



April 6th 2020 GFAN Call: COVID19, Global Fund Strategy Development and GFAN Global Strategy Meeting De-brief

Global Fund Strategy Development

Hannah Grant (Lead at Global Fund Secretariat for the Strategy Development Process) joined the call to provide a high-level overview of the process and answer any early questions. Hannah indicated that because of COVID-19, so many changes have already occurred but shared the following timeline that is the overall guide for the process. Ms Grant did indicate that there is some flexibility to tighten timelines and that the objective remains, if possible, to conduct the Partnership Forums in person if international travel situations improve in time. However, virtual options are being explored.

In May we can expect to see two key things:

- A website virtual hub for the information and timelines around the process and over time will include landscaping analysis, videos, potentially host webinars and do syntheses'/reports from the Partnership about priorities that various partners want to see in the Strategy (key documents on the micro-site will be translated in the 4 languages of the Fund)
- The start of a (virtual) open consultation

For GFAN members, allies and partners there will be opportunities to input in the virtual consultation and the Secretariat is committed to providing more, regular, updates via GFAN.

Note: GFAN, the Community Communications Platforms of the Global Fund and the Communities and 2 Civil Society delegations to the Global Fund Board have begun conversations on working together to ensure a high level of collaboration and information sharing to increase impact and reduce duplication of outreach, consultation and other work.

COVID-19 Updates

Global Fund Secretariat

The new Q&A document on the Global Fund COVID funding flexibilities can be found [here](#) Linda Mafu provided an update on the flexibilities which as of April 9th, US\$64

million had been approved and usually in 2-3 business days but no more than 5. Kate Thomson introduced several documents and initiatives that were underway at the Secretariat to ensure community and civil society engagement within the COVID-19 response by the Global Fund being mindful that COVID-19 could impact negatively on some of the hard-won CRG gains. To be shared when ready on the [GF COVID-19 micro-site](#) these include:

- 1) Internal guidance for country teams on CRG considerations broadly within COVID-19
- 2) Human Rights in the time of COVID – a broader, public document that pulls together key messages and guidance from various spaces about how human rights are applied in the context of COVID and the continued need for strengthened community responses and engagement
- 3) A GF Secretariat-wide engagement plan for country level engagement of communities and civil society within the work of the GF on COVID-19 on the ground – advocacy, strategy development, CCM hubs, private sector engagement, IT and other parts of CRG

GFAN COVID Working Group Update

The GFAN COVID Working Group is open to building membership to whomever is interested. A first call to action has been shared over GFAN and is [on our website here](#) and we encourage and ask GFAN members to sign on and share widely (now available also in French). We expect further calls to action and other initiatives of the Working Group over the days and weeks ahead – if interested, please email Tara at th@icssupport.org to join the Working Group.

GFAN is also hosting a [new COVID-19 micro-site](#) as a place to start to get resources related to the Global Fund response and engagement as well as other key allies and partners of GFAN and the fight against HIV, TB and Malaria.

GFAN Global Strategy Meeting De-brief

The GFAN Global Strategy meeting took place in Amsterdam from March 3rd – 5th. The report can be found [here](#) and covers the many themes of our conversations including key reflections from the Global Fund Secretariat and GFAN as well as Indian and French partners on the 6th Replenishment.

Katy and Tara really welcome any members who have a look at the report and have questions or comments to be in touch – the report and the discussions at the meeting are the fuel for our work over the coming year and if you have key reflections, we want to hear them so please do be in touch.

COVID-19 Discussion

For a second hour, GFAN hosted a call for members to share some of their thoughts and ideas and updates about key pieces of work.

Some member updates included:

David McNair from ONE shared on their key platform and asks which can be found [here](#) and from the starting point that COVID-19 illustrates the need for investment in global health, their platform discusses the need to ensure sufficient investments in R&D for a vaccine and other tools, suspension of debt repayments, future pandemic preparedness.

Sophie from Women 4 Global Fund shared their advocacy brief that can be found [here](#)

In this fluid and informal discussion a few key points were raised by members, including:

- As this situation continues to evolve and as we convert our main activities as advocates to respond to and leverage the situation, our core work is to keep political attention and resources mobilized for the 3 diseases but that we have unique expertise to bring to bear from the ATM sectors for the COVID response that we can do without losing focus on ATM
- Important to track the money that is being spent via the GF flexibilities
- Commodity prices are going to be really critical as new tools, diagnostics and eventually a vaccine come online and in particular, where lab and personnel capacity are utilized there can be unintended consequences for our programming (such as the removal of GeneXpert machines from the point of care currently used mainly for TB testing which can test for COVID but because of that diseases controls, only in a lab setting meaning a loss of TB diagnostics at the community level in many cases)
- Human Rights and community rights and gender issues are being closely monitored by many (in particular the Developing Country NGO delegation to the GF Board which invites you to share any country-level information or concerns that you have in this area)
- The protection of community health workers who are often volunteers, often women is critical as they will be leveraged in the fight against COVID-19
- The need to think outside the box of our usual responses