



Notes from GFAN Call (22 May 2019): Global Fund Board Meeting De-brief

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Updates from 3 Civil Society Organizations
 - a. Developing Country NGOs
 - b. Communities
 - c. Developed Country NGOs
3. GFAN Get Back on Track campaign update
4. All other updates

Panelists:

GFAN Chair: Raoul Fransen-dos Santos

Developing Country NGOs Delegation: Andriy Klepikov, Carolyn Gomes

Communities Delegation: Rachel Ong

Developed Country NGOs Delegation: Robin Montgomery

GFAN: Tara Hogeterp

Notes from presentations

Developing Country NGOs:

- Introduction of new board member and alternate board member (Andriy Klepikov and Carolyn Gomes)
- Strategic Objective 3:
 - GF is underperforming on strategic objective 3 which looks at human rights and gender equality. This is an important objective but seems to be reduced/narrowed down to a report for community rights and gender (CRG) department even though it is one of the core business areas that the GF is created and funded for and not just a departmental issue.
 - It was agreed that more in depth reviews of all strategic objective 3 work are needed that look broader than the CRG and are consolidated across the GF to get a bigger picture of what is happening.
 - More funds and resources required through existing structures but also through new allocations and catalytic investments.



- Recommendation from the delegation to the fund to look at specific indicators such as lack of progress in creating new infections, stigma and discrimination of Key populations and other existing human rights related barriers.
- OIG
 - Comprehensive report on activities of GF in central and western Africa is available and sets out failings in GF approach but also sets recommended solutions for better performance.
 - OIG have started to include CS in in-country audits which is great and welcome. If CS would like to be involved, they can contact the delegation for inclusion in the audit.
 - A theme that has come up in the reports is that of salary kickback schemes where staff are asked to give back a portion of their salaries to the organisation. This is not morally or ethically correct and the delegation would like to highlight that there are protective mechanisms within the GF for this and an OIG complaints mechanism.
 - Allocation methodology – still looking at qualitative adjustment phase. Need all suggestions and inputs on how this process could be strengthened.
- Delegation statement has been shared on GFAN Listserv.
- All inputs from CS in the developing world is welcome to the delegation to bring forward to the Board.
- The delegation were able to flag an outreach from harm reduction international at the current BM.
- Developing Countries full board report:
<https://www.developingngo.org/2019/05/20/developing-country-ngo-delegation-at-the-41st-global-fund-board-meeting/>

Communities:

- Strategic Objective 3
 - It was identified how some of the docs that came to the board highlighted problems around community rights and gender but had no proposed solutions or strong resolutions and this has been a systemic problem for the last couple of meetings. The delegation worked to ensure that the message was brought forward to the board and that the board had a good look at this and whether implementation is a country level problem, a grants issue or an issue in the grants making department.
- Allocation methodology
 - The delegation had reservations around the methodology (given the fact that it is an allocated method) and was the only constituency that fought against this when it was first initiated. In sustaining with the principle that it takes away the demand driven aspect of the GF; the delegation has abstained from the allocation methodology decision point.
- Catalytic investments
 - The delegation is uncomfortable with why certain aspects/components, including technical evaluation ref group, CSEM evolution, condom programming, are included in catalytic investments. These should have been taken care of within Operational Expenditure or in country allocations.



- The delegation recommended the strengthening of the committee selection processes where we look at composition and genetic makeup of the GF board committees. A decision on this was pushed back while looking at ethics and governance committee to guide on this matter and how to provide further input.
- Concerns were raised around the report from technical evaluation group that countries should be able to individually define key populations. Key populations is clearly defined within the GF and within its documents the delegation do not support the recommendation from the technical committee.

Developed Country NGOs:

- Strategic Objective 3:
 - The delegation is aligned with the other delegations on the bigger picture view around strategic objective 3. The broad challenges of the GF strategy are all linked to Strat 3.
 - Recognise there are reports over last year and a half that indicate how we can better improve but concur that we should now look at the wider view to assess whether we are meeting the intended impact of this objective.
- Quality of services – consistent theme in OIG reports
 - The delegation urged the GFS to engage more intensely in country level discussions and have closed sessions with FPM and CS to get on the ground info on how community rights and gender equality are being protected, advanced and embedded in GF programmes.
 - A key message from the delegation was to ensure GF messaging doesn't infer that insufficient HIV incidence reduction is happening because there has been 'too much' focus on treatment and not enough on prevention. Prevention and treatment are mutually reinforcing and complementary in a holistic continuum of HIV care. Shouldn't polarise treatment and prevention but should rather ensure they are part of a broader continuum and have more comprehensive programming.
- Allocation methodology
 - The delegation support the burden parameters within the current allocation period but want HIV incidence to be looked at closer for next allocation equation/formula.
 - Have asked the GFS to outline steps needed for establishing reliable incidence metrics and surveillance mechanisms as well as addressing any country-level capacity needs so that we are well equipped for the next allocation methodology.
- Qualitative adjustments will be discussed at the July committee meetings but flagged the important priorities at this BM.
 - 4 key priorities were flagged:
 - continuation of key population incidence qualitative adjustment;
 - introduction of a qualitative adjustment to address coverage gaps to offset consequences of funding cuts and pay allocations;
 - adjustments for absorption capacity should be bi-directional; and
 - fiscal space analysis should be applied beyond transition countries to include other complex environments where we seek to ensure sustainability.



- Catalytic investments
- 4/5 scenarios that were presented and the delegation fought for the \$900 million scenario (beyond the current \$800 million) and also for the inclusion of a 1 million buffer for the steep decline between the different catalytic investment pots. This was approved.
- The delegation called for a focus on key populations and human rights components where catalytic investments can have a big impact and for the review of and reporting on all catalytic components and initiatives so they can come to the board for discussion to enhance Board and GFS oversight of the investments.
- Significant agreement to give more visibility and focus on community systems strengthening, community advocacy and monitoring and community responses.
- Resource mobilisation
- Key message was to have the GFS to develop a comprehensive strategy on DRM focussing on capacity building and funding CS for DRM work. This will be further discussed at the Spring committee meetings.

GFAN Get Back on Track campaign update:

- Replenishment tools and resources for the replenishment campaign available from GFAN platforms – all encouraged to submit anything they would like to add to Tara.
 - <http://www.globalfundadvocatesnetwork.org/gfantastic-replenishment-tools-and-resources/>
- Call to action for the Pledge now available in French.
<http://www.globalfundadvocatesnetwork.org/campaign/appel-a-laction/>
- Campaign – encouraged to spread the word wide and far. Good response rate but slowing down at the moment. Allows us to present what advocates around the world are saying at the conference.
<http://www.globalfundadvocatesnetwork.org/campaign/replenishment-gbot/>

Questions

- A question was raised on whether the board addressed concerns around procurement and co-financing problems that are leading to problems with supply etc.
- The panellists responded that this did not come up as a specific agenda item but the issue was related to co-absorption capacity at the Board meeting. This issue will be discussed at the strategy committee in July for more discussion at the November Board meeting and will be looking at policies that are supposed to address procurement issues especially around the market shaping strategy.
- This issue also came up in the OIG reports for western and central Africa looking at different KPIs around procurement and absorption and was also discussed in the pre-meeting where Vambo platform was discussed and the procurement issues that were encountered.



- A question was asked if while looking at the underperformance of strategic objective 3, did anything come up around women and gender as the focus seems to have largely been around human rights. Also, it was asked what plans are in place to start moving toward tracking more qualitative data around specifically gender issues as progress is not necessarily reflected completely in the numbers – given that the comments from the panellists are focused on not polarising treatment vs prevention yet GF seems to be focussed on PMTCT in their comms because “this is the data that is available”.
- The panellists confirmed that strategic objective 3 looks at both human rights and gender and so gender issues were also discussed at the meeting.
- With regards to the messaging and incorporating qualitative data, the panellists confirmed that there was a discussion speaking to the need for Including a strategy of assessing impact and outcomes and how to track qualitative data in addition to the quantitative because the information is not limited to what can be collected quantitatively such as pregnancy data and this discussion is continuing in the committee meetings.
- A suggestion was made for a GFAN call that will be looking closer at the issues that will be discussed at the July strategy meetings