

Informal Multistakeholder Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation

July-December 2022

Concept note for the Third Meeting of the Task Team

15 September 2022, 13:00-16:00

The first two meetings of the Informal Task Team debated and developed different recommendations to resolve the current immediate Joint Programme funding crisis.

In accordance with its decision 6.8, “in advance of the next UNAIDS Structured Financing Dialogue, [the PCB] calls on the PCB Bureau to utilize the informal multistakeholder task team to develop recommendations on voluntarily based sustainable funding of the UBRAF, to be presented and discussed at the December 2022 PCB meeting.”

Background

For Background, Objectives, Deliverables and the first set of recommendations of the Task Team, please see [Report of the PCB Bureau on the recommendations of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team for resolving UNAIDS immediate funding crisis for the 2022-2023 biennium](#)

Specific deliverables of the third meeting of the Informal Task Team

This meeting of the Informal Task Team will:

- Recall the various options which were discussed during its first two meetings and deemed promising but not ready for an immediate, actionable recommendation such as:
 - Committing a 5% Global Technical Assistance Facility to the Joint Programme
 - The Global Fund acting as a ‘Guarantor’ for the fully funded UBRAF
 - Commitment by the Program Countries to the Joint Programme Country Workplan or to UNAIDS core budget or accessing Global Fund technical assistance financing at country level, among others.
- Discuss recommendations relating to securing sustainable funding for the UBRAF
 - Understanding the background to the current funding situation
 - Presentation of key elements of the draft Joint Programme Resource Mobilisation Strategy 2022-2026
 - The presentation will provide an outline of the four areas of change, and a focused discussion on the Transforming Partnerships area of change focusing on actions with Governments, Foundations, and the Global Fund

The Financial Situation

The financial report presented at the June 2022 PCB meeting can be found here: [50th PCB financial report Presentation- agenda item 4.2_pcb 22 June 2022.pptx](#)

Sustainable Funding for the UBRAF and Developments in 2022

The recent background on the funding situation of the Joint Programme is discussed in depth in the background paper for the Structured Funding Dialogue 2021, which is included in the section on Background Documentation.

The resources mobilized as core funding for implementing the UBRAF have remained below the budgeted amount for several biennia. This has led to funding shortfalls, requiring UNAIDS to achieve more with fewer resources. This is despite challenges, complexities and highly concerning trends affecting the response, which is off track.

Core UNAIDS funding fluctuated from year to year during the period 2014–2020. Overall core funding declined by US\$ 43 million since 2014—from US\$ 230 million to US\$ 194.1 million in 2020. Declining core funding, combined with uncertainties in annual core funding, have substantially impeded UNAIDS' efforts to plan and carry forward its work.

The current financial outlook is not as promising as was originally forecasted due to the significant depreciation of major currencies against the US dollar. So far in 2022, **US\$ 62.1 million** has been recorded as core income received to date. It was originally estimated that **US\$175 million** core will be raised in 2022. The revised estimate for 2022 is **US\$ 162 million**, which represents **US\$ 25 million** below the base resource mobilization target of US\$ 187 million, and US\$ 48 million below approved budget of US\$ 210 million.

Joint Programme Resource Mobilisation Strategy for 2022-2026

The UNAIDS Secretariat is currently developing the Joint Programme Resource Mobilisation Strategy for 2022-2026 based on updated analyses of the current funding environment and consultation with key stakeholders. This document remains a work in progress for consultation and engagement, and final approval is with the UNAIDS Secretariat.

The vision for this strategy is to reverse the trend of declining funding and position the Joint Programme for growth by sustainably raising US\$ 210 million per year to fully fund the UBRAF.

Transforming Partners

Governments and the Philanthropic markets (Foundations and High Net Worth Individuals) are key to reversing the short-term financial crisis, and to provide longer term financial sustainability. The Joint Programme will prioritize and work mainly within the Governments field and strengthen capacity to work with Philanthropic markets.

The current recommendations and actions developed by the Informal Task Team will be assessed, then extended and deepened into specific donor plans to deepen their partnership with the Joint Programme and their commitment to sustainably funding the Joint Programme.

In this context, cost-benefit considerations are important; how to best deploy the resource mobilization capacity at the Secretariat in relation to donors' potential and the varying demands different donors place in relation to their contributions. With greater aid efficiency and donor coordination (c.f. Funding Compact) Secretariat capacity could be freed up.

Noting that all commitments are voluntary, the above referenced recommendations and actions can include:

Partner Groups	Options
Current donors to the Global Fund	1.1 Commit to increasing funding to the Joint Programme. 1.2 If possible, provide a multiyear agreement to the Joint Programme. 1.3 If possible, provide a method for ongoing management of currency fluctuations.
All donors of the Global Fund and the Joint Programme	2.1 Commit ongoing co-investment to the Global Fund and to the Joint Programme (based on the suggested proportion) 2.2 Commitment of funding to the Joint Programme in recognition of their technical assistance to the investment into the Global Fund.
All donors to the Global Fund (HIV Response) who are not yet donors to the Joint Programme	2.1 Commit to ongoing co-investment in the Joint Programme (based on the suggested proportion)
Members of the PCB	3.1 Commit to providing ongoing funding to the Joint Programme
Programme Countries	4.1 Commit to providing ongoing funding to the Joint Programme.

The role of civil society is vital for raising awareness and advocacy action regarding the support for the call for Governments and Foundations who are engaging in the Global AIDS Response to fully fund the Joint Programme, and other specific awareness raising, and advocacy calls related to the co-investment to fully fund the Joint Programme and the Global Fund.

The Global Fund

The Joint Programme's partnership with The Global Fund is of primary importance to both parties. The Global Fund and the Joint Programme have an MOU in place, which was revised in 2019 to focus on five key areas of closer collaboration. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, and based on discussions with the Global Fund leadership, a document - 'Resetting our Partnership for a New Era', has been developed. It outlines what UNAIDS does to support Global Fund-funded countries, and what UNAIDS can do more and better in the five areas to help move the needle in the coming funding period (2023 – 2025).

This relationship is further outlined in “More Than Money - the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria”, which explains the different but complementary roles of UNAIDS and the Global Fund, and highlights the value addition of the UNAIDS Joint Programme to countries with in-country presence in more than 100 countries, provision of policy guidance, data, a platform for bringing non-state actors to the table, and much more.

The Joint Programme plays a critical role in the support to countries to access and utilise Global Fund resources throughout the grant cycle, including creating pathways for meaningful engagement with communities, the development of funding applications, and the support to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

As a key part of continued strengthening of its partnerships, the Joint Programme will continue to work with the Global Fund to identify opportunities for closer collaboration and work together through different funding mechanisms and donor relationships with the goal to fully fund the Joint Programme and the Global Fund. The Joint Programme will further work with the Global Fund regarding the ongoing engagement, pursuing the recommendations related to the co-investment with the Global Fund.

In addition to the elements outlined in the strategy, additional actions were requested by the Informal Task Team:

- Exploring discussions to have the Global Fund act as a ‘guarantor’ for a fully funded UBRAF.
- These include various proposals to funnel greater funding to the Joint Programme for the substantial technical support it provides for Global Fund programmes.

The Cosponsors

The Joint Programme will work together on the call for a fully funded UBRAF, sharing advocacy messages and senior level engagement with donors.

The Cosponsors also have a direct partnership with the Global Fund, and some are key implementing agencies of Global Fund grants and the emergency response mechanisms. UNAIDS and the Cosponsors will work together to leverage the experience and access to additional Multi Donor Funds and other funding mechanisms to engage and secure support for the Joint Programme.

In addition to the elements outlined in the strategy, two additional actions were requested by the Informal Task Team:

- Joint approaches for resource mobilization among PCB members.
- Engaging with Cosponsors to explore the possibility of shifting their internal resources to fund the UBRAF.

Guiding questions for the discussion

The following questions are offered to spark conversation and shape the discussion:

- Are there any other recommendations you would like to discuss on voluntary sustainable funding for the UBRAF?
- What other sources of sustainable funding should be considered by the Joint Programme?
 - What other actions with our partners (Governments, Foundations, Global Fund, Co-Sponsors) should be considered by the Joint Programme?
 - Is there any further information or data that you are missing to take forward any of the recommendations?
 - Are there political level recommendations that the Task team can recommend for the PCB to intervene in critical funding shortages for the Joint programme due to unavoidable geopolitical circumstances?

Background documentation

- Joint Programme Resource Mobilization Strategy 2022-2026 DRAFT13.09.2022
- Strategic Funding Dialogue background document [UNAIDS Structured Funding Dialogue - Background Paper Final 09112021 \(1\).pdf](#)
- Financial analysis GF- UNAIDS
- [50th PCB financial report Presentation- agenda item 4.2_pcb 22 June 2022.pptx](#)
- Brochure on Global Fund and UNAIDS partnership [UNAIDS More than money.pdf](#)