



SUPPORTING GLOBAL FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

ZIMBABWE,
PHOTO BY JEROEN VAN GORKOM

KNCV helps countries apply for Global Fund grants. In 2013, The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria introduced the New Funding Model (NFM). KNCV has successfully supported various elements of applications under this new model in a number of countries.

Important for a successful application is that it is based on a sound and budgeted National Strategic Plan (NSP), including a recent epidemiological (epi-)assessment and a programmatic gap analysis. The next step is the writing of a clear and concise Concept Note, which complies with the formats and guidance provided by the Global Fund. After review by the Technical Review Panel, the applying country will be asked a number of questions or to clarify or edit the application. Once approved, a country can begin with the implementation and will then be monitored closely by the Global Fund. As it did before the New Funding Model was introduced,

KNCV can provide technical support during all phases of the Global Fund grant cycle.

Epi-assessment

In cooperation with WHO and other technical partners, KNCV has developed standard terms of reference for epi-assessments. We have assisted National TB Programs (NTPs) in conducting such assessments based on these requirements,

in countries such as Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Ethiopia. In doing so we always use a capacity building approach. Together with national program staff we analyse data about geographical distribution, gender, age, poverty, occupation and any other relevant factors. The epi-analysis is invaluable in making the business case for a Concept Note or a new or revised National Strategic Plan. In cooperation with the London School of ▶



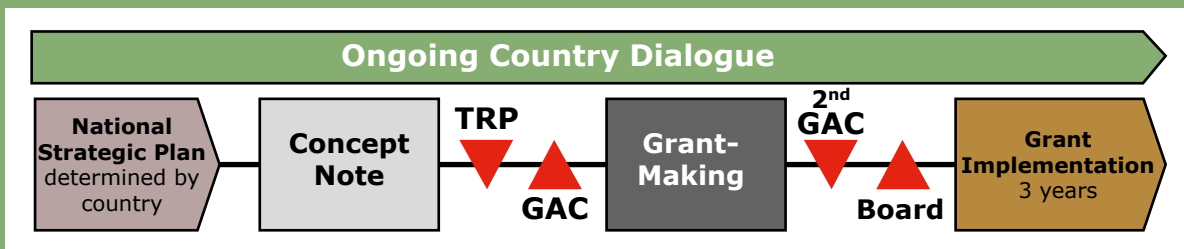
ZIMBABWE – HOSPITAL,
PHOTO BY JEROEN VAN GORKOM



GIVING INFORMATION AT A COFFEE CEREMONY IN ETHIOPIA,
PHOTO BY NETTY KAMP

Features of the New Funding Model

- Flexible timeline: eligible countries can apply at any point during the three year allocation period, so that funding aligns with national budgeting cycles and country- specific demands.
- Simplicity: a more streamlined Concept Note begins the process of applying for a grant.
- Shorter process overall: early feedback by Technical Review Panel (TRP) and Grant Approvals Committee (GAC) aims to reduce the time necessary for approval.
- Enhanced engagement: The Global Fund engages in on-going national dialogue with a focus on multi-stakeholder participation, prior to Board approval of grants.
- Improved predictability of funding: all eligible countries receive a national allocation.



Source: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/fundingmodel/>

Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, we use a mathematical prediction model that allows for country-specific analysis and forecasts on the short- and long-term impact of certain strategic decisions.

Strengths/Weaknesses/ Opportunities/Threat (SWOT) and gap analysis

If step one is collecting the right information, then step two involves asking the right questions. Based on the epi-assessment, we can support a country in conducting a SWOT analysis and a programmatic gap analysis before moving on to Concept Note development. Important questions to be answered in this phase usually concern possible reasons for low case-detection in general: how many patients are we missing? Can we identify specific high-risk or vulnerable groups, such as miners, migrants, tribal groups, persons living with HIV infection (PLHIV) and people in urban slums? Do we have the necessary data? Or do we need more or better information before we implement specific approaches, such as active case detection or screening among high-risk groups? How can we record the evidence as we implement the program? What about TB patients diagnosed and treated in the private sector? Do we record their data; is the patient management adequate, and can we learn about the treatment outcomes? Why are the treatment outcomes of MDR-TB patients so poor, and what can we do about it?

AFGHANISTAN, HOSPITAL, PHOTO BY KATHY FIEKERT



TB MEDICATION, PHOTO BY JEROEN VAN GORKOM



CERTIFIED DRIVER FOR RIDERS FOR HEALTH IN ZIMBABWE, PHOTO BY JEROEN VAN GORKOM

Costs and Cost-effectiveness

An important part of the strategic approach on which Concept Notes are based focuses on the overall costs of the national TB program and the costs of treating one TB patient using different strategic approaches. While some cost elements are straightforward, such as those of the TB drugs, other hidden costs of integrated services are more difficult to quantify. A sound analysis of costs and cost-effectiveness of a National Strategic Plan (NSP) increases the chances of receiving allocated and above-allocation funds when submitting a Concept Note with full expression of demand.

Developing the National Strategic Plan

In some countries, before a credible Concept Note can be submitted to the Global Fund, the NSP must be revised following a recent epi-assessment and program review. This was the case in Nigeria, for example. KNCV consultants supported the entire process, from the development of the NSP to the Concept Note. We also did this in Indonesia and contributed to the NSP in Burma, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan. We support the design and implementation of the national consultation process, as well as help facilitate national workshops and the writing and budgeting of the strategic and implementation plan.

We believe that strategic choices should have a structural, long-term impact and can be implemented over time in the most sustainable manner. We therefore emphasize the need for long-term capacity building in-country and increasing government commitment to funds and human resources. KNCV can assist national programs with national advocacy for increasing allocation of national funds. ▶

Writing the Concept Note

During the first years of the New Funding Mechanism, KNCV consultants have provided technical assistance in writing Concept Notes in Botswana, Indonesia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Vietnam. The in-country processes can be very intensive, prolonged and time-consuming. The requirement for Single (TB/HIV) Concept Notes offers opportunities for improved dialogue and planning between TB and HIV programs, and more synergy and efficiency in program implementation. ■



What should countries pay?

The Global Fund strives for countries' self-reliance in eliminating TB. Therefore, the NFM requires countries to contribute at least five percent of the total amount of money needed for implementing the strategic plan. Countries also need to show how they'll increase this percentage over the years. Ideally, good investment of required funding will lead to fewer patients, which will save money. That money should go directly to fighting TB.

