



German BACKUP Initiative

A programme that supports countries in the management of global financing in the health sector

The challenge

Billions of dollars are available worldwide for controlling infectious diseases that kill several million people each year. Founded in 2002, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is an international financing institution which has committed US\$ 18.7 billion in 140 countries. This funding offers developing countries the opportunity to significantly improve their health services. However, many of the countries affected lack the expertise and structures needed to submit viable project proposals and put the money acquired to effective use. This is where the German BACKUP Initiative offers assistance. Since 2002, this programme has been supporting numerous countries in accessing and implementing Global Fund grants. BACKUP is an acronym which means **B**uilding **A**lliances, **C**reating **K**nowledge and **U**pdating **P**artners.

Our approach

The programme's aim is to enable government and civil society partners to use global financing more efficiently in order to implement measures for controlling HIV, tuberculosis and malaria more effectively and sustainably. The German BACKUP Initiative's work centres on gender equality, integration into existing health systems, increased participation of civil society and on capacity development. In addition, five selected countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania) are comprehensively supported by BACKUP with the advocacy, planning, implementation and monitoring of gender-oriented HIV programmes. The German BACKUP Initiative takes an active role in the provision of technical support in strengthening health systems, based on WHO concepts. This part of BACKUP's work is demand-driven, meaning that requests for technical assistance can be supported worldwide. The BACKUP approach is characterised by flexibility, transparency and a partner-based focus. BACKUP advises and trains government and civil society partners – such as networks of

people living with HIV or other key populations – in planning, implementing and monitoring activities, and in managing Global Fund money more efficiently and with full transparency.

Our services

The German BACKUP Initiative's services include:

- Short and long-term seconded experts to provide process and technical consultancy to national, regional, international organisations and networks.
- Capacity development for government and civil society organizations.
- Subsidies for national government and non-government organizations to plan, implement and monitor technical support activities.

GTZ country offices make an important contribution towards ensuring the quality of such bilateral projects, acting as a local contact point for partners and undertaking quality assurance tasks.

Advising and networking government and civil society actors is one of the German BACKUP Initiative's key tasks. One way of doing this is through close cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the International Council of AIDS Service Organisations (ICASO).

BACKUP also co-finances UNAIDS and WHO experts who are involved in developing international guidelines and training curricula, and adapting and implementing them in partner countries, particularly in the fields of HIV prevention, gender equality and HIV knowledge management. BACKUP plays an active role in the international UN working group on coordinating technical assistance for HIV programmes (Coordination of AIDS Technical Support – CoATS). Together with the WHO, BACKUP supports the work of five regional HIV Knowledge



Hubs and hub networks in sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Benefits and examples from the field

Since 2002, the German BACKUP Initiative has supported 350 bilateral and multilateral measures in 64 countries. For example, the regional HIV Knowledge Hubs have so far enabled over 11,000 trainers, decision-makers and health personnel to have their knowledge upgraded in virtually all aspects of HIV management. This includes HIV prevention and safer-sex counselling, linking HIV with sexual and reproductive health, antiretroviral treatment of AIDS, provider- and client-initiated HIV testing, PMTCT (prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV), clinical management of HIV/TB co-infections, care in the community, harm reduction (including needle exchange and methadone programmes) as well as HIV epidemiology and surveillance. One successful example at a national level comes from Niger, where BACKUP has been working with the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) since October 2007 to support the National AIDS Council (CISLS) through the provision of a long-term expert. With this expert support, CISLS has succeeded in qualifying as a Principal Recipient (PR) for further financing from the Global Fund. The creation of a national M&E plan ensured that the recommendations of the Global Fund and technical partners were put into practice. The programme is also helping to further strengthen civil society organisations and networks.

In 2007, BACKUP's cooperating partner ICASO set up six Civil Society Action Teams (CSAT) worldwide. CSAT's core mandate is to act as a broker, through coordinating, advocating and, most importantly, identifying the technical assistance needs of civil society actors seeking or implementing grants from the Global Fund and matching those needs with the providers of technical support. In Indonesia, CSAT has played a pivotal role in the establishment of two national AIDS control networks for drug users and people living with HIV. The networks were invited to become members of the national coordinating committee

for Global Fund work (Country Coordinating Mechanism – CCM). CSAT has also successfully supported an application by 12 Indonesian provinces for Round 8 of the Global Fund.

The CCMs themselves are also receiving training. With the support from BACKUP, their members are learning how to manage global funding more efficiently and transparently, how to better manage and evaluate programmes, and how to provide improved health care services. A key issue here is the long-term integration of HIV, TB and malaria control into existing national health planning and service delivery, in order to strengthen them and avoid parallel structures being set up.

Other organisations have developed models similar to the BACKUP approach, for example the Grant Management Solutions (GMS) programme set up by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). BACKUP is increasingly working with GMS at country level.

The regional HIV Knowledge Hub approach developed jointly by BACKUP and the WHO has recently been applied in Morocco, Iran and Lebanon by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), with funding from the Swiss DROSOS Foundation. The WHO is also considering the use of the Knowledge Hub method for tobacco control programmes in Africa. In Zagreb, the regional HIV Knowledge Hub supported by BACKUP has also been formally awarded in 2007 the prestigious status of a WHO Collaborating Centre for Capacity Development in HIV Surveillance.

Within GTZ, BACKUP is acting as a role model for other health and social sector initiatives, including a project to control avian flu and in a sector project currently being planned to strengthen countries' capacities in H1N1 influenza epidemic preparedness. In 2007, the German BACKUP Initiative published a handbook entitled "Accelerating Action" which describes details of its experiences, principles and methods.

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