

CALL TO ACTION:

Health System Strengthening through the Global Fund



DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

HEALTH SYSTEMS

STRENGTHENING

HEALTH WORKERS

DEVELOPMENT

Round 7 of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which launched March 1, 2007, offers an important opportunity to fund health system strengthening, including the health workforce. In the past, the Global Fund has permitted applicants to seek support for health system strengthening actions that are necessary to reduce the impact and spread of any or all of the three diseases: AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Similar criteria are expected this year, and applicants should review them in the Global Fund's Round 7 guidelines, which should now be available on the Global Fund's website (<http://www.theglobalfund.org>).

The Global Fund therefore can be used to support critical health workforce investments that are needed to advance efforts to combat these diseases, including by funding a portion of a national health workforce strategy. For example, in 2005, Malawi used the Fund to support part of its Emergency Human Resource Programme, including expanding health professional pre-service training capacity and recruiting, training, and paying the salaries (at the Emergency Programme's enhanced compensation levels) of hundreds of nurses, doctors, clinical officers, and counselors, and even more community-based health workers. Other innovative uses of the Fund for health system strengthening have included support for a community-based health insurance scheme and electrifying and rehabilitating health facilities.

Where the requisite link can be made to the fight against the Fund's target diseases, the Fund can also assist countries in their overall health workforce and health sector planning processes. This Round presents an important opportunity for countries to seek financial support to develop comprehensive, costed health sector plans, including human resources for health development strategies.

To prepare for Round 7, health workers, ministry of health officials, people with HIV/AIDS and other health care users, and other individuals and institutions that have an interest in their countries' health systems are strongly encouraged to consider utilizing this opportunity for strengthening health systems. If interested, you should immediately contact members of your country's Country Coordinating Mechanism to discuss this potential, as well as the national process and timeline for developing these proposals. The proposals are expected to be due to the Global Fund in early July 2007. Information on members of Country Coordinating Mechanisms is available through country pages on the Global Fund's website, <http://www.theglobalfund.org>. If external support will be required in developing the proposal, please contact your WHO Country Office or other sources of technical support.

Please also take advantage of resources to help guide proposal development, including several specifically related to health system strengthening. For general guidance on applying for the Global Fund, please see guides available at: <http://www.aidspace.org/index.php?page=guides>. As material becomes available on the Global Fund and health system strengthening, it will be made available through the website of the Global Health Workforce Alliance: <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance>. A guide published by Physicians for Human Rights on using the Global Fund to support health system strengthening will soon be available through: <http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/library/report-2007-02-27.html>.

