



Investing in our future

The Global Fund

To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

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Dr. Dasho Gado Tshering
Health Secretary, PCM Chair
Ministry of Health
P. O. Box 108
Kawa Jangsa
Thimphu, Bhutan

10 February 2011

Honourable Secretary

Reference is made in connection with your request to the Global Fund for an amount of USD 458,443.85 (Four hundred fifty eight thousand four hundred forty three US Dollar and eighty five Cents) pertaining to Grant No BTN-607-GO3 H.

We are pleased to inform you that the Global Fund shall disburse an amount of USD 276,261.89 for the period of 1 November 2010 - 31 July 2011 (Quarter 12, 13 and 14 as buffer).

In reviewing the Progress Update relating to this disbursement, we would like to congratulate you and the team for the acceleration and positive progress made in controlling HIV/AIDS in Bhutan. The intervention among focused group with BCC program is commendable. We assume, an effective BCC program contributed to the overachievement in counseling and testing for HIV. As a result currently there are 56 patients on ARV.

In Quarter 11 the average performance of the grant is 85 percent, with a rating of B1. We noted that implementation has been accelerated. However, we take note that there may have been challenges in obtaining reports from all the Sub-Recipients (SR) on time. During the reporting period the oversight of SR activities was not optimal. As a result the reports were not submitted on time. We would like to request your good office if kind consideration can be given to ensure the oversight role of Principal Recipient and submission of the reports from all the SRs. This is crucial for the overall success of the program.

I am also pleased to inform you that the PSM plan for the grant has been approved.

Further to a review of the program, we would like to bring the following issues to your attention:

1. We would very much encourage the team to submit the Progress Update on time. This would facilitate the process of a timely disbursement from the Global Fund to your Ministry.
2. The amount that has been recommended for disbursement includes the training budget for Quarter 12, 13 and 14, which totals USD 257,241. However, usage of this budget for any training requires submission of a plan to the Global Fund. Upon receiving approval from the Global Fund, the training budget can be used. In view of this, we would like to request your



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team to submit an annual training plan to the Global Fund for approval. The official communication on this has been shared with you by the Director, Country Program.

3. We would kindly request the PR to complete the recruitment of M&E consultant for implementing M&E training and development of supervision plan for the reporting units. We are aware there were challenges in recruiting an international consultant and your good office would like to recruit national consultant for this purpose. We would like to request you to kindly complete the recruitment process soon as M&E training is crucial for program.
4. The coordination between Project Management Team (PMT), NACP and Sub-Recipients (SRs) requires further strengthening for effective implementation of the grant. We would like to request your good office to regularize the coordination meeting between PMT, NACP and SRs.
5. The reporting templates have been developed for the SRs to report on the activities. The report needs to be submitted on the agreed upon reporting format. The focal persons from each of the SR should be trained to report using the new format.
6. The newly recruited personnel in the PMT and CCM Secretariat are required to have adequate information on the Global Fund guidelines for an effective coordination and reporting.

We anticipate your Ministry will fully address these issues with a view to further strengthen its reporting to the Global Fund. I take this opportunity to once again congratulate you and your team on the performance of this grant thus far.

Best Regards,

Edward Greene
Fund Portfolio Manager
The Global Fund

Cc: Mr. Karma Tshiteem, Secretary, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan
Dr. Thinley Yangzom, Chief Program Officer, VDPC, Ministry of Health, Bhutan
Mr. Kinley Dorji, CCM Coordinator, Bhutan
Mr. Tandin Dorji, Program Manager, Ministry of Health, Bhutan
Mr. Yeshey Dorji, UNOPS, LFA, Bhutan