

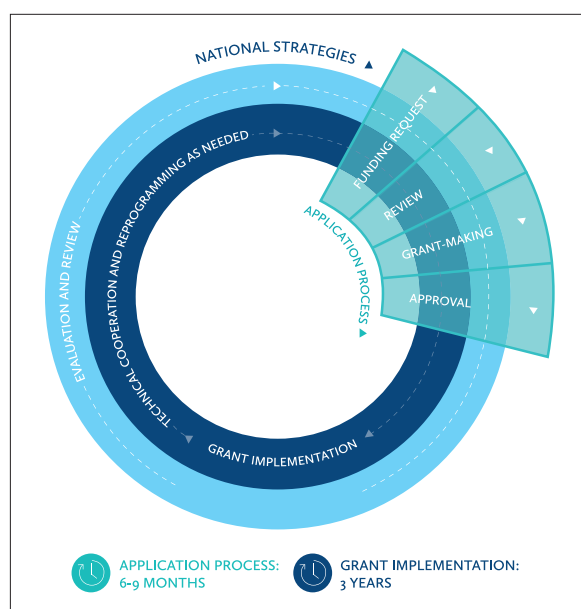
W4GF Advocates Share Key Lessons and Reflections from Windows 1 and 2

W4GF advocates, in all our diversity, have engaged at the national level and meaningfully participated in developing funding requests submitted to the Global Fund in Window 1: 20 March 2017 and Window 2: 23 May 2017. In these two windows, a total of 144 funding requests were submitted, globally. W4GF advocates are currently engaged in country dialogues and funding request development for Window 3 (28 August 2017).

This brief identifies key areas to consider for advocates who will engage in Windows 3 (28 August 2017) onward to promote human rights, gender equality and support adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) to engage in Global Fund-related national processes. It also highlights key lessons learned - based on feedback from the Technical Review Panel (TRP) on Window 1 applications.

Key resources to review before engaging in the process at the national level include:

- [EANNASO Community Guides to the Global Fund](#)
- The Global Fund [Applicants' Handbook](#) and [Modular Framework Handbook](#)
- Essential Global Fund Information Notes and Technical Briefs are accessible [here](#)



The **country dialogue** is not a Global Fund structure. It is a country-organised process with all national stakeholders to make decisions on national HIV, TB and malaria programming. It is an ongoing, regular process that continues throughout the overall grant-making period (and beyond).

Funding requests are based on **national strategic plans (NSPs)**, which cover national funding and resource needs. If countries do not have an NSP or one that is out of date - they can submit an investment case as their funding request. The Funding request is developed with the input of people responding to and affected by HIV, TB and malaria.

The final funding request **is reviewed by Global Fund structures** and then returned to a CCM with requested changes. This process can happen numerous times. The two main Global Fund structures involved are the **TRP** and the **Grant Approvals Committee (GAC)**. The TRP is an independent body of technical experts, which consider: for e.g. if the funding request reflects the NSP and if it addresses gender, human rights, community systems strengthening (CSS), etc. The GAC looks at things such as whether the proposed budget can accommodate the specified activities (i.e., can they be realistically funded?).

Once the panel is satisfied the funding request moves to **grant-making**. During Grant-making the CCM and the Global Fund work with the Principal Recipient to develop detailed budgets and work plans. Once completed, the grant documentation undergoes a final review by the GAC. After a funding request is finalised (based on GAC's final comments), it is submitted to the **Global Fund Board for approval and onto implementation**.

Meaningful participation in developing the funding request is essential and must be grounded in the five key principles of meaningful engagement that include: 1) voice; 2) information; 3) capacity; 4) decisions-making power; and 5) accountability to the constituency being represented.

1. **Understand the Allocation Letter and how catalytic funding applies. It is imperative that you understand the Global Fund's Modular Framework.** Whilst the modules are not flexible and countries must prioritise within the Global Fund's Modular Framework the interventions under each module are there as a guide. Even though there is no specific modular on AGYW - make sure that the module on Prevention programs for adolescents and youth, in and out of school, is focused on AGYW especially if your country is one of the 13 priority countries that are receiving catalytic funding for AGYW.
2. **Identify catalytic funding available and for which communities** and understand how the flexibilities can be applied – and maintain advocacy to guarantee that catalytic funding supports the populations it is intended for.
3. **Ensure that women in all their diversity as well as AGYW are both represented and are present throughout the process.** Remember that country dialogues should be inclusive of all country stakeholders and geographic representation is important. Often country dialogues lack representation of civil society from rural areas.

W4GF TIP

Advocates are encouraged to prioritise sub-groups within the modules (i.e. young sex workers in Zimbabwe were prioritised within the sex worker module, as an example).

Example: It was the first time that attempt was made to include all affected populations in developing the Malawi funding request (Window 1 applicant). Whilst there was political willingness and despite the Global Fund Secretariat making resources available for constituency dialogues, the resources were inadequate to ensure all constituencies were included across the entire country - resulting a weak national dialogue.

4. **Advocate for women from your community to represent you in the funding request writing team** and ensure they are supported and accountable to be effective. Some countries noticed stronger results in those represented by their own communities:

Example: In Zimbabwe (Window 1 applicant), key populations were able to directly define programs for their constituencies by being present in meetings and insisting on adding text and budget activities directly into the master files. By comparison, AGYW were predominantly represented by young men, and missed this opportunity to directly shape their own programs.

W4GF TIP

Advocate for the ability to input directly into the funding request. Access electronic versions of drafts and make direct track changes to add text or comments.

5. **Insist on a clear schedule of meetings** to plan strategic and systematic engagement through to grant-making and develop a strategy around participation and advocacy during the: country dialogue; funding request drafting; and grant-making.

W4GF TIP

- Limits are often imposed on numbers of people able to engage or in processes so communities should unite and advocate for equity. This is a long and demanding process and a strategy is critical amongst broader civil society during the funding request development to allow for rotation during follow up processes
- As you decide on representation – Map out skills sets amongst women who are engaged i.e. Writing; finance and budgeting; monitoring and evaluation; AGYW; women from key populations in all their diversity; and gender etc!
- If you are on the writing team, organise daily briefs and document the process. Ensure you connect with a support team, which may not be involved in the drafting
- Make use of all opportunities - Lobby CCM representatives and other development partners like UNAIDS, WHO, PEPFAR and the Global Fund country team when you have the opportunity and need.

6. **Apply EARLY for Technical Assistance (TA)** to gather women and AGYW. Check out the EANNASO Community Rights and Gender TA Directory here. Others providing TA include GIZ, WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UN Women, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and The Stop TB Partnership whilst being mindful that sometimes technical partners also have their own interests. Build strong relationships with technical partners, as well as civil society representatives engaged in the process, to bolster additional support.

Example: Some countries, such as Zimbabwe, secured funding to cover transport costs to ensure participation but this did not go all the way through to reviewing TRP related comments and this caused strain on women who had engaged previously. In Uganda the process took over 30 full days and for some the only financial support was around transportation. It is therefore essential to ensure sustained engagement so that competing work and schedules do not determine attention.

W4GF TIP

- Lobby technical partners to provide you with technical assistance, such as conducting HIV/TB gender assessments (to be ready in time) to feed into the funding request (if possible); a dedicated gender consultant; or financial assistance to support the participation of AGYW in consultations throughout the process.
- Clearly identify any technical assistance needs and communicate this to TA providers so that they can clearly match this with people who have the right skill set.

7. **Caucus together with women in all their diversity to identify key priority areas** to advocate for!

W4GF TIP

- Build your advocacy around the modules, interventions and activities that are listed in the Global Fund's Modular Framework Handbook as the funding request budget and narrative are developed around the Framework
- Be aware of existing national policies on Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) and ensure that these interventions are included in funding requests.

8. **Formally report priority recommendations to the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM); civil society representing you on the writing team; and other key stakeholders with influence.** This formal 'Priorities Paper', or 'Charter', (that speaks to the each priority) will become a key point of reference for all women and AGYW engaged, and for the writing team. Keep each intervention short and sweet! Maximum two pages per priority area that covers the following:

- What is the priority area?

- How does this align to NSPs or national policies? Although the Global Fund advises that funding requests must align with NSPs – it is important to remember that not all areas addressing human rights and key populations are always addressed through the NSPs so highlight other national policies or global normative guidance that speak to important areas not in the NSP: *In Zimbabwe women were told early on in the process if it is not in the NSP – forget it!*

W4GF TIP

- If your priorities are not in the NSP, you can still make the case. This does not automatically exclude issues, as NSPs are not always up to date with the newest evidence. There may be convincing results from a pilot or demonstration project that warrants the inclusion of activities in Global Fund funding requests before they become national policy.

Example: In Window 1 and 2, several countries included evidence-based activities like HIV self-testing, cash transfers, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) though they are not in current NSPs.

List the key activities

W4GF TIP

- Get specific when listing activities and ensure you advocate for concrete high impact models. In addition to the description- think about specific inputs needed for budgeting purposes to ensure that this remains in.

Example: A key lesson from Zambia, a Window 2 applicant, was that some of the top priorities from civil society and community groups were not included in the funding request because they were too vague for the finance consultants to quantify and cost.

W4GF TIP

- To avoid this scenario, try to list how many people will be reached, how many times, and with what specific services or interventions, boosting the likelihood of the priority appearing in budget.
- Do not provide a laundry list - take time to think of the key priorities that will have high impact for the country.

Identify evidence to support priority interventions.

W4GF TIP

- Make better use of program data from the current Global Fund grant to guide decision-making in funding requests.
- In addition to advocating for concrete high impact models think about specific inputs needed for budgeting purposes to ensure what you want remains in.

9. **Work together with AGYW.** Mentoring young women is essential and must be part of any caucusing. Address bottlenecks to participation and ensure that young women understand the process and are able to meaningfully engage.

W4GF TIP

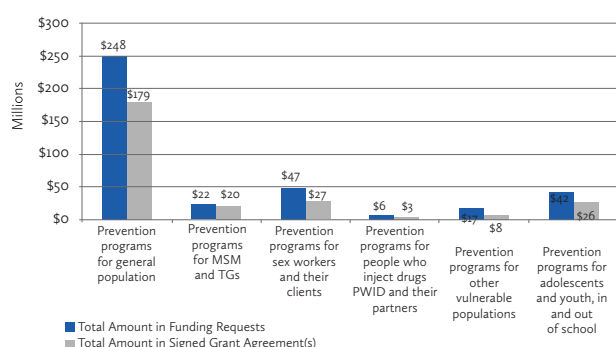
- If AGYW are not well represented - follow through and lobby Technical Partners to ensure that young women meaningfully participate and are supported with the skills to effectively engage and articulate their requirements.
- Lobby for funds to conduct a situational analysis or AGYW charter within AGYW that can better inform which programs they themselves would endorse.

10. **Don't assume that your priorities will remain in the submission if they are included in earlier drafts – participate right up until submission date! AND THEN BEYOND.** In the experience of Window 1 and 2 applicants, the Matching Funds request (where \$55 million in funding for AGYW is ring-fenced) is often developed towards the end of the process – sometimes in the last couple of days. There are significant opportunities to influence catalytic funding for AGYW; human rights and key populations during this process. Once you receive feedback from the Technical Review Panel (TRP), it is important to remain engaged through grant-making. Engagement must be continuous and different times! Remember that the process is linked to broader CCM and its Sub Committees.

Example: In Zimbabwe, a few institutions were identified as expert to respond to the TRP comments, and rework budgets without engaging in a consultative and transparent process which was then questioned by the women's CCM representative at an HIV committee meeting. In Uganda, even when the community was heavily represented in the writing team the CSS components were missing on the day the draft was to be presented to the CCM. CCM meeting observers worked in collaboration with civil society CCM representatives to bring this component back into the funding request even though the Global Fund Secretariat later rejected it.

Figure 1 (on page 4), from a forthcoming ICASO/EANNASO discussion paper, shows the difference in funding requested vs. funding granted for some key modules across 15 African countries. For adolescents and young people, the amount goes down 38% between request and grant. The key is engage in grant-making! **Included in the funding request does not equal included in grant!**

Figure 1: Total Amount of HIV Prevention Funding in Global Fund Funding Requests and Signed Grant Agreements in 15 African Countries (2014-2016 Funding Cycle), by Module



11. Understand your complaints mechanism

W4GF TIP

- Know what to do when the process is not transparent and when there are challenges with information flow and representation etc.

12. Be aware of the following challenges experienced by women who engaged in Window 1 and 2:

- There has been confusion about if Antiretroviral treatment should be included in catalytic funding.

Example: In Zimbabwe initial suggestions (from Technical partners – later affirmed by the Global Fund) were to include treatment. In heavily commoditised grants, there are still opportunities to find ways to ensure that all interventions include gender transformative programming.

W4GF TIP

- Lobby national governments to absorb treatment costs in particular, to enable the Global Fund to invest more in prevention – meeting its ambitious prevention Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in its new strategy.
- Ensure that catalytic funds are aligned with the overall grant. In addition, ensure that they are “catalytic” in nature, not merely expanding activities contained in the allocation request.

Example: Zimbabwe initially planned to scale up the modified DREAMS package to four more districts, but after reflecting on the catalytic aspect, a decision was made to augment and expand the package in the existing districts leading to greater impact in the prioritised locations. Example: In Zambia significant funding to expand Zambia’s integrated HIV and cervical cancer screening program is in the matching funds to ensure that funding on HIV treatment is maximised. This catalytic nature demonstrates that investments in HIV treatment cannot be optimised if those women who are accessing it are then dying of cervical cancer. So cancer investments are catalytic to treatment investments in reducing morbidity and mortality among women living with HIV.

13. **Think about timing!!** For countries that are able to apply for Matching Funds - advocate for more time if you need it. Matching funds are not due at the same time as the main application and can be submitted at any time. This should be less of an issue for countries applying in Window 3 and beyond as they have had more time to think about the process since receiving their Allocation Letter in December 2016.

Example: Women in Kenya pushed for more time given their lack of comfort with what was being submitted around AGYW. Malawi also struggled to ensure that catalytic funds focused specifically on AGYW as some wanted to include young men and boys in the developed activities. Women engaged stood their ground and the focus remained specifically on AGYW.

14. **Work with other networks to develop interventions that address the overlap in countries that are receiving catalytic funding for both AGYW and human rights** (Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda).

Remember the following:

- Absorption capacity issues** from the previous grant need to be addressed in new funding requests.
- Request a formal process to select **Principle Recipients (PRs) and Sub Recipients (SR)** and demand a clear Conflict of Interest (CoI) policy. Especially given that some CCM members are sub recipients and their ability to provide oversight to PRs can be brought into question. Insist on a clear process and criteria that differs from country to country. The Global Fund Secretariat provides this guidance [Guidelines on implementers](#) on selecting PRs and SRs (2015) and the [Operational Policy Note](#) (2017).

Additional lessons and recommendations around human rights and gender from the mock Technical Review Panel (TRP) shared in Nairobi.

Data

- A lack of data and comprehensive evidence-based or gender-responsive interventions for people in closed settings (people in prisons) has been seen in funding requests generally.

TRP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make sure attention is paid to strengthen targets and progress reporting using sex/age disaggregation.
- Improvement is required in programs to track disaggregation of data around age and gender, (and at sub-national levels) which is then cascaded to enhance program design.
- **Partners** should provide TA and support to strengthen collection and reporting of sex/age disaggregation in funding requests; and support countries to strengthen outcome measures for reporting around human rights and gender and consider aligning with key PEPFAR indicators.

Programming to address inequalities:

- Limited discussion and impact of harmful practices were seen, including for countries that have conducted a gender assessment that identified these issues. Some included discussion of harmful practices, but no discussion around interventions to address these.
- Limited interventions were seen to address critical drivers of gender-equality that impact improved long-term outcomes such as investing in: social norm change; working with men and boys; economic empowerment and cash transfers for school retentions.
- Although there has been continued increased attention to gender based violence (GBV) in HIV funding requests there has been limited scale of the response to GBV and to violence against women and children and also limited or no discussion of GBV in TB and malaria funding requests.
- Community system strengthening (CSS) was hardly addressed despite extensive use of community health care workers. CSS was often only seen as service delivery. Human rights, gender and community based organisations supported key population interventions tend to be under-resourced. In addition transition planning does not adequately address sustainable programmatic and financial support for key population interventions.

TRP RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Strengthen and fund programming for GBV, integrated with disease programs
- Consider including interventions that focus on social norm change, economic empowerment, especially for matching funds
- Strengthen technical assistance in gender programming and GBV – especially in TB and malaria
- Consider stronger GBV indicators such as post-rape care and empowerment (aligned with PEPFAR indicators).

Generally on gender and women and girls the following were reported:

- Gaps in gender analysis across HIV, TB and malaria and in the understanding of gender versus sex; in HIV funding requests little discussion was found on women and girls particularly in concentrated and low generalised populations
- Funding requests showed missed opportunities for integration with reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) across HIV; TB and malaria - PMTCT and intermittent preventive treatment (IPT) in Antenatal Clinics are exceptions but not yet fully developed
- Women's organisations were generally not included in descriptions of CCM and consultative processes
- There was an absence of discussion of gender in Human Resources for Health and Health Systems Strengthening (HSS). This is a missed opportunity for improving women's access to health services. For example, in one country, 80% of maternal and child health (MCH) workforce is male
- Human rights and gender issues and barriers remain broadly inadequately addressed or in TB and malaria applications

TRP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include discussion of gender in human resources for health (HRH) and HSS and strengthen integration between RMNCAH and disease programs
- Include women's organisations in governance structures
- Countries that have conducted a gender analysis, should include the report as an Annex to the funding request
- Partners should provide technical assistance on integration of RMNCAH with programs and gender in HRH/HSS.

Matching funds

- Significant opportunity should be maximised for both catalytic effect and innovation

TRP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider including interventions that focus on social norm change, economic empowerment, especially for matching funds
- In one country the TRP advised larger investments in fewer activities to enable better quality evaluation and potential for impact. W4GF Tip on this: Above all – Ensure that what goes in is comprehensive and with a 'girl centred' approach!
- Use an evidence based approach or pilot designed to scale-up - based on findings
- Plan for quality evaluations that will drive reprogramming decisions and help build an evidence base of what works.