ADVOCACY BRIEF: THE FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL FUND’S ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY 2020 - 2022

In Women4GlobalFund’s (W4GF) most recently webinar (click here to listen to the full recording) the Global Fund provided an overview of current thinking around the allocation methodology for the 2020-2022 funding cycle. A more comprehensive paper of this is available on the W4GF website. This shorter paper highlights key recommendations as the Global Fund continues to refine its allocation methodology.

As W4GF Advocates, we are encouraged by the recommended catalytic priorities and affirm the focus, and investments to address the challenges faced by specific populations living with, and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria. W4GF welcomes the current thinking around the catalytic priorities especially the following:

- Retaining the matching funds modality with a specific focus on adolescent girls and young women, human rights and key populations.
- Including differentiated service delivery as a catalytic funding priority, which will increase uptake, quality and efficiency of HIV treatment.
- Reduce cross-cutting barriers to accessing TB and malaria services. Previously, human rights matching funds were narrowly focused on HIV.
- Evolving the TB targets in line with ambitious global targets introducing a new catalytic priority to provide TB preventative therapy for people living with HIV and maintaining the TB Strategic Initiative which provides important technical assistance to develop innovative and community-based approaches.
- Accounting for population growth and applying this to formula for malaria allocations and supporting the roll out of the Malaria Matchbox.
- Maintaining the Emergency Fund, which ensure continuity of essential HIV, TB, and malaria services that are at risk of interruption in situations such as conflicts, natural disasters, or other disease outbreaks.

We urge the Global Fund Board to adopt these recommendations which will lead to interventions in countries that go beyond important biomedical approaches commonly supported by the Global Fund and other key partners such as PEPFAR. The catalytic investments will move countries towards strengthening the response to HIV, TB and malaria by supporting programs that address gender inequalities and gender-related risks and removing gender and other human rights related barriers, including criminalization, punitive laws and policies, that prevent women and girls, and especially key populations, from accessing health services and being treated with dignity and respect.¹

We understand that the operationalization of matching funds is still being reviewed based on the learning from this funding cycle. As this process moves forward to be approved in May, we take this opportunity now to reaffirm key principles important to W4GF Advocates. We believe the following are essential and must be explicit to respect our rights and benefit women and girls in all our diversity² and in turn to enable the Global Fund to deliver on its Strategy and strategic objective to promote gender equality and human rights.

We request that the Global Fund:

- SUSTAIN THE GAINS: The allocation methodology and the catalytic priorities must continue to strengthen and sustain the gains made. Countries that received matching funds should be funded at the same level or higher than in the previous allocation cycle.

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¹ Accelerate progress—sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission, May 9, 2018

² What do we mean by diversity? Women in all our diversity are those of us who are engaged at global; regional and national levels in Global Fund processes and structures in key regions most affected by HIV, TB and malaria. We are not homogenous, and we include women living HIV; affected by TB and malaria; heterosexual; lesbian and bisexual; transgender; women who use drugs; sex workers over 18 years old; adolescent girls and young women; Indigenous; sometimes displaced; migrants and are/have been incarcerated; and women with disabilities.
MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT IS NON-NEGOTIABLE: In many countries matching funds opened another pathway (beyond the county dialogues) for communities of women and adolescent girls and young women to engage in development of the funding request and to monitor and provide feedback during grant implementation. The Global Fund AND technical partners must support and enable active participation of networks of women and girls in all our diversity, directly affected by HIV, TB and malaria in all stages of funding request development, implementation and evaluation. Meaningful participation of networks of women and girls is a prerequisite to achieve effective implementation of interventions supported by the allocations and the catalytic funding. Stronger partnerships and meaningful participation of women in all our diversity, and those who champion gender equality is not negotiable.

ENSURE THE MODEL OF DIFFERENTIATED SERVICE DELIVERY IS TRULY CATALITIC: Ensure that the differentiated service delivery model supported by catalytic funds does not let governments off the hook regarding the right to health as a fundamental principle for women in all our diversity. Differentiated service delivery must not dilute the demand for governments to increase funding for quality, comprehensive HIV, TB and malaria responses that are grounded in human rights-based approaches. Whilst differentiated service delivery becomes a priority for catalytic funding, service delivery and addressing human rights for key affected women and programmes that are gender responsive should be part of core Global Fund grants and never pushed aside to catalytic funding.

ENSURE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMMES (FUNDED BY THE GLOBAL FUND) ALSO ADDRESSES EQUALITY FOR WOMEN FROM KEY POPULATIONS: Within programmes that support key populations, more focused funding and support is required for women from key populations including sex workers; women who use drugs and transgender women who are, in many countries, marginalized and criminalized or struggling with poor health outcomes due to punitive laws, policies and practices. In addition to this we request that the Global Fund look beyond key affected populations and legal frameworks and address human rights violations as experience by all women more broadly.

REMUNERATE COMMUNITY-BASED RESPONSES FOR WOMEN: As called for by W4GF many times before - investments towards the meaningful engagement and participation of communities, shaping and driving the response, has led to many gains - including leveraging ‘lived experience’ and an understanding of what does/does not work for women in communities. Communities of people living with and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria have delivered effective services that reach marginalized populations of women. These gains must not be lost and should be accelerated for greater impact. Investment in community-led responses for women and girls should also be accelerated for greater impact. Investment should be prioritized especially for programmes and interventions that are linked to the improved effectiveness of community-led responses, especially amongst groups and communities of women and girls.

CATALYTIC FUNDING MUST SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROWTH: Catalytic funding must support programmes that specifically build the capacity of women in our diversity to lead community-led organizations and networks responding to HIV, TB and malaria. It must also include women in the development of baseline; quarterly; and end of programme evaluations that track the implementation of programmes for women and adolescent girls and young women in all our diversity.

This document was drafted by the W4GF Secretariat and reviewed by: Dr Gemma Oberth, W4GF Advisory Group Member, South Africa; Ms. Immaculate B. Owomugisha Uganda Network of Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET), Uganda; Ms. Lucy Wanjiku Njenga, Positive Young Women Voices, Kenya; Ms. Maurine Murenga, Lean on Me Foundation and W4GF Advisory Group Member; Melissa Hope, Consultant, USA; Dr. Nevilene Slingers, Executive Manager: Donor Co-ordination, South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) Trust, South Africa; Ms. Olive Edwards, Positive Women’s Network, Jamaica; Ms. Olive Mumba, Executive Director, EANASO, Tanzania; Mr. Revanta Dharmaraja, Lead Global Fund, Frontline AIDS; and Ms. Zelda Nhlabatsi, Executive Director, Family Life Association of Eswatini.

For more information, please contact Sophie Dilmitis, Global Coordinator, Women4GlobalFund (W4GF) – sophie@women4gf.org www.women4gf.org or https://www.facebook.com/women4globalfund/ W4GF is a dynamic global platform of women and gender equality advocates who share a deep commitment to ensuring that Global Fund programmes are gender-transformative to meet the rights and specific priorities of women and girls in all our diversity.

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1 ICASO/W4GF Advocacy Brief – August 2015 - Strengthening Community Responses Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) In the Global Fund Strategy 2017 – 2021