

GLI Consultants Workshop
To support TB laboratory strengthening efforts in Global Fund round 10 proposals preparation

Dates: 12th-16th July 2010

Venue: Room HTM65 D Building WHO Geneva, Switzerland

Background

Innovative financing opportunities are available to countries for laboratory strengthening but their optimal and efficient use requires expertise in a broad range of aspects, including but not limited to, the development of TB laboratory strategic expansion plans, estimation and budgeting of human resources, upgrading laboratory infrastructure and maintenance, optimising procurement and maintenance of equipment and associated supplies, establishing specimen transport and referral mechanisms, and matching diagnostic needs with treatment availability.

The Global Fund (GF) is a major source of innovative financing and provides 63% of external funding for TB and drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) control efforts in low- and middle-income countries. To date, approved TB proposals have totalled close to US\$ 3.2 billion covering 112 countries¹.

Countries request substantial funds for laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and diagnostics in GF proposals; however, in many of these proposals, core aspects crucial to the scale-up of TB laboratory services are either excluded or seriously under-budgeted, leading to underutilisation of resources and resulting in slow uptake and implementation of TB technologies. A recent focus on multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB is likely to increase treatment requests, which should be matched by diagnostic capacity.

The workshop will aim to address current gaps in the laboratory strengthening component of GF applications by:

1. Training a group of GLI consultants on:
 - developments in new TB laboratory technologies;
 - WHO endorsed policies for TB laboratory strengthening;
 - current laboratory bio-safety recommendations;
 - core components for laboratory strengthening;
 - efficient planning for scale up of new diagnostic tools.
2. Conducting a desk review of the laboratory components of proposals from countries applying to the Global Fund Round 10 grant cycle in order to provide advice and recommendations to strengthen these proposals.

Expected outcomes

1. A cadre of consultants trained to implement a standardized approach to laboratory capacity strengthening and prepared to assist countries in developing the laboratory component of Global Fund proposals.
2. An improved, efficient and correctly budgeted laboratory component of the proposals from countries in GF round 10 grants cycle.

Working language

The working language of the workshop will be English.

Participation in the Workshop will be by invitation only and limited to 15-20 consultants. Selection of participants will be based on considerations of expertise, experience, balance of regional representation, gender and a willingness to contribute time to technical support to countries. Consultants must be prepared to carry out at least 2 technical assistance missions within the next two years to Global Fund recipient countries and prepare written reports. Consultants will be required to co-ordinate their activities with the GLI, WHO, the TB Supranational Reference Laboratory Network and the TB TEAM.

¹ The Global Fund report: "The Global Fund 2010: Innovation and Impact is based on results through the end of 2009."