

## **Transferring Grant Responsibility: Advancing the Belief in National Ownership**

---

**Elise Yousoufian**

**September 2010**

**This report was made possible through support provided by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the United States Agency for International Development, under the terms of Contract Number [GHS-I-02-07-00006-00]. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Agency for International Development.**

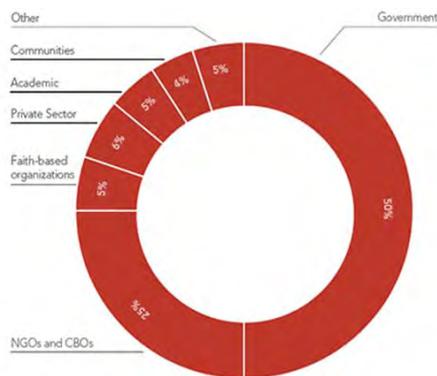
---

**Grant Management Solutions Project  
Management Sciences for Health  
784 Memorial Drive  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Telephone: (617) 250-9500  
E-mail Address: [info@gmsproject.org](mailto:info@gmsproject.org)**



## Transferring Grant Responsibility: Advancing the Belief in National Ownership

Transferring responsibility for financial management from the United Nations Development Programme to a local organization requires negotiation, training, plans and patience.



Global Fund Portfolio by Type of Principal Recipient

Fully half of principal recipients (PRs) are government entities, but any organization that meets stringent criteria may serve as a PR. Graphic courtesy of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

GMS provides urgent, short-term technical support to countries to better manage their grants from the Global Fund. For more information, visit [www.gmsproject.org](http://www.gmsproject.org).

Less than ten years ago, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria stated its core belief that success of a Global Fund grant rests on national ownership.

The Global Fund signs grant agreements with a primary implementer of a grant program, or principal recipient (PR). Any nationally based organization can serve as a PR if the multisectoral national partnership that oversees Global Fund grants, a Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), selects it, and the Global Fund finds that organization capable of managing a grant.

Most PRs are national government entities such as a ministry of health. However, where public institutions or civil society organizations cannot meet the Global Fund's stringent criteria for managing grants, an international organization such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) may serve as a PR temporarily, until a local organization can be strengthened. In a case like this, the CCM's goal is to eventually transfer responsibility for the grant from the international organization to a national organization.

The CCMs of two countries—the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire—asked for help from the U.S. government in overseeing such transfers. Grant Management Solutions (GMS) supported transfer in five ways: 1 | Training CCM members to oversee and manage the process. 2 | Helping CCM members negotiate with UNDP and the new PRs. 3 | Developing a transfer plan. 4 | Assisting new PRs complete presignature documentation. 5 | Orienting local managers and Subrecipients.

In these two African countries, three grants, collectively valued at about \$36 million, were transferred from the UNDP to local national organizations.