Global Health: HIV/AIDS

Commitment

“We will work to meet the financing needs for HIV/AIDS, including through the replenishment this year of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; and actively working with local stakeholders to implement the ‘3 Ones’ principles in all countries.”

- Africa (July 8, 2005)\(^{123}\)

Background

With a growing political awareness of global health, including AIDS, TB, and malaria, the G8 reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating these diseases at the Gleneagles summit in July 2005. The commitment included continued support for the “3 Ones” principles developed by UNAIDS, the World Bank, and global donors. These principles call for collaboration and more effective use of resources to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to meet the needs of people living with the disease through performance-based funding.

Grant recipients who demonstrate measurable and effective results from the monies received will be able to receive additional funding.\(^{124}\) While the initiative is an essential step to global coordination with multi-sector participants, the National AIDS Coordinating Authority that would be created as a result requires extensive funding to undertake its task. That task would also include monitoring and assessment tools to not only determine program success but to ensure accountability to donors. These new goals, however, do indicate a major priority shift from the goals leading up to the Gleneagles Summit where world leaders were expected to strengthen HIV vaccine research. Instead of preventative research being the focal point, the issue has fallen back on programs to reduce and monitor global levels of HIV/AIDS.

Compliance levels, measured by financial contributions required to ensure the success of this venture, have been very positive, with most countries exhibiting either full compliance or progressive steps which will greatly boost the ability to reduce the global spread of these diseases. The political and financial commitments were visible in 2005, with the Global Fund announcing the successful closing of the 2005 funding gap with nearly US$729 million in new commitments.\(^{125}\) These funds were instrumental in bringing anti-retroviral drugs to patients with HIV/AIDS, treating tuberculosis (TB) patients, and limiting malaria by distributing insecticide treated bed nets among other social, medical, and educational outreach programs.\(^{126}\) The Global Fund does, however, “continue to face a resource shortfall of approximately US$1.1 billion for 2006,” making new funding announcements by G8 leaders very important between the Gleneagles and St. Petersburg Summits to realize this goal.\(^{127}\)

Team Leader: Barbara Tassa

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### Assessment

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#### 1. Canada 0

Canada registered a high level of compliance with Gleneagles’ HIV/AIDS commitment in terms of raising awareness of the importance of HIV/AIDS and the allocation of new funds to meet global health commitments. Before the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Canada was already a lead contributor to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. On September 9, 2005, Aileen Carroll, Minister of International Cooperation announced that the Canadian International Development Agency will deliver $250 million to the Global Fund. Additionally, the federal budget in February 2005 announced CDN$140 million committed to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria.

Following the Gleneagles Summit, the Canadian Government has taken further steps to meet the financing needs for HIV/AIDS. On 9 September 2005, the Minister of International Cooperation, Ms. Aileen Carroll, announced that a further CDN$250 million would be committed towards replenishing the Global Fund. Canada is also taking an active role in raising awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic by agreeing to host the XVI Annual International AIDS Conference in Toronto from 13-18 August 2006. The Conference will attract delegates, NGOs, and other stakeholders from all over the world.

With high compliance for meeting HIV/AIDS funding, however, there was limited support or discussion of the ‘3 Ones’ principles. In sum, following the 2005 G8 Summit Canada has taken positive steps towards fulfilling its commitment to meet the financing needs of HIV/AIDS and replenish the Global Fund.

Team Leader: Danielle Takacs

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2. France: 0

France has demonstrated both political and financial support of the Gleneagles HIV/AIDS commitment to replenish the Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and malaria. In December 2005, the French parliament announced approval for its plan to add an airline surtax to fund its commitment.132 The plan was announced earlier at the January 2005 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Just prior to the Gleneagles Summit in July 2005, French President Chirac announced an increased contribution to the Global Fund of €225 million in 2006 and €300 million for 2007. On 6 September 2005, Mme. Brigitte Girardin, Minister Delegate for Cooperation, Development and Francophony, reiterated France’s commitment to the increased contribution.

Analyst: Barbara Tassa

3. Germany: -1

Germany registered non-compliance for Gleneagles’ HIV/AIDS commitments through continued support for the Global Fund, though no new commitments were made. To date, Germany has contributed nearly two-thirds of the €328.5 million it pledged to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria during the period 2002-2007.133 In 2005, Germany contributed €102.9 million to the Global Fund.134 While it is clear that in the past Germany has contributed to the Global Fund it has not made any new commitments and thus has failed to replenish the Global Fund.

Analyst: Benita Hansraj

4. Italy: 0

Italy has been active in funding HIV/AIDS initiatives and has partially complied with the commitment made at Gleneagles. For instance, Italy provided €400 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria from 2001-2005.135 Italy announced a further contribution of new funding in November 2005 to provide another €260 million to the Global Fund from 2005-2007.136 While there were no statements or announcements in support of the 3 Ones principles, the significant funding Italy has provided for the Fund indicates that they are complying with their commitment to help meet the financing needs for HIV/AIDS.

Analyst: Danielle Takacs

5. Japan +1

The Japanese government fulfilled its 2005 pledge of US$100 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS on 8 November 2005.137 With this announcement, the Japanese government fulfilled its commitments to the Global Fund ahead of schedule. On 9 November 2005, the Japanese government pledged US$3.8 million to UNICEF to prevent AIDS, malaria, tetanus, and measles among the children of Myanmar, including the purchase of HIV/AIDS test kits.138 This announcement came three months after the UN Global Fund to

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Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced that it would cut funding to Myanmar. The Japanese government has demonstrated its financial commitment to fighting AIDS beyond its commitments to the Global Fund, but has neither supported the 3 Ones principles, nor made any substantial contributions to HIV vaccine development. Overall, Japan has showed great leadership in financing new 2006-07 goals for the Global Fund in accordance with its Gleneagles Summit commitment in July 2005.

Analyst: Jennifer Hertz

6. Russia: 0

Russia complied with the Gleneagles global health commitment to fighting AIDS, TB, and malaria through both political and financial contributions. In August 2005, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that the “topic of fighting epidemics, AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis” would be one of the “massive initiatives” Russia would be introducing during their G8 presidency. By September 2005, President Putin earmarked three billion roubles (US$105 million) - a twenty-fold increase over the previous year - to fight AIDS in 2006. In early November, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Moscow Chamber of Industry and Trade and the Russian Office of UNICEF, ensuring continued partnership within “young people’s health...[and] HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment” programs. On 14 November, Russian Deputy Health and Social Development Minister, Mr. Vladimir Starodubov, announced that Russia would allocate “about US$1 billion for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs from its consolidated budget within the next five years” during a presentation of a UNICEF global campaign in Moscow.

Following a series of damming reports by UNAIDS on the large and growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia, the Russian government reaffirmed its allocation of some US$104 million in federal funds in 2006 to fight HIV/AIDS in the country. In a 90-page report, the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition highlighted the lack of a national treatment protocol in Russia, a faulty drug procurement system, a lack of collaboration among providers, and a lack of national leadership as reasons for the Russian government’s slow and ineffective response to the growing epidemic. Shortly thereafter, the deputy of the Russian Ministry of Public Health announced that the government planned to devote US$107 million in 2006 and US$267 million in 2007 to an “unprecedented effort” to fight the disease domestically.

Finally, on December 1st, World AIDS Day, the Russian government broadcast a film, held panel discussions, and staged a beauty contest, “Miss Positive 2005” in its attempts to “change the public's attitude,” stated Russia’s Chief Public Health Official. On the eve of World AIDS Day, nongovernmental

organizations praised President Putin for “promising to drastically increase funds to fight AIDS,” though warned that “the money might be spent in vain.” With significant political awareness and financial contribution to fight AIDS, Russia has shown strong compliance with its G8 commitment.

Analyst: Abby Slinger

6. United Kingdom: +1

During its presidency of the G8, the British government placed issues relating to Africa, including HIV/AIDS, prominently on the agenda but, thus far, has failed to be a strong leader in the commitment to replenish the Global Fund. In total, the British government has committed 51 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, of which 10.2 million has been paid to date. The British government also allocated funds for HIV vaccine development and the development of microbicides to prevent the transmission of HIV to women.

Britain is one of the few countries to have discussed an HIV vaccine and microbicide development since the Gleneagles Summit. On 1 December 2005, World AIDS Day, Prime Minister Blair announced that the British government would give 20 million to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and 7.5 million to the International Partnership of Microbicides. The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative finances partnerships with private companies and academic and government agencies to develop HIV vaccine candidates. Vaccine development was a goal stated in the G8’s statement on Africa. The International Partnership of Microbicides finances the development of a microbicide for women to prevent the transmission of HIV. Microbicides were not specifically mentioned in the G8’s Gleneagles commitments and go beyond the UK government’s commitment to HIV/AIDS research.

Prime Minister Blair has continually discussed the importance of HIV/AIDS goals. This has been widely publicized in both his speech to the UN General Assembly at the 2005 World Summit, and on World AIDS Day, where he played a soccer game in Essex to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS, stating that “it is important that we continue to make a big commitment from the wealthy countries to funding access to HIV/Aids treatment”. With reference to financing Mr. Blair said that, “the Global Health Fund back in September agreed to almost four billion dollars worth of funding, so we are moving this along, but it is important continually to keep people aware of what this HIV/AIDS threat is doing to countries like Malawi and other African countries”. Even though the British government has not yet fulfilled its funding pledge to the Global Fund, it issued a 51 million promissory note on 26 July 2005 of which 10.2 million has been cashed to date in accordance with an agreed-upon payment schedule. Regardless of political commitments to this cause, the UK has not been a leader in financial contributions, which are at the core of the G8 commitment.

Analyst: Jennifer Hertz

7. United States: 0

The United States has yet to achieve full compliance with its 2005 G8 health commitment due to insufficient Global Fund donations, but has continued to stress the importance of its commitment. In mid-July 2005, First Lady Laura Bush visited Africa in order to highlight US aid and partnerships promoting


programs for girls’ education as well as HIV/AIDS awareness.\(^{152}\) In September 2005, President Bush’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (by way of USAID) announced the awarding of a contract to The Partnership for Supply Chain Management (the Partnership),\(^{153}\) a consortium that would provide and implement effective, transparent and accountable supply chain systems of high-quality, low-cost medicines.\(^{154}\) By the end of the month, however, the largest G8 economies, namely the US, Japan and Germany, had refused to take part in the deal to distribute existing vaccines to poor countries, known as the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm).\(^{155}\)

On November 14\(^{161}\), President Bush signed into law a USD$20.9 billion foreign spending bill for the fiscal year (ending September 30\(^{th}\), 2006) that would provide USD$2.8 billion to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis worldwide.\(^{156}\) In late November, the U.S. Congress began considering “whether to provide USD$250 million more than the USD$300 million President Bush requested for the Global Fund for 2006.”\(^{157}\) Critics, however, suggested that were the additional fees to be granted, the amount would continue “[to] be less than [America’s] previously acknowledged … [global] share.”\(^{158}\) Having initially promised to “supply one third of the funding for the Global Fund [e.g., $700 million],” analysts state that “current funding plans [falling] short by $150 million.”\(^{159}\) Accordingly, the final funding plans for HIV/AIDS globally will need to be finalized.

Finally, on World AIDS Day, President Bush—renewing the U.S. commitment to “turning the tide against the disease”—announced the “New Partnership Initiative” that would lend US funds to faith-based groups which help to provide health care in the developing world.\(^{160}\) US Global AIDS’ Coordinator, Mark Dybul, also called on other countries to commit more funding to the fight against HIV/AIDS.\(^{161}\) Moreover, in a speech attended by five Cabinet secretaries and many African ambassadors,\(^{162}\) President Bush detailed the progress of the five-year, US$15 billion global US initiative against HIV/AIDS.\(^{163}\) However, European states issued statements highlighting the growing US preoccupation with the abstinenence based strategy for combating HIV/AIDS.\(^{164}\) In early December, the US government, which provides half of all funding to fight HIV/AIDS and is the single largest donor to the Global Fund, called on other countries to increase their contributions by following the US lead.\(^{165}\) As a large donor, however, President Bush’s global AIDS

proposal funding only allocated six percent for the Global Fund. Therefore, while the US has shown resolve for the fight against HIV/AIDS, it has yet to comply with the G8 commitment towards replenishing the Global Fund.

Analyst: Abby Slinger

8. European Union: +1

The European Union has offered full compliance with the Gleneagles Initiatives to combat HIV/AIDS. According to the Global Fund, the European Commission fulfilled its pledge commitment of US $69.5 million in 2005 and planned contribution of US$106 million for 2006. The severity of the HIV/AIDS pandemic was given even greater prominence by the Commission of European Communities on December 15, 2005 when the Commission released a statement to the European Parliament outlining the mandate of the Commission on combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and its neighbouring states, to be deemed effective between 2006 and 2009. The cornerstone of this mandate was initially laid at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, during which Heads of State and Government met on the matter from 25 to 27 June 2001. However, the mandate released by the European Commission in December 2005 exceeds the framework established by the UNGA Special Session on HIV/AIDS from 2001.

The mandate of the European Commission is quite comprehensive and outlines the standards to be promoted by all European Union member states including greater emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention, increased involvement with civil society in policy development and implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention and response, as well as, private actors. The mandate extends beyond the European Union member states to include future assistance to be offered to the Russian Federation in HIV/AIDS prevention and reduction. Given the extensive analysis, mandate, and commitment of the European Commission in meeting the standards promoted by the G8 on the matter of HIV/AIDS, the European Commission has achieved full compliance with the Gleneagles commitment.

Analyst: Benita Hansraj