



GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB, AND MALARIA: WHAT'S AT STAKE AT THE FUND'S BOARD MEETING IN ARUSHA, NOV 18-19

November 2004 • a Health GAP (Global Access Project) fact sheet
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The Global Fund is an independent, multilateral, results-oriented funding mechanism that has been funding programs in developing countries to fight HIV, tuberculosis and malaria since its first round of grants was approved by the Global Fund Board in 2002.

Unlike many bilateral mechanisms, the Global Fund requires grantees to rely upon locally-driven, not donor dictated interventions that utilize scientific evidence and best practice--not ideology--in treatment, care and prevention programs. Likewise, the Global Fund exists as a public-private partnership where the contributions of government and civil society are supposed to be given equal weight.

But donors have broken their promises to fully fund the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The Global Fund does not have enough money to finance the launch of a new round of grants in 2005 and finance the renewal of existing grants that have reached their two-year anniversaries. The role of civil society, particularly people living with HIV/AIDS, has been marginalized, and in some countries, life-saving resources are reaching programs too slowly.

The efforts by the US to block the launch of Round 5 and other donors to excuse their own broken promises to fully fund the Global Fund by making false claims about the Global Fund's track record and effectiveness are disgraceful.

FUNDING:

In 2005, at least \$3.5 billion is needed to launch two funding rounds and to finance renewals for grants reaching their two year anniversary. Currently, about \$1 billion is pledged for 2005--less than what is needed to fund the renewals of existing grants that are approaching their two-year anniversaries. Unexpected expenses like the need for grantees to pay for the procurement of newer, more expensive anti-malaria medicines (called "artemisinin based combination therapy" or ACT) will expand that gap in funding even further.

New funding rounds are crucial for the growth of the Global Fund. And without the pressure of additional funding rounds, donors will avoid the any public example of the Global Fund's massive unmet funding needs. The projected cost of a fifth round is \$1 billion.

Instead of committing the billions in new resources, and using the Global Fund as an emergency response mechanism, donor countries have been neglecting the Global Fund, breaking their funding promises, and using their position on the Global Fund Board to fight to slow the operations of the Global Fund down to a crawl.

WHAT IS AT STAKE AT THE 9TH BOARD MEETING?

Global Fund Board meets for the 9th time November 18-19 in Arusha, Tanzania. The outcome of this Board Meeting will help determine the fate of the Fund.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

The 9th Board Meeting presents a key opportunity for advocates to campaign for Board decisions that are in the best interests of people living with HIV/AIDS and their communities. What you can do:

1. GET ON THE BUS NOVEMBER 18. Join us in Arusha for a mobilisation to demand the GLOBAL FUND not shut its doors! Contact the organisers:

Siamo Musine, Kenya Organisation of People Living with HIV/AIDS (KOPLWA), Tel: 0722 554510

Patricia Asero, Dandelora Community AIDS Support Organization (DACASA), Tel: 0733 590 232

Nick Maisha, the Movement of Men against AIDS in Kenya (MMAAK), Tel 07-22-895-953

2. Then, contact board members of the Global Fund; write to your representative on the GFATM board today:

Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Minister of Health of South Africa and Delegate representing Eastern & Southern Africa. E-mail: masukm@health.gov.za, Tel: 27 12 328 4773/4