



Fund the Global Fund Campaign:
Waking up Congress to the importance of US support for
the Global Fund

A Global Fund Fact Sheet

WHAT WE DEMAND: Congress must appropriate a total of \$2 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria for the Fiscal Year 2009.

The Global Fund

What is it? The GF to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria was created in 2002 as an international mechanism to combat these three diseases, which together kill more than 6 million people every year, by effectively dispensing large sums of money around the world. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland and is responsible for providing over 20 percent of international funding for AIDS, two-thirds of international funding for tuberculosis, and three-fourths of funding to fight malaria. To date, the program has awarded more than US\$ 11.3 billion in 136 different countries against all three diseases³. Grants are awarded through “proposal rounds.” So far there have been seven proposal rounds; round eight will occur in November 2008. During the upcoming proposal round, SGAC must ensure that the US government continues its support of the program.

How does it work? The GF operates in an unusual but highly effective method. In no way does it directly implement any action programs, but rather it works to efficiently supplement the funding of programs that are already in place. Its general operating principles are outlined on their website (<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en>) as follows:

* Operates as a **financial instrument**, not an implementing entity. The GF doesn’t implement programs directly; rather, it **helps finance programs that rely on local expertise**.

*Make available and leverage additional financial resources. The GF seeks to **supplement already existing funding**—not to replace it. As such, it only provides assistance where it can be assured that it is not replacing other resources.

*Support **programs that reflect national ownership**. The GF aims to create partnerships between countries receiving GF money, and to **strengthen local ownership** over programs.

*Operate in a **balanced manner in terms of different regions, diseases and interventions**. This means that the GF gives priority to countries and regions with the greatest disease burden who lack financial resources; additionally, they also give grants to countries with emerging epidemics, in an effort to halt progression of the disease. Because of a disproportionate disease burden, 57% of funds go to Sub-Saharan Africa. Two-thirds of all money is for AIDS, with 25% for malaria and 14% for TB. (Based on statistics from the 2007 proposal round.)

*Pursue an **integrated and balanced approach to prevention and treatment**. This goes in line with the above point. The GF puts emphasis on funding both prevention and treatment programs, depending on local needs.

*Evaluate proposals through **independent review processes**. There is a Technical Review Panel which evaluates proposals and makes sure that funding is directed toward programs that will have the “greatest chances of success.”

***Establish a simplified, rapid, and innovative grant-making process** and operate transparently, with accountability. Information about the grant-making process and progress of programs is available to the public via the website.

For more information, visit www.fightglobalaids.org or e-mail sheena.sood@fightglobalaids.org

What has it done? Since its inception, it is estimated that the GF's programs have saved more than 2 million lives. GF tracks the results of its programs and mandates that grant recipients issue reports, which are monitored by "Local Fund Agents." The purpose of this is to make sure that the money is going to where it should be. Between December 2006 and December 2007 the amount of people on ARV treatment for HIV increased by 88%—from 777,000 to 1,400,000.

In Rwanda, where the after effects of the Rwanda genocide left approximately 70% of the 250,000 women who had been raped infected with HIV, the GF has provided over 326,000 people with HIV counseling and testing in 66 health centers; given 168,141 pregnant women treatment to prevent HIV transmission to their babies; trained 480 youth educators; and put 4,115 people on life-saving ARV medication. Other success stories of the GF in the fight against HIV/AIDS include ARV treatment for almost 7,000 people in South Africa and 5,534 people in Haiti; over 1.2 million have received HIV prevention education in Haiti.

What needs to be done? By 2010 the GF will need an estimated \$6 to 8 billion dollars in order to continue funding over 500 programs in more than 136 countries. The US has historically been an important support of the GF, providing around one-third of all of its money. It is critical that the US maintain its role of strong supporter because the GF is able to use the backing of the US as a means to gain assistance from other donors. Congress has allocated \$841 million dollars to the GF for the fiscal year 2008. While this does represent the highest amount that the US has given to date, the share of funding that the US is giving is decreasing.

It is imperative that the US maintain its role as a strong donor in order for other donors to continue supporting the Fund, and for it to remain strong. According to RESULTS4, a non-profit organization that works on issues of global poverty, in order for the GF to meet its funding need of \$6 to 8 billion by 2010, the US needs to give \$2 billion dollars for fiscal year 2009. This would represent a contribution of one-third of the GF's needs, the US fair share that we have historically contributed.

The GF continues to be the best entity for funding effective HIV/AIDS comprehensive sex education programs and for purchasing generic drugs. (On the other hand, PEPFAR continues to favor abstinence-only-until-marriage education, and to purchase non-generic drugs from US companies, thereby reducing the number of people that can receive ARV treatment.) Therefore, allocating more money to the GF is essential to the fight against this pandemic. The possibility exists within the January Supplemental bill to allocate more money for the GF. Lobbying our congresspeople around this issue could be a potential area of campaign work for SGAC during the fall semester.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

SGAC will be hosting phone zap/call-in days both this semester and early into second semester to target the representatives on our target list. A phone zap is when a group of people make a lot of phone calls and/or faxes to a congressperson's office. SGAC will send you an action alert when we host a call-in day, and we will include a phone script with demands and facts to back it up. But if you're daring enough, feel free to write up your own script with demands, use our facts, and lead such an action when you and your chapter members want to host an action!