

Summary of RBM Harmonisation Working Group support to Global Fund Round 8 Malaria Proposal Development

Pre-TRP Update to the RBM Partnership from the HWG

Endemic country malaria proposals in GFATM Round 7, with the support of the RBM Harmonization Working Group (HWG), secured approximately US\$1.3 billion for malaria control. Given this success, a similar support package was offered to endemic countries in Africa for Round 8.

Process

The Round 8 Proposal Support Workstream within the HWG oversaw the process. Overall, 18 proposals were supported¹, of which 16 were submitted², whilst the others deferred their applications to Round 9³. The in-depth assistance package consisted of:

- Collation of information on existing Global Fund grants and unsuccessful applications from previous rounds, particularly 6 and 7, including identification of bottlenecks;
- Selection of experienced consultants, one internal (with experience in the applicant country) and one external (with writing skills and often in-depth expertise in a specific technical area) to provide support to proposal development
- A training workshop held in South Africa for consultants and country teams on Global Fund proposal development. Country teams were composed of a representative from the National Malaria Control Program, the Country Co-ordinating Mechanism, civil society, local partners and internal and external consultants. HWG members acted as facilitators, including a training team from the Proposal Advisory Group within the Global Fund.
- Following the training workshop in South Africa, country teams worked with their consultants to develop the proposals. Where needed, follow-up support was provided by the HWG through individual assistance missions by HWG partners. A “tag-team” approach was taken in the larger countries such as Nigeria and DRC where numerous and complex issues required the expertise of diverse institutions and partners. Funds were provided by the HWG to support local in-country costs and consensus building discussions.
- A “mock” Technical Review Panel (TRP) was held in Nairobi Kenya at the end of May for draft Round 8 proposals to identify areas in need of strengthening prior to submission. Over 135 participants from 24 countries attended the workshop.
- Where needed, “emergency support” country missions were undertaken by HWG partners.
- A final review of proposals was carried out electronically by HWG members in the week preceding submission for final comments, with a maximum 2-day turnaround for comments.
- With the submission deadline having passed on 1 July 08, the HWG has prepared a written briefing on the support process, (including the coordinated push for frontloading and rapid scale-up to reach the December 31, 2010 targets) for the Global Fund Technical Review Panel, which is convening in late August/early September. The HWG is working closely with WHO on this briefing note, as WHO will be providing the TRP with clarifications on technical malaria control issues.

¹ Cameroon, CAR, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe and a multi-country proposal from southern Africa (Trans Zambezi)

² CAR, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe and multicountry proposal southern Africa (Trans Zambezi)

³ Cameroon and Uganda

The round 8 package was supported by a wide range of key HWG partners including: UNICEF, WHO, Malaria No More, the Global Fund, MACEPA, Earth Institute, US PMI, CDC, the World Bank, UN SG Special Envoy's office, EARN, SARN, WARN, CARN, RBM Secretariat, Johns Hopkins, Clinton Foundation, and PSI, as well as members of the PSM working group.

Budget

HWG partners committed significant resources both in terms of finances and staff time to support this process. The total budget for Round 8 support is approximately US\$1.7 million, with an additional estimated US\$500,000 incurred in staff costs, bringing the total cost of the support package to approximately US\$2.2 million. Funds were received from several RBM partners including UNICEF, the RBM Secretariat, Vestergaard Frandsen, US President's Malaria Initiative, BASF, Exxon Mobil and the Gates Foundation.

Significant administrative support was provided by UNICEF, Malaria No More and the RBM Secretariat.

Results

Provisional analysis of the 15 HWG supported proposals submitted indicate that approximately US\$1.2 billion is requested for Phase I (first 2-years of a grant) and US\$2.5 billion over the total lifetime of the proposals (over 5-years). This illustrates that the countries responded to both the UN Secretary General's call for Universal Coverage by 2010, as well as the Global Fund Board's decision to call for "ambitious" proposals that scale-up "comprehensive malaria control programs".

The proposals include requests for 98 million mosquito nets and 92 million ACTs in the first phase. Trends show a "front-loaded" scale up of nets in the first two years with the request for nets representing 70% of the total proposal budget in the first year, decreasing to 22% by the final year. There is a gradual increase in the proportion of the total budget request represented by ACTs, increasing from 10% in the first year to 20% in the final year. Indoor Residual Spraying budget also increases from 5% in the first year to 20% in the final year.

The Global Fund reports (see attached correspondence from the Executive Director of the Global Fund to the Global Fund Board) that the overall total requested in GFATM round 8 Phase 1 is \$6.4 billion, with \$2.1 billion requested overall for malaria, or 33% of the total request.

Next Steps

The harmonization working group will support successful countries to accelerate signature of Round 8 proposals, and will support unsuccessful countries in the submission of Round 9 proposals.