

# Documenting experiences & lessons learnt in Global Fund country dialogues

## 1. Why is this important?

Many Women4GlobalFund W4GF Advocates have engaged at the national level to influence funding requests submitted in the Global Fund's 2020–2022 allocation cycle. Whilst we have made many strides, in some countries meaningful engagement remains a challenge and advocates have worked hard to advocate for programmes and services to be included in funding requests submitted to the Global Fund that are gender sensitive or transformative - edging countries towards gender equity.

This document is a guide and provides suggestions to support W4GF Advocates to assess their level of engagement and document their experience and lessons learnt. Reflecting on engagement and documenting the work and experience enables W4GF Advocates to better understand their strategy and engagement and track progress of meaningful engagement and results in the following processes:

- The funding request development and its submission;
- Technical Review Panel (TRP) feedback discussions; and in
- Grant-making.

Documenting lessons learnt and recommendations will support future Advocates and alert them to key strategies, moments to be conscious of, allies and foes, and actions that have impact and can make the difference.

## 2. How do you start?

Given the reality of COVID-19, the W4GF Team recommend inviting all the women who engaged at the national level to reconvene for a virtual dialogue. Ahead of this it is a good idea to agree who will lead this short process to document your engagement. At the end of this short process and once a report is compiled it is a good idea to organise and invite a panel of partners to join another virtual discussion to share key outcomes and recommendations. The partners could also share their own insights and perspective on community advocacy, and what can be done to strengthen this work and relationship.

## 3. What do you need to think about?

### **Quick and easy to answer questions that can be done before the first virtual dialogue:**

1. Name of the person leading this process
2. Country
3. Organisation
4. Which of the three diseases does your engagement cover?
  - . HIV
  - . TB
  - . Malaria

5. How many of the following communities of women were consistently represented in your engagement? (Tick all that apply)

- . Openly living with HIV
- . Women affected by TB
- . Women living with HIV
- . Lesbian and bisexual women
- . Adolescent girls and young women
- . Women who engage in sex work
- . Women who use drugs
- . Transgender
- . Non-binary
- . Women and girls with disabilities
- . Women and girls affected by Malaria

6. Are you represented on your national Country Coordinating Mechanism?

7. Which window did your country submit the funding request in?

Window	Submission date	Technical Review Panel review
1	23 March 2020	May 2020
2a	30 April 2020	June 2020
2b	31 May 2020	July 2020
2c	30 June 2020	August 2020
3	31 August 2020	October 2020
4	8 February 2021	March 2021
5	30 April 2021	June 2021
6	15 August 2021	September 2021

8. How were you involved?

- . In community consultations
- . Funding request process
- . In the writing team
- . During the writing
- . In responding to TRP comments
- . In selecting Principal Recipients
- . In grant making
- . As sub-recipient
- . As sub-sub recipient
- . As a consultant
- . I was not involved

**Suggested questions to guide the discussion to reflect on engagement and effectiveness in three different areas:**

**9. Engagement to develop the funding request**

- . Did women in all our diversity meaningfully engage in the process?
- . Were community consulted and were your inputs around gender diversity considered and included in the funding request?
- . Can you track this in the budget?
- . Was enough and robust data and evidence provided to address gender inequities?
- . What major concerns do you have about the country dialogues process
- . If you applied for Technical Assistance – was it useful and at the right time?
- . What modules from the modular framework most supported your advocacy and is this problematic?

- . Was your input aligned and guided by your NSPs?
- . How did you prepare ahead of the country dialogue?
- . What specific outcomes were achieved related to what was advocated for?
- . Which, if any partners (technical partners and donors) supported us and when?
- . What needs to change moving forward? In terms of the national process; the strategy we have and the methodology to advocate?

### **LIST KEY RECOMMENDATIONS & TO WHOM?**

#### **10. Engagement in the Technical Review Panel (TRP) feedback discussions**

- . Did the CCM Secretariat share the comments that came back from the TRP?
- . What were the comments made by the TRP?
- . What opportunities were there to formally review and respond to the comments made by the TRP?
- . Where their comments relevant and appropriate? And had these been raised by us?
- . How were the comments addressed by the writing team?
- . How were we able to review the amended funding request?
- . What needs to change in this process and who can help us to achieve this?

### **LIST KEY RECOMMENDATIONS & TO WHOM?**

#### **11. Engagement and effectiveness during grant-making**

- . How many women remained engaged during grant making negotiations?
- . What did this engagement look like?
- . How was the Principle Recipient (PR) and the Global Fund Secretariat open to input during this stage?
- . What was lost/agreed in the final negotiations? What was the 'leakage' during grant-making and why?
- . What needs to change in this process and who can help us to achieve this?

### **LIST KEY RECOMMENDATIONS & TO WHOM?**

#### **12. Did you raise any concerns with the following group and what was the outcome?**

- . The Communities Delegations to the Global Fund Board
- . The Developing Country NGO Delegation
- . The Developed Country NGO Delegation
- . Regional constituencies
- . The Global Fund community, rights and gender communication platforms
- . The Office of the Inspector General

13. Overall how did COVID-19 impact your ability to engage in each stage of the work?

14. What changed in the grant given the situation?

15. Has your country applied for flexibilities and if so do you know what these are for?