

# Developing a new Global Fund Strategy: Communities & Civil Society Priorities

## Why the post-2022 Strategy is so important:

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) is developing a new Strategy that will guide all aspects of the financing mechanism's work for several years beginning in 2023. Because the Global Fund is such a significant and influential player, the new Strategy is closely aligned to the future of HIV, TB, and malaria responses in much of the world, including millions of people living with or otherwise affected by three diseases.

The Strategy's impact will be profound because it will set a road map for how the Global Fund will contribute to global and national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include ambitious targets for the year 2030 for the three diseases and health more broadly, as well as in areas such as human rights, gender equality and poverty reduction.

## Communities & Civil Society Key Priorities for the Global Fund's Post 2022 Strategy:

**Keeping the focus on the core mission:** There is significant concern that the continued push for an expanded mandate on pandemic preparedness and global health security will negatively impact the core mandate of work to address HIV, TB and malaria. Two important priorities should be stressed:

- **The Global Fund should maintain the mandate and primary focus on the three diseases** while also supporting investments in health systems strengthening based on needs in different contexts. The 'unfinished business' around the three target diseases should take precedence. This means that all action taken to respond to other health priorities, including new and emerging disease outbreaks such as COVID-19 and other crises, should be done through the lens of HIV, TB, and malaria, with the first responsibility being to ensure continuity and scale-up of programming and services for those core priorities. Similarly, the Global Fund should avoid diverting attention and resources away from those living with or highly vulnerable to HIV, TB, and malaria even as it responds to other potential issues in the broader health spectrum.

- **Global health solidarity:** The global narrative on 'security' should be reshaped into one founded on solidarity, inclusivity and equity. Instead of pitting countries against one another, we must build a common responsibility and accountability.

**Communities at the centre: Ensure that communities and civil society are fully and meaningfully engaged and integrated as equal partners** across the entire Global Fund scope of work, including all structures, systems and processes related to programming. Their voices, leadership and influence must be strengthened, sustained, and required in decision-making around country priorities and the development of funding requests, implementation of grant programmes, and monitoring and evaluation of all activities. Among the steps the Global Fund should take to make good on such promises are more proactive and radical efforts to reform country coordinating mechanisms (CCMs), the use of dual-track financing for all grants, and an institutional shift to recognizing and acknowledging the expertise of communities and key populations.



### Increased financing for community responses:

An essential component of community systems strengthening (CSS), significantly increased and flexible financing for communities and civil society groups is necessary to boost and sustain their capacities to reach their full potential as central partners in the Global Fund's success.

One or more dedicated funding streams for communities and key populations are needed to do this efficiently and effectively. Ambitious targets should be established for the share of overall financing allocated directly to the sector, with milestones set to track progress and identify bottlenecks. **Pandemic preparedness and response should not be placed at a higher strategic level than communities in any decisions or discussions related to financing.**

**Human rights, gender and key populations:** The next Strategy must be grounded in core principles of human rights, equity, inclusivity, solidarity, gender equality, accountability and a holistic, people-centered approach. This requires the Global Fund to take stronger and more targeted action against the structural barriers that continue to prevent key populations and other vulnerable groups from receiving the services and support they need in every context. Two important priorities should be stressed:

- **The Global Fund should use its political leverage and advocacy** at national, global, and regional levels to push for policy and legal reforms around criminalization, stigma, and discrimination.
- **The Global Fund should take a long-term approach to community, rights and gender (CRG) goals and objectives.** Shifting mindsets and removing structural barriers takes time and cannot be achieved through short-term, catalytic investments. The Global Fund should include funding streams that support longer-term community systems strengthening, human rights programming, community-led advocacy and accountability activities that extend beyond one funding cycle. Explicit aims on strengthening community systems, human rights and gender equality as key enablers for ending the epidemics should be included.

### More detailed outline of Communities and Civil Society key asks for the Global Fund Strategy:

GFAN has dedicated [a special section of its website to the new Strategy](#) and it has been updated regularly with new information and resources. The website also includes a downloadable document with consolidated top-level priorities from across the sector. This '[living document](#)' offers an easy-to-read summary and synthesis of inputs from dozens of sources, and is translated into French, Spanish and Russian.

### Additional information:

- [Joint Communities and Civil Society Position Paper on the Strategic Framework for the next Global Fund Strategy Delegations letter:](#) A more detailed letter including 7 actionable steps to increase investments in community led responses.
- [How communities and civil society have been involved in the Strategy Development process](#)

**"It is important that communities for key populations are fully engaged in the Global Fund process. This engagement and funding has a transformative effect on countries to provide support systems to communities, and start to address human rights, LGBTQ rights, and equality."**

~Gautam Yadav, GFAN  
Speaker from India

