

International Civil Society Support

Activity Plan 2016

INTRODUCTION

The International Civil Society Support (ICSS) Activity Plan 2016 builds on the ICSS Strategy 2012-2016 that was adopted after a 360-degree consultation process with key stakeholders and funders.

Based on the vision of a world where all people can fulfil their right to health and enjoy full and productive lives, ICSS's mission is to increase the scale and quality of the global response to HIV and broader health through strengthening the mobilisation, participation and role of civil society. Our goal is to enhance the response to HIV¹ and broader global health through strategic partnerships that support strong and effective civil society leadership, advocacy, capacity building and implementation at global, regional and country level.

To achieve this goal, ICSS develops and implements activities in the context of three work streams that are linked to ICSS's three overall strategic objectives:

- The **Free Space Process (FSP)**: To enhance the quality, cohesion and impact of global civil society advocacy and leadership on HIV.
- The **Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN)**: To enhance the quality, cohesion and impact of civil society advocacy for full funding of the Global Fund.
- The **Civil Society Representatives Group (CSREPs)**: To enhance the quality, cohesion and impact of civil society representation and advocacy to key global health institutions and initiatives

In the last few years we have seen the work streams converging. The CSREPs work focused on civil society engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals development process, which links to agendas of both the FSP partners as well as the Global Fund. In parallel the networks working together in FSP have become more and more engaged with Global Fund programmes at country level, and the Global Fund has prioritized working with key and vulnerable populations. This trend is still on-going and therefore reflected in the ICSS Activity Plan 2016, to the extent that we have now fully integrated CSREPs in the FSP work stream.

With this 2016 Activity Plan ICSS's 2012-2016 strategy comes to an end and ICSS will therefore engage in a new strategy development process for 2017-2021. As in 2011, we will use a 360 degrees consultation, which provides an opportunity to evaluate ICSS' strengths and weaknesses and to update and refine our objectives for the upcoming 5 years.

For implementation of its 2016 Activity Plan ICSS receives funding for 2015 from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the New Venture Fund and the Open Society Foundation.

¹ ICSS considers "HIV/AIDS" and "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Health" as inextricably linked and mutually re-enforcing.

1. FREE SPACE PROCESS

Objective: To enhance the quality, cohesion and impact of civil society representation and global civil society advocacy and leadership on HIV – by facilitating and strengthening the Free Space Process (FSP)²

Since 2006, ICSS has been facilitating collaboration among global civil society networking organizations with a focus on HIV. The partnership currently comprises 11 organizations^{3,4}. The partnership aims to facilitate linking and learning, shared strategizing, enhanced collaboration, joint action and division of labour.

The following activities are planned for implementation in the context and in support of the FSP partnership in 2016.

1.1 FSP Leadership

The FSP Leadership consists of the (executive) directors of the 11 FSP partners. ICSS convenes partners-meetings to provide a space for linking, learning and strategic collaboration among the global HIV civil society networks. An increased understanding of the diverse issues and challenges in HIV/AIDS is achieved through thematic discussions, review of political and global policy developments, and joint or aligned advocacy positioning on a wide scope of issues, including prevention, treatment, care and support, community mobilization, community systems strengthening and global HIV funding and policies.

Through an intensive exchange at the level of the networks' leadership, positions are shared and trust is built, allowing for building towards more efficient collaborations and resulting in a more effective response.

1.2 HIV Strategy Caucus 2016

HIV Strategy Caucus meetings aim to address current trends and new developments in HIV/AIDS, global health and aid and support the development of a civil society vision and actions, focused on increase of the quality and scale of the response to HIV/AIDS. Caucus meetings typically bring a wider group of civil society leaders together, above and beyond the FSP membership. The theme of each Caucus is determined in coordination with the FSP Leadership.

The Caucus meetings serve the purpose of linking & learning, joint strategizing and achieving a shared understanding (and sometimes building of consensus) around new policy and political issues. This can include the development of strategies of institutions such as UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UN processes such as the development or monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, global funding of HIV, etc.

ICSS acts as a neutral convener of these meetings, supports the development of the agendas, provides logistical support, carries out required consultations, is responsible for the transparent reporting and supports agreed follow up actions.

In 2016, the Strategy Caucus is expected to focus on the development of a Theory of Change on HIV global advocacy in the 2016-2020. A Theory of Change approach enables organizations and networks to develop a clear and logical strategy, and helps to clearly track progress and measure the impact of activities. The period from 2016 to 2020 presents a number of key political opportunities to advance the

² This goal integrates the former FSP and CSREPS goals into one strategic goal.

³ Civil society refers specifically to key affected communities, those most vulnerable to and affected by HIV. This includes in particular people living with HIV, young people, sex workers, transgender people, people who use drugs and men who have sex with men.

⁴ The 11 FSP partners are: Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE), Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+), HIV Young Leaders Fund (HYLF), International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), International Council of AIDS Service Organisations (ICASO), International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC), International HIV/AIDS Alliance (the Alliance), International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD), MSM Global Forum (MSMGF) and Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP).

global HIV agenda, including the implementation of the new UNAIDS strategy/Fast Track Initiative, the High Level Meeting on AIDS and the UNGASS on Drugs, the implementation of the new Global Fund strategy, the Durban (2016) and Amsterdam (2018) AIDS Conferences and the SDG review processes. All these processes and key events require a well-coordinated effort by civil society and key population networks to ensure that the voices of the most marginalized and civil society are heard and consulted with. A well defined strategy to coordinate the focus and effort of a broad range of civil society actors and networks is essential to secure meaningful involvement in planning, implementation, evaluation and accountability of the response to HIV.

There is much across the global HIV agenda for civil society to digest and respond to. A well-coordinated civil society will be able to maximize the opportunities available, enabling them to ensure that civil society (especially key and vulnerable populations) is heard, consulted on progress, and supported to advocate as well as play a valuable role as watchdog.

In collaboration with Stop AIDS Alliance, ICASO and GNP+, ICSS will bring together FSP partners and their regional and country affiliates to agree a common Theory of Change in order to ensure a coordinated, coherent and more effective civil society, and to identify priority actions on HIV for civil society for the period from 2016 to 2020. Based on the Theory of Change, ICSS will develop an implementation plan to follow up on and support agreed upon (joint) actions.

1.3 The Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF)

The establishment of the Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF) was initiated by the FSP partnership AIDS Conference, developed by FSP partners, (their) regional affiliates and the founding donors, and launched at the Washington DC AIDS Conference in 2014. ICSS has played a critical role in the development of the RCNF together with the UNAIDS Civil Society Unit and is still member of the International Steering Committee (ISC) in an observer capacity.

As part of its FSP objective, ICSS has also taken an active role in working with the Fund Management Agent and RCNF ISC members in the replenishment of the RCNF. In this process ICSS focuses on mobilizing civil society advocacy in potential (new) donor countries.

ICSS also works with the civil society members of the ISC to prepare its meetings and – when deemed appropriate in that context – to organize consultations with the wider community of global and regional networks that the RCNF seeks to serve. It is expected that ICSS' support role with regards to the ISC civil society members, including the nomination and selection processes of these members as well as the RCNF Program Advisory Panel members, will be further developed in 2016 in order to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of the civil society representation.

1.4 Participation in the Global Fund civil society delegations

ICSS staff participates in the Communities Delegation and the Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Board of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Participation in the delegations requires an active participation in Global Fund Board meeting as well as engagement in the regular Board and Board Committees preparatory meetings (virtual or face-to-face). As delegation members ICSS staff often takes on specific advisory roles in line with its expertise and experience

1.5 AIDS2018

In December 2014 the International AIDS Society (IAS) announced that Amsterdam was selected as the hosting city for the 2018 International AIDS Conference (AIDS2018). After this announcement the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called for the establishment of the Amsterdam Planning Group (APG), to facilitate – in close collaboration with the International AIDS Society (conference organizer) the preparations of activities in the run up to the Conference and of activities that will take place during but outside the main Conference. ICSS was invited to act as the independent chair of the APG.

Based on a consultation of the main stakeholders and in meeting with IAS, the APG Terms of Reference and core working structures have been agreed upon, including establishing working groups on Eastern Europe & Central Asia; Arts, Events & Sponsoring, Promotion & Communication and Protocol & Safety. In 2016 the working groups will continue their preparatory work and the APG will prepare the launch of the AIDS2018 at the Durban AIDS Conference. ICSS' additional role is to act as the secretariat of the APG and where needed to support the start of the Working Groups.

Objective 1

To enhance the quality, cohesion and impact of global civil society advocacy and leadership on HIV – by facilitating and strengthening the Free Space Process*

* Involving: Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+), HIV Young Leaders Fund (HYLF), International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), International Council of AIDS Service Organisations (ICASO), International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC), International HIV/AIDS Alliance (the Alliance), World AIDS Campaign (WAC), Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD), Global Forum on MSM and HIV (MSMGF) and Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP)

Outcome	Indicator	Method of measurement
1.1 Global HIV civil society networks implement a stronger and more united agenda to respond to the challenging external environment – through being informed and mobilized on each other's priorities	Global HIV civil society networks implement policies and programmes that enable communities to fulfil their right to health and enjoy full and productive lives	Civil society organizations annual reports
1.2 Global and regional HIV networks and other key civil society stakeholders implement stronger and more united advocacy on key emerging policy issues – access to treatment, community mobilisation, global health policy and financing, and strategic investment approaches – through thematic information sharing and strategizing	Global and regional HIV civil society networks and other key stakeholders implement policies and programmes that enable communities to mobilise and to fulfil their right to health and enjoy full and productive lives: having better access to treatment; influencing global health policy and finance and stronger involvement in the implementation and implementation of strategic investment approaches	Civil society organisations annual reports
1.3 Global decision-making institutions and platforms take policy and resource allocation decisions (on access to treatment, community mobilisation and strategic investment approaches) that support civil society and	Global Fund to introduce more favourable mechanisms, lower prices for medication and diagnostics and more client friendly HIV treatment regimes	Annual reports, programmatic and technical guidance and implemented policies. Progress report of the Global Fund
	Civil society needs are addressed by the application of	Survey among partners

communities – through FSP members undertaking advocacy collaborations	strategic investment approaches	
1.4 Leaders of global HIV civil society networks are better able to lead their organizations and respond to the challenging external environment – through peer support and mentoring	# Of incidents of Executive Directors of global HIV civil society networks taking strategic decisions informed by lessons and inputs from FSP peers	Survey among EDs of FSP partner organizations

Activity	Output	Timeline/Milestones
1.1 Support and facilitate FSP Leadership as a virtual and actual space for linking, learning and strategic collaboration among global HIV civil society networks	Leadership of key global HIV CS networking organizations convened and aligned strategic and programmatic agendas	FSP Leadership meeting convened with advocacy priorities and strategic areas for collaboration identified first quarter of 2016
		Aligned strategic priority areas first quarter 2015, updated third quarter of 2016
1.2 Support and facilitate one Strategy Caucus meeting for ToC development Organize FSP event at AIDS2016	A Theory of Change on 2016-2020 civil society global HIV/AIDS advocacy and a follow up implementation plan are developed Global Advocacy Priorities and Action Plan disseminated among advocates and delegates	ToC completed in March 2016 Implementation plan completed in May 2016 IAC July 2016, evaluation report October 2016
1.3 Participation in at least 2 RCNF ISC meetings and ongoing calls with the ISC Resource mobilization working group	ISC civil society members are supported in preparations and engagement in ISC; Nomination and selection processes in place by May 2016 Ongoing constituency consultation process developed and in place by May 2016	CS pre-meetings and ISC meetings in May and December RM Working group calls: ongoing Consultation with networks community before May 2016 Nomination and selection processes facilitated as appropriate
1.4 Participation in (at least) 2 GF Board meetings and engagement in Board and Committee preparatory processes; Participation in 2 retreat meetings of 2 Delegations	Contribution provided to the preparation of Board en committee meetings of the two Delegations Engagement and contributions to the on-gong delegation work processes and consultations	Board meeting in May and November Retreat January 2016, others: TBD
1.5 Chair the Amsterdam Planning Group and support APG working Groups	At least 4 APG meetings facilitated and WG meetings supported	January-December 2016

Launch of AIDS2018 in Durban	All delegates informed about AIDS2018 via booth activities, leaflet in Conference bag and closing ceremony.	Presentation of AIDS 2018 and Amsterdam as its host City; July 2016
Have at least one Dutch Communities meeting to introduce AIDS2018 and APG	AIDS2018 Communities meeting prepared by ICSS for the APG	

2. GLOBAL FUND ADVOCATES NETWORK

Objective: One of the objectives of ICSS is to enhance the quality, cohesion and impact of civil society advocacy for full funding of the Global Fund – by facilitating and strengthening the Global Fund Advocates Network

The Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) was established in 2011 to unite voices and efforts from all over the world in support of adequate funding for the Global Fund. ICSS functions as the Secretariat for the Network, its Steering Committee and other committees the membership deems important. The Global Advocates Network (GFAN) aims *“to build a global social movement to demand health for all by recruiting, connecting and mobilizing advocates to communicate the urgent need, and demand full funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to maximize its impact.”*

GFAN provides a platform for dialogue and exchange and wants to facilitate and provide services to all civil society organizations, Friends of the Fund groups and individuals that endorse the GFAN goal and objectives. In 2016, GFAN will be focused on providing on-going support, platforms and tools for its members to advocate effectively for the replenishment of the Global Fund through the 5th Replenishment.

2.1 Key GFAN activities

A few of the key activities in 2016 will be:

- Provide the platforms of GFAN calls and the listserv for the creation and sharing of information about the Global Fund programmes, policies and funding needs.
- Create tools and organize activities to provide voice to civil society and community messages around the Replenishment of the Global Fund
- Host a Global Meeting of GFAN advocates in the lead-up to replenishment
- Run the Global Fund Advocates Network Speakers Bureau to allow advocates to draw upon the experience, stories and expertise of those personally affected by the 3 diseases in their advocacy with decision-makers and other stakeholders
- Continue its work as technical partner and primary coordinator of the New Venture Fund for Global Fund Advocacy (NVF for GFA)
- Support the work of the two newly created regional initiatives; GFAN Africa and GFAN Asia-Pacific

The focus for 2016 will be to support advocates to help them push donors to deliver on their existing Global Fund pledges and to deliver ambitious new pledges in the 5th Replenishment and to work with colleagues in implementing countries to advocate for increased domestic investments in health and resource mobilization.

2.2 Key 2016 GFAN advocacy messages: donors must increase their 2017-2019 contributions to the Global Fund.

The Global Fund needs at least US\$13 billion in 2017-2019 to continue to work towards ending AIDS, TB, the leading killer of people living with AIDS, and malaria. Maintenance levels of funding are not an option! Maintenance will result in increased numbers of new infections and deaths.

Reaching 80% of the total projected need means that we are still on the right trajectory (the right side of the tipping point) towards ending the epidemics⁵, but will get there slower. A slower pace means more new HIV, TB and malaria infections and deaths that could have been prevented. GFAN therefore advocates for increased donor contributions for 2017-2019.

As the Secretariat, GFAN will continue to look for other opportunities to build the global social movement in support of the Global Fund and global health in general and will position its advocacy in the context of the politics of global health, including the new health goal in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.3 The New Venture Fund for Global Fund Advocacy

The NVF for GFA fund is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and hosted by a US-based charity established in 2006, that will make targeted grants to country-level organizations advocating for a fully funded and effective Global Fund and provide sustainable and predictable funding for advocacy campaigns over the next three years and “one off” funding arrangement for emerging advocacy opportunities leading up to the Global Fund’s Replenishment in 2016. An independent board of directors oversees the NVF.

ICSS is coordinating the applications on a ‘by invitation only’ basis, in close consultation with staff of the Global Fund Secretariat and the Gates Foundation. In this role ICSS staff supports and sometimes initiates proposal development as well as monitoring and evaluation. NVF grantees are typically found in big donor countries or countries with a particular strategic value. Potential applicants will be invited to submit proposals based on criteria such as: the size of the donor country; opportunities for an increase by the donor country before or during the replenishment; the need to protect a sustained level of donor country investment; the need to support core advocacy capacity and coordination based on available capacity and current funding; and the need for catalytic funding to seize opportunities and/or invest in change.

Over the coming years, ICSS looks forward to this opportunity to support GFAN members more actively in the development of stronger and more effective Global Fund campaigning.

⁵ Please note: “The overall costs include rapid scale-up of ARV therapy, including for pregnant women; significantly higher coverage of prevention interventions for key populations; cash transfers for girls in countries with very high HIV prevalence; voluntary medical male circumcision in priority countries; and pre-exposure prophylaxis. Recognizing the importance of strengthening community systems, the costing builds in assumptions of shifting more care from facility to community-based delivery, which will not only deliver cost savings but will also improve the uptake of services and bring them closer to the people who need them.” (page 16 of the Global Fund “Investment Case” report, page 24 is also relevant in this context)

Objective 2

To enhance the quality, cohesion and impact of civil society advocacy for full funding of the Global Fund – by facilitating and strengthening the Global Fund Advocates Network*

* Welcoming all CSOs, Friends of the Fund groups and individuals that endorse the Network's goal and principles

Outcome	Indicator	Method of measurement (data source)
2.1 Civil society advocates are mobilised and organised on resource mobilisation for the Global Fund	Civil society advocates are equipped, committed and take concerted initiatives and action to mobilise resources for the Global Fund	Annual Survey of GFAN members
2.2 Political commitment to fund the Global Fund is mobilised and sustained	Programmes supported by the Global Fund enable communities to fulfil their right to health and enjoy full and productive lives	1. Increased donor contributions to the GF in 2016 in 50% of target countries 2. Increased domestic investments in GF programs by 2016 in 50% of target countries in Asia and Africa
Activity	Output	Timeline/Milestones
Support GFAN Steering Committee	Active and ongoing participation of Steering Committee in support of GFAN activities, plans and overall strategy	GFAN Global Meeting January 2016; teleconferences as needed
Support GFAN Working Groups	Priorities and implementation plan developed through working groups (TBD)	GFAN Global Meeting January 2016 meeting; Priorities completed end of February 2016 (TBC)
Ensure quality, cohesion and impact of advocacy for all GFAN members	Increased, quality participation of active members and NVF for GFA grantees through information-sharing	On-going, assess via annual survey
	Regular GFAN teleconferences for information sharing and strategizing	12 globally and 8 per region annually
	Diversified membership base by increasing participation of TB and Malaria focused organizations and LAC region	On-going, assess via annual survey 1 meeting per region in 2016 (dates TBC)
GFAN at AIDS 2016 and TB 2016 (Durban)	Space (booth) and tools to advocate for full funding of the	July 2016

	Global Fund in the 5 th Replenishment	
GFAN at Replenishment Pledging Conference	Engagement plan with tools and activities for CS in the lead up and at the Pledging Conference	Start from when pledging conference and host is announced and ending at the time identified in the engagement plan
Cost of Inaction Report (5th Replenishment)	Advocacy brief for GFAN members and other advocates on why maintenance levels of funding for the Global Fund are not acceptable.	Report early 2016; distribution/media plan prepared mid 2016
GFAN Speakers Bureau: Implementation and Coordination	Active Speakers Bureau of 10 trained members	Fill 2 vacancies by March 2016 and on-going
	Tools for Advocates including toolkits for Speakers and video/photo stories	Up-to-date bios/photos (on-going) Toolkit for using Speakers (Jan 2016) Videos and 2 photo stories (Feb 2016)
	Partnerships with GFAN	Explore further & continue strategic links with organizations like RESULTS USA/ACTION, Link Up, UNF and the Alliance on training and funding of speakers Respond to and seek out virtual and media opportunities for Speakers to engage around GF resource mobilization
	Direct engagement with decision-makers on resource mobilization	Conduct 6 Speakers Bureau advocacy tours by date of pledging conference)
GFAN Key Messages	Up-to-date core key messages and distillation of key documents into Key Messages Matrix	On-going and at key moments for Matrix (key research, advocacy publications, GF Board Meetings, etc)
GFAN Website & Social Media	Regular Blog updates	Create at least 2 unique blog posts per month
GFAN Toolkits	Key messages, social media support and other tools shared with GFAN	Key moments include: World Days (TB, Malaria); UNGASS/Special Meetings; GF Replenishment Meetings; AIDS 2016; G7 and others if determined needed
Technical Partner on the New Venture Fund for Global Fund Advocacy Grant (NVF for GFA)	Creation of regional and country specific strategy and activity plans for 2015-2017	By March 2016

	Grantees supported in the writing and submission of annual narrative reports and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Worksheets	May-June 2016
	Quality applications submitted to utilize the full amount remaining to be disbursed	Asia-Pacific February 2016; EU January 2016; Pledging country (TBD); Others as arise
	Frequent reporting to NVF to support their reporting to the Gates Foundation	
Share GF Board level information with GFAN members	Information circulated to GFAN members	On-going through calls, Info Notes and Action Alerts particularly around BMs (April and Nov)

3. SUPERVISORY BOARD AND STAFF

Supervisory Board:

Mr Frans van den Boom, PhD – Chair

Mr Wim de Bruijn, RA – Treasurer

Mrs Michaela Clayton – Member

Mr Ian Grubb – Member

Team:

Mr Peter van Rooijen – Executive Director (1.0 FTE)

Mrs Katy Kydd Wright – Senior Policy Advisor GFAN (0.8 FTE) – Canada

Ms Amy Coulterman – Communications Officer GFAN (0.8 FTE) – Canada

Mr Raoul Fransen-dos Santos – Senior Policy Adviser FSP (0.8 FTE)

Mrs Barbara la Grand – Executive Assistant (0.8 FTE)

4. BUDGET 2016

All amounts in the table below are in Euro.

Organisation	
Personnel costs (incl. fringe benefits etc.)	
Organizational Costs (office etc.)	
Total staff and organization	
Activities	
Workstream FSP	
Workstream GFAN	
Total activities	
Grand Total	

A detailed budget can be found on the ICSS website: www.icssupport.org.