THE GLOBAL FUND PROSPECTIVE COUNTRY EVALUATION

Synthesis of Findings from 2018
Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Mozambique, Myanmar, Senegal, Sudan, and Uganda
STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

- **Added value of the PCE**
  - How are findings being used in PCE countries
  - Lessons learned

- **PCE focus in 2018**

- **Key findings and recommendations**
  - Business model
  - Human rights, key and vulnerable populations, gender
  - Resilient and sustainable systems for health
  - Sustainability, co-financing, and transition
  - Value for money

- **PCE plans for 2019**
Added value of the PCE: Global level

PCE analysis provides **in-depth knowledge of the complexities of grant implementation** unlikely to be found in thematic reviews/short country visits.

PCE evidence is **informing and/or validating findings from TERG Thematic and Strategic Reviews** (e.g. RSSH and Partnerships) and is able to use other TERG Review findings prospectively.

PCE is able to **respond to emerging TERG or Secretariat issues** e.g. feasibility of implementing new MDR-TB treatment guidelines.

PCE synthesis represents a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts with recommendations derived from and consistent with the **evidence from multiple countries**.

PCE findings on lessons learned for key processes (e.g. funding request development, SR selection, etc.) will **inform Secretariat planning of the next implementation cycle**.
Added value of the PCE: Country level

Targeting PCE findings to national program managers: The **ability to disseminate emerging findings in a timely manner** is a core strength of prospective evaluations and provides an opportunity for the PCE to contribute to continuous quality improvement.

Country stakeholders’ appreciation for documenting the challenges, successes, and learnings throughout the Global Fund grant cycle – some of which are previously known, but not systematically or independently documented, nor synthesized across countries.

Opportunities for subnational data collection and analysis can add value to national level perspectives.

Synthesis adds value at country level, enabling stakeholders to compare their responses to those of other countries as well as understanding how the PCE is part of a larger strategic process.
### What have we learned from the PCE approach?

#### Platform/Methods
- Results chain is helpful analytic tool
- PCE knowledge of Global Fund takes time to develop but now seeing capacity & agility to respond to emerging issues
- Balancing competing priorities and multiple stakeholders is challenging
- Difficulty with timely feedback when evaluating processes that happen once during the grant cycle – findings relevant in 3 years

#### PCE Team Structure
- Strong linkages between global and country evaluation partners is essential
- Various staffing models among Global Evaluation Partners (GEP) and Country Evaluation Partners (CEP) – but tracking 3 diseases requires sufficient people for embedded evaluation model
- Opportunities for cross GEP/CEP learning: in-person, webinars, TERG meetings
- Relationship building with country stakeholders is critical

#### PCE Reporting/Dissemination
- Dissemination needs to be aligned with critical data use periods
- Annual report deliverable may be inconsistent with stakeholder preferences; shorter, more frequent briefs likely to be better
- PCE teams lack knowledge translation expertise – this could help in dissemination findings and strengthening feedback loop

### PCE / TERG / Country Team Engagement
- TERG meetings and presentations require significant time and input (high transaction costs)
- Some inconsistencies in TERG feedback over time
- CT engagement early and often is critical to ensure PCE is helpful to CT’s work
- Stronger engagement with Global Fund Secretariat could help ensure added value and synergies, while avoiding duplication
FOCUS OF PCE in 2018

Building on analysis of funding request and grant making phase in 2017, 2018 focused on early implementation of 34 grants in eight countries, totalling over $2.1 billion in investments during this allocation.

Tracked how Global Fund investments translated into activities and programmatic outputs.

Identified how the business model enabled and constrained early grant implementation.

Examined the efficiency and effectiveness of early grant operationalisation.
KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Business model
- Human rights, key and vulnerable populations, gender
- Resilient and sustainable systems for health
- Sustainability, transition and co-financing
- Value for money
Some grant start up processes worked well and as intended

- The Secretariat approved the majority of grants in PCE countries on time
- First disbursements (Global Fund to PRs) for the majority of grants were made on time
- Approval processes for Matching Funds were aligned with main grants in some cases
- Country Teams allowed flexibilities which helped with grant transition
- Country Teams played important roles in resolving early bottlenecks
FINDINGS: Business Model

- Concurrent business model-related processes reduced time and attention from grant start up including for program continuation grants
- PR transition created initial implementation delays
- Lengthy selection and contracting of implementers, particularly Sub-Recipients by Principal Recipients delayed activity implementation
- Some Matching Funds approvals and disbursements were mis-aligned with main grant approvals and this impacted on activity implementation

However, some processes worked less well and this affected grant implementation efficiency, contributing to delays and low early absorption rates in most PCE countries
Budget absorption for Q1 and Q2 PUs 2018 highly variable but low overall:
- HIV: 14%
- TB: 47%
- Malaria: 30%
- RSSH: 7%

Despite this, our qualitative data suggests that core services (e.g. treatment services provided by national programs) did not stop between grants

Q3/Q4 absorption is expected to be higher
Reflecting that the provision of core services did not stop between grants, the majority of countries are meeting or nearly meeting performance indicators

- HIV: 79%
- TB: 96%
- Malaria: 80%

This is primarily due to performance indicators being focused on coverage, outcome and impact metrics that relate to the overall national program (rather than grant) performance.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
Business Model

The Global Fund Secretariat should

- Consider flexibilities [in the management of] the three-year grant cycle to facilitate smoother transition between grants, facilitate early grant implementation and enable adequate time for grant implementation

- Update and strengthen guidance for CCMs and PRs on the selection and contracting of SRs to increasingly ‘front load’ PR/SR selection and contracting processes

- Consider embedding matching funds in the timeline for the design, approval and implementation of the main grants

- Consider trying to better link financial and programmatic data
### Key Findings: Human Rights

Global Fund interventions to address human rights-related barriers in country grants

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<th>Key GF program areas</th>
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<th>DRC</th>
<th>GTM</th>
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Activities to reduce human rights-related barriers to services are well represented in HIV grants, but there is less focus in TB and malaria grants.
KEY FINDINGS:
Gender and Human Rights

- Gender and human rights dimensions are not well understood or discussed by stakeholders
  - Perception that sex-specific targeting alone is sufficient for gender-responsive programming
  - Lack of experience among Ministry of Health and other stakeholders on gender and on programs to reduce human rights-related barriers to services (including legal dimensions)
  - Few examples of programs that are actually addressing gender-related vulnerabilities (DRC SASA! pilot project is an exception)

- TB and malaria activities are less gender responsive
  - For example, despite greater TB prevalence in men, most programs lacked interventions that addressed men’s gender-related risks

- Overall implementation delays due to sub-contracting issues
RECOMMENDATIONS:
Human Rights, key and vulnerable populations, gender

The Global Fund Secretariat should
- Ensure that Global Fund-supported programs clearly defines key and vulnerable populations, aligned with national epidemiological context
- Continue efforts to build in-country capacity and expertise on gender and human-rights related issues

Country Stakeholders should
- More explicitly articulate the gender-related vulnerabilities of men/boys, women/girls, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, the impact of these on disease-specific outcomes, and specific strategies to mitigate these effects in funding requests and designing disease-specific strategies

The Global Fund Secretariat and Country Stakeholders should
- Encourage more explicit promotion of gender and human rights integration throughout the grant lifecycle, particularly for TB and malaria
**KEY FINDINGS:**

**Value for money: Efficiency & Effectiveness**

- Strong examples of efforts to improve efficiency of grant design and national programs, particularly in countries facing significant reductions in program budgets.
- Program management costs vary significantly across countries and by type of PR, with substantially higher costs for UN agencies and CSOs than for governments.
- Cost-effectiveness considerations inform program design and decision making in most settings (such as through modelling) but not systematically.

![Diagram showing grant budgets and program management costs as a percentage of total grant budget for various countries.](image)
KEY FINDINGS:
Value for money: Equity

- While equity is often discussed, trade-offs between equity, cost-effectiveness and programmatic targets are dealt with differently (often informally).

- More could be done to ensure that Global Fund-supported activities (and their benefits) are fairly distributed amongst target recipients.

- Some evidence that over ambitious target setting vis-à-vis available funding has been counterproductive to the prioritization of hard-to-reach areas.

- Despite some examples of Global Fund support being used to reduce financial barriers to accessing services, this still poses a significant issue.
The Global Fund Secretariat, together with partners, should

- Expedite work [by partners] to collect unit/service delivery costs at the country level and use this as a basis for budgeting.

- Consider ways to strengthen country-level and/or grant-specific analysis of VfM throughout the grant life-cycle (while considering the burden of reporting).
Plans for the PCE in 2019

Process evaluation

- **Continued** grant implementation monitoring and business model process tracking

- **Greater use** of root cause analysis to understand implementation barriers and facilitators

- "**Deeper dive**" inquiries into linkages between activities and outcomes along the result chains to help explain observed trends, using thematic areas as possible analytic lenses

- **Stronger emphasis** on timely feedback to country stakeholders and use of PCE findings
Impact evaluation

- Differentiated approach by country and disease
  - Extend analysis of results chains
  - Additional indicators and paths
  - Country-specific tailored analysis
    - Programs, populations or geographic regions of specific interest to the country

- Model-based impact analysis
  - Statistical correlations between adjacent elements of results chains (i.e. inputs vs. outputs; outputs vs. coverage, etc.)
  - Structural equation modeling where complete data at sub-national level are available
  - Alternative (e.g. causal inference; epidemic) models where less complete data are available