



New US\$14.2 million Global Fund Grant Awarded to Elimination 8



Grant signing by The Global Fund and The Elimination 8 Initiative

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

The Elimination 8 Initiative has been awarded a new three-year grant for US\$14.2 million from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to further efforts to eliminate malaria across southern Africa by 2030. Renewed funding will allow the eight country initiative to build on already established strategies, accelerating country efforts and addressing shared challenges.

Since 2009, the Elimination 8 has brought malaria endemic countries together to collaborate across national borders to fight malaria and fast track progress towards elimination. It has become an important regional hub for fostering knowledge sharing, accountability, collective strategies and action, and efficiency through scale. The E8 serves as the malaria arm of the Southern African Development Community, with current target countries including Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The announcement of renewed funding follows several years of robust progress, including the launch and operation of 33 border health clinics to test and treat malaria, as well as strengthened access to primary health care across the shared border lines. Thirteen surveillance units were also established in the E8 target countries, ramping up country efforts to conduct active case detection and investigation. Support from the Global Fund has been instrumental in the success of the E8 Initiative, beginning with awarding the first regional malaria elimination grant of US\$17.8 million towards elimination activities from 2015 – 2018.

The signing ceremony for the new Global Fund grant was held in Harare, Zimbabwe on 21st March 2019, and was attended by Mark Eddington, Head of the Global Fund's Grant Management Division, Dr. Nchabi Richard Kamwi, E8 Ambassador, and Dr. Obadiah Moyo, Zimbabwe's Minister of Health and Child Care and Chair of the Elimination 8. "The E8 Initiative is a great example of collaboration and the type that the Global Fund is proud to support..." said Mr. Eddington. "The grant we are signing today will allow the initiative to continue its work in 2019 and until 2021, to address shared challenges across the countries like malaria parasite movement, access to health services in border areas, quality assurance for diagnosis, and alignment of investment priorities."

Guided by the E8 Regional Acceleration Plan 2018 – 2020, the E8 is now on an even more aggressive path towards achieving malaria elimination, and will allocate the new funding of US\$14.2 million towards seven key target areas, which will be implemented in coordination with national malaria programs: Enhanced Malaria Workforce, Commodity Security and Supply, Regional Strategic Priority Areas, Regional Surveillance, Entomological Surveillance, Epidemic Preparedness and Response, and, Advocacy.

Noted Dr. Moyo, "The focus of the new grant activities are catalytic, regional in nature, and structured to give us high impact, including the continuation of health posts, epidemic preparedness and response capacity building through maintaining The Situation Room platform, vector control capacity building, supporting Angola with indoor residual spraying and supply of bed nets, and conducting of regional coordination meetings. Renewed funding allows us to intensify efforts towards our ultimate goal of a malaria-free southern Africa."



Attendees during the grant signing ceremony, Harare, Zimbabwe

Media Contact: Kelly Sibisibi (ksibisibi@elimination8.org)