GFF Civil Society Workshop

Maputo, Mozambique

6-7 November 2017

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Introduction**

Civil society (CS) has important knowledge, expertise and access to a range of communities, which can and should be leveraged to make the Global Financing Facility (GFF) processes and outcomes in countries stronger. Recognizing this, and as a result of concerted and sustained CS advocacy since the GFF’s inception, the GFF Investor’s Group has approved a Civil Society Engagement Strategy and Guidance Note on Inclusive Multi-stakeholder Country Platforms. These two documents provide guidance for the GFF and its government partners on how to be more transparent, inclusive and accountable, thereby maximizing the roles of various constituencies. Importantly, these documents set expectations on governments to engage civil society organizations in a meaningful way throughout the GFF process. But these documents will only make a difference if there is sustained momentum to ensure their implementation.

The [GFF Civil Society Coordinating Group](http://www.who.int/pmnch/gff_cso_tor.pdf) hosted by PMNCH will convene a workshop in Maputo, Mozambique in early November 2017 bringing together civil society organizations working on the GFF at global and country levels. This CS workshop will provide a forum for learning and exchange among CS from GFF focus countries. The objectives of the workshop are to: identify actionable lessons on how to maximize civil society contribution to the achievement of GFF and investment case goals at the country level; and develop specific national plans to support implementation of the GFF’s promising new strategy and guidance, strategic planning to achieve meaningful CS engagement in country platforms and leveraging the value of CS contributions to implementation, advocacy and resource mobilization and accountability for the GFF.

Specifically, participants at the CS workshop will:

* 1. **Learn and share specific, actionable lessons about the implementation of GFF at the country level** as advanced by civil society and supporting GFF planning, implementation and accountability;
	2. **Develop** **national-level objectives** **and workplans** to support implementation of the CS Engagement Strategy and the Guidance Document on Multi-stakeholder Country Platforms at country level;
	3. **Develop and agree upon global and regional-level advocacy objectives and key activities for 2018** to support implementation of the CS Engagement Strategy, and the Guidance Document on Multi-stakeholder Country Platforms as well as the replenishment efforts of the GFF; and
	4. **Inform CS IG representative positions** ahead of the Investors’ Group Meeting.

This regional consultation will be preceded by national CS coalition meetings where CS will analyze investment cases or gather information on the GFF process in their country and propose a draft workplan for their engagement.

**Background**

The GFF has the potential to bring much-needed resources and efficiency in the use of resources to Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in low and middle-income countries. CS in GFF-focus countries plays an important role in ensuring that the GFF’s resources are directed where they are needed most and in holding actors accountable for fulfilling commitments towards investment cases.

In most GFF countries, varying levels of [transparency, inclusiveness and accountability in GFF processes](http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/events/2017/cso_addendum.pdf?ua=1) has limited the ability of civil society to fully play this role. To address this, a global level [Civil Society Coordinating Group](http://www.who.int/pmnch/gff_cso_tor.pdf)[[1]](#footnote-1) has compiled experiences of civil society around engagement with the GFF, fostered information exchange among civil society and between civil society and other key stakeholders within the GFF and developed a civil society engagement strategy.

Annual meetings of civil society organizations engaged in GFF processes, organized under the guidance of the CS coordinating group, have provided the information required to develop the engagement strategy. In 2017, the civil society coordinating group hopes to bring together civil society organizations to advance the implementation of the engagement strategy.

This is a pivotal moment to solidify civil society’s contribution to the achievement of the investment case goals, and the GFF overall. Since its inception in 2014, the GFF has expanded beyond the four first wave countries to a total of 16 countries. Drawing on lessons from the first wave countries, the GFF strengthened their expectations regarding participation, transparency, and accountability with civil society to date. The GFF is preparing for a [$2 billion replenishment](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/documents/GFF-IG5-6%20Resource%20Mobilization_EN-ppt.pdf) which expand the GFF to another 29 countries, provide additional financing to current focus countries, and invest in global public goods from 2017-2023. Each new wave of countries and funding brings an opportunity for the GFF to continue learning on lessons from the past, and making course corrections. CS capacity and advocacy is instrumental to this process.

**Timing**

This GFF civil society meeting is being planned in Maputo, Mozambique on November 6-7, 2017, just before the GFF Investors’ Group meeting and site visits on November 7-9. This is a unique opportunity for CS to learn from one-another and collaboratively develop advocacy strategies to ensure that global- and country-level GFF processes are transparent and inclusive. In addition, bringing together representatives from GFF countries right before the Investors’ Group meeting will provide an opportunity for CS representatives that are witnessing GFF processes first-hand in-country to share their concerns, priorities and lessons with the two CS representatives to the Investors’ Group so those issues can be brought for discussion at the Investors’ Group meeting.

**Participants**

Participants will include national representatives from each of the GFF focus countries—Bangladesh, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam—as well as relevant regional and global representatives. One representatives from each country will be sponsored to participate, based on the budget available. CS participation from Guatemala and Vietnam will be limited, since the GFF’s engagement is confined to one-time buy-downs of the terms of World Bank loans. Country CS participants will represent relevant RMNCAH+Nutrition coalitions in their countries and/or will be participating on the GFF multi-stakeholder country platform. They will also be asked to commit to acting as a liaison with the larger network of RMNCAH CS interested in engaging in the GFF in their respective countries, and facilitate information flow and communication. Preparations ahead of the in-person meeting will clarify this expectation, and prepare participants to represent a broad range of CS voices from their country in Maputo.

Regional and global participants will be required to self-fund their participation. Additional participants who would like to attend will be limited to one per organization, except in cases where an organization is contributing to sponsoring the meeting.

Representatives from the GFF Secretariat will also be invited to attend the meeting to hear and be part of the rich discussion among CS representatives about their experiences to date in engaging with the GFF and how to strengthen their engagement moving forward. This will provide an opportunity for further enhancing communication and putting priorities into action.

An estimated 50-60 participants are expected to attend.

**Total budget needed**: Approximately $150,000-$200,000 will likely be required, depending on in-kind support provided by the GFF Secretariat for venue, translation, and travel for select participants, etc. The two CS representatives to the IG have initiated this conversation with the GFF Secretariat. A detailed budget is included.

1. Which is hosted by PMNCH and brings together interested global and regional representatives to improve communication and support the two CS representatives on the GFF Investors’ Group [↑](#footnote-ref-1)