



Pro-bono financial consultant Yinka Ehindero with medical advisor Dr. Gbolahan at the office of Damien Foundation, an organisation supported by Global Fund grants in Ibadan, Nigeria – The Global Fund/Andrew Esiebo

Strengthening financial skills to increase healthcare access in Africa

The Ecobank Foundation partners with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to support its grant recipients in Nigeria, Senegal and South Sudan by strengthening skills in order to alleviate financial bottlenecks.

The Global Fund mobilises USD 4 billion a year to support programmes in 140 countries worldwide, 64% of which is dedicated to sub-Saharan Africa. For NGOs and public organisations that receive these grants to support malaria, tuberculosis and HIV programmes in the target countries, strong financial management is essential.

“The partnership is unique because of its African origination: a pan-African institution invited a global organisation to partner to solve problems we face on the continent. It’s not a solution being imported, but a solution being developed locally.”

Ade Ayeyemi, Group CEO, Ecobank

In December 2013, the Ecobank Foundation entered into a partnership with the Global Fund to provide financial management training to staff in selected grant recipient organisations. Ecobank works together with Accounting for International Development (AfID), which hires volunteer consultants to work alongside staff to provide relevant training. Examples of the wide array of issues include budgeting skills; risk management assessment and accounting system skills.

The Ecobank Foundation’s contribution to the Global Fund – split in cash contributions and services in kind – adds up to USD 3 million pledged over three years. Although focusing on capacity building, Ecobank advocates globally on behalf of the cause and also mobilises its 20,000 African employees in CSR activities.



Health staff at the Government Chest Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria, provides TB treatment for free with support from the Global Fund – The Global Fund / Andrew Esiebo

Results so far

Unique

The partnership is unique as this is the first time a financial management capacity building programme of this magnitude is being rolled out in Africa.

Increased efficiency

The innovative collaboration is already showing some encouraging results. In Nigeria, for example, volunteer consultants provided more than 96 weeks of accounting support to 14 grant recipients in 2014/15. The Global Fund Secretariat has already noticed improvements in many areas of grant implementation.

Long-lasting effect

The partnership projects are expected to have a long-lasting effect. The training not only strengthens financial stewardship of Global Fund grant receivers; it will also improve transparency and accountability for the use of public funds and other donor grants. The programmes are replicable across the African continent.

International recognition

The Ecobank Foundation and the Global Fund have been recognised for their groundbreaking work, being presented the Corporate Social Responsibility award by financial trade magazine EMEA Finance in December 2015 in London. The Ecobank Foundation has also been named a commended applicant at the prestigious GBC Health's Business Action on Health Awards in New York for its CSR work.



A child is tested for malaria through a programme supported by the Global Fund in Eket, Nigeria – The Global Fund/Andrew Esiebo

"Ecobank brings in expertise from around the world, and sits with people in a country, to provide that long-term sustainable training that people need to carry forward these programmes on their own."

Mark Dybul, Executive Director, The Global Fund



A doctor inspects an X-ray photo at the Government Chest Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria. The Global Fund / Andrew Esiebo

For more information:

Ecobank:
David Pitts
dpitts@ecobank.com

The Global Fund:
Antonello Barbaro
antonello.barbaro@theglobalfund.org



The Ecobank Foundation is the primary corporate social responsibility arm of the Ecobank Group, financing social projects in Africa. Ecobank sets aside up to 1% of the group's profits, after tax, to support project initiatives of the Foundation. Foundation projects and programmes are selected with the view of fostering regional integration.



The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership organization designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis as epidemics. Founded in 2002, the Global Fund is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases. The Global Fund supports programs run by local experts in countries and communities most in need.