

# Global fund pegs future grants to clear country TB interventions

HENRY NEONDO

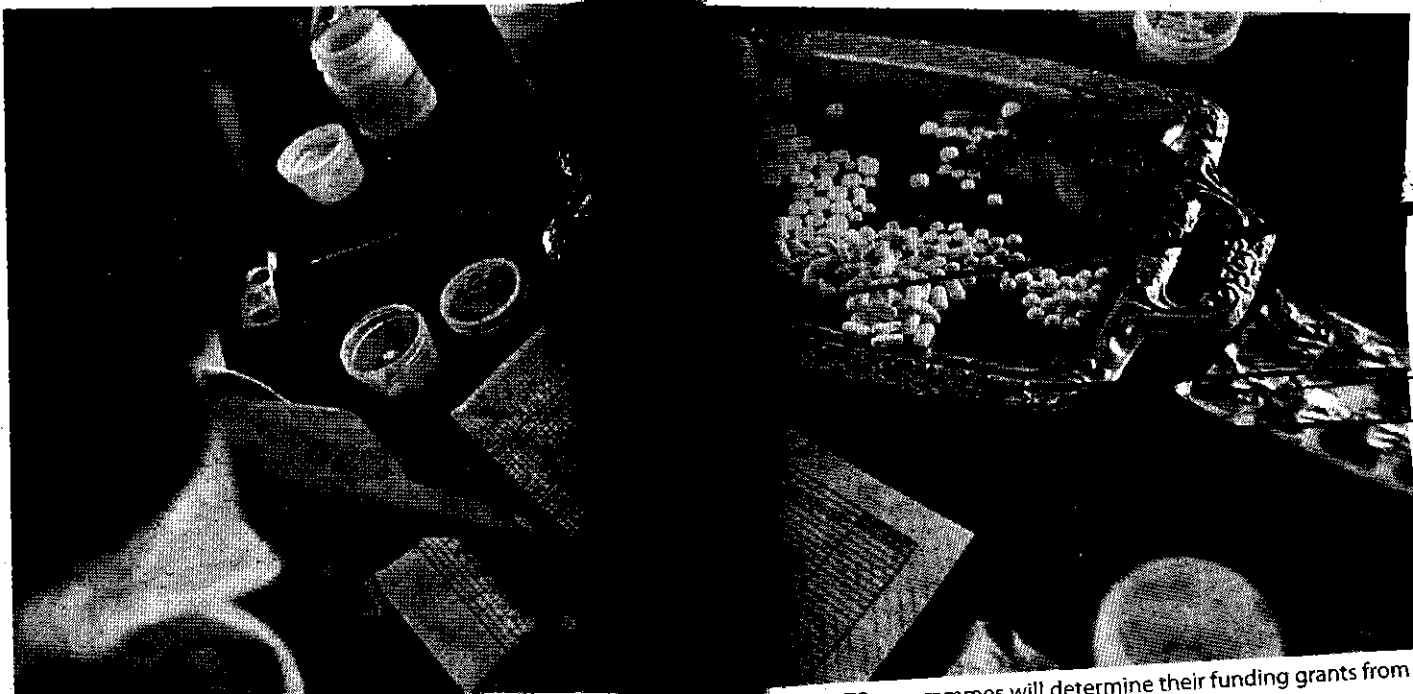
All applicants for Global Fund grants should now include robust tuberculosis interventions in their HIV/AIDS proposals and HIV/AIDS interventions in their tuberculosis proposals, the Board of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as an outcome of its Eighteenth Board Meeting, agreed last Saturday.

According to a Press statement from The Board, with respect to continued funding for tuberculosis or HIV grants, Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) must explain their plans for scale up to universal TB-HIV collaborative services and explicitly articulate what TB-HIV activities, funding, and indicators will be included in each proposal.

The decision, said the Board, aims at massive scale-up of the actions needed to fully implement the Stop TB Strategy and the Global Plan to Stop TB.

"At a time when we are facing ever greater threats that recent progress on TB could be reversed, the Global Fund Board has made a strong and compelling statement about the need for prompt and dedicated action," said Dr Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership.

Noting the upcoming Ministerial meeting on multi-drug resistant TB



A nurse monitors TB drug uptake by a particular patient. How their TB programmes will determine their funding grants from Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

flexibilities to ensure programs utilize emerging technologies.

According to the Board, a successful response must include a major scale up of drug susceptibility testing for all people suspected of having drug-resistant tuberculosis and effective treatment of these cases.

they have capacity in these areas or plans for building it.

The Board also urged countries to analyze their TB programmes to identify gaps and submit proposals aimed at achieving rapid expansion of case coverage with high cure rates, including coverage of TB-HIV

MDR- and XDR-TB and strengthen monitoring and evaluation surveillance systems.

The Board also urges CCMs Principal Recipients to take advantage of the flexibility offered in Global Fund financing and, if appropriate, consider revising budgets for existing and new grants and for Phase