

MEMTI Q&A

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a. What is MEMTI?

The Global Fund has set aside 25 million USD to incentivize acceleration of efforts toward malaria elimination in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste, four countries that have expressed commitments toward the M2030 elimination agenda. The initiative has been titled Malaria Elimination in Melanesia and Timor-Leste (“MEMTI”). MEMTI funding is intended to complement funding from other sources, domestic and external, in accordance with existing commitments, and to catalyze additional contributions to meet the needs of malaria elimination and prevention of reintroduction in the coming years, including necessary investments in health systems beyond vertical malaria programs.

b. How is MEMTI funding different from Global Fund allocations?

MEMTI funding is in addition to Global Fund allocations and allocation amounts are not affected by MEMTI funding.

Global Fund allocations are used to contribute to National Strategic Plan (“NSP”) intervention financing, together with government budgets, other domestic resources and external donor funding. However, there are typically gaps in funding for some interventions included in the NSP.

MEMTI funding is set aside as an incentive to get over the finish line. Countries are therefore expected to target malaria elimination in their NSPs, align the necessary sources of funding needed for those NSPs and use MEMTI funding as final gap funding to complete the required financing. Sources of funding may include domestic financing (i.e. government budgets or loans from development banks), Global Fund allocations, funds from other donors (bilateral and private), etc.

c. The contexts of the four countries are very different. Why are they considered together and how is it supposed to work in practice?

The MEMTI initiative has a regional scope, but it will not result in a separate regional grant. MEMTI has been designed with the understanding and acknowledgement that (1) the four countries have different contexts from a malaria epidemiology point of view, (2) their health systems have varied capacity, (3) their public financing capacities are different and (4) the level of engagement of international partners, including loan portfolios from development banks, is uneven. To allow for flexibility in timing and funding modalities for each country, MEMTI funds will be channeled, together with the Global Fund allocations, through the respective country malaria grants.

In practice, each country will be implementing its own single malaria elimination strategy and all the sources of funding from the Global Fund (allocation + MEMTI) will be contributing as to financing that strategy. Timelines for elimination, technical choices, design of the grants, choice of PR, etc. will depend on country-specific programmatic needs, independently from the Global Fund source of funding.

d. How and when can countries access MEMTI funding?

The process to access MEMTI funds will not be different from the one to access country allocations. Funding requests based on updated NSPs will be submitted for TRP review during 2020 window two (May 2020) to enable concurrent access to allocation and MEMTI funds.

However, MEMTI funding will be contingent on the expectation that countries will approach their strategies differently: country-specific NSPs will be expected to provide a concrete, costed roadmap for elimination in the context of a sustainable financing strategy that ensures that at least the first 3 years of need can be covered. This will translate into a financial landscape that includes potential funding such as GF

allocations, MEMTI funding, domestic resources (i.e. national budgets or loans from development banks) and funds from other donors, but that in any case does not present any gap.

e. What are the applicable timeframe and modalities to use MEMTI funding?

MEMTI funding is expected to be utilized together with the 2020-2022 allocations. It can therefore be included in grants starting on January 1st, 2021 for which funding request and grant-making will take place during 2020. There is flexibility in the ways these funds can be invested to achieve impact in a sustainable manner, including joint-investments with development bank projects, payment-for-results modalities or classic input-based grants. The Global Fund encourages country stakeholders to consider funding modalities based on programmatic needs and to articulate the PAAR (Prioritized Above Allocation Request) as options to accelerate the timeline for their elimination strategy.

f. How and when is the funding split between countries going to be decided?

The Global Fund acknowledges that countries need to know up front the amount that can be counted on when elaborating their technical and financing strategies. The expected proportional allocation of the 25 million USD for each country will be communicated at the beginning of 2020. The proportional allocations will be informed by the results of the landscape analysis assigned to UCSF and WHO, and consistent with expected incentives and value for money.

g. Should the malaria elimination strategies of each country be fully costed?

Yes. When developing malaria elimination strategies, countries will face different technical choices that will imply different overall costs and that will result in different target dates for malaria-free status certification. The timeline for a given country strategy may extend over several Global Fund funding cycles. It will also be key to consider investments in health systems beyond malaria-specific activities that are necessary to achieve and maintain that status. MEMTI is an opportunity to ensure that the elements are in place within the Universal Health Coverage strategy of the country for essential services to continue being delivered in the medium and long term.

In order for the elimination strategy to eventually be implemented, this overall costing will have to be known and align with a realistic financing strategy. This may require several technical strategy iterations informed by the actual availability of funding.

h. Should malaria elimination strategies of each country be fully funded?

Only for the first 3 years. MEMTI funding is contingent on securing all necessary sources of funding to implement the next 3 years of the malaria elimination strategy—acknowledging that the elimination timeline likely extends beyond 3 years whereas countries do not usually have visibility on available financing over that timeline. MEMTI funding (as well as the GF allocation) can then be counted as one of the sources of funding for the next 3 years.

As such, the expected additional mobilized amount is determined purely by programmatic need. This provides the leeway for countries to adjust the timeline and scope of the technical strategy so that it represents a realistic plan for what can actually be achieved with available resources.

The expected result is that each country will set off to implement the first 3 years of an elimination strategy that is backed up by a realistic financing strategy.

i. What is the criteria to consider leveraged sources of funding and when should they be available?

Within their malaria elimination strategies, countries are encouraged to consider all the components of the health systems that are necessary to achieve and maintain their malaria elimination objective. Thus, additional investments of domestic resources to strengthen these components together with the investments on malaria-specific activities will be considered as contributing to malaria elimination.

For example, Global Fund funding may be used in conjunction with loans to finance malaria-related outcomes, adding to the scope of a loan project through additional financing, while benefiting from broader investments of the loan in health systems components like supply chain or information systems. Since timelines for government budget negotiations and the development and negotiation of loans may not align with Global Fund funding cycles, it is understood that at the moment of submission of funding requests, countries may not have fully secured all necessary sources of funding. However, in order for MEMTI funding to be made available, the likelihood securing funding will be key. Depending on the reliability of assurances provided at grant signing about the availability of other sources of funding, specific conditions may apply to disbursements.

j. What will Global Fund's GAC (Grants Approval Committee) and TRP (Technical Review Panel) be looking at when assessing proposals for use of MEMTI funding?

MEMTI funding has been conceived as an incentive to accelerate efforts towards (1) the achievement of malaria elimination and (2) leveraging additional funding towards malaria elimination, including necessary investments in health systems to make this achievement sustainable. Proposals from each country will be assessed independently. TRP will evaluate the merits of the technical aspects of the malaria elimination strategy as a whole including the areas not to be financed with Global Fund funding.

After the TRP has determined that a proposal is strategically focused and technically sound, GAC will make a determination about the indicative funding available for grant-making, which will include the country allocation and MEMTI funding. In order to recommend the MEMTI component, GAC will consider whether the proposed use of MEMTI funding, together with other sources of funding, meets the stated purpose of incentivizing malaria elimination and leveraging additional resources, including investments in health systems.

k. What is the purpose of GAC in March 2020?

GAC in March has been scheduled to assess the likelihood of the \$25m being utilized before the end of 2020. This amount was initially set aside from Portfolio Optimization funds in April 2019 and has therefore not been available for priorities in other portfolios. This earmarking was necessary to enable the design phase of MEMTI and facilitate discussions with relevant stakeholders.

If the funds remain earmarked for MEMTI and end up not being used by the end of 2020, there will have been a missed opportunity to use those funds for other portfolios. March GAC will thus consider releasing the funds that are currently earmarked for MEMTI so they can be used in other portfolios before the end of 2020 and, concurrently, decide whether other potential sources of funding can be used to constitute the \$25m for MEMTI, to be used beginning in 2021.

l. What are the roles of WHO and APLMA (Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance) in MEMTI?

WHO/WPRO has a strategic role in establishing the support elements that need to be in place for the countries to capitalize on the MEMTI initiative. It is providing consistent messaging through its country offices and is already supporting the technical discussion about the options around possible elimination scenarios. In addition, through the partners group, it is expected to have a central role in providing reliable guidance in the preparation and implementation phases of the initiative.

APLMA has played a key advocacy role in bringing together different stakeholders and has acted as a platform through which financial and programmatic interests have been aligned. Going forward, APLMA is expected to contribute to the articulation of the regional dimension of the initiative by supporting the partners group, serving as repository of knowledge and leveraging its cross-border network.

m. How does MEMTI fit into a long-term view of Global Fund engagement in these countries?

MEMTI supports the Global Fund mandate of ending the epidemics by striving to shrink the malaria map. In addition, the innovative nature of MEMTI aims at changing the incentives and dynamics of program design and program implementation and seeks to address issues of integration of vertical programs into the general health system and the financial sustainability of national responses. The experience of advancing joint investments with development banks and a wider set of stakeholders shows that there can be positive shifts in thinking when disease-specific outcomes are linked to broader health sector improvement efforts.

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