



The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS welcomes the increasing commitment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to women's rights and gender equality

In February 2013, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria launched a New Funding Model (NFM), to allow greater flexibility, simplicity and predictability, among others¹. Under the NFM, there are specific opportunities to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into Global Fund funding requests and that grants contribute to a gender-transformative HIV response, which truly addresses the needs and rights of women in all of their diversity. For countries developing HIV proposals, support is needed to ensure the meaningful participation of women, including women living with HIV and women from key populations, in the country dialogue. In addition, technical assistance is needed to conduct gender assessments to feed into the concept note.

Recognizing that civil society organisations responding to the gender dimensions of HIV need greater information to utilise the NFM, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA) and the Global Fund have developed this information note to facilitate their engagement.

The specific opportunities to ensure that the NFM is rolled-out in a gender-transformative way include the following:

- **UNAIDS Gender Assessment Tool for National HIV Responses**

The Global Fund highly recommends the undertaking of a gender assessment of the HIV epidemic, context and response, to ensure that gender issues are fully integrated into the NFM process. UNAIDS' Gender Assessment Tool was recently reviewed and validated during a workshop, following piloting in 5 countries across 5 different regions. The Global Fund's Gender Advisor presented key entry points in the NFM processes where the gender assessment tool could be utilised and elaborated on the support available to undertake these assessments.

- ✓ The NFM process starts with reviewing the National Strategic Plan for HIV (NSP). The gender assessment would ideally be undertaken as part of the process of **developing a gender transformative NSP**, to ensure that it addresses the gender specific issues identified through review of the HIV epidemic, context and response. Moreover, the prioritized gender responsive and transformative interventions included in the NSP would address the gaps identified during HIV response analysis.
- ✓ The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) will host a series of meetings for multi stakeholder Country Dialogue, in which the gender assessment can assist in providing arguments to **demonstrate the strategic value of gender-responsive programmes**, based on strategic information gathered on the epidemic, context and response.
- ✓ The next step is for partners to develop a Concept Note, in which the gender assessment can assist in ensuring the **inclusion and prioritization of gender-related activities**, as reflected in the NSP and raised within the Country Dialogue. Strategic information gathered through the gender assessment can also be utilized in various components of Concept Note and in outlining the country's disease context.
- ✓ When the Concept Note is presented to the Global Fund's Technical Review Panel (TRP), the gender assessment report will likely **serve as TRP reference material** which shows the evidence-based integration of gender-responsive interventions into proposed HIV programmes. The TRP is keen

¹ <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/activities/fundingmodel/>

to see gender data to verify the strategic priorities of proposed programmes and the gender assessment will be considered most useful and informative.

Country partners, including civil society organizations will be best positioned to access funding from the Global Fund to conduct a gender assessment, if they have the support of the CCM. Thus, it is crucial to mobilize CCM members to buy-in to the gender assessment process from the beginning to ensure assessment findings will be best utilized for NFM processes. The Global Fund is able to support gender assessments through various means:

- ✓ **CCM Support Grants** (“expanded” funding): CCM support funding² is available for organizing stakeholders’ meetings, and training of CCM members and key stakeholders to ensure disease programs effectively address gender issues. The undertaking of a gender assessment process meets these criteria. Only the CCM can lodge this request for funding (up to \$50k / year).
- ✓ **Funding for Technical Assistance (TA)**: All grants have earmarked funding for TA, but these are so far under-utilized. Principle Recipients (PR) can utilize this earmarked funding to conduct the gender assessment³. Additional TA funding, through CCM support funding⁴, is available from the Global Fund Secretariat. TA to enable consultations on key affected populations, human rights and gender/women’s issues to ensure inclusive country dialogue processes is also available.
- ✓ **Funding to ensure robust, inclusive, civil society (CS) participation in the country dialogue process**: Maximum \$30,000 can be requested for sub-population caucuses, upon request from the CCM in 2013. An “earmarked” CCM support funding for civil society and key affected populations engagement in the Country Dialogue process will be systematically provided to each country’s CCM in 2014, with fixed amount (\$20,000 – 50,000) decided by the Global Fund Secretariat based on agreed criteria. Women’s caucus can also be supported from this CS/KAPs (key affected populations) engagement funding. (Further details will be announced by December 2013).

- **Increasing technical assistance for Gender Equality**

The Global Fund has raised the need to make the NFM gender-responsive in discussions with donor countries especially the need to identify where there are support mechanisms to help countries understand how to utilise the NFM. At the Advisory Group Meeting of the GCWA, 23-24 May 2013, it was announced that discussions between the Global Fund and its donors on financing TA to build gender related capacities at country level⁵ are making progress. In addition to country level funding, support to regional networks will also be available.

Possibilities for this support include the German BACKUP initiative⁶ which can fund in-country stakeholder consultation as well as consultancy to strengthen gender mainstreaming into the NFM process. Women’s organizations in implementing countries are encouraged to apply. Other support such as French Government’s 5% initiative for HIV, TB and Malaria⁷ is also available to fund technical assistance including for gender assessments to be undertaken within the concept note development process in its target countries. There remain details to work out regarding how to leverage this through the existing Technical Support Facilities including ensuring that there are enough human resources for consultants who can be brought in to support these activities. A further update will be issued as these arrangements are confirmed.

² www.theglobalfund.org/documents/ccm/CCM_Funding_Guidelines_en/ CCM Funding Guidelines outline that CCMs must be supported to ensure disease programs effectively address capacity building and gender issues.

³ Especially for phase 2 renewal preparation

⁴ CCMs or PRs can request and must provide a clear rationale

⁵ Country Coordinating Mechanisms and women’s organizations.

⁶ <http://www.giz.de/Themen/en/4356.htm>

⁷ The main target of the initiative are the priority countries of French official development assistance: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Togo, and four countries in situations of crisis: Afghanistan, Burma, Haiti and the Palestinian Territories. Also eligible are member countries and observers from the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

GCWA membership is open to all international or civil society organizations committed to gender equality and the principles of the GCWA. To join the GCWA or learn more please follow this link:
<http://www.womenandaids.net/about-gcwa/join-the-coalition/how-to-join.aspx>.