

Global Task Team

on Improving Coordination Among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors

THE TASK

Leaders from donor and developing country governments, civil society, UN agencies, and other multi-national and international institutions met in London on 9 March 2005 to review the global response to AIDS with the theme: 'Making the Money Work'. Participants renewed their commitment to stronger and more effective support to national responses to AIDS, and took new steps in implementing the "Three Ones". Special attention was given to the need for better alignment of global support and more effective linkages between AIDS action and poverty action at the country level.

The meeting agreed to form a Global Task Team, facilitated by the UNAIDS Secretariat and representative of all stakeholders, to make recommendations on:

- the current status of coordination and harmonization;
- options for further coordination, particularly within the multilateral system, to resolve areas of duplication and gaps in the global response to AIDS; and
- how the multilateral system can streamline, simplify and further harmonize AIDS procedures and practices with a view to improving the effectiveness of country-led responses and reducing the burden placed on the managerial and technical capacity of countries.

The Global Task Team, which must report back within 80 days, will base its recommendations on the advice of a wide range of relevant stakeholders from both global and country levels. The recommendations of the Global Task Team should be in line with the "Three Ones" principles for AIDS coordination, take into account related efforts emanating from the London meeting, be consistent with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and be informed by UN reform efforts. The recommendations will inform the replenishment process of the Global Fund, and will be presented for endorsement to the governing bodies of the Global Fund, the World Bank, regional lending institutions, UNAIDS and its Cosponsors, civil society networks and other relevant multilateral institutions. The ultimate aim will be the acceleration of global action to achieve 3 by 5, the Millennium Development Goals and the related goals set at the 2001 UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS – in other words, a significant improvement in the delivery of services to the people in low- and middle-income countries affected by the epidemic. The achievement of this aim will require a country-oriented approach, specific recommendations for positive change at the country and global levels, and rapid follow up by all stakeholders at country and global levels.

STRUCTURE

The Global Task Team will be convened by the UNAIDS Secretariat and will be comprised of two Co-Chairs and 18 high-level representatives drawn from the participating organizations/governments at the 9 March 2005 meeting. The Task Team shall among its members have appropriate experience from the governing bodies of UNAIDS and its Cosponsors, the Global Fund, national AIDS programmes, donor countries, CCMS and civil society networks, including networks of people living with HIV. The members should be high-level institutional leaders who can speak on behalf of their organization or constituency, and will make the time commitments required to finalize the recommendations within the timeframe set by the 9 March participants.

The work of the Global Task Team will be principally informed by the deliberations of three Working Groups, each focusing on a major phase of the external support process. The members of the Working Groups will be resource persons with insights in and concrete experiences with coordination and alignment at country or inter-agency level. Each Working Group will have one or more Expert Technical Advisers, who will produce a discussion paper with rough mapping of barriers and challenges, based on compilation and rapid assessment of existing information. The themes of the three Working Groups will be:

1. Harmonization of Programming and Financing.
2. Harmonization of Technical Support.
3. Harmonization of Monitoring and Evaluation.

Following the completion of the Global Task Team's effort, the recommendations will be submitted to the heads of delegation from the 9 March meeting and the governing bodies of relevant multilateral institutions. It is expected that the Global Task Team and its Working Groups will disband following the submission of its recommendations. However, the Global Task Team could be extended or reconvened by the 9 March meeting participants if required.

The Global Task Team and its Working Groups will be supported by a small secretariat established within the UNAIDS Secretariat. The Global Task Team Secretariat will function as long as is required by these structures.

APPROACH

The Global Task Team and its Working Groups will each meet at least twice. Before their initial meetings, the co-Chairs of the Global Task Team will consult with key stakeholders as they finalize a detailed work plan.

The Working Groups, each co-chaired by one multilateral institution and one member state represented on the Global Task Team, will be charged with identifying priority challenges facing the global support system to national AIDS responses and presenting to the Global Task Team a set of specific actions that would address them. In the determination of priority challenges, each Working Groups will be requested to undertake in its particular focus area:

- A mapping of the existing players and their relationships, including existing coordination mechanisms.
- Identification of differences in preferred modes of operation with recipient governments.
- Identification of duplications, gaps, bottlenecks and barriers to harmonization.
- Identification of the comparative advantages of UN system agencies, major fund-raising mechanisms and major funding institutions.

During the formulation of the priority challenges and recommended actions, all stakeholders will be invited by the Co-Chairs of the Working Groups to feed in advice, problem statements and challenges, as identified at country and global level, for consideration by the Working Groups.

The Global Task Team co-Chairs and a Global Task Team member serving as Working Group Coordinator will closely oversee the Working Groups to ensure there is coherence in their deliberations. Between the meetings of the Working Groups, the Global Task Team co-Chairs will facilitate the process by meeting individually with key stakeholders to discuss difficult issues.

Based on the advice of the Working Groups, the Task Team will explore options and develop a combined set of recommendations that include specific short-, medium- and long-term actions stakeholders should take to improve the performance of the international architecture supporting country-led national programmes to scale up the AIDS response. These recommendations may include:

- A more coherent division of labour among multilateral institutions based on reducing duplication to an acceptable level and filling existing gaps.
- Ways to strengthen coordination mechanisms at the global level, including working modalities among individual organizations.
- Ways to decrease competition in fundraising.
- Ways of increasing collaboration among the UN family, the Global Fund and other multilateral institutions in the provision of effective technical support to countries.
- Ways to harmonize monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including investment in metrics and quality of data, simplification, attribution, accountability to national-level stakeholders and to external supporters.
- How the recommendations can be institutionalized by organizations' governance forums and processes.



