



Regional Platform
for Communication and Coordination
on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
For Anglophone Africa

EANNASO launches new report on the inclusion of civil society priorities in Global Fund funding requests



In 2017, EANNASO supported civil society and community groups in 8 countries to engage in various stages of funding request development. The desk review looks at civil society priority charters and reports from consultations supported by EANNASO in eight countries: South Sudan, Zanzibar, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria. The desk review examines whether and how civil society priorities have been included in HIV and tuberculosis funding requests-in particular as costed interventions, the prioritized above allocation register (PAAR) and (where relevant) in matching fund requests. It includes a country case study looking at Zanzibar’s program continuation request and closes with a civil society assessment of how the process went in their country, what hindered and/or facilitated engagement and guidelines for civil society participation and recommendations for technical support.

The desk review found variations in the degree to which civil society and community groups’ priorities were included in funding requests. Unsurprisingly, one trend that emerged was that priorities around key populations and human rights were often omitted from the funding request or relegated to the prioritized above allocation register. In addition, matching fund requests mostly did not reflect the priorities identified in the civil society priority charters. Despite this, a majority of civil society and community survey respondents believe that civil society priorities were included and they reported that in all key steps of the funding request process, civil society and community groups were either “moderately engaged” or “engaged”. The exception to this was in the review by the Grant Approvals Committee, where civil society noted that they were “barely engaged” in that step of the process. In fact, respondents felt that this process deliberately left out civil society and left the decision making to high-level stakeholders.

The desk review identified the availability of technical support from EANNASO, UNAIDS and Global Fund’s Community Rights and Gender Technical Assistance, clear guidelines and policies for engagement and support from government as some of the key factors facilitating engagement. In

particular, the support from EANNASO in convening spaces for civil society to caucus, discuss entry points, agree upon priorities and chart advocacy strategies was identified as strength in several country reports. Conversely, a lack of access to timely technical support, funding and evidence and data were among the factors hindering engagement.

Olive Mumba, EANNASO's Executive Director says: "We are happy to see that the technical support provided by EANNASO to community groups and civil society made a difference but there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that civil society priorities for community, rights and gender are included and retained at every stage - from submission, to grant-making and throughout grant implementation. Although EANNASO is no longer mandated to provide technical assistance, in its role as the host of the Anglophone Africa Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination, it has raised awareness of and brokered technical assistance to numerous groups around the region and we hope that this translates to improved rights and gender programming".

The following are recommendations to ensure robust community and civil society engagement in Global Fund processes:

For Civil Society and Community Groups:

- Civil society and community groups should advocate for more space for indigenous civil society organizations (for e.g. through a quota systems)
- Civil society and community groups should be vocal in pushing to be involved and represented in all stages of Global Fund processes
- Civil society and community groups should advocate for evidence-based priorities that will benefit the response and not just their respective organizations
- Civil society should provide the writing team with prioritized and costed activities and interventions that align with the modular template

For Country Coordinating Mechanisms:

- Ensure community groups/ networks/ affected communities are part of the decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation processes throughout the funding cycle. Ensure there is funding to enable community groups' and networks' engagement with the processes.
- Ensure adequate communication with civil society and community groups. This includes broadly seeking input, within reasonable timelines and laying out the process and opportunities for input transparently.
- Ensure that civil society and community groups' input is captured and included in the feedback provided at every stage of the process.

For Technical Support Providers:

- Provide funding to civil society and community groups to participate in meetings both in person and virtually.

- Provide capacity building for civil society to understand, develop and use data for more effective advocacy.
- Provide capacity building for civil society to monitor the inclusion of their priorities in the grant (and during implementation)
- Provide technical assistance for gender-based analysis
- Provide capacity building for civil society to develop advocacy and negotiation skills, competencies to participate in Global Fund processes

To read the report [click here](#).

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