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OPEN LETTER TO MINISTER MOTSOALEDI: PLEASE INTERVENE. GLOBAL FUND PAYMENT IS SEVEN MONTHS LATE - OUR LIFE-SAVING PROGRAMS WILL CLOSE

By *moderator*
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Most of the recipients of South Africa's Global Fund Round 6 grant have written an open letter to health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi on the delay of grant payments. The recipients have asked the Minister to intervene and avoid imminent closure of life-saving programmes.

Dr Aaron Motsoaledi
Minister of Health
Address: Private Bag X399, PRETORIA, 0001
Fax: (012) 395 9165
Email: hadebf@health.gov.za, masukm@health.gov.za

By fax, email and mail

6 February 2011

Dear Minister

GLOBAL FUND PAYMENT IS SEVEN MONTHS LATE - OUR LIFE-SAVING PROGRAMS WILL CLOSE

We are recipients of South Africa's Global Fund Round 6 grant. We expected payments from the Global Fund in July 2011 and January 2012. This grant funds life-saving programmes that we implement. These payments are late. Some of us have continued to implement our Global Fund sponsored programmes using reserve funds and other income, but we can no longer continue to do this. The consequence is that our programmes will have to close and many people will have to be retrenched.

The Department of Health is the Principal Recipient of the grant. It is unclear to us why the grant has been delayed continuously. Our understanding is that the Global Fund systems are extremely complex and that the Fund is not satisfied that the Department of Health has met its stringent criteria. We also understand that the effort to consolidate the Round 6, Round 9 and Round 10 grants into a single stream has contributed to the delay.

Whatever the reasons, we know that each of us has made a great effort to meet the demands of the Principal Recipient and the Global Fund. It is unfortunate that the Global Fund has failed to make contingency plans and defaulted its payment.

The situation is now dire. We therefore request your urgent intervention to help get the Global Fund to meet its commitments so that we receive our money before the 15th of February.

Also, nearly every payment from the Global Fund has been late. This is not a sustainable way to fund programmes. We ask that the Department of Health and Global Fund meet and commit to paying our expenses for July to December 2011 and our current tranche for the period January to March 2012. We also ask for a commitment to making all future payments on time.

Thank you for considering our requests.

Yours sincerely,

Community Media Trust
Humana People to People
Mindset
Redpeg
Society for Family Health
Soul City
South African Department of Health Global Fund Round 6 recipients including:
Treatment Action Campaign

For media comment, please call TAC Chairperson Nonkosi Khumalo on +27 11 356 4100 or email her at khumalo@section27.org.za
. You can also call TAC Deputy General Secretary Lihle Dlamini on 021 422 1700 or email her at lihle@tac.org.za.

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