**GFAN call, 3 February 2021**

**Summary notes from the call**

**Main topics**: (1) Observations from the EECA-LAC Partnership Forum, which took place 9-11 February; (2) Suggestions and discussions for how CS and communities participants might best engage and influence the upcoming Africa-MENA I and Asia-MENA II Partnership Forums, which will be held 17-19 February and 3-5 March, respectively.

***1) Observations from call participants who attended the EECA-LAC Partnership Forum***

**Participation / process**

* Discussion at the Partnership Forum was mainly in breakout groups that were focused on a range of topics such as integration, delivering against the three diseases, how the Global Fund might adapt or engage in the changing global environment (e.g., COVID-19 and other crises), etc.
	+ Participants in future Forums were encouraged to take time in advance to **know all the topics that will be discussed**. (Participants will be pre-assigned by the Global Fund Secretariat to breakout groups. Each participant will have access to a ‘My Event’ page on the Partnership Forums Web portal that includes some basic information about the breakout groups they are assigned to as well as about the topics for all the breakout groups.)
* Many breakout group sessions were **dominated by civil society people**. The lack of engagement by other sectors (e.g., government) often made it difficult to differentiate between this meeting and the pre-Partnership Forum meetings hosted by the Secretariat for civil society only.
* Some of the breakout groups had **very few people** (e.g., just two or three participants).
* Discussions in some breakout groups (e.g., market shaping) were **hindered by a lack of experts** who could present and describe some of the key technical issues.
* The work and influence of follow-up Partnership Forum participants would be enhanced by having **access beforehand to some of the results and discussions of previous regional Forums**. This would help CS and communities to harmonize message across regions to the fullest extent possible, which could magnify influence and impact.

**Content:**

* At the beginning of the final day, the facilitators presented a **‘final summary’** that attempted to highlight the top themes and issues discussed.
	+ This slide was seen by many participants to be relatively weak, ‘uninspiring’, and ‘diplomatic’, with concerns raised about it ***not giving enough prominence to priority issues*** such as human rights, transition, and practicalities/specifics in areas such as how the Global Fund can preserve its mandate while also adapting to a changing environment and preparing for imminent pandemics, etc.
	+ On the positive slide, some participants were pleased with what they saw as ***strong emphasis on investing in communities*** and civil society participation.
	+ Some participants raised concerns that many of the detailed and in-depth recommendations discussed in breakout groups were not reflected in the ‘final summary’ document. ***General consensus among participants is that it is important that these participant-determined recommendations are not lost***.
* Results from an interactive, real-time survey on the first day indicated that **Strategic Objective 3 was faring relatively poorly** in terms of progress toward achieving it.
* Limited discussion overall about **resource mobilization for the Global Fund**. The focus in this area was mostly on domestic resource mobilization (DRM).

**2) Follow-up and next steps**

The GFAN Secretariat will help to support continuity and alignment across civil society and communities in the following ways:

* Requesting, **consolidating and disseminating some of the key points and issues that EECA-LAC participants** made or were trying to make at their Partnership Forum, and then making this information available to those participating in the Africa-MENA I one. Those observations and additional ones from Africa participants after their Forum concludes will then be sent along to Asia-MENA II Forum participants in advance of their meeting.
* Contact and engage directly with the Secretariat on some of the **process-related concerns**, with the goal toward helping resolve or improve them in future Forums.
* Gather, consolidate and prioritize the **operational recommendations and issues** that participants are raising across all Partnership Forums and then including in feedback to the Secretariat and/or in a GFAN report on the Forums after they end. These observations will aim to ensure that important issues and priorities are not lost or ignored.

**Contributing to a Global Fund Observer article**: The article, planned to appear in its March 10 issue, will seek to highlight and share the perspectives from the GFAN network on the Partnership Forums. People interested in contributing to this article are encouraged to reach out to Tara at the GFAN Secretariat (Tara@globalfundvocatesnetwork.org). The ***deadline for input is Wednesday, 24 February***.

**Upcoming GFAN call**: **Follow-up to Africa-MENA I Partnership Forum -- and support/preparation for Africa-MENA II Forum**

* ***Wednesday, 24 February***: 7am ET, 1pm Geneva, 2pm Johannesburg, 3pm Nairobi, 7pm Bangkok
* ***Call-in details***:
	+ Join Zoom Meeting [https://zoom.us/j/97996098388](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Fj%2F97996098388&data=04%7C01%7C%7C1119f37d0ad34bbdfa2a08d8d3812f70%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637491899084463936%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Xg2%2FDPu%2B2lLIuusuJR%2FZGmFvSDGDgvDcnqJOW1tr1KE%3D&reserved=0)
	+ Meeting ID: 979 9609 8388