



WHAT COMMUNITIES WANT:

Informing the Global Fund's Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative in Anglophone Africa

Results from the annual needs assessment survey among civil society and community groups conducted by the Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination for Anglophone Africa, hosted by EANNASO

March 2017



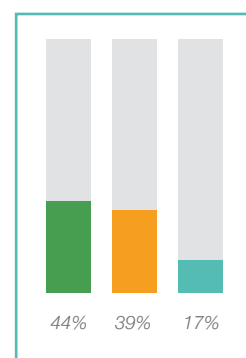
Regional Platform
for Communication and Coordination
on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
For Anglophone Africa

INTRODUCTION

A key role of the Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative is to enhance the knowledge of civil society and community groups on Global Fund processes and how to access related technical assistance (TA) to support meaningful engagement. In order to do this well, the Regional Platform conducts an annual needs assessment survey to scaffold the current knowledge, perspectives and understanding among civil society and community groups of Global Fund processes and available TA. The survey results are intended to inform the Platform's work so that it directly responds to identified gaps and needs. The Platform has made these survey results public so that they can also be useful for improved coordination with other TA initiatives addressing similar needs in the region.

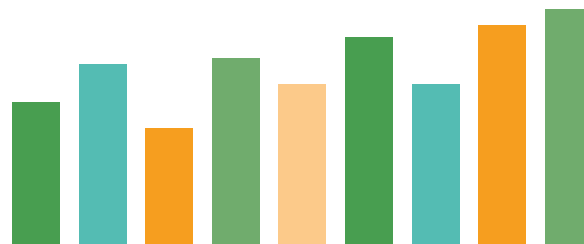
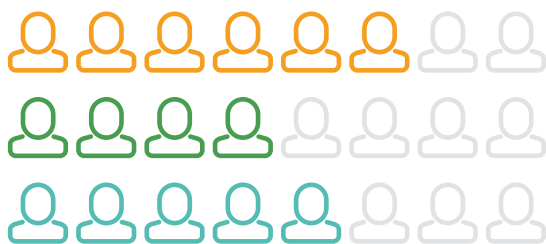
RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

- 54 responses from 18 African countries: *Botswana (n=1), Ghana (n=2), Kenya (n=7), Lesotho (n=1), Liberia (n=2), Malawi (n=3), Mauritius (n=1), Mozambique (n=1), Namibia (n=2), Nigeria (n=4), Rwanda (n=7), Sierra Leone (n=1), South Africa (n=2), Swaziland (n=2), Tanzania (n=5), Uganda (n=4), Zambia (n=3) and Zimbabwe (n=5).*
 - » 44% of respondents were from East Africa (n=24)
 - » 39% of respondents were from Southern Africa (n=21)
 - » 17% of respondents were from West Africa (n=9)
- 50% of respondents identified as male (n=27), and 41% as female (n=22). 6% (n=3) of respondents identified as transgender and 4% (n=2) preferred not to specify their gender.



44% (n=24) of respondents described themselves as representing civil society organizations (CSOs), while 4% (n=2) said they represent community-based organizations (CBOs). A further 4% (n=2) said they represent a CSO/CBO organization. 15% (n=8) of respondents were from key populations (KP) organizations, 7% (n=4) were from networks of people living with HIV (PLHIV), 6% (n=3) were from women's organizations and 4% (n=2) were from youth organizations. One respondent (2%) reported representing a PLHIV/CSO/KP organization. 6% (n=3) represented faith-based organizations (FBOs). 9% (n=5) said they were TA providers of some kind, with 4% (n=2) saying they were solely a TA provider, 2% (n=1) saying they were a TA provider/international non-governmental organization, 2% (n=1) describing themselves as TA provider/multi-lateral/bi-lateral (ML/BL) partner and the final respondent saying they were a TA provider/CSO/ML/BL.





EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

(BEFORE THE ANNUAL REGIONAL PLATFORM MEETING HELD ON 1-2 MARCH 2017)

57% (n=31) had heard about the Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) Special Initiative (2014-2016), while 41% (n=22) had not heard about it before (1 respondent did not answer).

63%

By comparison, only 33% (n=18) knew about the CRG Strategic Initiative (2017-2019), and that there had been \$15 million in renewed funding for these activities. **63% did not know about the CRG Strategic Initiative (2017-2019) (2 respondents did not answer).**

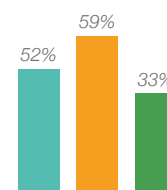
76% (n=41) had heard of the Regional Platform already, compared to 22% (n=12) who had not heard of it (1 respondent did not answer). This is a vast improvement over the 2016 needs assessment survey, where only 58% of respondents had heard of the Regional Platform.

56% (n=30) knew that they could request TA from the Global Fund CRG department and its partners, which is a slight improvement over the 52% who had this knowledge at the time of the 2016 needs assessment survey.

81% of men surveyed knew about the Regional Platform, compared to 73% of women. **This means that men are still more likely to have knowledge of the Regional Platform compared to women** – a consistent finding from the 2016 survey. **But, this knowledge gap is closing.** In 2016, men were 18 percentage points more likely to know about the Regional Platform, compared to 8 percentage points more likely in 2017.

By contrast, a greater proportion of transgender people surveyed had knowledge of the Regional Platform (67%) than did not have this knowledge (33%). This is an improvement from the 2016 survey where 0% of transgender respondents knew about the Regional Platform.

Conversely, **women were more likely to know they could access TA** from the Global Fund and its partners compared to **men (59% compared to 52%)**. **Transgender** respondents were the least likely to know they could access Global Fund TA **(33%)**.



25% of respondents who came from key populations organizations knew they could access Global Fund TA, compared to **67%** of respondents who come from CSOs. This is a consistent finding from the 2016 survey, with the gap between the two remaining largely the same. **These results underscore the continued need to increase knowledge of Global Fund TA among key populations organizations.**



DEVELOPED KNOWLEDGE

(GAINED DURING THE ANNUAL REGIONAL PLATFORM MEETING HELD ON 1-2 MARCH 2017)

Knowledge improved the most about the Global Fund's new strategy (2017-2022). 37% (n=20) of respondents said that their knowledge improved the most about this element after the annual Regional Platform meeting. **How to access TA was the next biggest knowledge improvement**, with 31% (n=17) of respondents citing this as their biggest learning curve.

37%

31%

Knowledge improved the least about catalytic investments. 33% (n=18) of respondents said their understanding about catalytic investments remained as a knowledge gap after the annual meeting closed. Following catalytic investments, 20% (n=11) cited country dialogue as their largest persisting knowledge gap after the meeting.

According to survey respondents, the Regional Platform has improved their knowledge on:

- Understanding the Global Fund grant architecture
- National level stories from previous funding cycle
- The Global Fund strategy, including the gender strategy
- Availability of TA and the various platforms to engage
- Opportunities for networking and exchange learning
- Civil society country coordinating mechanism (CCM) member performance
- Who the various TA partners are
- The simplification of Global Fund processes and how civil society can engage
- CCM functions and the CCM Hub
- Increased knowledge on community engagement and civil society involvement with the CCM
- Catalytic investments for 2017-2022



"The most beneficial part of the Regional Platform is bringing Anglophone African countries under one umbrella"
– Representative of a civil society organization in Nigeria

Survey respondents also articulated areas they would like the Regional Platform to address:

- How to transition from UNDP-managed grants
- How to become a member of the CCM
- How to advocate for the inclusion of people who use drugs in Global Fund services
- Details on how the challenging operating environment grants can be implemented
- A strong commitment towards youth as a group, especially in funding requests
- Deeper understanding of the funding application process
- More understanding of civil society and community TA needs
- Practical assistance on how to apply for TA
- How to make the Global Fund more effective

CONFIDENCE ON ENGAGING IN FUNDING REQUEST DEVELOPMENT

When asked “How confident are you that you can engage effectively in your country’s national Global Fund **funding request** for the 2017-2019 funding cycle”:

- **70%** (n=38) of survey respondents reported feeling “very confident”
- **26%** (n=14) reported feeling “somewhat confident”
- No respondent reported feeling “not at all confident”



“I am confident about my ability to engage, but less confident about access to that space”

– Representative of a civil society organization in Kenya

70%

26%

WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE ENGAGEMENT IN FUNDING REQUEST DEVELOPMENT?

35%

The largest proportion of respondents (**35%, n=19**) said that **technical assistance and/or tools on how to engage more effectively would be the most helpful thing for improving their engagement** in their country’s national Global Fund funding request for the 2017-2019 funding cycle.

31%

This was followed closely by **31% (n=17)** of respondents who said that **they needed more information about the Global Fund grant architecture** and where the entry points are for civil society and community engagement.

Just 13% (n=7) cited needing more money for meetings or consultations as a top factor which would help improve their engagement in Global Fund processes. A larger proportion (20%, n=11) said they rather needed more information about when and where consultations are happening.



CONFIDENCE ON COMMUNITY MONITORING ABILITY

When asked “How confident are you that you can hold Global Fund implementers accountable for grant implementation through community monitoring or watchdogging”:

- 67% (n=36) of survey respondents reported feeling “very confident”
- 30% (n=16) reported feeling “somewhat confident”
- No respondent reported feeling “not at all confident”



Survey respondents were more confident in their ability to engage in the development of funding request than they were about their ability to perform effective community monitoring during grant implementation.

69% (n=37) of respondents said they had performed some kind of community monitoring work in the past. 20% said they have never done community monitoring work and 9% (n=5) were unsure if they had.



WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY WORK?

The largest proportion of respondents **(46%, n=25) said that funding for community monitoring/watchdogging activities would be the most helpful thing for improving their ability to perform effective community monitoring** and accountability work.



The second most popular response was “Learning from the success stories of community monitoring in other countries”, which 22% (n=12) of respondents cited as the top factor which would improve their community monitoring work.

48% (n=26) said that national-level investments (i.e. country allocations) are the most transparent and open for civil society and community groups to perform community monitoring/watchdogging. This was followed by 44% (n=24) who cited strategic initiatives (including the CRG strategic initiative) as the most open and transparent for monitoring. **Just 9% felt that multi-country investments (regional grants) are the most transparent and open to community monitoring.**

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE 2017-2019 FUNDING CYCLE

PERSPECTIVES ON ENGAGING IN THE FUNDING MODEL

43% (n=23) said that development of national strategic plans (NSPs) was the most open part about the funding model for civil society and community groups to engage, followed by **39% (n=21)** who said country dialogue was the most open. This is a change from the 2016 survey, where respondents said country dialogue was the most open part, followed by NSP development. Just 17% of respondents said development of funding requests was the most open part of the funding model. **Only 4% said that grant-making was an open process for civil society and community groups to engage.**

The greatest number of respondents **(39%, n=21) said that the selection of partners to implement grants was the most closed part of the funding model for civil society and community groups to engage.** More must be done to ensure that meaningful engagement can continue through the principal recipient (PR) and sub-recipient (SR) selection process.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE GLOBAL FUND'S NEW STRATEGY (2017-2022)

The overwhelming majority of respondents **(89%, n=48) said they felt the Global Fund's new strategy for 2017-2022 will create more opportunities for civil society and community groups to engage.** 4% (n=2) said they did not think the new strategy would create more opportunities to engage and 6% (n=3) were unsure if it would.



PERSPECTIVES ON CATALYTIC INVESTMENTS

Respondents said that the **biggest opportunity with catalytic investments** (specifically, multi-country approaches and strategic initiatives) was that they **create a way for civil society and communities to access funding directly from the Global Fund (37%, n=20)**, and they **fill gaps in programming left out of national Global Fund programs (37%, n=20)**. Fewer people (20%, n=11) said not being restricted by legal and policy environments at national level was the biggest opportunity.

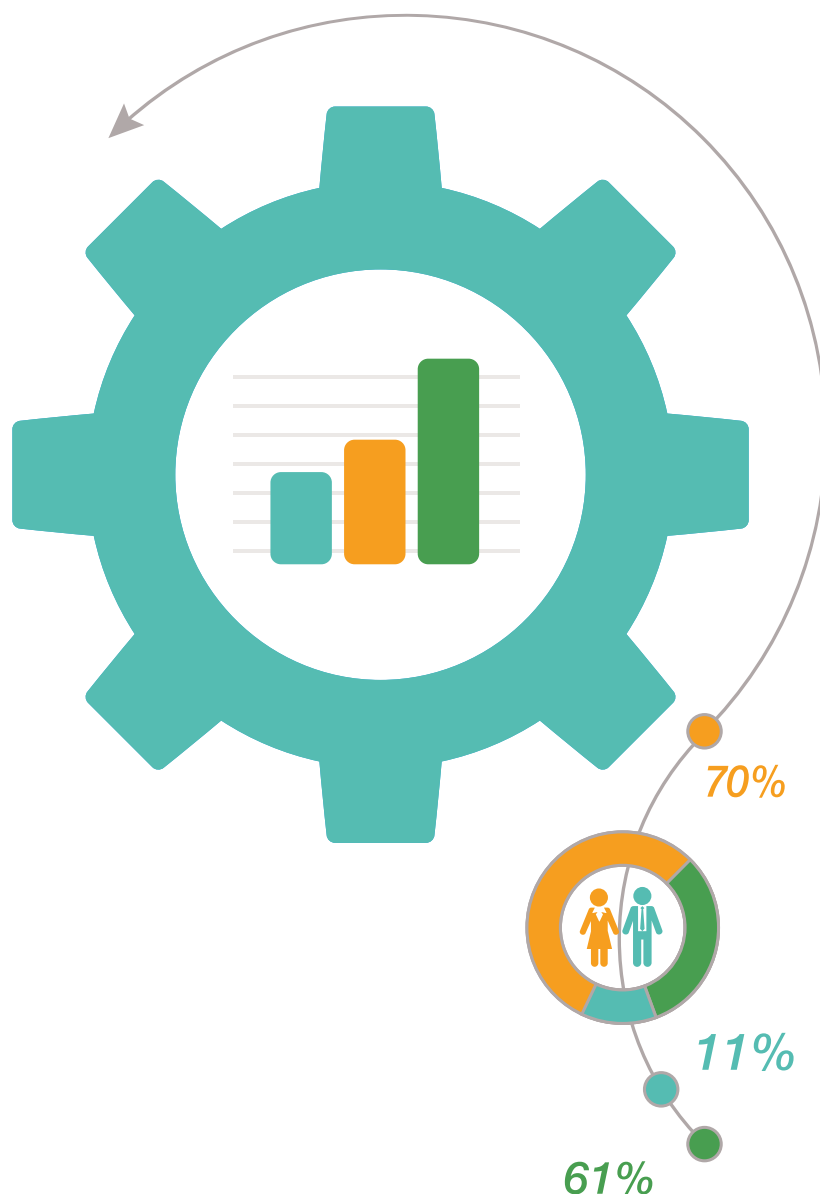


However, **the largest proportion (43%, n=23) said that the biggest challenge with catalytic investments was the limited information** from the Global Fund and its partners on how to access funding outside of the country allocation.

PERSPECTIVES ON CIVIL SOCIETY CCM MEMBERS

The vast majority of respondents said that the biggest opportunity with having civil society CCM members was to make sure community voices inform Global Fund decision-making (70%, n=38). Fewer respondents said that the biggest opportunity was to hold government accountable for implementation of programs (26%, n=14).

The biggest challenge with civil society CCM members was cited to be constituency consultation and feedback of information to communities, according to 61% (n=33) of survey respondents. Following this, 20% (n=11) said the biggest challenge with civil society CCM members was representing their constituency and not their organization or personal beliefs. **Only 11% (n=6) said the biggest challenge was having their voices heard and being listened to in meetings.**





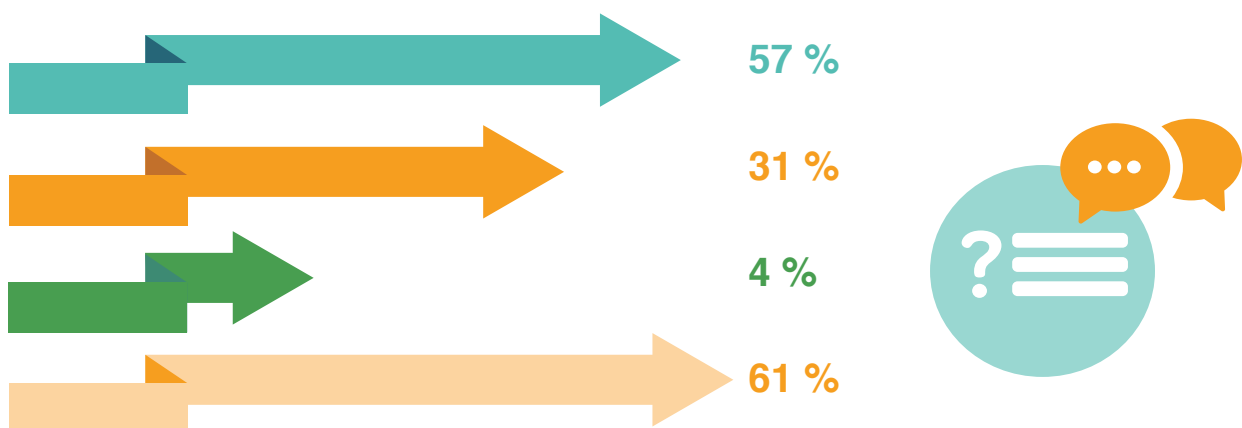
PERSPECTIVES ON CIVIL SOCIETY IMPLEMENTERS (PRS AND SRS)

The vast majority of respondents (**83%**, n=45) said that the biggest opportunity with having civil society implementers (PRs and SRs) was that civil society knows how to reach people on the ground with services better than government sometimes. The biggest challenge was cited to be that **civil society does not always have the capacity to implement large grants (39%, n=21)**.

PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL FUND TA (ALL FORMS)

61% (n=33) of respondents said that the biggest opportunity with having Global Fund TA is that it **helps make sure that civil society and communities are able to participate fully** in Global Fund process. Fewer (31%, n=17) said that it builds the capacity of civil society and community groups. **Just 4% (n=2) said that quick support is available, even at the last minute.**

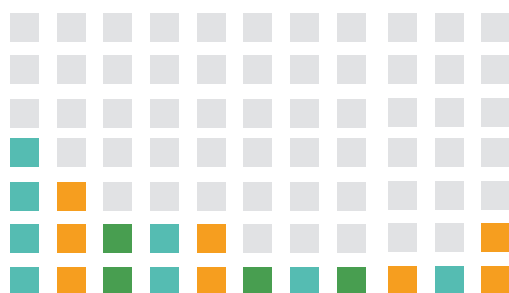
57% (n=31) said that the biggest challenge with Global Fund TA was that some of the TA ends after the funding request development stage, and **there is little TA to support watchdogging of implementation**. TA through the CRG Strategic Initiative (2017-2019) has been extended to be available to civil society and community groups throughout the funding model – including during grant implementation. Civil society and community groups must be made aware of this opportunity.



WHERE HAVE CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS IN ANGLOPHONE AFRICA ACCESSED GLOBAL FUND TA?

76% (n=41) of civil society and community groups reported accessing Global Fund TA from at least one provider in the region. 33% (n=18) of respondents reported accessing Global Fund TA from more than one provider.

- **31% (n=17)** have access TA through the UNAIDS Technical Support Facility (TSF).
- **24% (n=13)** have accessed short-term TA through the Global Fund's CRG Special Initiative
- **19% (n=10)** have accessed TA through the GIZ BACKUP health initiative
- **17% (n=9)** have accessed TA through the United States Government (PEPFAR/USAID)
- **9% (n=5)** have accessed TA through Women4GlobalFund
- **9% (n=5)** have accessed TA through the Stop TB Partnership
- **7% (n=4)** have accessed TA through the Alliance Technical Support Hub
- **6% (n=3)** have accessed TA through Hivos
- **2% (n=1)** have accessed TA through Aidspace
- **2% (n=1)** have accessed TA through ICW East Africa
- Others cited receiving TA through MSMGF (n=1), EANNASO (n=1), SAT (n=1) and UN Women (n=1).
- **20% (n=11)** reported never accessing any Global Fund-related TA.



HOW SHOULD THE REGIONAL PLATFORM RESPOND?

The largest proportion of respondents (41%, n=22) said that the most useful kind of information they receive from the Regional Platform is community guides on Global Fund policies and processes. This was followed by 24% (n=13) who said that tools and toolkits on how to engage in Global Fund processes are the most useful. 19% (n=10) cited opportunities to participate in meetings and dialogue forums as the most useful contribution of the Regional Platform.

Respondents cited research reports and in-depth analysis (15%, n=8) and newsletters or emails on opportunities for accessing technical assistance (15%, n=8) as less useful, in terms of the information they have received from the Regional Platform.

The Regional Platform will use the results of this survey to guide and inform its work going forward in 2017. Civil society organizations, community groups, CCMs, TA providers, funding partners, and other relevant stakeholders are encouraged to make use of these survey results in their work.



76% of civil society and community groups reported accessing Global Fund TA from at least one provider in the region.

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