

## **CCM Elections in Mauritania: Paper Ballots and See-Through Voting Boxes**

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## Technical Support to Global Fund Grants



# CCM Elections in Mauritania: Paper Ballots and See-Through Voting Boxes

Transparent, participative election procedures for civil-society and private-sector representatives to the Country Coordinating Mechanism comply with Global Fund governance requirements.



Photo :  
Nadia Raffi and Fatim Adia



On March 20, 2010, civil-society organizations in Mauritania elected representatives to the national AIDS, TB & malaria governance body known as the Country Coordinating Mechanism. Pictured clockwise from top left: A voter casts his ballot; transparent ballot boxes; tally sheets.

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In Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania, civil-society organizations were recently mobilized to enable Mauritania to requalify for grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Countries wishing to apply for and implement Global Fund grants must maintain a national, multisectoral governance body—known as a Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)—to provide strategic leadership and oversight. CCMs comprise representatives of the public, civil-society, private and donor sectors selected or elected from constituency stakeholder organizations. Membership renewal procedures must adhere to the principles of openness and transparency that this funder's performance-based funding and governance guidelines require.

Mauritania's CCM had been legally organized according to Global Fund rules in 2002, and the country had signed five grants for \$32 million by 2008. Incomplete CCM reforms and government transition in 2009 had, however, left the CCM with a divided membership unable to carry out grant oversight. The Global Fund required a number of actions of the CCM to improve its performance, including completing membership renewal using a transparent process by end-March 2010.

To address this issue, the CCM initiated reform, with help from Grant Management Solutions (GMS), UNAIDS and the German BACKUP Initiative, to facilitate transparent elections of civil-society representatives. Then, with GMS's help, this is what happened:

- The CCM hosted an information meeting from February 23-24, 2010, for 85 civil-society organizations to define transparent electoral procedures. An election protocol was signed by all.
- On March 3, the CCM published the call for CSO candidates. Nineteen candidates were fielded.
- On March 17, the lists of candidates and electors were published.
- On March 20, elections were held. Members of 85 organizations cast secret ballots in transparent boxes.
- Ballot counters tallied votes on large sheets of white paper in front of the electors. By evening, the reckoning was done. Civil society had elected 16 representatives to the CCM, healing the rift in governance. The other sectors also renewed their members, and, on March 25, the CCM elected new officers, completing the reform process.



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