

Other International Organizations in Geneva

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a financial instrument, not an implementing entity. The purpose of the Fund is to attract, manage and disburse additional resources through a new public-private partnership that will make a significant contribution to combating these three deadly diseases and mitigating their impact in developing countries that have been especially hard hit or are at high risk. The Global Fund is managed by a Secretariat based in Geneva and headed by an Executive Director Dr. Richard Feachem of Great Britain.

The Global Fund is intended to complement bilateral and multilateral assistance programs already underway, not be duplicative or replace existing funding. Its work is overseen by a Board of Directors comprised of 18 voting members (nine represent donor constituencies and 9 represent recipient constituencies) and five non-voting members, representing UNAIDS, WHO, the World Bank, communities living with the diseases, and a Swiss delegate. U.S. Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson, was elected Chairman of the Board of the Global Fund in January 2003 and will serve in that capacity for a two-year term.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FUND

The concept of an international fund to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria was first proposed at the July 2000 G-8 Summit in Okinawa. On May 11, 2001, President Bush announced a U.S. pledge of \$200 million to support such a global fund, the first pledge by a government. The UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS unanimously endorsed the concept of a Global Fund, and by the time of their meeting in Genoa a month later, G-8 leaders had pledged \$1.3 billion in support.

In the course of three meetings from October to December 2001, a Transitional Working Group, consisting of more than 40 representatives of developing and donor countries, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the UN, established the basic structure for the Fund, including its legal status, management structure, financial and program accountability framework, and general eligibility criteria. Utilizing the entrepreneurial spirit of non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, foundations, and the private sector will be critical to the Fund's success. In January 2002, the Fund was formed as a charitable Swiss foundation, with headquarters in Geneva. The Board held its first meeting in Geneva in January and issued the first call for proposals.

GRANTS

In April 2002, the Fund approved its first round of grants, funding 40 programs in 31 countries at a total cost of \$378 million over two years. In addition, the Board

granted conditional approval to an additional 18 proposals from 12 countries in the amount of \$238 million over two years, requiring that they be further modified prior to final approval. The Board stipulated that no funds for any projects would be disbursed until satisfactory financial, monitoring, and evaluation controls have been agreed upon for each program. In January 2003, the Board approved a second round of grants funding 96 programs in an additional 49 countries in the amount of \$866 million over two years. To date, the Global Fund has disbursed \$100 million of the total \$1.5 billion it has committed.

Proposals are submitted through an inclusive, broad-based partnership in each country, referred to as a Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM), which brings together national and local governments, NGOs, and the private sector. In countries where a CCM either does not exist, or does not function adequately due to unusual circumstances (such as conflict, natural disaster, or questions of government legitimacy), NGOs can submit proposals directly to the Fund.

All proposals must be technically and developmentally sound, must demonstrate that added resources will bring results, and must meet high programmatic and financial accountability standards. The Technical Review Panel reviews all proposals and makes funding recommendations to the Board. The Board makes all final decisions on grant awards. Priority for funding is given to proposals from countries and regions with the greatest need, including the highest burden of disease and poverty, and those at high risk for disease emergence.

RESOURCES

As of July 2003, governments, corporations, foundations, and individuals had pledged approximately \$4.6 billion to the Global Fund. The U.S. government is the largest contributor and has thus far pledged over \$1.6 billion: \$647 million of that is on deposit with the trustee, and \$200 million will be available in calendar year 2004, providing this amount does not exceed 33 percent of all other contributions at any time.

GFATM

INTERNET

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