

FCU-Global Fund Brief

A Publication of the Funds Coordination Unit of The Global Fund Grants – Issue 2-August 2021

“

The birth of the Global Fund in 2001 set in motion collaborations that have contributed to a reduction in deaths across three diseases – HIV/AIDS by 61%, Tuberculosis by 25% and Malaria by 46%. As one of the players in this progressive partnership, Uganda is both a donor and an implementer of the Global Fund.

Thank you for making time to read the FCU-Global Fund Brief. Our maiden issue was put together amidst a partial lockdown that was occasioned by the second wave of the Covid-19 Pandemic here in Uganda. The recent easing of the lockdown has seen a sense of normalcy return to some spheres of life, particularly economic activity and health service provision, among others. This issue will highlight recent happenings that relate to the oversight function of the Funds Coordination Unit of the Global Fund Grants.

20 years of life-saving GF partnerships

Congratulations to the Global Fund! This year, the Global Fund is marking 20 years of existence that have seen it make life-saving contributions through harnessing the power of partnerships and collaboration. The birth of the Global Fund in 2001 set in motion collaborations that have contributed to a global reduction in deaths across three diseases –HIV/AIDS by 61%, Tuberculosis by 25% and Malaria by 46%. As one of the players in this effective partnership, Uganda is both contributes to and implements the Global Fund programmes. This partnership has made a significant contribution towards lowering the country’s disease burden of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. The partnership has also contributed towards building resilient and sustainable systems for Health. The Global Fund has disbursed over USD \$1,624, 599, 234 to Uganda during the 20-year period. The Funds Coordination Unit of the Global Fund Grants supports the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) as the Public Sector Principal Recipient (PR) to ensure effective and efficient use of the Global Fund resources.

Health Minister commends Global Fund's role in Uganda's gains against HIV, TB and Malaria



Health Minister, Jane Ruth Aceng holding a candle to signify the torch caravan, as other officials look on during one of the activities to mark the 20th anniversary of Global Fund operations.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng on 18, August, 2021 received the Global Fund torch caravan from the Republic of Kenya as part of the ongoing celebrations to mark 20 years of Global Fund Support in the fight against HIV/Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis. Dr Aceng appreciated the Global Fund's initiative and contributions that have helped Uganda appreciate the value of partnerships. "Come 2030, we will end TB, AIDS and make sure Malaria is no longer a threat to our people," she said.

New Sub-Recipients receive orientation training

A group of new Sub Recipients (SRs) of the Global Fund grants were recently oriented in Global Fund architecture, principles and processes. In a virtual event that was organized by the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) for the Global Fund, on 11th August, 2021, the orientation training sought to bring the new SRs up-to-speed on a range of issues that will be critical to their implementation. While speaking at the orientation, The Aids Support Organisation, Executive Director, Dr Bernard Micheal Etukoit encouraged the SRs to be open to learning as this would help to improve the quality of their implementation. The SRs were also reminded that their funding is hinged on performance, hence the need to make every dollar count. On his part, the Funds Coordination Unit - FCU Programme Coordinator, Mr Johnson Mutesigensi welcomed the new SRs on board and encouraged them to be open to accountability and to handle the grants with high

He reminded the SRs that the Ministry of Finance does not get into implementation but its role through the FCU is to provide fiduciary oversight and support activities of the Ministry of Health and the Sub Recipients. "When you come in, you are joining us to deliver services and you are bound by the standards of the grants. As such, it is important to protect and preserve the resources you receive," he said. Speaking at the orientation training, CCM Coordinator, Dr Alex Opio Chono pledged that the capacity of the SRs would continue to be built. The FCU Programme Finance -Specialist, Mr Paul Ankunda told the SRs that the Principal Recipient would be interested in quality performance and effective absorption in relation to their implementation results. He also reiterated the issues of accountability and transparency as key attributes that the SRs should embrace. The SRs appreciated the orientation initiative. A request was made for more training opportunities for them to effectively meet the expectations of the grants.

IN BRIEF...

Global Fund Monthly Performance Review Meetings to be held every last Thursday

As a way of keeping in pace of with its high performance culture, the Global Fund Uganda team will be holding its review meetings every last Thursday of the month. Following consultations between the management teams of Ministry of Finance and Health, the Under Secretary, or the Director General of Health Services or a Director shall chair the performance review meetings in the absence of the Permanent Secretary.

Uganda marks World Mosquito Day as part of fight against Malaria

Uganda joined the world on August 20th to mark World Mosquito Day. The day presents an opportunity to raise awareness of the dangers of malaria-carrying mosquitoes and to inspire more effort in the fight against the world's deadliest creature. The Ministry of Health together with partners such as the Global Fund, has applied strategies to fight mosquitoes and limit mosquito bites. Consequently, Uganda's malaria burden has been significantly lowered. According to the Malaria Indicator Survey, Mosquito parasite prevalence over the last decade reduced from 42% in 2009 to 9% in 2019.

Inflation registers slight increase

Annual headline inflation slightly increased to 2.1 percent in July 2021, from 2.0 percent in June 2021, as increases in food prices more than offset the decline in prices of other goods and utilities. Annual food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation increased to 0.9 percent in July from minus 2.8 percent in June 2021. This was the first time that the rate of price change for food and non-alcoholic beverages was positive since May 2020.

NMS warehouse to improve drug storage and distribution



The recently constructed NMS warehouse in Kajjansi, off Entebbe Road.

The recently constructed National Medical Stores (NMS) warehouse is set to improve the quality and quantity of drug storage and distribution. The warehouse, whose funding was supported by the Global Fund is also set among others to reduce the rate drug stock outs due to its associated efficiencies. It is also bound to reduce the cost of warehouse renting that has previously been met by the National Medical Stores. NMS is responsible for storing and distributing funded products to all public health facilities across the country. It is also responsible for implementing last mile delivery of drugs. For every commodity that is procured using Global Fund resources, 6 percent of its value is remitted to the NMS as Procurement and Supply Chain Management (PSM) fees. About 80 -90 percent of Global Fund resources are commodity based.



FCU coordinator, Johnson Mutesigensi speaks as NMS Executive Director, Moses Kamabare (second from the left) and other officials listen during a CCM visit to the new NMS warehouse.



A view of the mid-level stages of the NMS warehouse construction works during a site visit by Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development officials.