PCB Thematic discussion: Lessons Learned from the Global Implementation Support Team (GIST)
In response to the Global Task Team (GTT) recommendation, the UN system and Global Fund formed the joint problem-solving team as the Global Joint Problem Solving and Implementation Support Team (GIST).

The GIST was set up to ensure that bottlenecks in the implementation of national strategies and plans at the country level in a timely and effective manner by promoting improved coordination and accountability in the provision of technical assistance.

In November 2006 in response to the PCB recommendation that “… further involvement of other development partners, such as bilaterals and NGOs, where necessary,“ the GIST expanded to include 3 bilaterals and 3 CSOs.
Lessons Learned

- Countries and partners appreciated the progress that the GIST has made and encourages continued development of the team to respond to country needs.

- Difficult for countries to identify, acknowledge and address bottlenecks effectively – honest assessment of issues is essential.

- Weak capacity at country level to engage in monitoring implementation and in accessing assistance – look for local solutions.

- Need for Country level “CIST” mechanisms.

- External engagement can help resolve problems that are ‘political’.
Recommendations

- Need for better communication on what the GIST is and how it can be accessed – ‘marketing’

- Partners at the country level need to engage in the proactive monitoring of the progress on programs in reaching their objectives and to be

- Consider inclusion of major foundations in GIST

- Need for funding to realise the capacity for GIST to support country solutions to bottlenecks
Thank you!