

## **Summary report on Global Fund Round One, Phase Two Grant managed by the National AIDS Council as Principal Recipient**

The National AIDS Council was the Principal Recipient of two HIV and AIDS Global Fund Grants to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

These are: **Round One, Phase Two- ZIM-102- G07-H Grant** and **Round Five Phase One-ZIM-506-G03-H Grant**.

Round One, Phase Two grant was supposed to commence on May 1, 2007 but due to the delayed transition processes from UNDP, as well as Grant signature, the PR requested a six month No-Cost Extension and the Phase Two Grant Start Date became 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2007, moving the End Date from 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2008.

There are however some activities that are currently being implemented under a Close Out Plan that started on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2008 and will end on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2009.

The country is concurrently implementing Round Five Phase One and is preparing for the Application for Continued Funding in Phase Two.

Round One, Phase One grant was administered by UNDP which has since been reappointed the Principal Recipient for Round Five Phase Two and Round Eight Phase One which is expected to start in July 2009.

The following is the summary of the National AIDS Council's management of Round One, Phase Two under the following topics:

### **Sub- Recipients and their Service Delivery Areas**

#### **1. Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council: YOUTH COMPONENT**

**Objective:** To prevent transmission among young people by improving sexual and reproductive health services for the youth in the districts selected for the project.

#### **2. Zimbabwe AIDS Network: Voluntary Counseling and Testing and Community Home Based Care components**

**Objective:** Strengthening the provision of Voluntary Testing and Counselling Community and Home Based Care for people living with HIV and AIDS in the 12 districts.

#### **3. Ministry of Health and Child Welfare: Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission component (PMTCT)**

**Objective:** To expand services for the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV to 12 pilot rural districts and procure laboratory reagents.

#### **4. National Pharmaceutical Company of Zimbabwe -NATPHARM: Drug storage and distribution**

**Objective:** Storage and distribution of health products.

## **5. Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe -MCAZ: Medicines analysis**

**Objective:** Analysis of medicine procured and conducting post market surveillance on drugs.

All the Sub –Recipients successfully implemented the plans and projects that they signed for and achieved the targets that the country set for them.

The project activities were concentrated in 12 rural districts that were identified by the CCM . To ensure continuity, these districts are already covered by the Round Five .To scale up Grant implementation and achieve targets, the CCM and the Global Fund approved the request by both the SRs and the PR to make the District Hospitals satellite sites that would implement the Grant activities. .

The PR applied for budget re-allocations to procure 4 CD4 Count Machines to ensure that there is, one CD4 Count Machine per district after the Round 5 Grant had procured 22 Chemistry Analyzers, 8 CD4 Count Machines and 22 Haematology Analyzers.

The following are the districts where grant projects were implemented:

- **Matabeleland South:** Beitbridge and Mangwe ( St Annes Brunapeg)
- **Matabeleland North:** Binga
- **Masvingo:** Chiredzi
- **Manicaland:** Chimanimani and Makoni
- **Mashonaland West:** Zvimba and Kariba –Nyaminyami– Father O’ Hea (Zvimba District,
- **Mashonaland Central:** Mt. Darwin and Shamva
- **Mashonaland East:** Mudzi
- **Midlands:** Zvishavane
- **Masvingo** ( Hippo Valley Estates ( Chiredzi)

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:**

### **Development of a National HIV and AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**

This is being finalised.

### **Payment of staff in foreign currency to ensure staff retention**

The CCM and TGF approved the PR’s request to pay all cadres under the Grants in forex to alleviate the challenges that were being experienced in trying to pay in Local Currency.

### **Dollarization of payments**

The Reserve Bank approved the PR request to use the USD budgets by all Global Fund Implementers and this eased transactions and enhanced implementation of programmes.

## **Procurement of Youth and Health Centre renovation materials**

The PR, through the Procurement Consortium, managed to procure and deliver renovation materials to the youth and health centres in the 22 districts.

The renovations are underway

### **Anti-retroviral outreach programme**

Through the outreach programme, the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare managed to initiate **48,387** patients as at 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2009 onto ART out of a target **53,117 and the performance rate was 91 %**).

### **Partner support for grant implementation**

The National AIDS Council received support from the Programme Acceleration Fund (PAF) managed by UNDP and UNAIDS. The following activities were carried out:

- A sensitization meeting for the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health and the CCM Sub-committee on HIV and AIDS was conducted using the PAF.
- Four regional orientation and sensitization meetings were conducted using both the PAF and the local currency accessed through the Fund Manager's arrangement.
- Four regional workshops were conducted between April and September 2008 to build the capacity of the SRs and SSRs in the Global Fund supported 22 districts.
- A consultant was engaged to document Best practices and lessons learnt in selected Global Fund supported districts.
- Four teams of M&E Officers visited the 8 provinces to verify and validate data submitted to the national office. During the visits the teams assessed availability and reliability of primary data collection tools and also conducted on site mentoring for M&E Officers for SRs .
- Various workshops were conducted between January and February 2008 for the harmonization of the Global Fund M&E System with the national M&E System.
- The PR together with SRs conducted a workshop to develop Round One Phase Two and Round Five Phase One M&E Plans.

-This was followed by another workshop work shop which assessed the National M&E System. The self assessment was done through the completion of a checklist.

## **CHALLENGES**

### **1. Staff attrition**

- There was a high attrition rate which was caused by erratic payment of salaries especially for the cadres who were paid in local currency.
- The activity was supposed to be funded using local currency and there was a challenge in accessing local currency.

## **2. Inadequate funding**

- There was little training done which was funded by the erratic local currency disbursement. The other trainings could not be done because of inadequate flow of funds through the Fund Manager's Arrangement.
- Most of the activities that were to be funded in local currency were not carried out because there were challenges in accessing local currency through the Fund Manager's Arrangement.
- The PR could not register the project vehicles that were transferred from UNDP to NAC. The challenge still remains to date.

## **3. No funding to implement Round One ,Phase Two Close Out activities**

- The implementation of the Close out plan covering the period 01 November 2008 to 31 July 2009 has not yet started due to lack of disbursements. The Global Fund came up with new close out guidelines in November 2008 and, unfortunately, they applied to the PR in retrospect.

## **4. Disbursement challenges**

- Zimbabwe faced very challenging implementation environment in the last part of 2007 and throughout 2008.
- The PR did not manage to make disbursements to all the SRs since most of their activities were expected to be carried out in local currency.

## **5. NGO ban during the elections period**

- In 2008 two elections took place and field activities were suspended by the Government between March and September 2008.
- At the same time the hyper-inflation made disbursements and processing of payments extremely challenging.
- Project staff members had to continue working without salaries and allowances due to the non- accessibility of the local currency through the Fund Manager's arrangement.

## **7. Delayed recruitments**

- It became difficult to fill the posts that had become vacant since the prospective staff members were not assured of getting salaries.
- Some of the activities were allocated inadequate funds , making it difficult to implementation on time. Supplementary resources had to be mobilised elsewhere
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## **Program Acceleration Fund (PAF)**

- Despite all these challenges, the PAF came as a boon to the successful implementation of some of the Global Fund grant activities.
- The funds complemented the grant and bridged some of the gaps in the project, thereby greatly assisting the PR to meet on time conditions precedent set by the Global Fund.

## **Lessons learnt from management of the grant**

- The sustainability of programme activities should be ensured when Grant implementation starts- There is need for buy in by other Donors for sustainability.
- The importance of the Programme Acceleration Fund can not be overemphasized. It should continue to complement the performance based Global Fund project.
- There is need continued capacity strengthening of PRs, SRs and SSRs in Grant implementation and compliance with the requirements and policies.
- Timely release of funds remains critical to avoid unnecessary delays in the implementation of the Plan.
- PRs to Grants require support to accomplish outstanding activities like the development and packaging of training materials for PRs, SRs and SSRs in Programme Management, Financial Management and M&E.
- Grant PRs, SRs and SSRs must always be ready to use their own resources to ensure that the set targets are achieved within a stipulated period of time.
- PRs should be able to cope with situations that are prohibitive to ensure implementation of plans.
- The PR has to learn how to deal patiently and tactfully with people and organizations of different backgrounds.
- Grant funds are NEVER availed within the time frames stated in the Grant Agreement, hence the need to be pro- active in finding alternatives for ensuring that the Grant is implemented.

