

Global Task Team

on Improving AIDS Coordination Among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors



Final Report

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Acknowledgements

The Co-Chairs of the Global Task Team would like to thank all the individuals, governments and organizations who dedicated a substantial amount of time and effort during the rapid Global Task Team process. We would like to make particular note of the leading roles played by the Working Group Co-Chairs – Jonathan Brown of the World Bank, Mark Dybul of the United States Government, Mariângela Galvão Simão of the Brazilian Government, Jim Kim of the World Health Organization, Maurice Fezeu of the Cameroon Government and Bernhard Schwartländer of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – in ensuring the quality of recommendations in their areas of responsibility, and the important role of Working Group Coordinator played by Norway's Sigrun Møgedal, who brought continuity and clarity to the entire process. This result also would not have been possible without the strong support provided by Fritz Lherisson, Toby Kasper, Chris Fontaine, Elizabeth Nyamayaro and Elizabeth Matt of the Global Task Team Secretariat established within the offices of the UNAIDS Secretariat.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	5
Summary of recommendations	6
Context and Challenges	7
Process	7
Context, principles and vision, and scope	7
Challenges to be addressed	11
Recommendations	17
1. Empowering inclusive national leadership and ownership	17
2. Alignment and harmonization	19
3. Reform for a more effective multilateral response	20
4. Accountability and oversight	22
Participants	25
Annex	29

Executive Summary

The Global Task Team recognizes that the world must do more to effectively tackle AIDS in the years to come. Strengthening coordination, alignment and harmonization, in the context of the “Three Ones” principles, UN reform, the Millennium Development Goals, and the OECD/DAC Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, is essential for rapid scale-up of the AIDS response.

National ownership of plans and priorities is the overarching rubric that efforts to harmonize and align must support and under which coordination efforts should occur. Within this rubric, the Global Task Team has focused primarily on ways UN system organizations and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria can rapidly improve the alignment and quality of their support to national AIDS responses, make money currently available work for people infected and affected by HIV, and ultimately support the scale-up of prevention and treatment programmes.

The recommendations are presented under four main headings:

1. Empowering inclusive national leadership and ownership
2. Alignment and harmonization
3. Reform for a more effective multilateral response
4. Accountability and oversight.

The first set of recommendations addresses countries, out of recognition that actions by countries are the grounds on which multilateral institutions and international partners should align and harmonize. Better coordination and harmonization among multilateral institutions will mean little unless countries themselves demonstrate leadership and ownership over the response to AIDS. In this context the term “country” refers to a broad-based partnership of national stakeholders, encompassing government, civil society (including people living with and affected by HIV), the private sector, academic institutions, and others. Similarly, the last set of recommendations returns to countries, to highlight the pivotal role that they have in ensuring the accountability both of multilateral institutions and international partners, and of the full range of stakeholders at country level. In these discussions of leadership, ownership, accountability, and oversight, the role of civil society must be central, as it brings unique skills, experiences, and perspectives to the response to AIDS.

The analytical work of the Global Task Team takes a broader perspective, encompassing a wide range of stakeholders in the fight against AIDS. The full set of “multilateral institutions and international partners” (i.e., multilateral organizations, the bilateral agencies of governments, foundations, and international nongovernmental organizations, private sector companies and academic institutions) is included, out of a recognition that it is not possible to understand the challenges that must be addressed without taking a holistic view of the situation. Moreover, the recommendations are framed in such a way that international partners beyond the multilateral system can participate in implementation.

Making a difference on the ground has placed the emphasis of the Global Task Team’s efforts on country-level solutions. However, global and regional forums play important roles, both in the implementation of the Global Task Team’s recommendations and the wider support of national AIDS responses. Regional groupings in particular were identified as important players for rapid endorsement and implementation of the recommendations, as well as monitoring impact and follow up.

It is also important to recognize that each country is unique. Institutional capacities, needs, and progress in implementing the “Three Ones” principles differ considerably between countries, and so a response must be tailored to country realities. This is particularly important in so-called “fragile” states, which pose considerable additional challenges.

These recommendations will inform the Global Fund Replenishment Conference, and will be considered for endorsement and implementation by the governing bodies of relevant multilateral institutions.

Summary of recommendations

The full text of the recommendations, including accountable institutions and timelines, can be found in the concluding section of this report. Below are the main areas in which recommendations were made.

1. National mechanisms that drive implementation and provide a basis for the alignment of external support.
2. Macroeconomic policies that support the response to AIDS.
3. Alignment of external support to national strategies, policies, systems, cycles, and plans.
4. Approaches to progressively shift from project to programme financing, and harmonization of programming, financing, and reporting.
5. Closer UN coordination on AIDS at country level.
6. UN system-Global Fund problem-solving mechanisms at global level.
7. Clarification of the division of labour among multilateral institutions.
8. Increased financing for technical support.
9. Country assessments of the performance of multilateral institutions, international partners and national stakeholders.
10. Strengthening of country monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and structures that facilitate oversight.

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