Welcome to the first instalment of the Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination for Anglophone Africa’s quarterly newsletter! In this newsletter, you will find three important things:

1. Updates on the Global Fund, repackaged into accessible formats
2. Opportunities for accessing Global Fund-related technical assistance
3. News and publications from partners to share information and promote enhanced coordination

INTRODUCTION: What is the Regional Platform all About?

Want more information on what the Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination for Anglophone Africa is all about? A good first step is to visit the Regional Platform Website. For a quicker browse, you can also check out the Regional Platform Brochure, or you can simply view the Regional Platform Banner to see the Platform’s four objectives at a glance!

The Regional Platform held its first meeting in January 2016, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting brought together civil society and community representatives from 15 African countries to share experiences and learn about how Global Fund processes are working across the continent. The Meeting Report is now online.

RESEARCH: Measuring the Inclusion of Community Priorities in Concept Notes
One of the recent research outputs from EANNASO (host of the Regional Platform) is an analysis of the inclusion of civil society and community groups’ priorities in Global Fund concept notes from eight African countries.

The **Full Report** is available for download, but we have also summarized it in an **Infographic E-poster** for quick reading!

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**SURVEY: Community Perspectives on the CRG Special Initiative**

The Regional Platform has conducted a preliminary survey to understand the perspectives and knowledge gaps among civil society and communities in Africa about the Global Fund. The survey results have been published in a short brief called **“Community Perspectives: Guiding the CRG Special Initiative in Anglophone Africa”**.

**Quick Results:**

- 1/3 had not heard about the CRG Special Initiative
- 24% (the largest proportion) said their understanding about regional concept notes was their biggest knowledge gap.
- 53% said that the biggest challenge with Global Fund TA was that it often ends after the concept note submission.

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**COMMUNITY MONITORING: Regional Platform Facilitates Consultative Meeting on Global Fund Investments in Zambia**

On 1 March 2016, the Regional Platform for Anglophone Africa organized and facilitated a consultation on community-based monitoring to better understand the community monitoring and
accountability initiatives that currently exist in Zambia. A key opportunity identified during the consultation was for information technologies to improve current approaches. To date, the majority of community monitoring in Zambia use paper-based methods, which participants suggested may not be inclusive enough and may be slow to push for changes.

NEWS: Recommendations to Global Fund in Statement of Action to enhance the engagement of communities in End TB Strategy

In the recent **Statement of Action** to enhance the engagement of communities, non-governmental and other civil society organisations in the implementation of the End TB Strategy, there are three specific recommendations directed at the Global Fund:

- To include specific budget lines as a requirement to support the engagement of NGOs and other CSOs in implementing community-based TB activities
- To ensure that funds provided to national programmes include allocations for capacity building and technical assistance to NGOs and other CSOs.
- To require close collaboration between government and civil society in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as mandatory criteria for funding.

NEWS: Global Fund Campaigns to Australia for Replenishment; Highlights Malaria Impact in Indo-Pacific Region

Ahead of Mark Dybul’s (Executive Director of the Global Fund) recent visit to Australia to make the investment case for major support to the Global Fund, the Fund released a unique results analysis of impact in the Indo-Pacific Region. The area analyzed includes countries in East Africa.

[Click here](#) to view the results page for this region. [Click here](#) for the social media kit.
PARTNERS: Regional Platform for Asia Pacific Releases Country Dialogue Report

APCASO, host of the Regional Platform for Asia Pacific, has completed a consultation exploring the community experiences under the Global Fund New Funding Model (NFM) across Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Viet Nam. The observations and recommendations capture the ways in which the NFM has benefited community in the region but also identifies aspects (particularly community, rights and gender aspects) that could be further strengthened to improve the regional response to HIV, TB and malaria.

Click here to download the full report.

PARTNERS: AMSHeR Report Finds African Key Populations Still Largely Excluded from Global Fund Processes

African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHeR) has released a report on the experiences of key populations participating in the New Funding Model. The results of the survey reveal a “participation cascade,” where key populations are involved less and less as a given country moves through the NFM process. The number of sex workers participating in the NFM fell by 50% as countries moved from country dialogue to concept note development. This continued to fall, with not a single sex worker participating in the
nomination of Principal Recipients (PRs).

Click here to download the full report.  
Click here to read a summary article about the report in GFO.

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**PARTNERS: ITPC Shares Malawi Success Story of Civil Society using Coordinated Approached to Access Global Fund Resources**

ITPC Blog: How Malawi Civil Society Secured Bigger Portion of Global Fund Pie

Bruce Tushabe reports below on how he mobilized Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to successfully lobby for greater engagement with the Global Fund. These efforts led to a 10 fold increase in funds for CSOs to scale up the community led HIV response in Malawi.

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**PARTNERS: IRGT Report Documents Barriers to Meaningful Engagement in Global Fund Processes for Transgender People**


In 2015, of the 140 countries receiving Global Fund support, only 21 individuals on 17 CCMs self-identified as transgender.

Click here to download the full report.
Click here to read a summary article about the report in GFO.

PARTNERS: ICASO Alert Identifies Ways for Civil Society and Communities to Engage in the Grant Making Stage of the NFM

In a new Alert, the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) provides tips for civil society and community groups to engage in the Global Fund grant-making process. This Alert will be helpful for closing existing participation gaps, as the Regional Platform Survey revealed that 50% of respondents (the largest proportion) felt that grant-making was the most closed part about the New Funding Model for civil society and community groups. Click here to download the ICASO Alert.

UPCOMING DATES: AIDS2016, UN High Level Meeting, and more.

- **26-27 April 2016**, 35th Global Fund Board Meeting
- **8-10 June 2016**, UN High Level Meeting on ending AIDS. Click here for an action alert developed by ICASO about how to engage in the HLM.
- **16-17 July 2016**, TB2016 Conference in Durban, South Africa (a pre-conference before AIDS2016). Click here for a full list of
18-22 July 2016 AIDS2016 Conference in Durban, South Africa. For more information on AIDS2016, check out the AIDS 2016 Community Guide. Click here to download the ICASO Alert.