**Civil Society Engagement in the Global Financing Facility**

A Briefing Document for Country CSO Focal Points

**Overview**

The GFF, launched in July 2015 is a new financing mechanism, led by countries, that brings together multiple sources of financing in a synergistic way to support national priorities for RMNCAH. A total of 62 lower-middle income countries are eligible to receive grant resources from the GFF Trust Fund and currently twenty six countries are, or will soon be, receiving support. In each GFF country, the GFF brings together Trust Fund resources with World Bank loan money (IDA or IBRD), domestic resources, bilateral funds from donor countries, and/or other resources, such as those from private sector, around a common framework – the Investment Case – for advancing women’s, children’s, and adolescents’ health.

The GFF aims to:

* Strengthen dialogue among key stakeholders under the leadership of country governments, and support the identification of a clear set of priority results that all partners commit their resources to achieving;
* Get more results from existing resources and increase the total volume of financing

Through this approach, GFF is changing the dynamics of national RMNCAH multi-stakeholder platforms, charged with overseeing the GFF process in GFF countries. Meaningful engagement of civil society in RMNCAH country platforms is critical for achieving the [Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health](http://www.who.int/life-course/partners/global-strategy/en/) and the GFF vision of ending preventable maternal, newborn, child and adolescent deaths and addressing equity gaps.

The GFF does not fund civil society directly, but provides funds to governments and leverages other resources in support of a common plan; governments decide how and where to allocate those resources. Civil society is encouraged to mobilize resources for their activities and work with government to support the development, implementation, and accountability of the GFF.

**Guidance Note: Inclusive Multi-stakeholder Country Platforms in Support of Every Woman Every Child**

* Available in [English](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/documents/GFF%20Country%20Platform%20guidance%20note.pdf) and [French](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/fr/note-d%E2%80%99orientation-plateformes-nationales-inclusives-%C3%A0-multiples-parties-prenantes-en-soutien-%C3%A0)
* This document serves as a resource on how to develop multi-stakeholder country platforms that are inclusive, transparent and accountable. It was developed by PMNCH, the GFF Secretariat, the H6, with input from the CS Coordinating Group.

**GFF Civil Society Engagement Strategy**

* Available in [English](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/images/GFF_CS_Engagement_Strategy_EN.pdf) and [French](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/images/GFF_CS_Engagement_Strategy_FR.pdf)
* A Civil Society Engagement Strategy (CSES) was developed by civil society through a consultative process, and approved by the GFF Investors Group in April 2017. The goal of the CSES is that: Civil society is meaningfully engaged in the GFF, from sub-national to national to global levels, such that the full breadth of their skills and expertise can contribute to determining and achieving mutual goals and targets, including those laid out by the GFF and GFF countries, the [Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health](http://www.who.int/life-course/partners/global-strategy/en/), and the Sustainable Development Goals. The strategy outlines objectives for CS engagement in the GFF, and key roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, including civil society.

**Implementation plan for the Civil Society Engagement Strategy of the Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Woman, Every Child**

* Available in [English](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/documents/GFF-IG6-10.pdf)
* The Implementation Plan provides an operational framework, with actions, that will contribute to the goal and objectives of the CSES. The Implementation Plan was endorsed by the GFF Investors Group in November 2017. For each objective, the Plan outlines key expected outcomes and outputs, as well as recommended activities for countries to consider in implementing the strategy.

**Adolescent and youth addendum to the Civil Society Engagement Strategy**

* Available in [English](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/images/Youth-Addendum-CS-Engagment-Strategy.pdf)
* This addendum was presented to the Investors Group in April 2018. The addendum outlines a deliberate approach to ensuring youth representation in the processes led by the GFF Civil Society Coordinating Group (CSCG) to ensure their meaningful and active participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their country investment case.

**Civil Society Coordinating Group (CSCG)**

* Terms of Reference, available in [English](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P_8YpIDoJoJ4I9HlfyCc0ScDKzIz7rkc/view?usp=sharing) and French
* The overarching purpose of the CS Coordinating Groupis to improve the health outcomes of women, children, and adolescents by ensuring CS’s meaningful engagement in GFF processes both at national and global levels. Civil society is meaningfully engaged in the GFF when the full breadth of their skills and expertise can contribute to determining and achieving mutual goals and targets, including those laid out by the GFF and GFF countries, the [Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health](http://www.who.int/life-course/partners/global-strategy/en/), and the Sustainable Development Goals. The specific objectives of the group are:
1. Ensure that GFF policies and practices encourage CS engagement at the country level;
2. Equip CS working on the GFF at the country level with the information, resources and skills they require to meaningfully participate in decision-making;
3. Document the state of CS engagement in the GFF (and its results) at the country level, and use this documentation to inform global advocacy;
4. Ensure that CS speaks with a unified voice, representing stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and interests.
* To join the CSCG Google Group please email: susannah.hurd@ghvisions.com, tourek@who.int

**GFF Secretariat Country Focal Points, Liaison Officers**

* GFF Secretariat Country Focal Points List, available in [English](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TpOcsxVKCjpTS2xfk4-twcxqFL1IimE-/view?usp=sharing)
	+ Each GFF Secretariat country focal point oversees 3 to 4 countries; provides support to the government, other GFF partners and donors, coordinates “missions” to the country to support the development of the Investment Case and Health Financing Strategy etc.
* GFF Liaison Officers
	+ Will be newly appointed positions in each GFF country beginning in the summer of 2018
	+ Their role is to support the multi-stakeholder country platform and the stakeholders engaged in it; to be familiar with all of the key resources (e.g. CS Engagement Strategy, Guidance Note); to ensure active involvement of the country platform in implementation and monitoring of the Investment Case, not just development of the IC

**Other Resources**

* **Civil Society Guide to the GFF**
	+ Available in [English](https://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CS-GFF-Guide-2.pdf), [French](https://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CSO-Guide-to-GFF_French.pdf), [Portuguese](https://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CSO-Guide-to-GFF_Portuguese.pdf)
	+ This guide provides a comprehensive overview of the GFF, its aims and key entry points for CS engagement.
	+ The guide is being updated by the end of 2018. In the meantime, an [addendum](https://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CSO-GFF-Addendum.pdf) has been developed to provide updated information about the GFF and CS engagement.
* **Webinars**
	+ Webinars are organized by the Steering Committee, CSCG, and members to provide an opportunity for information-sharing, cross-learning, and feedback. Webinars are always held in English and French before and after each Investors Group meeting (April and November), with additional webinars scheduled on particular topics, as needed.
* **GFF Country CSO Mapping**
	+ The GFF CS Steering Committee maintains a mapping overview of CSO engagement in the GFF at country level, including country CSO focal points; key CSOs engaged in GFF planning, implementation, and monitoring; GFF progress to-date; and key CSOs needs and contributions to the GFF.
	+ This mapping helps the IG reps and the Steering Committee to share civil society’s needs and contributions, and advocate for priorities, with the GFF Secretariat, donors, and other GFF partners.
* **Oslo CS Workshop Planning**
	+ Every fall, alongside the GFF Investors Group meeting, a CS workshop is held to bring together CS representatives from each GFF country, and from global and regional levels, to share experiences and lessons, and to develop actionable plans for the coming year.
	+ This is also an opportunity to connect with representatives from the GFF Secretariat and Investors Group; and to align around common priorities for the CS representatives to the IG to take to the IG meeting.
	+ This year, the meeting will be held in Oslo on November 3rd and 4th.