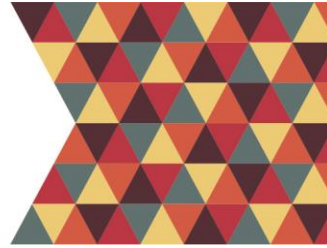


*GFAN Report: 38th  
Global Fund Board Meeting  
November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
Geneva, Switzerland*

***Key Outcomes, Decision Points, Advocacy  
Opportunities, and Issues of Interest for GFAN  
Members from the Global Fund's biannual  
Board Meeting***





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## Context

GFAN was invited as a Guest of the Chair to the 38<sup>th</sup> Global Fund Board Meeting in Geneva (Switzerland) and to attend the meetings of the Developed Country NGO Delegation as a permanent observer. This document provides an overview of the Board Meeting process, key documents and important issues, and potential advocacy opportunities for civil society.

Key issues that were on the agenda for this Board Meeting included;

- Selection of the new Executive Director of the Global Fund
- Eligibility
- Resource Mobilisation and 6<sup>th</sup> Replenishment
- Evolution of CCM's
- Loan buy-downs/Innovative Financing
- Various operational issues: approval of operating budget, risk, fraud and corruption policy

### The process

For 3 days before the Board Meeting, all 3 civil society (CS) delegations (Developed Country NGO, Developing Country NGO and Communities) held separate as well as joint preparatory meetings. For those who have never participated in a Board Meeting: the delegations meet – separately and jointly - ahead of time to determine what key interventions are needed: sometimes they agree to take those forward jointly, sometimes not.

Following that, the CS delegations have a series of meetings together and separately with various officials and other delegations of the Board (such as the donors, implementing governments or constituencies such as Foundations and Private Sector) to raise and solicit support for the steps identified to address or move forward the key issues.

Sometimes, issues can be “resolved” through these series of meetings. Other times they are raised at various points during the Board Meetings. If the latter happens, the delegations can choose to put a Decision Point forward or amendments to DP's that are tabled by the Committees or other delegations.

### The documents

The agenda, official report, Board decisions, and all other relevant documents for the Board Meeting can be found on [the Global Fund website](#). Hyperlinks to relevant documents related to items are provided throughout the document.

There were approximately 30 documents and presentations shared from the Global Fund Secretariat and the Committees of the Board (Audit and Finance Committee, Strategy Committee, Ethics and Governance Committee). In addition, for the first time, the Board requested that delegations submit “constituency statements” – short statements of key positions on the agenda items that were circulated in the days, and hours, leading up to the beginning of the Board Meeting. The intention was to allow presenters to speak to any major concerns and address them in their presentations wherever possible. Both the Communities and the Developed Country NGO delegation used this opportunity as explained further on.



### **Understanding the issues**

What follows below is a detailed summary that identifies some of the most relevant issues that have been discussed, comments made by the civil society and other delegations and some of the possible advocacy follow-up opportunities.

*Please note: It is impossible to capture the detailed level of rich, complex and nuanced discussions that took place and developed throughout the week. This summary represents the GFAN Secretariat's experience and interpretation of the meeting, and should not be considered an official or authorized accounting of events and positioning.*

### **Recognizing civil society with critical roles at the Global Fund Board**

Do you know who represents us as civil society and communities at the Global Fund Board?

*Communities Delegation:* Rico Gustav (Board Member), Maurine Murenga (Alternate BM) and Rachel Ong (Communities Focal Point)

*Developing Country NGO Delegation:* Alan Maleche (Board Member), Edona Deva (Alternate BM) and Jomain Mackenzie (Communications Focal Point)

*Developed Country NGO Delegation:* Owen Ryan (outgoing Board Member) Mike Podmore (Alternate + Incoming BM), and Jack MacAllister (Communications Focal Point)

In addition to participating in delegations, civil society (including many GFAN members!) actively participate in Board structures like committees and Working Groups. We also think its important to acknowledge the important contributions and advocacy around civil society and community issues in the various Board committees and working groups etceteras which is a significant, additional amount of work for these individuals and those who support them from their delegations. These outstanding contributions are being made by:

Maureen Murenga – Vice-Chair of the Implementers Group

Rico Gustav, Jorge Saavedra (and Mayowa Joel for his regional constituency) – Member of the Strategy Committee

Beatrijs Stickers – Vice-Chair of the Audit and Finances Committee

Jason Wright – Member of the Ethics and Governance Committee

Joanne Carter – Member of the Executive Director Nominations Committee

***Thank you to all for the extraordinary efforts on delegations and committees on behalf of your colleagues in civil society!***



## Issues

### Interim Executive Director's Report

#### Background

After Mark Dybul's term ended, an Interim Executive Director was named until the election at this Board Meeting of Peter Sands. Marijke Wijnroks who served as Chief of Staff to the former ED from 2013 until his departure earlier this year, has been serving as Interim Executive Director.

#### Summary of Report

After introductory remarks about the successes to date and challenges to reach those most at risk, the Interim ED's report focused on a number of operational and grant management issues. The Interim ED highlighted that 88% of the allocation for this 3-year cycle (2017-2019) have been approved for grant-making and that 40 matching fund grants under the Catalytic Initiative (meant to supplement country's allocations) have been approved representing 58% of funds available in this same cycle. Other critical issues included the Global Fund's role in addressing the issue of increasing case detection to find "missing TB cases"; supply chain transformation and the close working relationship with Gavi (including a move in 2018 where both organizations will be housed in the same building).

A "Fit for Purpose" exercise is underway to examine most elements of the work of the Secretariat to ensure that it is properly organized to deliver on the Strategy for 2017-2022.

#### Of Note / Interest for GFAN Members

The Interim ED's report made no mention of the 6<sup>th</sup> Replenishment, resource mobilization or the conversion of pledges from the 5<sup>th</sup> Replenishment: concerning to us as GFAN and was raised by a number of implementing and donor group constituencies. Support was shown by many for the "Fit for Purpose" exercise which internally, is really seen as needed to address some significant Human Rights issues at the Secretariat – much support was expressed from the Board in terms of the exercise to help address these issues.

#### Relevant Documents

[GF B38 08 Report of the Interim Executive Director 2017](#)

### Election of the New Executive Director

#### Background

This was the second round of searches to appoint a new Executive Director. This second iteration was managed by Russell Reynolds and overseen by the EDNC (Executive Director Nominations Committee of the Board) and included a number of intended improvements: informal opportunities following formal interviews for delegations to interact with ED candidates more directly as well as calls with more constituencies.



### Report on Issue

One short-listed candidate (Peter Sands) first withdrew his candidacy for “personal reasons” on Friday November 10<sup>th</sup> and then on Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> requested his candidacy be reinstated. This created some confusion and had to be decided by a vote of the Board, but his candidacy was reinstated prior to deliberations and voting both of which occurred in Executive Session where only Board and Alternate Board members and the Chair and Vice-Chair were in the room.

### Outcome of Board Deliberations

The new Executive Director of the Global Fund is: Peter Sands. Alongside the other 3 civil society and communities delegations, GFAN welcomed the new Executive Director and we look forward to working with Mr Sands to ensure that civil society and communities remain at the top of the agenda of the new ED.

### Of Note / Interest for GFAN Members

With the good intention of building upon the example set by GFAN in holding calls with ED candidates for civil society and communities, Russell Reynolds and the Board Leadership put in place two calls with each candidate in the weeks leading up to the Board Meeting. Despite past practice, poor communication between Board Leadership, the CS and Communities Delegations and GFAN, there were no civil society and communities specific calls and many had difficulty accessing the calls for technical reasons. Assessing this will be a part of the overall assessment of this process and the three civil society delegations raised this issue with the Board leadership.

Despite confusion around the calls and candidacies being withdrawn and resubmitted, the process was valid and the decision taken by the Board was done so through previously accepted rules.

It is important to note that on the Decision Point to Appoint the New Executive Director there was one “no” vote: from the United States. This could present significant challenges in the Global Fund’s top donor that will need to be addressed.

### Relevant Documents

[GF/B38/DP03:](#)

*The Board appoints Peter Sands to serve as the next Executive Director of the Global Fund for a four year term.*



## Resource Mobilization: Action Plan

### Background

At the last Board Meeting (37<sup>th</sup> BM, May 2017 – Rwanda) an Action Plan for Resource Mobilization was presented. The update at this Board meeting covered 2017-2019, including the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Replenishment (for 2020-2022).

### Report on Issue

There was a longer update shared in the pre-briefing sessions. The update builds on the RM Action Plan that the CS delegations evaluated as not being ambitious enough. These delegations also had asked for a costed plan, which was not presented at this meeting. Christoph Benn presented in the Board only briefly on good progress towards converting the pledges into contributions (even compared to earlier cycles) and new pledges: 45 million USD over the 12.9 billion from public and private donors.

### Outcome of Board Deliberations

Decision Point GF/B38/DP07:

*The Board acknowledges the update on resource mobilization (GF/B38/19), and in that context, the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment as a key strategic priority.*

*The Board requests its new Executive Director to develop a framework for a Resource Mobilization Action Plan (2018-2019), in consultation with partners and the Audit and Finance Committee, for the 39th Board meeting, followed by a detailed and fully costed plan to the relevant Committees in June 2018.*

### Of Note / Interest for GFAN Members

The delegations presented a Decision Point that aims to empower the new ED to come back to the Board with ambitious and costed Resource Mobilisation framework for 2017-2019 and the upcoming Sixth Replenishment. This will allow the ED to ensure that appropriate levels of resources are invested in staff capacity and partnerships (such as the collaboration with advocates in CS).

In the sidelines of the discussions on resource mobilisation, there were some interesting discussions on the flip side of the multiple replenishments in health around 2019, which so far has often only been discussed as a challenge. Some pointed out that this could also be an opportunity for demonstrating the successes and progress made in global health and how the multiple initiatives joint build RSSH and contribute to the SDG's.

### Relevant Documents

[GF/B38/19](#) - Update on resource mobilization and the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment



## Eligibility

### Background

The Strategy Committee (SC) began a review of the Global Fund's Eligibility Policy in March 2017 and will recommend a revised policy to the Board at its March 2018 meeting

The 3 civil society delegations shared a statement on the Review of Eligibility that speaks to the challenges with the eligibility policy that might be undermining the goal of the Global Fund.

### Report on Issue

The purpose of the review is to confirm rigor and appropriateness of the determinants of eligibility and to consider the best way to address responsiveness to emerging health threats. Emergency funding for ineligible countries to be addressed outside Eligibility Policy

### Outcome of Board Deliberations

No progress made in terms of an overall revision of the Eligibility Policy in line with the what the CS delegations are looking for. Agreement in the Strategy Committee focused on technical adjustments (such as the use of disease indicators). There are huge reservations with regards to a more comprehensive adjustment, but there could be some interest in targeted solutions such as an adjusted version of the NGO rule.

### Of Note / Interest for GFAN Members

The Civil Society delegation's position paper highlights areas where the eligibility policy is not giving the Global Fund the necessary scope or flexibility it needs to achieve the goal of ending the three diseases. The key problems identified are as follows:

- Epidemics in UMICs are deprioritized/ineligible and diseases are rebounding there.
- There are no Global Fund mechanisms to support ineligible countries facing a public health emergency relating to HIV, TB or malaria or for preventing these crises from undermining progress across borders and in the broader region (see the crisis in Venezuela).
- There is no Global Fund mechanism ensuring ongoing or new support for civil society to provide life-saving services and advocate for health services in UMICs where there are political barriers or opposition to provide those services.
- The current approach does not guide the Fund on what to do in contexts where there is no data, which is often the case for HIV-affected key populations, MDR-TB, and some populations vulnerable to malaria, including refugees, migrants, IDP, and indigenous persons.
- The current eligibility criterion of GNI per capita fails to capture on its own the complexity of economic realities in diverse countries. GNI per capita only describes income for the whole country. It does not say where that money is, who has it and who doesn't, how much of it is collected as tax revenue, how capable a country is to mobilize domestic and external resources for health, or how resilient the economy will be to an unexpected conflict or natural disaster.





In the Board meeting the civil society delegations emphasized that the Global Fund needs to be flexible to respond to the epidemics and the eligibility policy is the key tool in funding the life-saving and disease-defeating interventions in all low income and middle-income countries in all regions and among all populations. Making (upper-)middle income countries ineligible without key sustainability interventions has led to rapidly decreasing allocations and in many cases governments have not stepped in to cover the gap in funding or services, and diseases are rebounding. We already risk losing the fight against HIV in EECA and TB and MDR-TB is increasing in a few regions with largely UMIC countries.

There are two key challenges in countries where the GF transitioned out: 1) governance after transition and 2) epidemiological challenges in post-transition countries i.e. resurgence.

The delegations therefore asked the Board to find solutions that won't make huge changes to the eligibility policy but will make the Global Fund responsive to these critical challenges to sustain the gains and avoid countries becoming re-eligible again in a few short years.

They proposed an amended or expanded "NGO rule" (which currently only applies to Russia) to target small funds to civil society in two categories of countries:  
Recently transitioned countries who haven't benefitted from the STC policy and are facing disease resurgence, service closure and lack government capacity or willingness to fund these services

Currently Ineligible UMICs with moderate HIV disease burden and depending on the changes in TB and Malaria thresholds – possibly those diseases too.

The GF needs to stay involved and work with other donors (including Foundations that are already engaged such as the EJP and OSF) by contributing small amounts of funding, sharing the expertise of country/regional teams, and high-level advocacy with ministries of health and finance.

#### Relevant Documents

[GF/B38/20](#) - Board Update on Eligibility Policy Revisions

Developed Country NGO [Delegation statement on the Review of Eligibility, 14-15 November 2017](#)

#### **Loan buy-downs/Innovative Financing**

##### Background

In response to updates provided by Secretariat on ongoing work, there was some discussion on the Global Fund's efforts in exploring blended financing, and especially buy down of loans, as one of several innovative financing mechanism options to be explored. It seemed that the current definition used by the GFS is a bit confusing. Blended financing usually refers to using public funds to leverage private sector investments. The GFS however is focusing more in use



of public funds, such as GF funding, to leverage more public funding such as from the World Bank or the regional banks as in the case of buy down of loans.

There was broad support for exploring financing mechanism options that will help achieve the scale up and sustaining of the delivery of needed HIV, TB, malaria and broader health interventions to communities in need. However, the Communities delegation supported by the other CS delegations, called for caution and presented some critical concerns such as the lack of evidence that supports the successes of blended financing in the health sector, challenges in regulating and seeking accountability from private institutions and the need to guard against the Global Fund compromising its ability to assert its unique corporate ethos when entering into partnership agreements with development financial institutions.

#### Report on Issue

The Communities Delegation strongly feels that there are three primary principles that should guide the Global Fund in exploring the variety of blended financing models:  
Blended Financing should supplement but never replace direct grant investments;  
Blended financing mechanisms should focus on supporting programs that address the need of key populations and vulnerable communities, particularly in the context of transition:

- They should promote Global Fund's core processes and values on blended financing mechanisms & framework;
- And they should prioritize mobilising untapped resources such as commercial & private financing (instead of solely relying on government's debt sustainability)

#### Outcome of Board Deliberations

There was broad support for further development of a framework to guide future development and testing of innovative financing mechanisms as well as support for a call for a robust evaluation framework.

#### Relevant Documents

["GF/AFC05/06 Follow-up on loan buy-downs"](#) – position paper Communities Delegation  
[GF/B38/19](#) - Update on resource mobilization and the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment

### **Operating Expenses (Budget for the Global Fund Secretariat)**

#### Background

Based on the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board discussed and approved the 2018 Corporate Work Plan and the 2018 Operating Expenses (OPEX) budget in the amount of up to USD 312.0 million (including USD 15.92 million for the Office of the Inspector General's and up to USD 12.0 million as exceptional, one-off impact of the *Global Health Campus* infrastructure investment (the Global Fund's new office).



The Board reaffirmed the agreement that the total operating expenses over the 2017-2019 period will remain within USD 900 million. Space for the one-off 12 million investment in the new office will therefore need to be found within the overall 3 year budget envelope, which requires a comprehensive review of both the operating expense budget for 2019 and the operating expenses required to meet the Global Fund's strategic objectives.

#### Relevant Documents

[GF/B38/04A](#)- Revision 1 - 2018 Operating Expenses Budget

[GF/B38/DP06](#) – Decision Point on the 2018 Corporate Work Plan and Budget Narrative and the 2018 Operating Expenses Budget

#### **New Donor's Seat**

##### Background

The Board of the Global Fund is composed of two equal voting blocs known as the Implementers Group (where the 3 civil society and communities delegations sit) and the Donor Group. In order to keep the balance between these two groups, the donors group at different times have made adjustments (Australia joined the Canada/Swiss voting seat a few years ago for example) but no "new" seats have been created. There are currently donors – and some cases, potential donors, who do not have a "seat" on the board and despite attempts going back many years, there have been no significant changes to allow incorporation of "new public donor's" to the Board.

##### Report on Issue

Christoph Benn (External Relations Director) spoke during pre-Board briefings and at the Board discussion about why some existing and potentially new donors are disappointed that they have not been invited to the Board nor see any opportunities to be taken in over time. While he acknowledged that individually sometimes these can be quite "small" amounts, collectively it is an important pool of resources and being able to offer a seat at the board will be an added incentive for Mr Benn and his External Relations team. A Decision-Point was put forward to invite existing (and future) donors who have contributed at least \$10 million in the current replenishment be represented on a joint, non-voting seat.

##### Outcome of Board Deliberations

In the interim between the documentation being prepared and circulated (which in addition to the non-voting seat for a \$10 million contribution also has a voting seat for \$ 50 million pledges, the Donor Voting Group (donor bloc) had many conversations and proposed an amendment to the Decision Point.

The Decision Point that was passed, obliges them to report back at the next Board Meeting (spring 2018) on a process to ensure that new donors, who commit to the principles in the Framework Document of the GF and contribute or pledge more than a (yet to be determined) threshold amount for two consecutive replenishment periods, will be integrated into a voting public donor constituency.



#### Of Note / Interest for GFAN Members

There have been discussions for many years about how to integrate new public donors: as civil society and communities, our delegations to the GF Board have had little direct input as we sit within the Implementers Group. The Communities Delegation requested that the Implementers Group be updated prior to the deliberations at the next Board Meeting on the Donor Groups deliberations and proposal and that the Secretariat share a breakdown of pledges/contributions by voting constituency (not by country).

The External Relations team has found this lack of a seat “at the table” for new donors has acted as a disincentive: generally, our delegations support the intent of ensuring presence at the table for all donors, and supported the decision point. We welcome the chance to work with the External Relations team and others on using this new (although still to be fully developed) mechanism as part of the toolkit to incentivize new public donors.

#### Relevant Documents

##### [DP GF/B38/DP05](#)

*Based on the recommendation of the Ethics and Governance Committee, the Board:*

- 1. Amends Article 7.1 of the Global Fund Bylaws by deleting the text which states “One Swiss citizen with his or her domicile in Switzerland authorized to act on behalf of the Global Fund to the extent required by Swiss law; and”, and replacing it with the following text: “One representative of the public donors which are not part of a voting donor constituency but have each pledged a contribution of at least \$10 million in the current replenishment cycle; and”;*
- 2. Requests that the Secretariat invite the public donors included in the group which are not part of a voting donor constituency but have each pledged a contribution of at least \$10 million in the current replenishment cycle to join this new non-voting Board constituency and develop a process for selecting its Board representation in accordance with the Bylaws and the Operating Procedures of the Board and Committees of the Global Fund; and*
- 3. Requests the Donor Voting Group report at the 39th meeting of the Global Fund Board on its revised process for public donor seat allocation, which will ensure that new public donors, who commit to the principles in the Framework Document of the Global Fund and contribute/pledge more than a defined threshold amount for two consecutive replenishment periods, will be integrated into a voting public donor constituency.*



## Evolution of Country Coordinating Mechanisms

### Background

In 2017, the Secretariat embarked on a CCM Evolution project. In Phase I, it compiled and analyzed data around CCM functionality and performance. In Phase II it held stakeholder consultations through workshops, questionnaires, meetings, and document review eliciting feedback on CCM functionality and performance. The Secretariat consulted and updated the Committees on the CCM Evolution project at the June/July and October 2017 Committee meetings. The report at this Board Meeting provided initial results from the data and consultations phases and discuss options and next steps.

### Report on Issue

The key outcomes from the two phases were a general sense that from a general performance perspective, most CCM's are performing well, seeing significant improvements since the last evaluation of CCM's in 2014. Additionally, it has to date identified that there are essentially 3 levels of CCMs "maturity": basic governance, programmatic oversight and strategic engagement. In their report, they identify 4 enabling conditions that help evolve CCMs to that more strategic engagement level: having the right leadership, having an effective CCM Secretariat, having strong support and active engagement from the Global Fund Secretariat and having sufficient financial resources.

Again, overall performance has been found to be improved but there are more CCM's still at the basic governance level than in the other two levels. Some key areas for improvement that were noted, are around oversight and how well CCM's function and engage with CSO's and how effective their engagement plans with CSO's are in particular. Finally, it was noted that the strength of CCMs is a changeable thing (i.e. there were some CCMs who were performing extremely well that they saw significant drop-offs in) and that it is constant work to keep CCM's at current level and continuing to progress.

### Outcome of Board Deliberations

This was a "for information" report to bring Board Members up to date on critical, new findings: there was no Decision Point under discussion for this section. Many of the interventions centred around what points or findings constituencies found particularly compelling however the main point that was raised was the difficult job of supporting CCM's properly when budgets are low.

During the briefing prior to the Board meeting, there was some preliminary discussion about allowing CCM Secretariat costs to be embedded within Concept Notes out of country allocations, but the Communities Delegation objected to this possible pathway, noting that country allocations are meant to be programmatic while also cautioning that resources (financial and otherwise) are needed to ensure broad participation of communities, key populations and civil society and that that participation is properly supported.

### Of Note / Interest for GFAN Members

Civil society and communities and their participation in CCM's were, not singled out per se, but raised repeatedly throughout the briefings and board deliberations: this was mostly noted by



various delegations as being critically important to preserve a central and protected role for communities and civil society in any evolution of CCM's.

#### Relevant Documents

[GF/BM38/21](#) Evolving CCMs to Align with the Global Fund Strategy

### **Emergencies: The GF's response to emergencies in eligible and non-eligible countries**

#### Background

The GF Secretariat and Board is often called on in "emergency" situations such as the recent imprisonment in Tanzania of civil society who are a Principal Recipient of a Global Fund grant. Additionally, there are state-made emergencies (such as in Venezuela) and natural disasters in countries that are not eligible for GF grants but where the need is immediate and great. At the last Board Meeting (May 2017) there was a discussion about Venezuela in particular and at this most recent Board Meeting, there was a roundtable organized for delegations to hear more. Venezuela's government essentially denies the crisis, and blocks publication of health data that would document the worsening disaster. In the absence of official health data, this report, *[Triple threat: Resurging epidemics, a broken health system, and global indifference to Venezuela's crisis](#)*, draws on interviews with Venezuelan people living with HIV, doctors, advocates, academics and United Nations representatives to document the health emergency.

The government denial of the crisis, the country's classification by the World Bank as Upper Middle Income, and the lack of official epidemiological data all made Venezuela ineligible for many forms of aid, including from the Global Fund. The Global Fund Board voted to provide aid to a regional response (May 2017 BM28), but none has yet developed.

#### Report on Issue

At the roundtable on Venezuela – held at the conclusion of the pre-Board Meeting Briefing Day – we heard presentations from civil society actors and PAHO about the crisis situation in Venezuela. Although there are some channels that are currently open for some NGO's to access some medical supplies, including medicines, there will be officially no ARV's as of December 1<sup>st</sup> beyond what those NGO's can get in.

Most planning has begun to move towards what is being called the "day after" scenarios: i.e. how can the global community be prepared to step in quickly when it is permitted by this or subsequent governments.

#### Outcome of Board Deliberations

Through various interventions at different opportunities, the Communities and 2 civil society delegations continued to press the need for a framework or protocol for a transparent understanding of the Global Fund's actions during and around various crisis' like those in Venezuela and in Tanzania.

While these are both quite different types of crisis' but highlight the need for a clear understanding of the Global Fund's role in those types of situations. These conversations did not result in any Decision Points.



### Of Note / Interest for GFAN Members

Many of the conversations turned to “what can we do” and in the coming days, GFAN will be issuing an Action Alert toolkit with suggestions and information for advocates to talk with their governments about taking action and preparing for “day after”.

### **Technical Review Panel: Report**

#### Background

The [Technical Review Panel](#) which reviews each request for funding submitted to the Global Fund regularly reports to the Board on its progress in assessing funding requests as well as their observations from reviewing the requests as they related to general policies that implement the Global Fund Strategy. In addition to welcoming a new Chair and vice-Chairs of the TRP (Dr. Jeremiah Chakaya Muhwa – Chair; Michele Moloney-Kitts and Dr Stela Bivol – Vice-Chairs) this report, the TRP provided insight into the funding requests that were submitted in the first and second windows of the 2017-2019 Allocation Period and provided some initial observations from the third window.

#### Report on Issue

The TRP’s recommendations through windows 1 and 2 represents 80% of the total 2017-2019 allocation and 47% of available matching funds: with window 3, a total of 88% of the amount available for allocation has been approved for grant-making. This is a vast improvement from the last funding cycle where at this time, only 45% of available funding had been approved at this stage.

The TRP found that in general, funding requests are strategically focused and technical sound. They did highlight a number of areas for improvement including in terms of matching funds which the TRP reported as being sound in terms of demonstrating the catalytic and innovative potential, but in general, most of these requests needed more technical and strategic work.

In terms of on-the-ground realities a few interesting disease-specific observations:

- Malaria: a resurgence of malaria in central and eastern Africa highlighted the need for more surveillance and cross-border collaboration and in general, the private sector plays a key role in the malaria response
- TB: drug resistance is of particular concern and is inadequately addressed by most applications and progress is slow with a persistent-MDR TB detection-treatment gap and human rights and gender issues are generally not well addressed in applications
- HIV: increasing domestic commitments are not necessarily translating into more commitments to key populations and the TRP noted that gaps in coverage are “deriving from structural, political and cultural reticence to scale-up prevention activities among key populations including women and girls”



### Of Note / Interest for GFAN Members

If you read one report of the official documents for this Board Meeting, make it this one. The insights gleaned in terms of on-the-ground realities are fascinating and helpful for all 3 diseases and on cross-cutting issues such as resilient and sustainable health systems, gender and human rights issues.

Based on observations raised in the TRP report, the Developed Country NGO delegation expressed the urgent need for the Global Fund and partners to improve the analysis of the extent, reasons and implications of actual and potential funding gaps for critical services that are being identified during the application and grant processes. Many countries see the commodities component making up an increasing share of the grants, which by default would result in less (financial) space other essential interventions such as prevention, civil society and community based services, specific interventions for key populations, gender and human rights, as well as investments in RSSH. This trend is sometimes referred to as 'the commoditisation of grants'.

The paper explains why this is a reason for concern:

If there is a trend towards growing gaps for treatment continuation and scale up, while commodities are placed in tension with other essential services and if this is not compensated for by other funding streams, then we risk not meeting the SDG and GF Strategy targets of ending the epidemics.

At the same time: if there are no alternative funding streams, this funding need (as well as the UQD needs that remain from the PAAR) should be included in the GF resource mobilisation strategy.

The paper was shared with the Strategy Committee and the Board leadership, and it was suggested to include the questions raised in follow up analyses that have been commissioned by the Strategy Committee. Relevant questions in this context are:

*Do we know (do we have the data) and do we understand (do we have the right oversight mechanisms in place) where (in which geographies) and to what extent there are increasing funding constraints compared to needs in grants that are 'crowding out' other essential interventions?*

*Equally, do we have updated information through GF funding requests (gap analyses, PAAR) and other sources of information to have a better overview of gaps and restrictions that for continuation and scale up of ARV testing, treatment and retention across countries?*





### Relevant Documents

[GF/B38/12](#) Report of the Technical Review Panel

Developed Country NGO Delegation: [Questions about critical funding gaps for treatment, prevention and community services.](#)

## Conclusions and Next Steps

The selection of the new Executive Director was of course, the key decision taken at the 38<sup>th</sup> Global Fund Board Meeting. There was an incredible diversity of topics that were brought forward to the Board by its various committees, working groups and the Secretariat including the evolution of CCM's, progress and considerations in reviewing the eligibility policy and discussions around preparedness for the 6<sup>th</sup> Replenishment.

While the deliberations were many, varied and quite in-depth the meeting itself only resulted in a handful of decision points: most items were simply up for discussion and information: meaning that the next Board Meeting (39<sup>th</sup>) will have many key and important decision points under discussion.

One important theme to highlight that recurred throughout the meetings was about the Secretariat being quite pressed for time and resources, with increasing demands and a capped budget. Other issues and reports of interest not covered in this report include discussions on risk management, fraud and corruption and a "deep dive" on Community, Rights and Gender issues.

A critical issue for the 3 civil society and communities delegations that was raised throughout (and mentioned during the GFAN de-brief call on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017) was the inability of the Global Fund to be able to respond in a timely manner to humanitarian and other crises such as Venezuela and the recent jailing of Tanzanian human rights advocates/lawyers (Global Fund PR recipients). Continuing to follow this proposal of a Human Rights Crisis Protocol and finding ways to collaborate and act on Venezuela through all available channels will be of on-going interest to GFAN.

GFAN Secretariat looks forward to welcoming Peter Sands to his role as Executive Director and will seek early opportunities to engage Mr Sands in calls and meetings for our global community of advocates.

