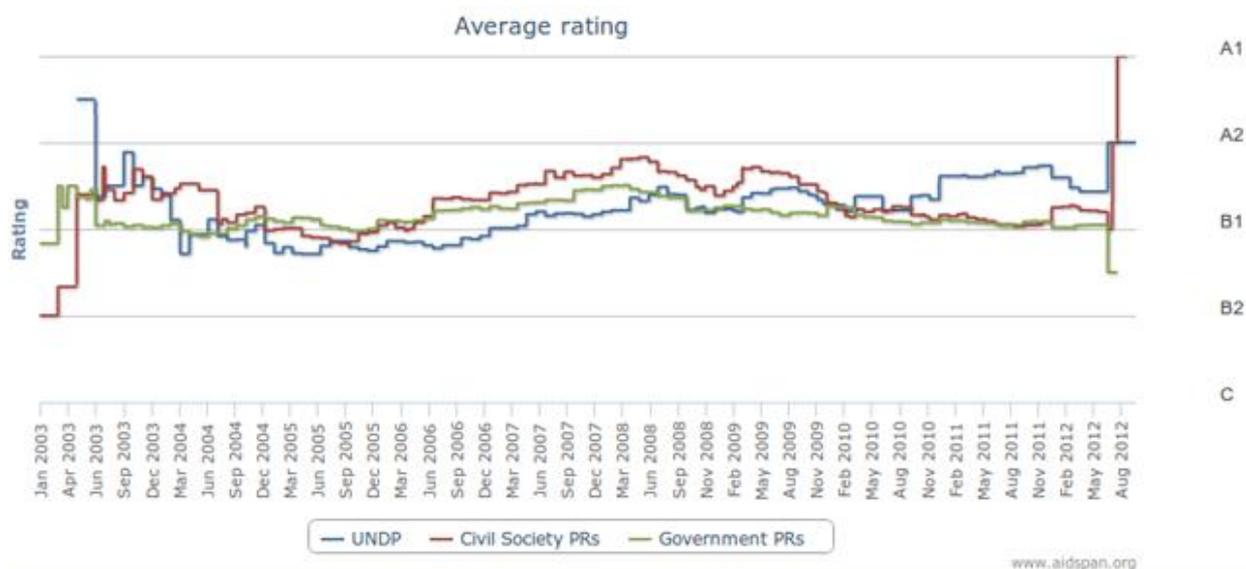
UNDP has worked with the Fund since 2003 to implement grants in places where grants were failing due to civil war, corruption or lack of capacity. UNDP has served as PR in 42 countries (see table below) and has implemented 159 grants, 55 of which were active as of December 2012. Seven of the 55 grants are in the process of being closed out because they have come to the end of their terms.

The 55 grants, which are spread out over 25 countries, have a total value of $1.36 billion. Since the beginning of the partnership, UNDP has implemented grants worth $2.12 billion, which is about 12% of total Global Fund spending of $16.5 billion over the period.

"The established practice is that UNDP serves as interim PR until a national entity has the capacity to take over, and/or circumstances in the country permits a national entity to take over," Mr Björkman said.

"UNDP only becomes PR upon request and in exceptional circumstances," Fabien Lefrançois, Policy Specialist in the Partnership Unit, told GFO. "We use the title "interim PR" to reflect the fact that there is a clear understanding from the outset, when we serve as PR, that this arrangement is for a limited amount of time while we work with national entities to ensure they can take over as soon as circumstances permit."

Table: Countries where the UNDP has served as PR

Category	Countries		
UNDP is currently the PR (25 countries)	Belarus Belize Bosnia and Herzegovina Bolivia Chad Cuba El-Salvador Haïti* Iran	Iraq Kyrgyzstan Mali Montenegro Sao Tome & Principe Sudan South Sudan Syria	Tajikistan Togo Turkmenistan Uzbekistan Palestinian Territory Yemen Zambia Zimbabwe*
UNDP has exited as PR (19 countries)	Angola Argentina Benin Burkina Faso Central African Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Dem. Rep. of Congo	Equatorial Guinea Gabon Guinea Bissau Haiti* Honduras Liberia	Mauritania Maldives Nepal Niger Panama Zimbabwe*

* In Haiti and Zimbabwe, UNDP exited as PR and then re-entered; hence, these countries appear in both categories in the table.

The UNDP's work with the Global Fund has three objectives: (1) to support the implementation of global fund grants; (2) to develop the capacity of national entities to take over the management of programmes, or to improve their performance when they are already serving as PRs; and (3) to strengthen the quality of Global Fund programmes.

The UNDP has served as PR in countries where the Global Fund has assessed the proposed or existing national PRs as having weak managerial capacity. Examples of these countries are Tajikistan, Togo, Chad, Sao Tome and Principe, Turkmenistan and Belize.

The UNDP has also served as PR in countries which are not able to manage international funds because they are emerging from long periods of conflict (such as South Sudan) or because they have faced a national disaster (such as Haiti following the earthquake in 2010).

In addition, the UNDP has managed grants in countries experiencing political upheaval (such as Kyrgyzstan) or who find themselves in long-term complex political situations (such as Bosnia) – where it is difficult for governments or national NGOs to implement Global Fund grants.

As well, the UNDP has been asked to step in as temporary PR while transparency and accountability systems are strengthened in countries where corruption or weaknesses in financial management have

led to the suspension of grants. Countries where this has happened include Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mali.

"In the case of Mali, the initial reason was the OIG (Office of the Inspector General) investigation of the national PR, but then the coup and political instability became an additional reason for UNDP to step in," Mr Björkman said.

Some countries have chosen to use UNDP as PR in order to overcome national institutional weaknesses or legal obstacles – such as prohibition against NGOs holding foreign currency accounts. In Uzbekistan and Belarus, the national regulatory framework limits the role of NGOs by limiting their access to international banking.

UNDP can also be asked by the Global Fund to be PR in countries facing international sanctions, such as Cuba and Iran. Sanctions usually limit the transfer of funds to the governments of these countries.

The UNDP has faced various challenges in its partnership with the Global Fund. "The areas of highest risk are management of sub-recipients (SRs) and supply chain management, and more broadly risks associated with political instability, conflict, fragile states and weak governance," he said.

Information for this article was taken from various sources, including a UNDP document entitled "UNDP and the Global Fund: Partnering to Save Lives," on file with the author.

The second article in this series (see next article in this issue) examines UNDP's policies and procedures for managing sub-recipient risk. The third article will describe the work of UNDP to build capacity of national systems in countries where it operates as interim PR.

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 12 February 2013.]

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5. NEWS: Managing Sub-Recipients Is the Biggest Challenge for UNDP

To reduce risk, methods for paying SRs vary

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says that the biggest risks in its implementation of Global Fund programmes occur in the management of its sub-recipients (SRs). UNDP says that it has put in place various policies and procedures to minimise this risk.

As of December 2012, UNDP was principal recipient (PR) for 55 Global Fund grants in 29 countries.

UNDP has created corporate SR management guidelines and country-specific manuals for SRs. Also, UNDP conducts rigorous capacity assessments and value-for-money reviews before any SR agreements are signed. In addition, UNDP is developing ways to build greater in-country capacity in

financial management and reporting.

To further reduce risk, under the system established by UNDP payment methods for SRs vary according to the assessed risk level of the SR. There are three options:

1. **Advance** payment, in which UNDP makes direct payments to an SR to implement activities. In this case, the SR does its own procurement, and pays vendors itself.

2. **Hybrid** management, in which UNDP advances an SR a certain amount of money for programmatic activities, but maintains control over procurement and payments to certain types of vendors.

3. **Direct** payment, in which UNDP transfers funds to an SR only after invoices are presented. Under this arrangement, UNDP country offices usually pay vendors and procure commodities on behalf of the SR.

Global Fund grants managed by UNDP are subject to the same audit and investigation rules and procedures that apply to all UNDP programmes. The grants are scrutinised by UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). This is particularly important because of the difficult environments in which UNDP manages Global Fund grants and the fact that the grants are often more risk-prone than other UNDP projects.

In 2011, the OAI carried out 11 audits of Global Fund programmes managed by UNDP. Fifteen more audits were planned to be conducted last year. Between 2009 and end of 2012, the OAI was to have audited 22 of 29 countries where UNDP currently acts as PR.

UNDP provides the Global Fund with access to its internal audit reports. On two occasions (Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad), the OAI and the Global Fund's Office of Inspector General (OIG) have conducted parallel audits of a Global Fund country programme, with the OAI covering UNDP's activities, and the OIG covering all other aspects of the grant. The OAI consults with the OIG when developing its annual audit plan and coordinates with OIG audits of other PRs in the same country.

Of the 17 audit reports of Global Fund programmes issued by OAI between July 2010 and December 2011, five had an overall rating of "satisfactory," 11 were "partially satisfactory," and one was "unsatisfactory." UNDP-managed grants that received the best audit results were in Belarus, Cuba, El Salvador, Iran, Iraq and Zambia.

When a grant gets a satisfactory rating, "this means that internal controls, governance and risk management processes were adequately established and functioning well. No issues were identified that would significantly affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity," Håkan Björkman, the Cluster Leader of the UNDP's Partnership with The Global Fund Unit, told GFO.

A Global Fund grant in Niger is the only UNDP-managed grant that received an unsatisfactory rating; there were significant findings of inadequate stock management, irregularities in financial reporting from SRs documents, and weak financial oversight by UNDP.

SRs engaged by UNDP are also subjected to audits by the OAI. More than 120 SR audits have been conducted since 2009. Of the SR audits done in 2010, 79% had unqualified audit opinions, up from

57% in 2009.

When possible irregularities are identified in the financial management system of an SR, either during an audit or by the UNDP during implementation, the OAI reviews the case and launches an investigation. The OAI works closely with national law enforcement authorities.

Mr Björkman told GFO that in 2010, the OAI took action following the theft of anti-malarial drugs from a government warehouse in Togo. An investigation by the police resulted in the conviction of four government employees, he said. The government reimbursed UNDP very quickly and the drugs were replaced.

"This is a 'best practice case' that shows the UNDP and government working together and taking strong action," Mr Björkman said, "including with respect to how the government managed its communications with the Global Fund and the country coordinating mechanism (CCM) while confidentially advising governments how to respond to alleged fraud and theft."

Some of the information for this article as taken from a UNDP document entitled, "The UNDP-Global Fund Partnership: Update – June 2012," on file with the author.

The third article in this series will describe the work of UNDP to build capacity of national systems in countries where it operates as interim PR.

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 12 February 2013.]

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6. NEWS: African Countries Adopt Innovative Financing
to Bridge Gaps in AIDS Funding

*Domestic spending on HIV/AIDS in some African countries
rose by more than 100% between 2006 and 2011*

African countries, which contain many of the communities most affected by the AIDS pandemic and receive the bulk of Global Fund money, are adopting innovative methods to finance the fight against the disease in the face of declining resources from the Fund in recent years.

Rwanda and Uganda, for example, now charge levies on mobile phone usage, and Nigeria and Kenya are considering doing the same. In 2011, Cameroon joined Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius and Niger in applying an airline levy. Nigeria is considering a domestic and international levy on all airlines of between $1 and $12 per passenger. Cape Verde and Comoros have imposed alcohol excise taxes. The Government of Zimbabwe charges a surtax on all institutional and individual income tax. In Zambia, a hospice is using innovative approaches to provide services to a population of 200,000 people.

Below, we provide more information on the measures introduced in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Uganda.

A report prepared by UNAIDS said that many countries are assuming "shared responsibility by increasing their domestic investments in health." According to the report, domestic spending on HIV/AIDS in four African countries – Kenya, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Uganda – rose by more than 100% between 2006 and 2011. During this period, for the first time ever, the report said, domestic resources exceeded international AIDS spending.

The report summarised the present state of affairs as follows: "A high proportion of Africans on antiretroviral therapy (ART) are directly dependent on donor funding decisions for the drugs that keep them alive. This dependency creates enormous risks, since external aid remains unpredictable and can fluctuate considerably from year to year."

According to an article on the website of Avert, an international HIV/AIDS charity, by 2010, funding from donor governments had dropped 10%, raising concerns about the future of HIV programmes. Although part of the decline was linked to exchange rate fluctuations, it was noted that, in some cases, there were deliberate decreases by some donors in the wake of the global economic crisis. Actual resources available in 2010 were $6.9 billion, compared to $7.6 billion in 2009.

Zimbabwe

"We realised that we needed to come up with a plan to stem the tide of AIDS which was threatening to decimate our population instead of relying on donor funds, which are not reliable," Dr Tapuwa Magure, Chief Executive Officer of Zimbabwe's National AIDS Council (NAC), told GFO during the International AIDS Conference in Washington in July 2012.

Dr Magure was talking about the AIDS levy, also referred to as the National Aids Trust Fund, which was originally introduced in Zimbabwe in 1999.

The objectives of the AIDS levy are (a) to provide financial support for HIV interventions; (b) to establish and fund the secretariat functions of the NAC; and (c) to reduce Zimbabwe's reliance on external funding. The AIDS levy is charged on individuals, companies and trusts at a rate of 3% of the amount of income tax assessed.

The allocation of funds from the levy to different programme areas is done through a NAC Board, and the allocation must be approved by the Minister of Health and Child Welfare. Currently, of the funds collected, 50% goes towards the provision of ART, 10% to prevention, and the rest to managing and supporting the logistics, evaluation, coordination and functioning of the accounts.

According to figures from NAC, in 2011 alone the government collected $26 million through the levy.

"The AIDS Levy has proved so successful that other countries such as Kenya have sent representatives to Zimbabwe to study how it works so that they can also adopt it," Dr Magure told GFO.

Editor's Note: Despite this optimism, questions have been raised about how the funds are being spent. In October 2012, activists held a demonstration demanding the government account for the

money it raises through the programme. See here.

Zambia

In Zambia, Our Lady's Hospice in Kalingalinga, which supported by the Churches Health Association of Zambia, a Global Fund principal recipient, has had to find ways to raise money to make ends meet. The hospice has an antiretroviral treatment clinic, an HIV/TB and community outreach programme. The clinic has about 3,500 outpatients on its registers, and runs a 30-bed inpatient facility. It serves 200,000 people in a densely populated area of Lusaka.

Haripriya Eswaran, who volunteers at the clinic, said that the hospice has opened gym facilities to the general public for a fee; is renting out meeting rooms; and is even renting out smaller rooms to volunteers who work at the hospice.

Global Fund officials visited the hospice in 2012. "We are always on the look-out for ideas and examples of innovative financing… in an era of tightening resources, it can also mean finding simple ways to raise money locally to complement existing funding. We noticed one such case on a visit last week to Zambia," the Global Fund News Flash reported.

Uganda

In Uganda, in September 2012, the government announced a plan to establish a $1 billion-dollar HIV trust fund. According to a working paper entitled "Justification for Increased and Sustainable Financing for HIV in Uganda," the fund will generate cash through levies on bank transactions and interest, air tickets, soft drinks, cigarettes and beer. The levy will also target civil servants' salaries, and corporate and withholding taxes.

The trust fund money will be used to finance services such as condom distribution, provision of ART, safe male circumcision and services related to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

The working paper on HIV financing in Uganda is on file with the author.

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 12 February 2013.]

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7. NEWS: New Report Released on the Role of Non-Government Sectors on CCMs

Report identifies ways to strengthen selection processes

Terms of reference (TOR) should be developed for non-government members of country coordinating mechanisms (CCMs) defining their roles and responsibilities; setting out the term of appointment and the procedure for rotation; and identifying criteria for their selection.

This is one of the recommendations of a report on the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders on CCMs released by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN). The report was written by Ivan Varentsov, Regional Coordinator of the Civil Society Action Team (CSAT) for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), which is housed at EHRN.

The report summarises the different approaches used to select CCM members representing the non-government sectors; describes practices that could help improve the selection process; and presents several recommendations. The report also documents some of the problems related to the participation of the non-government sector in CCMs in the EECA region.

The report is based on the findings from visits to several EECA countries by the author, and from 30 semi-structured interviews conducted with CCM members from all sectors; and on the personal experiences of the author in facilitating elections for non-government CCM members in two countries in the region.

The report said that in recent years, "non-state actors have had more opportunities to engage in active collaboration within CCMs and the voices of key affected communities and vulnerable groups are better heard and taken into account" than was the case previously.

For example, the CCM in Belarus elected members representing men who have sex with men, sex workers and opioid substitution therapy patients, and selected a representative of the TB community. A member of the constituency of persons living with HIV was elected Vice-Chair of the CCM.

However, the report said, in some countries many problems remain. These include the following:

- there is a low level of activity and interest in the CCM;

- the procedures for allocating seats to the non-government sector are vague;

- communications between CCM members and their constituencies is poor; and

- the election and selection of non-government CCM members is done without involvement of the affected constituencies.

According to the report, in those countries where the recent CCM elections can be considered open and transparent, one of two election models was used: on-site elections and online elections. "Other countries used a formalized approach to select CCM members, which in most cases, couldn't be called open and transparent," the report said.

A situation that is not uncommon, the report said, is where CCMs, "eager to show compliance with Global Fund requirements, take over all the organizing and coordinating functions to select NGO representatives, instead of just providing the non-government sector with the necessary technical support to do it themselves."

One section of the report is devoted to a description of how CCM elections should be organised.

The report described several approaches for improving the participation of non-government sectors on CCMs, including the following:

- establishing thematic working groups on CCMs where representatives of the non-government

sector who are not CCM members can participate;

- ensuring that CCM committees have representation from the non-government sectors;
- selecting alternates as well as CCM members during elections; and
- broad, timely and regular distribution of information about CCM activities and participatory opportunities for civil society.

The report said that the development of TOR would enable non-government CCM members (and candidates for the positions) to understand what their constituency expects from them; who they should report to as CCM members and how they should report; how they are supposed to formulate their position on certain issues; and what kind of support they can expect from the constituency.

The report recommended that budgets submitted to the Global Fund to obtain funding for the CCM include money for electing non-government members of the CCM.

The report also recommended that fund portfolio managers conduct regular reviews of relevant documents which define CCM rules and procedures, and provide recommendations for improvement.

Finally, the report recommended that CCM members representing the non-governmental sector improve the quality and effectiveness of their work by establishing advisory groups comprised of constituency representatives.

The report, entitled "Theory and Practice of Involving Non-Governmental Stakeholders in CCM Activities, Based on Practices in Selected Countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia," is available online in both [English](#) and [Russian](#).

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 31 January 2013.]

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8. ANNOUNCEMENT: Aidspan Issues Third Edition of Its Beginner's Guide to the Global Fund

Aidspan has released the third edition of "The Beginner's Guide to the Global Fund." The English-language version of the guide is available now at www.aidspan.org/guides. French, Spanish and Russian versions will be posted in the coming weeks.

As its title suggests, the Beginner's Guide is designed to provide a broad introduction to the Global Fund for people who have little or no prior experience of the Fund. The Beginner's Guide comes in three sizes: the full guide (about 46 pages); an eight-page summary, and a two-page summary.

The full guide contains numerous links to the websites of the Global Fund and Aidspan for people who need in-depth information.

The following is a list of the chapters in the full guide:

- Chapter 1: Introduction to the Guide
- Chapter 2: Introduction to the Global Fund
- Chapter 3: Structure of the Global Fund - Global Level
- Chapter 4: Structure of the Global Fund - In-Country
- Chapter 5: Partnerships
- Chapter 6: Money Raised by the Global Fund
- Chapter 7: Funds Committed and Spent by the Global Fund
- Chapter 8: The Global Fund's Application Process
- Chapter 9: Country Coordinating Mechanisms
- Chapter 10: The Grant Implementation Process
- Chapter 11: Reporting on Progress

Editor's Note: Most readers of GFO are fairly familiar with the Global Fund. However, many of you will know one or two people who are "new" to the Fund. Please let these people know about this guide.

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 4 February 2013.]

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9. ERRATUM: How the Global Fund Ranked on the Transparency Index in 2011

In an article in GFO 208 ("Aid Is Becoming More Transparent, but Progress Is Slow, Study Says"), published on 29 January, we said that the Global Fund had finished 7th in the transparency rankings for 2011 compiled by Publish What You Fund. This was an error. In fact, the Global finished 2nd in the 2011 rankings. The article focused mainly on the rankings for 2012, but also provided some comparisons to the 2011 rankings.

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 5 February 2013.]

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10. ERRATUM: Information on Different Types of Applicants Under the NFM

In an article in GFO Newsletter 208 ("NFM Will Be Launched by the End of February 2013"), published on 29 January 2013, we provided some information describing early, interim and standard applicants under the new funding model (NFM) that was incomplete.

The text should have read as follows:

> As reported previously in GFO, countries will participate in the application process for the NFM at different times, depending on their circumstances. The Global Fund has identified

three types of applicants: **early**, **interim** and **standard**.

Both early and interim applicants have to meet at least one of the following criteria: (a) are considered by the Global Fund to be significantly underfunded; (b) face service disruption in 2013 and through part of 2014; or (c) are considered by the Global Fund to be "well positioned" for impact. The Secretariat will develop a list of applicants that meet at least one of these criteria and, from this list, will select the early and interim applicants. The Global Fund wants to ensure that the pool of early and interim applicants is diverse, geographically and in other ways.

Early applicants will submit concept notes and go through the full NFM process. Interim applicants will access funds through reprogramming, Phase 2 renewal or grant extensions. "Standard" applicants refers to all other applicants. Standard applicants will have an opportunity to apply when the NFM is fully implemented, possibly as early as the last quarter of 2013.

[This article was first posted on GFO Live on 5 February 2013.]

AVAILABLE ON GFO LIVE:

The following articles have been posted on GFO Live on the Aidspan website. Click on the article heading to view the article. These articles may or may not be reproduced in GFO Newsletter.

UNDP Appointed PR for a Round 8 HIV Grant in Mali to Replace Government Body

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been appointed the principal recipient for phase two of the Round 8 HIV grant in Mali, replacing the National AIDS Council, a government body which was found to have misappropriated money by the Office of Inspector General in 2011.

Osamu Kunii Appointed Head of Strategy, Investment and Impact Division

The appointment of Osamu Kunii as head of the Secretariat's Strategy, Investment and Impact Division means that the heads of all four divisions reporting to Executive Director Mark Dybul are now in place.

Guidance Document on HCSS Is Being Developed by the Secretariat

The Global Fund Secretariat is drafting a guidance document on health and community systems strengthening for use by applicants under the new funding model.

Influence of Community Sector on CCMs Is Affected by External Factors, Report Says

A new report from the Civil Society Action Team says that the ability of the community sector to influence decisions made by country coordinating mechanisms is to some extent determined by national contexts and by structures that exist outside of the CCM.

OIG Identifies Irregularities in Cambodia Malaria Grants

The Global Fund has taken steps to safeguard its investments in Cambodia after uncovering evidence of "serious financial wrongdoing" in its malaria grants.

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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 the Editor of GFO (see contact information below).

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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 nearly 10,000 subscribers in 170 countries at least twelve times per year.

GFO is a free service of Aidspan (www.aidspan.org), a Kenya-based international 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. Aidspan finances its work through grants from foundations and bilateral donors.

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