**GFF CS Coordinating Group (CSCG): In-Person Strategy Meeting**  
Washington, DC 20036

April 20, 2018

**Summary Report**

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| Next Steps:   * Finalize terms and structures for the **Small Grants Mechanism**; announcement made on May 8th webinar and distributed through the CSCG Google Group * **CSCG Working Groups**: Accountability, Country Engagement/Capacity Building, Resource Mobilization – finalize TORs, workplans, and membership for these WGs * Identify “**regional mentors**” and/or focal points from CSCG and Steering Committee, assigned to countries, to provide support and facilitate engagement with the global group * Add to / Update **CSCG TOR**: CSO Country Focal Points expectations, selection process and timeline for CS Steering Committee and CS IG reps * Request to GFF Secretariat to support additional **translation of CS documents to French** * GFF **Country Liaison Officers** – ensure that their JD/TOR includes CS engagement; encourage public, self-reporting on country platform functioning * Share **Steering Group** meeting notes with broader CS Coordinating Group, to increase transparency and info-sharing * **November CSO Workshop** – develop concept note and budget now |

1. **Aligning TA and Support to GFF Country CSOs**

***Small Grants Mechanism***

* An announcement about the mechanism, timeline, and process announced on the May 8th Post-IG Webinar and distributed at the same time via the CS Coordinating Group Google Group
* Feedback from the group centered upon:
  + A sense of urgency to get the funds out as quickly as possible to country CSOs, many of whom have prepared Action Plans and have been operating with no additional resources for their work on GFF to-date
  + Not duplicating or creating new structures in countries; working closely with existing CSO efforts related to Gavi, FP2020, UHC2030, Global Fund, SUN, where possible
  + Leveraging other constituencies – health professional associations, academic, adolescents and youth, parliamentarians
  + We have donor funding secured for 1-year, but we shouldn’t wait for results to start planning for the next phase
  + Emphasis on a learning agenda, facilitating cross-learning among countries

***Support, Communication, and Technical Assistance for Both Existing and New GFF Country CSOs***

* Facilitating cross-learning among CSOs:
  + Connect CSOs in those countries who have successfully organized themselves and engaged with government in the GFF process, to those who are newer, as much as possible (e.g. Kenya working with Tanzania)
  + Supporting CSOs beyond the “inception” phase of the GFF is just as important (e.g. CSO roles in advocacy, accountability, resource mobilization)
  + Categorize GFF countries into regions; have mentors among ourselves assigned to each region; mentors provide support and also facilitate engagement with the global group
* Country CSO strategies, scorecards, TORs:
  + Country CSOs need to develop a strategy or agreement between civil society and the government, and also one among civil society – to define how we work together towards GFF goals / national goals (e.g. Senegal)
  + Global documents are just a starting point – e.g. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda have domesticated the CS Engagement Strategy and are developing their own scorecards
* Francophone country needs:
  + Francophone country CSOs continue to feel the challenges of limited communication and documents in French; there is also a unique context in francophone countries
  + Facilitate more discussion and cross-learning among francophone countries; and the development of documents and resources by francophone countries, so that they reflect the context, and francophone CSOs are engaged
* Private sector engagement:
  + Private sector is facing many of the same challenges as CSOs in engaging with the GFF; need to leverage this as an opportunity for sharing CSO experience, and working together (e.g. in Kenya, PS and CS are now meeting regularly, and PS is financially supporting these meetings)
* Funding, resources for CSOs:
  + There is still no funding for CSOs – we need to keep pushing for this
* CSO Country Focal Points:
  + We need to ensure that these representatives are identified through a transparent, constituency-led process
  + Clarify their roles and responsibilities: add CSO Country Focal Points to CSCG TOR

***Accountability***

* Funding for accountability
  + Need to secure independent funding for CSOs to play this critical, independent role
  + At country level, CSOs need to raise our own funds from donors to support our activities
* Capacity, alignment
  + Need to align with other frameworks - GFF results framework, UHC, EWEC etc.
  + CSOs need support in the development of scorecards
* New GFF Country Liaison Officers – to be hired in each GFF country to support the country platform
  + We should ask GFF / new country liaison officers to self-report on their progress with stakeholder engagement and the multi-stakeholder country platforms; this is just self-reporting, which is not always accurate, but it is a starting point
    - CS can then conduct its own independent analysis
  + Ensure that the Liaison Officers are equipped with the *Civil Society Engagement Strategy* and *Guidance Note on Inclusive Multi-Stakeholder Platforms.* Civil Society needs to leverage and use these documents to hold country governments accountable for meaningful engagement of civil society (and other stakeholders, e.g. private sector)

1. **GFF Replenishment**

***Global Replenishment and CSO Role***

* Informal groups of INGOs working together in key donor markets (UK, Germany, Norway, Japan, EC etc.)
* Norway will host the replenishment in November 2018 in Oslo (announced on Monday 4/23)

***Challenges***

* Short timeline, limited understanding of GFF
  + Global Fund and Gavi replenishments are known about way in advance
  + Knowledge among CSOs was quite low; it has taken a while to get everyone up to speed about GFF’s value add and what it needs to be successful
  + We are asking for a lot, and in some donor markets, we are still explaining what the GFF is and getting interest in supporting it, before we can begin talking about amounts
    - Donors are pushing back that they are already putting money into IDA, so why do they also need to put money into GFF
    - Concerns about already allocating funds for Gavi and Global Fund replenishments in 2019 and 2020

***Opportunities***

* This is an opportunity to look at what has worked, what we have learned from the initial GFF countries, and what changes we want to see moving forward
* This is an opportunity to say that we, as CSOs, support the GFF model and ask for donors to commit funds, and also ask for what we want – i.e. funding and engagement for CSOs, CSO role in accountability
* CSO country voices are needed to share what is working, how the GFF is bringing together CSO partners among themselves and with others – e.g. government and private sector; and also to highlight the areas for learning and improvement

1. **CS Coordination Group Governance and Administration – Wish List**

* ***Enhance communications from the Steering Committee to the wider CS Coordinating Group***
  + Send steering committee meeting agendas ahead of meetings and/or notes after meetings
  + Steering committee invite other members to join calls depending on agenda items, e.g. country support, analysis, accountability, replenishment, etc.
  + Strengthen working groups as a space for wider coordinating group engagement
  + Within the CS Coordinating group, be truly bilingual
    - Have one Anglophone and one Francophone group facilitator
    - All communications are translated (we are making progress here)
  + Open up or rotate membership of the steering committee (see [Term of Reference](http://www.who.int/pmnch/gff_cso_tor.pdf) for the existing terms, process for rotation needs to be defined)
* ***Improve communications within the Steering Committee*** 
  + Improve connectivity, for example have a conference platform where people can be dialed in (or have local numbers throughout Africa)
* ***CSO IG Representatives***
  + Enhance diversity of the CSO IG Representatives when the current terms are up. For example, one Anglophone one Francophone representative.
  + Improve accountability and clarity around their roles. Share their JD/TOR widely.
* ***November GFF CSO Workshop:*** Start planning for the November meeting in July. Have the majority of resources secured (or committed) by August.
* ***CS Coordinating Group membership, member activities etc:***
  + Properly map CSO Coordinating Group membership (add countries and/or roles to google group membership profiles)
  + Map GFF activities of CSO members in country
  + Develop a clearinghouse of country resources and tools?
* ***Learning***
  + Monitor the GAVI CSO constituency review currently underway to identify potential learnings for CSOs working on GFF
  + Document (?) and enhance coordination with other global initiatives at the global and country level