



Investing in our future

The Global Fund

To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

tel +41 (0)22 791 1700
fax +41 (0)22 791 1701
email info@theglobalfund.org

Chemin de Blandonnet 8 • 1214 Vernier • Geneva, Switzerland

www.theglobalfund.org

1 December 2008

GF reference: RCC/Wave 6/EECA/Russian Federation/TB

Professor Albert Adamyan
Head of Tomsk Oblast Health Department
Chair of the Coordinating Mechanism of Tomsk Oblast
Ul. Naberezhnaya R. Ushaiki 18 b
Tomsk 634050
Russian Federation

The Global Fund's new policy for continued funding at the end of expiring grants

Dear Professor Adamyan,

A. Background

At its 14th meeting in November 2006, the Global Fund Board approved the establishment of a new funding channel termed the Rolling Continuation Channel ("RCC"). The RCC is designed to provide priority funding to strong performing grants, and is different to the existing Rounds-based channel for new proposals (e.g., Round 9).

Under this decision, grants that demonstrate: (i) sustained strong performance; (ii) evidence of potential for impact; and (iii) programmatic sustainability (collectively termed "the RCC Qualification Factors"), may qualify to apply for continued funding through RCC. The principles arising from the Board's decision are further described below. The Board's actual decision is available on our website at: http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/boardmeeting14/GF-BM-14_Final_Decisions.pdf (See decision point 9).

RCC Qualification status of your TB grant

Based on the RCC Qualification Factors noted above, the Global Fund has conducted a review of all Global Fund grants that will be expiring between 31 August 2009 and 31 December 2009 to determine which grants currently qualify to apply for continued funding under the RCC.

As a result of this review, we confirm that the following grant has qualified to apply for funding under the RCC process:

Disease	Round	Grant number
Tuberculosis	3	RUS-304-G02-T

Feedback to Applicant

During the RCC qualification process, the Global Fund noted certain matters relating to the expiring grant's overall performance. These are included as **Annex A** to this letter. We strongly recommend that these matters be specifically addressed in any future proposal submission, whether through the RCC or under a future Rounds-based channel. As per Board policy, the Global Fund's observations on existing grant performance will also be provided to the TRP at the time of considering any new proposal.

C. RCC Invitation to Apply

This letter is a formal invitation to apply for additional financial support under the Rolling Continuation Channel. If the CCM decides to make an application under this funding channel, the following application documents to be completed and returned within the proposal development period are attached:

- (i) Guidelines for Proposals and Proposal Form
- (ii) Attachment A (Targets and Indicators Table)
- (iii) Attachment B (Preliminary List of Pharmaceuticals and Other Health Products)
- (iv) Attachment C (Proposal Endorsement: List of members of the Coordinating Mechanism)

The attached proposal documents will also be available at this secured website: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/protected/rcc/>. Please use the information below to access the website:

- username : globalfund
- password : tgf08rcc

Before we provide specific details of the application deadlines as they apply to your grant (in **Section F, below**), the following information (**Sections D and E**) is provided to aid in your decision on whether to apply for possible further funding under the RCC.

D. What can be applied for under the RCC

In an RCC proposal, you may request the Global Fund to support a scaling up of the same interventions included in the expiring grant or to support a broader package of interventions to which the expiring grant was contributing. Changes in scope and increases in scale will be possible in such proposals. Further details are provided in the attached Proposal Form and Guidelines for RCC Proposals.

Although you may apply for further funding for this same disease through the rounds-based channel (whether Round 9 or a later Round), you are not permitted to submit proposals covering the same interventions through both the rounds-based channel and the RCC.

Key features of the Rolling Continuation Channel include:

- **A longer funding term:** A proposal approved for funding under the RCC may be funded for a maximum of 6 years, in 2 phases of three years subject to a mid-term review in year 3. Funding will initially be committed for the first 3 years.
- **Funding priority:** Under the Board's decision, funding of RCC proposals will have higher priority over the funding of Rounds-based proposals, but lower priority than those grants entering Phase 2 of their original proposal.
- **As light a process as possible** (without sacrificing technical rigor): The Proposal Form and screening period will both be shorter than Rounds-based channel, and requirements regarding proposal development will take into consideration that this is a continuing request for a strong performing grant.
- **Opportunity for change in scope and increase in scale:** RCC proposals will be able to target a "broader package of interventions" to which the expiring grant was contributing. This allows changes in scope and increases in scale, provided that the Technical Review Panel (TRP) does not determine the RCC proposal to be materially different to the original proposal. The nature of permissible changes to scope and increases in scale will be set out in the Proposal Form and Guidelines for RCC Proposals.
- **More frequent reviews:** RCC proposals will be reviewed and approved on a regular basis throughout the year compared to the once per year Rounds-based approach.
- **TRP review approach:** Provided that the balance of the RCC proposal is technically sound, the TRP may determine to recommend part (but not all) of an RCC proposal, by including a recommendation that certain set of limited elements be removed.

The above is not a comprehensive description of all of the features of the RCC. We therefore encourage you to review the RCC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which are available at the following link:

http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/apply/rcc/RCC_FAQ.pdf

E. Deciding on applying through RCC or Rounds-based channel

In deciding whether to seek funding through the RCC, it is important to note at least the following key points:

- As in Rounds-based proposals, RCC proposals will need to document and justify the funding request and the proposed interventions. Similarly, RCC proposals will undergo a rigorous review by the TRP, which will meet on a periodic basis.
- The RCC Proposal Form has been designed for applicants with strong performing expiring grants that wish to continue the overall goals and objectives of their original proposal's strategy. The RCC allows the applicant to:
 - i. Continue the same strategy (goals, objectives, service delivery areas, activities) from the expiring grant; or
 - ii. Continue the same strategy (goals) but allow for a change in the scope and scale of activities/interventions as compared to the expiring grant's strategy.

- However, if an applicant wishes to undertake fully different work that is aiming to achieve very different goals from the expiring grant, the applicant should submit a proposal in a future funding Round.

F. The RCC proposal submission and approval process

The important application dates include:

Invitation to apply sent on	1 December 2008
Your Proposal deadline	28 February 2009
TRP review for technical merit	May 2009
Board decision on funding	June 2009

For help in regard to questions on the Proposal Form, the Guidelines for Proposals or any of the required attachments or annexes, please:

- refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on the Global Fund's website (which we expect to update from time to time)
<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/apply/rcc/faq/>
- email proposals@theglobalfund.org
- refer generally to the Global Fund's website at <http://www.theglobalfund.org>

We would like to thank you for your efforts and look forward to continuing to work together to help prevent and control the spread and effects of tuberculosis.

Sincerely,



Country Proposals
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Copy to: All CCM Members
Ms Oksana Ponomarenko, Director, Partners in Health, Principal Recipient
Mr Nicolas Cantau, Fund Portfolio Manager, Eastern Europe and Central Asia team

Annex A: Feedback to Applicant

Summary of Performance to Date:

The program has substantially contributed to:

- Improve TB diagnosis rate, using smear microscopy, drug susceptibility testing (DST) and X-ray in penal and civilian sector (including rural areas).
- Improve treatment success rate for DOTS and DOTS Plus in penal and civilian sector.
- Reduce TB prevalence in penal and civilian sector.
- Reduce TB mortality rate.

Evidence of or Potential for Impact:

The continuous outstanding performances of this program have demonstrated potential for substantial impact and sustainability of TB and MDR-TB control in Russia. The Tomsk Oblast Comprehensive Strategy to Contain and Control Tuberculosis met the vast majority of its targets and provides as such a best practices model on innovative and successful approaches for Russia and EECA region. Regular expert external evaluations confirm the fact that the program highly deserves further support to continue to provide ground breaking evidences for TB control strategies both in civilian and penal system. Among others, The Green Light Committee qualifies the project "as one of the first and best projects in the world, data collected and studied during project implementation in Tomsk are used as principals for MDR-TB management in the low income and middle-income countries, as mandated by WHO".

Implementation Challenges:

Given the high level of MDR-TB prevalence in the region, the treatment success for new smear-positive cases treated under DOTS is lower than initial expected. In addition, Alcohol Use Disorders (AUDs) are common among Tomsk Oblast TB patients and contribute to high TB morbidity and mortality. Individuals with AUDs are more likely to be non-adherent to TB therapy, thus increasing their risk of treatment failure, treatment interruption, and death.

Sustainability Issues:

The activities supported under this grant are integrated and essential in the regional TB control program. The program is governed within a legal framework composed of federal laws, regional edicts, decree and agreements between parties involved. The program is coordinated within the well functioning Tomsk sub-CCM where all relevant parties from governmental civilian, penal, NGOs and international actors are represented. Ongoing political commitment is demonstrated by the continuous support received by the program from executive and legislative bodies from federal and regional level.