

GFAN call, 3 February 2021 Summary notes from the call

Main topics: (1) Second update from civil society and communities pre-meetings to the Global Fund Partnership Forums, with focus on Asia Pacific meeting on 28-29 January; (2) Observations from opening session of the main Partnership Forums; (3) Discussion and consideration of potential next steps for GFAN to support coordination and collaboration efforts to influence future discussions on the new Global Fund Strategy.

Resources referenced during call:

- **Joint civil society statement from the three pre-meetings**
www.developingngo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Civil-society-statement_1-February-2021.pdf
- GFAN's Strategy development section of its website, which includes an **updated compilation of high-level communities and civil society priorities**:
www.globalfundadvocatesnetwork.org/global-fund-strategy-development
- Asia-Pacific collective statement on new Strategy, still in development: '**The Global Fund That We Still Want**'
<https://gfanasiapacific.org/2021/01/consultation-on-the-global-fund-that-we-still-want/>
- **Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) crib sheet**: Participating in Global Fund Partnership Forums. Available on GFAN website at
<http://www.globalfundadvocatesnetwork.org/global-fund-strategy-development/>

1) Observations from call participants who attended the Asia-Pacific / MENA pre-meeting

Key themes and calls that emerged:

- We want a Global Fund that is **truly global**
- GF should "**put its money where its mouth is**" regarding community, rights and gender (CRG) activities, including by having **dual-track financing** carried out properly in countries and more flexibility in implementing **multi-country grants**
- Need to ensure civil society and communities are **meaningfully engaged** across the board, including on CCMs – where they are often marginalized and have limited influence in decision-making
- Important to reframe the GF's engagement and role in **global health security**, including by insisting on key principles such as justice, rights and equity. Calls to use different language – e.g., 'global health solidarity' – had strong support. Data security is a paramount concern in this area
- GF should focus on its **original mandate** (HIV, TB and malaria) before moving to broaden work
- Concern about what GF is and is not doing around **transition** countries, especially as countries move up and down the ladder. More clarity and flexibility are needed
- Need for more investment in **community systems strengthening (CSS)**, including for mobilization and advocacy activities

Other important things from Asia Pacific advocates' perspectives:

- Include **mental health** in the package of GF services, including by supporting the gathering of better data and addressing gaps

- GF should play a more direct role regarding the sustainability, accessibility and affordability of **lifesaving medicines**, including by removing intellectual property (IP) and related barriers. Call for full TRIPs flexibilities¹ to be applied.

Issues of concern:

- Concerns about whether pre-meeting was example of engagement that was **not meaningful**, due to huge difference between number of participants (from more than 50 to more than 30) from day 1 to day 2. Also, it was not possible to know how many were from the Secretariat.
- Possible recommendation for Secretariat: In the future, **use existing structures to reach out** to people in regions about participation in Partnership Forums. GFAN AP and allied groups in the region have extensive consultation experience and their expertise should be tapped into.

2) Asia-Pacific statement aimed at influencing the new Strategy ('The Global Fund That We Still Want')

- **Comments** are still being invited and collected to inform this regional statement that GFAN AP is involved in organizing, with a **deadline of 17 February**. (<https://gfanasiapacific.org/2021/01/consultation-on-the-global-fund-that-we-still-want/>)
- **National consultations** are still planned for nine countries, with one in India currently underway. The input will feed into the statement.
- The **finalized statement** and an advocacy video will be released on **25 February**, shortly before the Asia-Pacific Partnership Forum meetings that run from 3-5 March.

3) Observations about the Partnership Forum global opening on 2 February

- Praise for **comments by a young KP advocate from Kenya**, Joyce Ouma, who raised several priority issues for civil society and communities.
- In general, there was a **bigger emphasis on civil society** than on other sectors across the session
- Concern about fact that it was **not possible to know who was in the room**. Not everyone could be seen in the chat either.

4) What to take forward and keep in mind throughout the rest of the Strategy development process

Ideas, comments, and suggestions related to civil society and communities' further engagement in the Partnership Forums and beyond, regarding the new Strategy:

- Organize ourselves and **agree on key messages** moving forward.
- In Partnership Forums and beyond as we seek to influence the new Strategy, our focus should **not be about what** – as we mostly agree on these things – **but how**. This might include what is being called 'operational' issues that are actually also critical for Strategy considerations
- **Not everything needs changing** from the current Strategy. Some modifications and adjustments should be prioritized, however, around funding for communities and key populations, human rights and gender, and global health security and mission creep.
- Being **specific about exactly what we want** is important now. For example, saying that we need to do better in certain specific areas, with specific KPIs to guide and monitor.

¹ <https://bit.ly/2MOXLle>

- **Regional disparities in emphasis** – e.g., top priority issues for AP advocates that are less of a priority for advocates elsewhere – need to be reflected in Strategy development conversations globally.
- The Secretariat should have a formal process for **registering recommendations and demands that are more operational**. Many advocacy and policy documents prepared by communities and civil societies throughout the Strategy development process include discussions of operational bottlenecks, for example. Addressing them is critical for the GF to operate better in countries. They should be formally responded to institutionally, including in KPIs where relevant.

Suggestions for possible activities by GFAN and others:

- Participants will be pre-assigned to break-out groups, with notification being sent out about a week before each Partnership Forum. **Mapping** (e.g., via a Google spreadsheet) could be a way to see and show **who is going to which groups and when**. Participants in different groups can then be asked to provide briefings afterward to this group or other larger groups. This information could also help make things more constructive for those participating in the other regional Forum meetings that are held later.
- Make **'crib sheets'** available to **support colleagues across all break-out groups** to be able to engage and lead discussions. These could be brief overviews and explanations of key topics to be discussed beyond the three bucket areas in the agenda, including comorbidities and the Sustainability, Transition and Co-financing Policy.
- An **'alert' system** of some kind might be useful **between the Partnership Forum meetings**. GFAN could organize calls, but will also consider other ways to communicate and engage.
- Knowing who is invited and who is participating remains a big gap. Additional and clear guidance would still be useful in terms of what participation looks like (e.g., understanding how to navigate breakout rooms, who is in what room, etc.). GFAN will explore ways to take this up with the Secretariat.

Other activities and opportunities for support:

- **Implementers Group (IMG)** plans to do a **high-level mapping** of who from different Board constituencies are attending the Partnership Forums (and which one of the three), which break-out groups they are assigned to, whether they have a speaking or observer role, etc.
- Also, a Dropbox folder has been created for IMG constituencies to **collect and make available statements** that have been released, etc. To submit anything or to get more information, *contact Robin Montgomery, chair of the Implementer Group* (rmontgomery@icad-cisd.com)
- All civil society and community advocates, whether or not they are participating in the Partnership Forums, are encouraged to **reach out directly to respective Board Members** in their regions to lobby around key messages.