

35th Board Meeting

## Update on Activities of the TERG

For Board Information

GF/B35/14

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# Outline

## Reviews completed and considered by the SIIC in Q1 2016

- › Mechanisms for review and decision making of Concept Notes in the Global Fund Funding Model
- › Allocation methodology
- › Self- and peer- assessment

## Update on the on-going TERG work

## Mechanisms for Review and Decision Making of Concept Notes in the Global Fund Funding Model: TERG Recommendations

- ▶ The TERG strongly supports the finding that “a better balance needs to be struck between the attention given to quality assuring grant applications and the attention given to enhancing grant making and implementation.”
- ▶ Requests for funding should be considered by the TRP, but with a high degree of differentiation in the scope and depth of the process;
  - differentiated review of individual funding requests according to a clear set of criteria;
  - Country teams would fill out a checklist/matrix on each funding request and, this alone, could serve as the basis for the TRP approval for requests that receive the most streamlined level of review;
  - setting ambitious targets for categorization of grant applications into the most streamlined level, e.g. as a minimum one third during the next allocation period and two thirds for the subsequent allocation period;
  - Furthermore, the TERG suggests the Secretariat submits for TRP approval a list of components that could be eligible for costed extensions (i.e. no concept note submission) based on a set of TRP agreed criteria
- ▶ The TERG supports the review suggestion that “GAC need only see grant documents once, except in exceptional circumstances, and should be better guided to focus on critical management concerns”
- ▶ The Global Fund with its partners should continue to make every effort to improve the quality of national strategic plans (NSPs) as a basis for grants.
- ▶ Country Teams should have the skills to guide the full process from grant preparation to grant implementation.
- ▶ Every effort should be made to substantially reduce the information needs placed on countries.

**TERG recommendations were discussed by the SIIC, the TRP, and the Secretariat; the TRP and the Secretariat are considering how to operationalize**

## Thematic Review on Allocation Methodology: Summary Recommendations

- > **The country bands could be abolished**
  - as they have reduced flexibility of the allocation without adding significant protection to vulnerable programmes.
- > **Direct use of the existing country-level needs assessments can be considered**
  - as it is unlikely that the formula can properly capture the needs of both prevention and treatment efforts.
- > **The ability-to-pay factor could be based upon general government expenditure (GGE) per capita, rather than gross national income (GNI) per capita**
  - in order to give a better representation of the resources available to government.
- > **The shape of the curve determining the ability-to-pay factor could be more closely based upon an empirical consideration of GGE in countries**
  - the current shape of the curve may be giving undue protection to higher-income countries.
- > **Sub-national needs assessment in the largest eligible countries could replace maximum share adjustment**, which has reduced the potential funding.
- > **The MRL could be expressed as a ceiling** for the maximum percentage change in the domestic funding requirement from countries, rather than a limit on the proportional reduction in Global Fund funding.
- > **The qualitative factors step should be retained in its present form**
  - as it is an important part of the country-level negotiation following the allocative process.
- > There was **no strong consensus that funding directed to regional entities has been effective**
  - although it is widely acknowledged that regional approaches are important for all three disease components;
  - one approach might be to encourage countries to include support for regional collaboration.

**Recommendations were considered by the SIIC and the Secretariat, and incorporated to the new allocation methodology**

# SIIC Endorsed the Decision Point on the TERG Self- and Peer-Assessment

## Decision Point: GF/SIIC17/DPXX: TERG Self- and Peer-Assessment

1. *The Strategy, Investment and Impact Committee (the “SIIC”) acknowledges the Technical Evaluation Reference Group’s (the “TERG”) self- and peer-assessment and endorses the TERG’s proposed priorities and actions, as described in GF/SIIC17/15.*
2. *Accordingly, the SIIC requests the TERG to present the following to the new Strategy Committee for review and approval:*
  - a. *a multi-year strategic approach to the evaluation of the Global Fund Strategy 2017-2022 with budget options; and*
  - b. *revised Terms of Reference for the TERG.*

## Action points following SIIC approval of the Decision Point

The **TERG will develop a multi-year strategic approach** to evaluation of the Global Fund Strategy 2017-2022;

The **TERG will enhance the advisory and learning roles** included in its TORs by ensuring that:

- i. TERG products are presented to relevant Secretariat teams and that the Secretariat agrees on a management response and that the TERG will monitor its implementation; and
- ii. TERG understands better and is updated on the M&E activities being carried out across the Secretariat and advises on their improvement.

The TERG Support Team will assess **opportunities for the Global Fund to join other partners** (e.g., GAVI) in detailed prospective evaluations of program implementation and impact and will review cost implications of such joint assessments;

The TERG will submit to the new Strategy Committee (SC) for approval the **multi-year strategic approach, along with a revision of the Terms of Reference of the TERG**, and associated budget options, as appropriate;

The Secretariat will **examine the strength of the TERG support** team and make adjustments if necessary; and

The SC will form a **Working Group on TERG Recruitment** and implement a recruitment process following the revised TERG TOR and TERG recruitment strategy.

# Update on the on-going TERG work

## Reviews underway

- › **The Emergency Fund:** a review of the implementation of the Emergency Fund
- › **Regional/multi-country grants:** a review of the strengths and weaknesses

## Reviews in preparation

- › **National Strategic Plans as a basis for Global Fund grant:** a review newly prioritized at the SIIC meeting to inform the next application process
- › **Data systems investments:** Review of Global Fund special initiative on improving data systems in countries – exact scope under development
- › **Gender/women and girls:** prospective evaluation of the Global Fund gender initiatives (e.g. SAGE) - exact scope under development
- › **Transition:** prospective evaluation of the implementation of new Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing Policy

The TERG is advising the Secretariat on the development of the evaluation strategy of the Global Fund Strategy 2017-2022 and developing its own multi-year evaluation approach.