

## Global Fund 2010 – 2016 Review

### Overview

The Global Fund was established in November 2010 to foster global citizenship through the pillars of International Engagement and Intercultural Understanding in the UBC Strategic Plan, *Place and Promise*. The Fund provides small grants (typically up to \$2,000) to currently enrolled UBC -Vancouver students to fund student-led initiatives, projects or events that focus on international engagement, intercultural understanding, sustainability and collaboration and have a connection with the Simon K.Y. Lee Global Lounge & Resource Centre. The Fund seeks to enrich student learning and engagement outside the classroom by encouraging student-led initiatives which will enhance our campus culture of global awareness, sensitivity and involvement. In 2012, the AMS signed an MOU with UBC to provide an extra \$10 000 to the Global Fund for internationally-focused events taking place on campus. The first Global Fund was distributed in the 2010-2011 school year and has continued to fund projects i

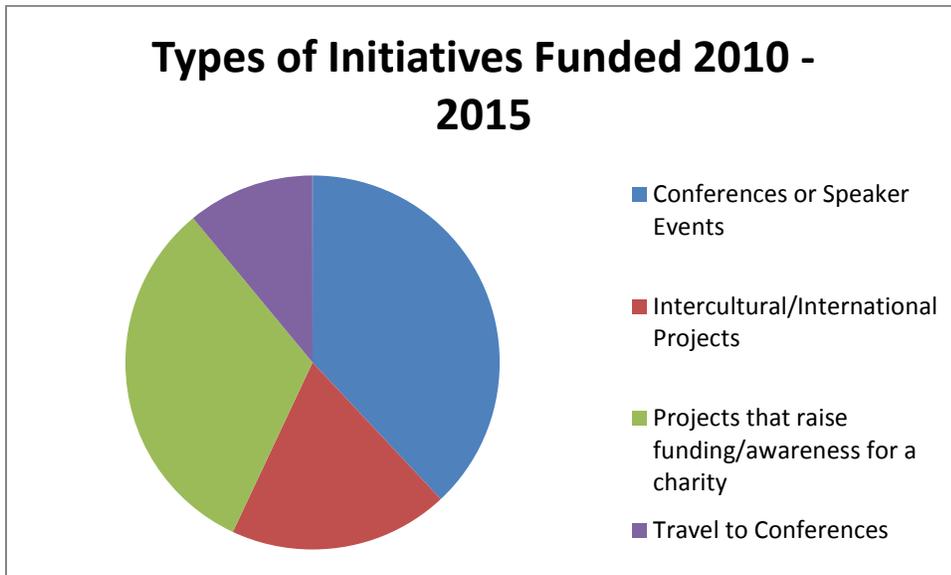
### Awards are given to applicants who meet the following criteria:

- International engagement and/or intercultural understanding – applications must involve people, locations, or content that are internationally or inter-culturally focused
- Sustainability – preference will be given to applications that demonstrate long-term impact
- Collaboration & Engagement – applications must involve collaboration across UBC faculties, programs, clubs/organizations and engage students across the UBC campus. Community partnerships are also applicable.
- Global Lounge – preference will be given to applications whose initiatives, projects or events take place or involve the Global Lounge and its members.

### Fund Statistics

Year	Number of Applications	Number of Winners	Total Amount of Funding approved
2010-2011	79	16	\$18,517.50
2011-2012	46	16	\$21,195
2012 - 2013	47	17	\$30,253.75
2013 - 2014	45	16	\$24,994.00
2014 - 2015	44	21	\$30,796.03
2015-16	35	17	25,951.41

	*Global Lounge offered Refugee-Relief funding this fiscal and many students applied directly to this rather than to the Global Fund.		
Totals	296	104	\$153,236.39



#### Example Highlighted Projects

- Drill Covers for Uganda



A group of biomedical engineering students at UBC have developed a new way for surgeons in Uganda to use power drills as surgical tools. The drill covers allow for efficient, safe, and cost-effective surgeries as the power tool kit and cover will only cost \$2,000 against the \$30,000 cost of a surgical drill. The funding allowed them to develop prototypes and models that were eventually tested and donated to a hospital in Uganda.

- UBC Africa Awareness Initiative: **“AAI Conference Week”**

AAI Conference Week is an annual event comprised of five different events intended to celebrate and educate on African Culture. This year, ‘Opening night’ will feature a speaker -internationally renowned storyteller, Diane Ferlatte. Other events include



'Connecting Stories to Research' – a speaker event about the art of storytelling; Cross Cultural Movie Night; 'Artistic Night' with performances and works of art; and 'Sikiliza' - and African party, to celebrate and appreciate the work of the many people involved with AAI.

- **The Global Engineer Initiative: A \$2 Family Sized Solar Disinfectant Unit**
  - Global Engineer Initiative is a multi-disciplinary student team focused on solving the most neglected problems in our world. The group is designing a "SODIS family" water disinfection unit, which is capable of disinfecting 50 L of water per day, at a cost of less than \$2 per family per year. The Global Fund helped to fund the building and testing of the prototype and for conference submissions.

- **UBC Bike Co-op: Bicycles 101**

Bicycles 101 aims to provide international students with the knowledge and incentive to buy a bicycle, ride it safely and perform basic maintenance. These goals were met through engaging over 30 students in a two hour interactive workshop in the Global Lounge facilitated by knowledgeable cycling experts. The financial support received from the Global Fund was used for catering as well as to compensate the cycling professionals who led the workshop's presentations and demonstrations.



- **We Are 2015: "We Are 2015 Module 1"**
  - The We Are 2015 Module 1: Hope for Children is a module created to use dialogue, interactive simulations, visual arts and mixed-media to engage students aged 13-20 in discussions on the global health topics to which the MDGs are seeking solutions. Through this we build a foundation for future student development by increasing understanding of not only the health topics addressed by the MDGs (malaria, diarrhea, malnutrition, maternal health), but also the complexities of international development issues, and the humanitarian/social applications of health and medicine.

- **UBC IA Intercultural Fair**



The UBC IA Intercultural Fair is an annual event that brings together Vancouver-based and campus organizations alongside 13 UBC cultural clubs to showcase their cultures through feasts, traditional clothes, dance, and musical performances throughout the day. The aim of the event is to foster intercultural understanding and promote cross-cultural collaboration

## **Uniqueness of the Global Fund: Student Development and Supports**

All applicants are contacted via email after funding has been decided. Recipients are sent a congratulatory email outlining next steps for the Final Report and information they need to provide for funding to move forward. Funds are usually received in three weeks.

A customized email is sent to unsuccessful applicants outlining specific reasons why funding was not granted. Applicants are invited to contact the Global Fund Chair to discuss their application and how to improve if they choose to re-apply. In one year, we usually meet with approximately 30 different students/student groups to offer support for their applications. The customized emails and meetings are important to developing student confidence and creating collaboration opportunities. By letting students know why they didn't receive the funding, they are given the tools to improve their application writing techniques and potentially, re-apply and gain funding in the future. By meeting with students, they are firstly introduced to the Global Lounge & Resource Centre and what the space has to offer. For instance, Mary Leighton a Masters of Education student applied to the Global Fund for her initiative, *Tandem Project*, a language exchange between students from across campus. During the initial meeting, she discovered the Global Lounge as a space for her initiative and was able to use the photocopier for her minimal posters and handouts. Therefore, even though she only applied for a small amount (\$35 for a book), by meeting with staff, she was able to obtain a physical space for her initiative and resources she did not have to pay for.

Second, students have an opportunity to explain their initiative, be able to talk through difficulties and gain valuable advice in terms of ethical fundraising, event planning information and access to other campus resources. One campus group applied for funding in order to make a calendar they could sell that featured pictures of young children in developing countries. Through meeting in person, a sensitive discussion was had that otherwise could not have happened through email. Resources about ethical photography were given to the student group and other options for pictures in the calendar were discussed.

Lastly, students are able to find out about other potential collaborators for their initiative. The Global Fund Chair will often bring forward ideas and suggestions from either the Global Lounge Network or other campus partners that may be interested in partnering for the event.

## **UBC & AMS Global Fund External Review Report: Executive Summary**

In spring 2016, an External Review Committee (ERC) consisting of a UBC student, staff and faculty member as well as independent consultant, performed a review of the Global Fund just over five years since its inception. Through interviews, focus groups, and surveys with previous Fund applicants, Committee members, and staff members, the ERC set out with the objective of answering the following questions:

- To what extent can the operational processes be improved for future Global Fund awarding cycles?
- To what extent does the Global fund build student capacity?

- To what extent is the Fund being used by a variety of students from across organizations and disciplines?
- To what extent does the fund support international engagement and intercultural awareness on campus?

Overall, the ERC found that the Global Fund has an efficient operational process that offers support to students throughout the application process. Students especially appreciated the follow-up meetings and feedback given on their applications both before and after submission. Suggestions for improvement include setting up fixed office hours for more students to access potential feedback on their applications, as well as running workshops on how to submit a successful application for interested potential applicants. As well, since 61% of all surveyed applicants found budget creation to be a challenge, the ERC also suggested the creation of a more detailed budget template to help improve the application process. The ERC also found that additional educational resources like sample reports and videos could potentially help students to submit complete reports, considering the fact that incomplete and late reports were notable issues. Lastly, working more closely with the AMS could also help streamline the collection of receipts since students must provide receipts to both the Global Fund and the AMS.

The majority of surveyed committee members and applicants found the funding decision process to be transparent and easy to understand. The ERC recommended that staff clearly state how much funding is available at any given time in order to help improve the transparency of the Global Fund.

Over 80% of applicants surveyed stated that they increased their abilities to write program objectives, create a budget, and submit future grant applications. The ERC also concluded that the Global Fund builds student capacity by opening up space for collaboration, networking, and providing funding for smaller and newer student clubs that would otherwise have difficulties in funding their initiatives. For the students sitting on the review committee, all that were surveyed stated they would participate as a review panel member again, or recommend someone they knew to participate: *"Having participated in the review panel, I can also say that I have a sharper image of student leadership on campus and feel more connected with the international community at UBC".*

There was also a steady trend of an increasing number of Fund recipients that were not members of the Global Lounge Network (61% of winners in 2015-16 were not Network Members). This result clearly shows an increase in the variety of students from across campus that are taking advantage of the Global Fund. While the ERC understood the Global Lounge section of the application process (*please tell us in 100 words or less to what extent your program will take place in and/or involve the Global Lounge and its members. Be specific (have you booked a space or made an agreement to collaborate with a Network Member? What measures would you take to advertise through Global Lounge media channels?)*), they recommended that staff revisit including this section as it may hold non-members back from applying for the Fund.

In regards to international engagement and intercultural awareness, applicants stated that the Global Fund helped support globally-focused clubs turn their ideas into reality not only with funding, but also

through feedback and coaching: *“Often times I think students that are truly invested in these causes have many great ideas, but they lack the experience to execute these ideas (due to lack of life experience, for example). Funding aside, I think the process of applying to Global Fund helps applicants think critically about their ideas and come up with feasible, realistic plans”*. The Global Fund also provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration amongst students from different disciplines, cultures, and nationalities to connect on key global issues: *“...collaboration encouraged us to think outside the box, leading to endeavors that more thoughtfully incorporated a variety of intercultural perspectives, on a breadth of international issues...the existence of the fund led us to collaborate with five other student groups to create a more comprehensive series of events encompassing political, advocacy and human rights perspectives”*.

In conclusion, the ERC believes that the Global Fund is a significant resource that builds student capacity as well as international engagement and intercultural awareness on the UBC campus. By implementing some of the suggestions stated throughout the report, the ERC believes that the Fund could be even more successful moving forward.

### **Continuation of Funding from AMS**

This year, we will be moving forward with implementing suggested changes from the Global Fund External Review to improve the processes of the Global Fund. We very much value the partnership with the AMS and request continued funding for the Global Fund in order to support collaborations amongst students to take on interculturally and internationally-focused projects that impact UBC both locally and globally.