

"YOU JUST FIND THINGS HAPPENING IN A CLOUD OVER YOUR HEAD"

How Civil Society and Community Groups are Engaging with Global Fund Regional Grants in Africa





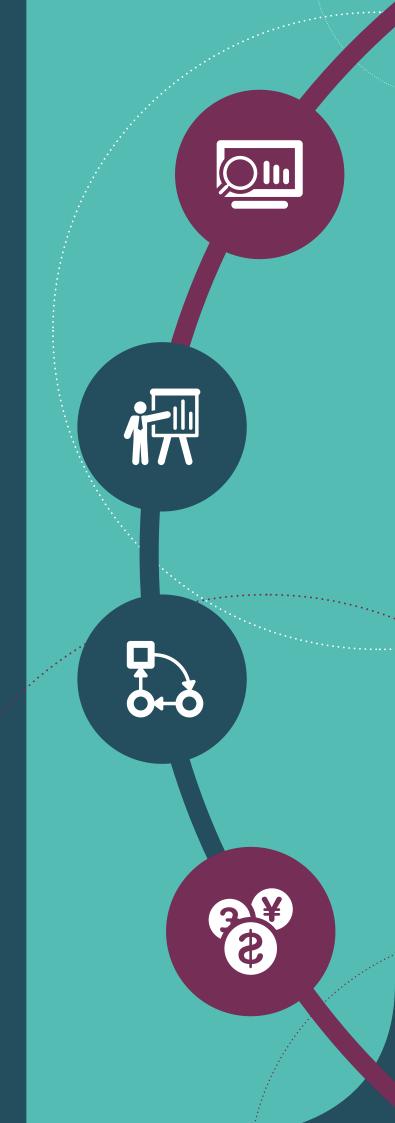


Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria For Anglophone Africa © 2016 Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations (EANNASO)

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The Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organization (EANNASO) is a non-governmental regional membership-based network made up of eight national networks of AIDS service organizations in seven countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar) and Uganda. EANNASO facilitates coordination, effective joint advocacy, networking and information sharing among its member networks in Eastern Africa, with a vision of an empowered civil society which can effectively contribute to promoting a life free from HIV, TB and related health issues and their associated impacts. Through driving a regional agenda that empowers national networks, we can effectively contribute to an improved HIV and TB response through enhancing the voice of civil society organizations and strengthening both institutional and programmatic capacities.

This report has been produced as part of the work of the Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination for Anglophone Africa, hosted by EANNASO. The Regional Platform is part of the Global Fund's Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) Special Initiative. This report forms part of the Platform's strategic capacity development initiatives, aiming to support the coordination of country civil society and community reviews of Global Fund concept notes. Particular attention has been paid to regional Global Fund concept notes and grants, as this has been identified as a specific gap in terms of civil society engagement (see section on study rationale).



LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHAP African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships

AIDS Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

AHRI Africa for Health Research Initiative

ALCO Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization

AMIMO Mozambican Mine Workers Association

ANECCA African Network for Care of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS

ARASA The AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa

ASWA African Sex Workers Alliance

AU African Union

BONASO Botswana Network of AIDS Service Organizations

BONELA Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV and AIDS

CCM Country coordinating mechanism

CHAU Community Health Alliance Uganda

CiSHAN Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria

CSO Civil society organization

CRG Community, rights and gender

CSS Community systems strengthening

E8 Elimination 8

EANNASO Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations

ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

ECSA HC The East, Central and Southern African Health Community

FUE Federation of Uganda Employers

HIV Human immunodeficiency virus

Hivos Humanist Institute for Cooperation

ICW EA International Community of Women living with HIV Eastern Africa

IGAD The Intergovernmental Authority on Development

JAAIDS Journalists Against AIDS in Nigeria

KANCO Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium

KP REACH Key Populations - Representation, Evidence and Attitude Change for Health Impact

MARPS Most-at-risk populations

MCP Mecanismo de Coordenação do Pais

NGO Non-governmental organization

NSWA Nigeria Sex Workers Association

NTP National tuberculosis program

NYNETHA Nigeria Network of Youths on HIV/AIDS

PLASOC Mozambique Civil Society Platform for Health Coordination

PR Principal Recipient

RAME Réseau Accès aux Medicaments Essentiels

RCM Regional coordinating mechanism

RCNF Robert Carr civil society Network Fund

SADC Southern African Development Community

SR Sub-recipient

SSR Sub-sub-recipient

TA Technical Assistance

TASO The AIDS Support Organization

TB Tuberculosis

TIERS The Initiative for Equal Rights

UGANET Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS

UHRN Uganda Harm Reduction Network

UNASO Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNYPA Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV & AIDS

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Olive Mumba, Executive Director of EANNASO, provided oversight and coordination for this research project.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While several studies have described civil society participation and community engagement in national-level Global Fund processes in Africa^{1,2,3} few have sought to understand the extent to which these groups are able to engage at the regional level. Although the Global Fund serves countries as its primary mode of investment, \$200 million was invested in regional grants during the 2014-2016 cycle. It is equally important for civil society organizations and community groups to be meaningfully engaged in dialogue, concept note development and watchdogging of these regional grants. Emerging evidence suggests there are significant gaps in how civil society and community groups are able to engage with Global Fund regional grants.^{4,5}

In a recent needs assessment survey conducted by the Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations (EANNASO), the largest proportion of respondents (24%) indicated that the Global Fund regional concept notes were their biggest knowledge gap. The survey also revealed barriers to participation in regional concept note development, with 70% of survey respondents reporting that they participated in a country dialogue process compared to less than half (48%) who reported participating in a regional dialogue. Participation barriers at the regional level were reported to be greater for key populations groups.

Based on this identified need, EANNASO undertook a research project to understand how civil society and community groups are engaging with Global Fund processes at the regional level. The research also aims to create greater transparency around where regional grants are being implemented and how community engagement with these grants can be improved through action planning and access to technical assistance

From April-May 2016, a total of 43 key informants were interviewed for this research project. Most interviews were conducted in person by the research teams in Botswana, Nigeria, Mozambique and Uganda. These countries were selected based on the presence of a high number of regional grants (see Annex 2 and 3). Some interviews were conducted telephonically or through email for key informants in remote or rural areas.

Interviews were prioritized with members of country coordinating mechanisms (CCMs), regional coordinating mechanisms (RCMs), Global Fund implementers, civil society organizations and key populations networks. The interviews were semi-structured, guided by the use of a questionnaire (see Annex 1).

Seven themes of discussion emerged from the key informant interviews: (1) Knowledge, (2) Communication, (3) Engagement, (4) Coordination, (5) Sustainability, (6) Accountability, and (7) Value. In general, civil society and community groups expressed having inadequate information about regional grants and facing huge barriers to being able to hold the implementers of these grants accountable for their performance.

Based on the results from the interviews, this report makes five overall recommendations:

- Increase access to information on regional grants beyond relying on CCMs as the sole communication channel
- 2. Increase community involvement in conceptualization, design and evaluation of regional grants
- Create opportunities for civil society and community groups at country level to be recipients of certain components of regional grants in order to ensure greater buy-in and sustainability
- Prioritize technical assistance, capacity building and funding which facilitates civil society and community groups' ability to hold regional grants accountable
- Provide consistent and reliable feedback to all countries and communities involved

INTRODUCTION

In March 2014, the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria (hereafter referred to as the Global Fund) approved \$200 million to be set aside for regional programs during the 2014-2016 allocation period. While the Global Fund serves countries as its primary mode of investment, it also recognizes that sometimes the most effective solutions brings together several countries in a region to fight a common issue. This could include cross-border disease transmission, advocacy with regional policy-making bodies, or leveraging successes from neighbouring countries.

As with national-level Global Fund processes, it is very important for civil society organizations and community groups to participate in dialogue, concept note development, and watchdogging of regional programs. While several studies have described civil society participation and community engagement in national-level Global Fund processes in Africa^{7,8,9} few have sought to understand the extent to which these groups are able to engage at the regional level. Further, emerging evidence suggests there are significant gaps in how civil society and community groups are able to engage with Global Fund regional grants.^{10,11}

STUDY RATIONALE

As host of the Regional Platform for Anglophone Africa, EANNASO strives to enhance the knowledge and negotiating skills of civil society and community groups on the Global Fund and access to related technical assistance (TA). In order to do this well, the Regional Platform conducted a survey to scaffold the current understanding of TA and capacity development gaps for civil society and community groups. The survey results are intended to guide the Platform's strategic capacity development initiatives so that they that directly respond to identified gaps.

Results from the survey demonstrate that the largest proportion of respondents (24%) said their understanding

about regional concept notes was their biggest knowledge gap. There are also significant engagement gaps for regional programs, as 70% of respondents participated in the country dialogue process compared to just 48% who participated in a regional dialogue. Worryingly, respondents from civil society organizations were more likely to participate in regional dialogue spaces as compared to key populations; 53% of respondents from civil society organizations participated in regional dialogue compared to 43% of key populations surveyed. 55% said they thought country dialogues were more open spaces for civil society and community groups than regional dialogues. 16% thought regional dialogues were more open. 26% did not know which of the two was more open. One person said they were about the same.

Despite information and engagement barriers, the vast majority of those surveyed – 82% - said regional concept notes are a good way for the Global Fund to make grants. The most common response on the biggest benefit of regional grants was that they fill gaps in programming left out of national concept notes (41%). This was followed by 31% who said the biggest benefit was not being restricted by legal and policy environments. Most people said that the biggest challenge with regional grants is a lack of accountability, monitoring and oversight. This was cited as the biggest challenge by 52% of respondents. Closely following accountability issues, 44% of respondents said the biggest challenge with regional grants was the limited coordination with country programs and grants.

This research project follows up on these identified knowledge and experience gaps for civil society and community groups in regional Global Fund programs. This report aims to share civil society and community experiences engaging with regional Global Fund grants and increase knowledge on these grants and how engagement and access to TA can be improved.

METHODOLOGY

This research project was carried out through semi-structured key informant interviews, conducted from April-May 2016 in four strategic countries – or "regional hubs" - based

on the presence of a high number of regional programs (see Annex 2 and Annex 3 for an overview of all regional grants covering Anglophone African countries). Interviews were conducted in Botswana, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda. These four countries were selected based on being priority countries for the largest number of different regional grants, with a balance of the different disease components (HIV, TB and malaria), and a balance of geographic location (West Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa). Mozambique was intentionally included to acquire community engagement data on regional programs in Lusophone countries and examine those results comparatively to the Anglophone countries.

TABLE 1: SELECTED COUNTRIES FOR CONDUCTING KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Region Country		# of Regional Grants Which Cover the Country	Regional Principal Recipients (PRs) in Selected Country	Disease Components in Regional Grants	
East Africa	Uganda	5	UNDP, KANCO, ECSA HC, ANNECA, IGAD	HIV, TB	
West Africa Nigeria		3	ALCO, UNDP, ANECCA	HIV	
Southern Africa	Botswana	5	WITS, Elimination 8 (E8), UNDP, Hivos, ECSA HC	HIV, TB, Malaria	
Southern Africa	Mozambique	3	WITS, ECSA HC, E8	HIV, TB, Malaria	

A total of 43 key informant interviews were conducted across the four countries; 13 interviews were conducted in Botswana, 8 in Mozambique, 7 in Nigeria and 15 in Uganda. Participants were selected by the research lead in each country, prioritizing members of country coordinating mechanisms (CCMs), regional coordinating mechanisms (RCMs), Global Fund implementers, civil society organizations and key populations networks. Respondents were given the option to be identified by name and organization, organization only, or to remain completely anonymous. Six of the 43 respondents preferred to remain anonymous. Table 2 presents a complete list of the 43 key informants who participated in this research.

The majority of the interviews were conducted in person by the research teams, although some were conducted telephonically or through email in situations where key informants were from remote or rural areas.

Interviews were semi-structured and guided by a questionnaire (Annex 1). Participants were asked about their experience with regional grants, and their perspectives on how civil society and community engagement in regional programs could be strengthened. The data was transcribed by hand, and analyzed according to emerging themes that were common across the four countries.

TABLE 2: LIST OF KEY INFORMANTS

Botswara (n=13)	#	Name	Organization	Relationship to Global Fund			
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27 Key Informant F Heartland Alliance Nigeria SR	26	Olayide Akanni	Journalists Against AIDS in Nigeria (JAAIDS)	Former CCM member			
28 Mike Akanji The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs) SR	27	Key Informant F	Heartland Alliance Nigeria	SR			
	28	Mike Akanji	The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs)	SR			

Uga	Uganda (n=15)				
29	Angella Katagyira Magime	CCM Program Officer	ССМ		
30	Bharam Namanya	Community Health Alliance Uganda (CHAU), Executive Director	CCM Member		
31	Dennis Tinyebwe	African Network for Care of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (ANNECA)	Regional PR		
32	Dick Muwhezi	The AIDS Support Organization (TASO), Grants Management Unit Coordinator	National PR		
33	Dora Kiconco Musinguzi	Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)	ARASA member, part of Removing Legal Barriers (UNDP) grant		
34	Jacqueline Alesi	Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV & AIDS (UNYPA)	Participated in country dialogue		
35	Jane Wakikona	The AIDS Support Organization (TASO), M&E Specialist	National PR		
36	Joshua Wamboga	Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations (UNASO), Director	CCM member		
37	Lillian Mworeko	International Community of Women living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICW-EA)	RCNF grantee through CRG Special Initiative, CRG TA Provider		
38	Robert Nakibumba	Africa for Health Research Initiative (AHRI)	CCM Member, TB activist		
39	Rosemary Ssenabulya	Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE)	CCM Member		
40	Samuel Jamie Ibanda	Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Services Organizations (EANNASO) (Board Member)	Part of the Global Fund CRG Special Initiative		
41	Syson Namaganda Laing	CCM Secretariat Co-ordinator	CCM		
42	Wamala Twaibu	Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN)	Involved in KANCO regional grant on harm reduction in East Africa		
43	Steve Okokwu	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Supported the regional concept for ANECCA		

RESULTS

While perspectives from key informants were rich and varied, overall, seven common themes of discussion emerged:

Theme #1: Knowledge: Who knows what?

Theme #2: Communication: Not just what, but how Theme #3: Engagement: Where are the entry points? Theme #4: Coordination: All the moving pieces

Theme #5: Sustainability: Community ownership is key Theme #6: Accountability: Are community voices heard?

Theme #7: Value: Is it all worth it?

The results from the interviews are synthesized and presented along these themes.

THEME #1 - KNOWLEDGE: WHO KNOWS WHAT

The first common theme from the 43 key informant interviews is the topic of knowledge about regional grants. Given that EANNASO's needs assessment survey identified regional concept notes as civil society and community group's biggest Global Fund knowledge gap, the interviews aimed to dig deeper into the reason for this gap.

Nana Gleeson from the Botswana Network on Ethics, Laws and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) sums up the perceptions of community knowledge of regional grants quite succinctly: "some communities know about regional grants and some don't". This appears to be the reality according to most of the participants in each of the countries represented in this research. It is those participants who are part of the Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) who are most likely to be knowledgeable of regional grants.

In Nigeria, there is some knowledge of regional programs being funded by the Global Fund. The most popular/known regional program is the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization (ALCO) project. Four of the seven interview respondents identified that Nigeria is included in the ALCO project grant. However, Amako Enemuo, from the Nigeria Sex Workers Association (NSWA), as well as Key Informant F from Heartland Alliance International Nigeria, had "no idea" of regional programs currently funded in the region or of whether Nigeria is included in currently funded regional programs.

All except one of the respondents from Nigeria (one who preferred to remain Key Informant E) stated that they, or their organizations, did not participate in the regional dialogues for any of the regional grants. Michael Akanji, from The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs), noted that: "In the ALCO project, although we were not part of the concept note development ...we were involved in focus group discussions". Walter Ugwuocha, representing Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CiSHAN), noted that: "There were no opportunities for me to be engaged" and another, Key Informant D, who preferred to remain anonymous, states that,



"We do not know of any dialogue that is on-going" and that, "We are not aware of online consultation processes that went on."

For those on the ground in Mozambique, the lack of knowledge about regional grants appears to be the same. For example, Moises Uamusse from the Mozambican Mine Workers Association (AMIMO), states that:

In terms of the affected communities, not all of them are aware of those regional grants. That's the first thing. The second thing is - what are the challenges to take the information to those communities? Those communities are not aware at all about the existence of those grants, for themselves.

Similarly, one member of the Mozambique Civil Society Platform for Health Coordination (PLASOC) stated that,



"For me, the information is almost zero. I have heard about it, but through other sources. Not formal information."

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Another PLASOC member from Movimento Contra a Tuberculose identified that no information is passed on from the Mozambique CCM (referred to as the Mecanismo de Coordenação do Pais, or MCP). The Mozambican MCP Executive Secretary disagrees, "we do get the information [about regional grants] as MCP, and share it with our members."

In Uganda, the limited knowledge and understanding of regional grants in communities is also evident. Bharam Namanya from the Community Health Alliance Uganda (CHAU), Dennis Tinyebwe, the Executive Director of the African Network for the Care of Children Affected by AIDS (ANECCA), Joshua Wamboga, the Executive Director of

the Uganda National Aids Service Organization (UNASO) and Lillian Mworeko, the Executive Director of the International Community of Women Living with HIV-Aids – East Africa (ICWEA) all identify that communities often do not know of or understand regional grants. Wamboga from UNASO, for example, states that,

"The community doesn't know about it. Only targeted populations will know, but the rest of the community won't know. There's little knowledge about ANECCA and key populations." Importantly, however, those involved in CCMs are more knowledgeable of regional grants.

In terms of the reason for this limited community knowledge, Tinyebwe from ANECCA states:



I don't think they understand regional grants as well as they understand the country grants, and again it's largely because of the mechanisms of involving them. If it was possible the concept note development would require us to go to each of these countries and consult with the stakeholders, get them together and debate the issues and so on, from country to country, but it becomes very expensive.



Participants from Botswana identified a similar lack of knowledge of regional grants. However, unlike other countries examined in this report, CCM members in Botswana had comparably less knowledge about regional grants. Dalton Bontsi, who runs a support group for people living with HIV (PLHIV), thinks that civil society members are not aware of any of the five regional grants in Botswana. Tosh Legoreng from Sisonke, a sex worker led organization, gives weight to this belief. She had no knowledge of KP REACH, the regional key populations program, despite being a member of the African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA). And another participant, Oscar Motsumi from the Botswana Network for AIDS Service Organizations (BONASO) also identifies a level of secrecy around regional proposals. Peter Chibatamoto, also from BONASO, hints that this secrecy may be linked to a certain level of competition: "At the end of the day, it's not about competing for resources. If it is a grant, we should be able to share information in such a way that we are going to benefit."

Then, most interestingly, Maatla Otsogile, with the CCM Secretariat, shows how knowledge of regional grants is not always even. Since he joined the CCM Secretariat in October 2015, he has heard of only two of the five regional grants in Botswana: Elimination 8 and TB in Mines. New CCM staff like Maatla are a useful litmus test for how and when information from regional grants is reaching countries. He states: "The problem is that our representatives are not giving feedback." So, CCM functionality may be impeding wider knowledge of regional grants among civil society and communities.

The only participant who felt that they and the relevant communities were sufficiently knowledgeable was Lefetogile Bogosing, the Executive Secretary of the Botswana CCM. On the other hand, Harriet Pedersen from the European Union believes that there is limited knowledge of regional grants in Botswana. She attributes this to NGOs: "It links to the dysfunctional NGO [non-governmental organization] coordination structures. They are completely dysfunctional, at least here." In light of these issues, Gleeson from BONELA's statement is very meaningful:



If the Global Fund is really serious about community level monitoring, people need to know what's going on, and they need to be having the necessary information to analyse and give feedback on. And where does that happen? You just find things happening in a cloud over your head. And at the end of the day they're going to do some kind of evaluation and you're going to say 'well I didn't know'. And it's not good enough. We need to make this kind of information available to everyone.

Overall, while key informants acknowledge the intention to make knowledge of the regional grants accessible, most feel this does not always translate into shared knowledge on the ground. Part of the reason for this is, as Tinyebwe from ANECCA identifies above, the "mechanisms of involving them" that are different to the country grants. Communication is then an important theme and so too is the comparison to country grants. These will be discussed in the next theme.

THEME #2 - COMMUNICATION: NOT JUST WHAT, BUT HOW

Closely linked to knowledge and knowledge gaps, the second common theme identified is about how and when communication occurs. This has critical implications for how civil society and community groups at national level come to learn about regional Global Fund grants.

The PLASOC members identify that the key issue is not whether information is shared, but more importantly, how it is shared:

One of the barriers is that community people here don't have access to internet. When we invite them, we have to call on the phone. Many PLASOC members have to be called to come to a meeting. And if there are documents, they are often in English, and most people do not speak English (Baslucas Nhar, Mozambique CCM Oversight, Technical Committee).

All the PLASOC focus group members agreed that,

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"Clicking send on an email does not mean you communicated".

One member continued:

Rather than just receiving information and sending it through email, we could call the members of the relevant constituency and talk to them about it, say 'we have received this grant, and this is about TB, and the requirements are these, the basic information is this, and then they will be aware of that and can feedback if they want to. Targeted information! And not just generalized sharing.

As hinted at above, the MCP members interviewed acknowledged having access to information, and the importance of this information to them. One MCP member, Key Informant C, also identifies the lack of information available to civil society: "Civil society is not well informed

about the process [for regional grants]. They don't know the criteria".

Again, the issue may be more nuanced than simply having information versus being kept in the dark. Laila Alberto Jose Sueye (an MCP member from Tiyane Vavasate, a sexworker led organization) feels that different stakeholders need different access to information. She says, "It's not that important for all sex workers to know these things, about regional Global Fund grants. They need to know about their rights, their health. But to know about Global Fund is more for those big organizations up there." Uamusse from AMIMO responded directly to Alberto Jose Sueye's statement:

On the one hand, [s]he's right, but on the other hand, [s] he's not right. When you go down to the communities, and they hear there is money up there, they will say 'so where is that money, 'cause we are dying here'. From that point, I have a right to know the existence of that money. The country is receiving lots of money, so why don't you come to save our lives?

A PLASOC member also proposes that, perhaps, "since we don't have this information, perhaps it's more for the government at regional level and not for civil society." These comments show that there may be some discrepancy in terms of perceptions about who needs access to different kinds of information, at through different communication channels.

Similarly to Tosh Legoreng in Botswana, Laila Alberto Jose Sueye had not heard of the KP REACH regional grant (Key Populations – Representation, Evidence and Attitude Change for Health Impact) regional program. While Mozambique is not part of that grant, given that the African Sex Workers Alliance (AWSA) is a part of KP REACH and Jose Sueye's organization is part of ASWA, one might have expected key populations in Mozambique to be aware of the program. As is the case for civil society and communities in Mozambique more generally, she thinks her language is why she was unaware of that grant: "Of course, I speak Portuguese. My language is a problem".

Another MCP member, Key Informant C, explains her experience with how information flows:

The thing is how the information arrives. We are just being informed that there was this regional [proposal] at the end of the process. The people from Ministry of Health came to CCM, make a presentation about the regional proposal, who are the stakeholders involved, and what they want from us is to endorse it... They just came, said, 'this is what we have applied for, this is the implementing partner, this is the budget'. Even the president and the whole executive committee said, 'what are you doing here? If everything is already decided, what is our role?' There is nothing that we can do at this point...The big issue seems that the contacts at regional don't contact countries, or if they do it's with limited time, like a week or even just a few days. You cannot ask countries to validate as CCM members one week before submitting a proposal.

In contrast to this, Uamusse from AMIMO sees the process as follows:

No, it doesn't work like that. If there is a regional grant coming in, that means those stakeholders that are represented there, they might be aware of that, we go through the general assembly when we come together, we discuss, but we don't take decisions right there. We go back to the constituencies, to present what is happening, and then we come up with some inputs to the next meeting. And then the next meeting is the one where we are going to take the decisions. When there are CCMs to call for endorsements, it is something that is quite known, it is done through the technical groups. So when we go there to endorse we say 'yes, this is exactly what we discussed' and we endorse.

Interviewees from Botswana also identified the issue of poor timing that limits their ability to be involved. Jerome Mafeni from the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) and Pilot Mathambo from Centre for Men's Health, both identify issues with the process. Mathambo says, "We are told 'we are behind time, let's just do it'. This is given as the reason as to why communities are not engaged in an on-going or comprehensive way."

Post-endorsement, their experiences do not change. "These people, they came, we endorsed their proposals, and then they left. So nobody knows. Even in the meetings that we sit at the moment, we never really engaged further about regional proposals."

Oscar Motsumi (BONASO) also identified issues with capacity to 'represent' constituencies and coordinate civil society, and how this impedes effective communication channels:

We are challenged in terms of how we represent out constituency, because we never have resources to get our members together. I think we are representing them by default, or by name, or by mandate as the coordinating body. But in terms of going out there, having the financial and technical resources to engage our members effectively, that we do not do very well.

This is a consistent theme from the Botswana interviews - communication is limited and mechanisms for communication are not in place. Otsogile, with the Botswana CCM Secretariat, elaborates on this:

Something we always tell CSOs is they have to understand how the CCM works, especially in choosing their representatives in the CCM. These representatives, they have to give feedback to their constituents, but this is one of the blind areas that is not being done. We haven't devised a template or a tool to track if indeed these representatives are giving feedback to their constituents.

In Uganda, those interviewed generally felt that there was engagement of civil society and key populations in the regional grant development process. For example, Tinyebwe from ANECCA states:

[T]he new funding model requires active participation of the beneficiaries and in our case, we had

representatives of young people living with HIV, representatives of transgender [populations], and women living with HIV - they all participated in the dialogue... They were actually incorporated quit a lot, ICWEA organized for us a meeting with commercial sex workers, we also interacted with them, we talked to them about this regional project and they gave us very good ideas on how to reach sex workers [and] how to reach their children that are born in such environments.

Wamala Twaibu, the Executive Director of the Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN), felt that communities were very much involved:

Basically, we communities took a lead in this KANCO grant. We mobilized as Uganda Harm Reduction, a national stake holders meeting where we involved every one that we think was influential and can add something in development of key populations so we were the ones that presented the regional concept to the CCM...During the concept note development we had key groups represented, we had civil society, young people, government systems in Ministry of Health and AIDS control programs, development partners so we don't expect that level of consultations when Uganda is applying, we had a small meeting of people from seven countries and all the countries were represented.

Dick Muwhezi, the Grants Management Unit Coordinator for the Global Fund at The AIDS Support Organization (TASO), discussed his organization's involvement in the ANECCA grant. The involvement was quite extensive, but Muwhezi notes that this stopped at some point:

We never got to see the final product, but I know the consultations were continuous and I hope it made a difference. So, I can't give you a concrete answer because all they did was consult, so that we never got to see the final product and what difference the interaction with us made. But, I know we have been involved in the interview process at least our input was significant.

Muwhezi identifies the underlying perception regarding communication: "Of course, they should have been involved much earlier, but the assumption was - whether correct or not - is that their representatives at CCM made their input."

What stands out in the Ugandan context is that community representatives are involved in concept note development to some extent, but that the feedback to communities later on in the process is limited.



Samuel Ibanda, a board member of the Eastern Africa National Network of AIDS Service Organizations (EANNASO) offers a unique perspective as part of a regional organization. His experiences and his role shaped how communication about regional grants reached him:

The only grant that I knew about at the stage of preparing the proposal was the Harm reduction [one] because of KANCO being a member of the board. The Executive Director was a member of the EANNASO board, so he took advantage of the board meetings and briefed EANNASO about the Harm reduction proposal. In the briefing he told us there would be ten countries, which would include Uganda.

Related to CCMs, the topic of CCM endorsement was a particular issue in Botswana. It appears that key population representatives and CCM members are consulted and involved in regional dialogues in order to endorse proposals, but that this is where engagement often ends. Also, the quality of engagement may be compromised. Almost all of the participants in Botswana felt that communication is only instigated when it is valuable for the implementer/s. Communication is often simply about ensuring CCM endorsement after which, "they are not kept in the loop on what is happening" (Botshelo Kgwaadira, NTP manager).

Harriet Pedersen, Botswana CCM member representing multi-lateral and bi-lateral organizations (European Union) speaks about her experience:



The regional grants are just dropped on us with no notice, basically, and we are meant to approve them. Or approve the country component of a regional program. It's hard enough with the national programs, to make sense, and to have good discussions on substantive issues with input that is relevant. It's hard enough. Regional programs are difficult regardless of the funding source. To get a good regional program going has a lot of inherent complications by design. And I've only seen one good one...

I don't think [CCM endorsement] means anything, actually, to be honest with you. What it may mean is that at least the NACA [National AIDS Coordinating Agency] and the DPS [Deputy Permanent Secretary] for health are not opposing. That's how far I would be taking it, really, or civil society doesn't get up in arms and say 'this is completely against the rights of people living with HIV'. It's a non-objection basis.

Junior Molefe, from Men for Health and Gender Justice, and Nana Gleeson from BONELA (both CCM members in Botswana) expressed that their involvement in regional grants has been limited to the endorsement process, after which, their level of engagement wanes. "As a CCM member, it's presented, you endorse or sign off on it, and then after that, unless you are a particularly interested CCM member you don't ask about it again. And our assumption is that at some point, a report should be given to us about progress" (Gleeson from BONELA). Molefe adds: "These people, they came, we endorsed their proposals, and then they left. So nobody knows. Even in the meetings that we sit at the moment, we never really engaged further about regional proposals".

Lastly, Mafeni from ACHAP relates an even more problematic experience:

The regional grants are a problem, in a way, because at least all the regional grants that I've been involved with in terms of joining the Botswana CCM to approve, are all regional grants that are developed without our input, and when they are dumped on CCM we are told 'please, won't you endorse'. And so, the initial thinking and dialogue that really should happen across all countries, before the proposal development itself even commences, doesn't take place. So CCMs are brought on board to either rubber stamp or just to say 'ok look, we think we won't be part of this, because it doesn't cater to our interests'. And when those requests come with significant time constraints, people will not really have time to read through what is on the table and really debate and dialogue. So the CCM finds itself constrained to do what it should not be doing, which is rubber-stamping.

He also offers a potential way forward:

[T]here is no harm in them putting together regional applications, but the problem is that they consult amongst their membership to put together the application, and consult with country stakeholders at the end rather than at the beginning...

Get the CCMs to endorse the idea up front, get other stakeholders to endorse the idea up front, before you put together the application.

And so that, again, is I think the shortcoming of how those ones went through.

These diverse experiences of the regional grant and dialogue process highlights issues with consistency in communication approaches as well as understanding of what should be happening. Receiving information on regional grants via CCMs emerged as a particular challenge for many national-level stakeholders.

THEME #3 – ENGAGEMENT: WHERE ARE THE ENTRY POINTS?

In interviews from Nigeria, Mozambique and Uganda, the difference between country and regional dialogues emerged as a key theme. These two entry points stood in stark comparison in terms of how easily civil society and community groups were able to engage.

All the respondents from Nigeria identified that they, or their organizations, had participated in national-level country dialogues. Confirming the findings of EANNASO's preliminary survey, there is agreement amongst the respondents that country dialogues are more inclusive than regional dialogues. According to Ugwuocha from CiSHAN, "The country dialogue was all encompassing and included all CiSHAN constituent members". Similarly, Akanji from TIERs noted that, "In the country dialogues, the dialogues were more inclusive and the [key populations] were part of the concept note development process and also the negotiating process". A number of respondents, however, felt that they could not compare regional and country dialogues as they had not participated in the regional ones.

In Mozambique, the perceived inclusiveness of country dialogues versus regional ones was also apparent: "For the national program, we are well aware. Most of those programs are coming out of the national strategic plan. So, since we participate in the development of the national strategic plans, we know about the content and the national grants. Not the regional ones" (PLASOC member). Key Informant C (an MCP member) also mentioned that the communication and authorization processes of regional grants is problematic:

How can the regional applicants enter a country through the ministries and forget there is a coordinating institution [the CCM]? Or, you don't recognize this institution? Something is wrong! And in the end they want you to validate. Validate what? Just to stamp? No – I don't want that.

In Uganda, Rosemary Ssenabulya from the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE), who is also a CCM Vice Chairperson, notes that country dialogues are more inclusive. She states:

I think the country dialogues, in my view, were much more involving, because people are involved right from the start of writing the concept notes. For regional dialogues, we are involved at the final stage, the product is already there. We are only expected to put some input but we are not involved right from the beginning and to me it would make more sense for civil society to be involved right from the drawing board.

Joshua Wamboga (UNASO) agrees and speaks at length about the distinction between entry points for engagement in country versus regional grants, covering a range of factors:

The difference is that the country concept note development dialogues are well structured and planned with the civil society and usually civil society reviews and comes up with position papers that represent to the writing teams to consider the views. That's not the case for the regional concepts, so that's the major difference. Therefore, the input into the regional ones is a little shallow in a way because the civil society doesn't come together to make input into it, so they vary in terms of input...



With the national ones there's a clear involvement but the regional ones there very little involvement of the civil society, in both real time implementation but also in terms of monitoring. Like I said, their [regional grants] nature is narrow. It's basically the targeted population that are involved and the targeted civil society populations that are involved.

Namanya from CHAU identifies similar constraints to engagement for regional dialogues:

Angella Katagyira Magime, A CCM program officer in Uganda has this to say:

The difference which is there is that in the country concept notes there are more consultations and I would think it's caused by the nature of the concepts compared to the one that is regional. One, it's closer to the people, so the people have more time to be engaged but the regional programs, the size of the region becomes a challenge and consultations tend to be limited in terms of frequency...

Only one respondent – Wamala Twaibu (UHRN) - felt that regional grants were more inclusive: "Sometimes we don't know what is taking place at the national level, but we are involved at the regional level than the country so that's the difference."

Syson Namanganda Laing, a CCM Secretariat Coordinator, identifies why this stark distinction in experiences of dialogues may be the case:

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First and foremost there is much more information and guidance from the Global Fund in terms of requirements and processes for country concept notes [as compared to regional ones]. The Global Fund website has information, guidance notes, information notes on what countries needed to do to prepare concept notes under the new funding model and there was also a lot more support from the country teams based at Global Fund for country concept notes which wasn't the case for the regional ones. Maybe the applicants got more support, but we on the other side who were supposed to endorse didn't know what was requested of the CCM, whether the CCM could say 'no we are not endorsing'. We didn't know. We did contact the Global Fund Secretariat, but the information given still wasn't clear regarding the oversight of the regional grants as it has for the country grants, the CCM are still confused of what is required.

With the country dialogues, we are more in control of the stakeholders, we identify key stakeholders and we are in it from the very beginning to the end of the country dialogues. So we plan, facilitate them, we get the output out of them and there is more ownership of the country dialogue outcome and processes which is different from the regional dialogue, out of the five regional dialogues it's only one where we participated. So when you say how do they differ, it's really in terms of ownership and control and participation, with the level regional dialogues we didn't really have a lot of opportunity. The country dialogue we are there from the initiation of the process, this is where the difference is, we don't have control, ownership, knowledge, ability to influence when you compare with the regional dialogues where we were invited only once for only one of the grants.

An important idea that emerges here is that of ownership and local buy-in. This also speaks to the issue of sustainability that will be addressed later.

Robert Nakibumba from the Africa for Health Research Initiative (AHRI) (a CCM member in Uganda) sums up the comparison:



"Regional dialogues need more work to be done in terms of involvement and structuring. The structuring is weak at regional level compared to country level. At country level it's more indepth."

Steve Okokwe, the HIV/AIDS Manager for UNICEF, describes the regional grants as "unique", perhaps indicating that there is little value in comparing them to national grants, as many other key informants have done. He touches on the perceived value of regional grants here, a theme that is unpacked later in this analysis:

Well, the regional grants are unique, they are different from country grants because they are targeted in a way that there's no overlap with country programs. So, they are basically bringing in special experts and unique teams across countries. That's why they are regional grants. They have unique values they bring on board to many countries at the same time, for example, mentorship is a gap that cuts across, policy gaps cuts across countries, and also innovations that you need to share across countries so those are the kinds of unique things that the regional grants bring to the table.

Overall, the above highlights both the perceived inclusiveness and functionality when it comes to country dialogues as well as the current problems with regional dialogues. Both are critical entry points for community engagement, which the Global Fund could seek to improve in terms of the regional dialogue process.



THEME #4 – COORDINATION: ALL THE MOVING PIECES

In terms of regional grants, coordination is a topic that needs to be addressed. As Junior Molefe states: "coordination becomes the constraint. Then you suffer".

As the regional grants move into implementation phase, the engagement of civil society organizations and community groups as stakeholders does not appear to improve. Enemuo from NSWA, Ugwuocha from CiSHAN, Key Informant F from Heartland Alliance, Key Informant D, as well as Olayide Akanni from Journalists Against AIDS (JAAIDS), all expressed limited awareness of opportunities to get involved in the implementation part of the regional grant. Some guidance does exist for how communities can engage after the concept note and during grant-making¹², but there are limited tools to help communities engage once implementation commences.

In agreement with the Nigerian informants, Key Informant C from Mozambique notes:

Then there are issues related to implementers. Civil society members in CCM see that the regional proposal will be implemented by certain NGOs, and they say, 'but how were these people chosen, because we did not even know about it'?' They are not saying that they should be the ones to implement, but at least to know what the criteria for selection were, since they are the representatives for these groups. For them it was a surprise to hear about the proposal, and to hear that some civil society NGOs were already selected for this proposal. 'Ok, so we do not agree, but it's already chosen so we have nothing to do'.

Uamusse from AMIMO also identifies the barriers facing communities as they engage in implementation and the ultimate effects on the ground:

In terms of receiving the grants and going down to the communities, there are all kinds of barriers that are faced, because the Fund itself has got its policies, and these policies are a bit tough, even for the governments themselves in some cases. And then, what do we think about them as civil society? You will find that some of the civil societies are not qualified to apply for these grants, yet, those are the ones that are quite stable at community level. So what we need is intermediate international organizations. And, in so doing, we are reducing the resources that should be flowing down to the communities. And at the end, the quality of the service that is delivered at the community is not the right coverage to be enough.

The one respondent from Nigeria that had indicated participation in the regional dialogue is also someone who had participated in the implementation phase, as a sub-recipient of a regional grant. Akanji from TIERs also indicated that there were opportunities to get involved in implementation, but did not specify what that would look like. Olayide Akanni from JAAIDS makes an interesting observation, "I'm not sure of opportunities for implementing as it depends on 'discretionary inclusion', given some of the target recipients of the intended services are still criminalized in some of the benefitting countries".

Four of the seven respondents from Nigeria stated that they do not know who the principal recipients (PRs) or sub-recipients (SRs) of any regional grants are. Other respondents identified having some knowledge, but, at times, this appears to be limited to certain groups. For example, Akanji from TIERs believes that,



"Except the organizations that are working on implementation process, no others know about the regional PRs or SRs".

Some respondents thought that the CCM were the only ones aware of who the regional principal and sub-recipients are.

In contrast to their knowledge of, and involvement in, the grants, all of the interviewees from the Nigerian set of interviews believed that people are interested to know about regional grants and interested to learn how they can get involved. In order to get involved, information and technical assistance are considered necessary. Most respondents identify the need for information (some at the very basic level of, "information about how the regional grants work"). The majority of key informants also said that regional programs should report to communities and believe that funding to bring constituencies together in order to keep them informed is necessary.

Key Informant F from Heartland Alliance Nigeria goes into more detail about what communities need:

For me, it is network information sharing and capacity building. Also ensuring that people are aware that there is support in that area. Therefore, there is a support structure and when there is that linkage and support that helps to generate support on all levels... One key thing is how to get information to the community. There you find out that there is no access to information. Therefore, there is need to set up a link staff, seeking for platforms that is suitable for each group.

Akanni from JAAIDS also provides suggestions about what communities need, and also speaks to some of the contextual issues that need to be addressed:

Country level information sharing, creating awareness, [technical assistance] should be to implementers to reach beyond reporting to PRs. Implementers are also handicapped due to their target service recipients e.g. key populations [such as men who have sex with men] as these issues are still contentious. So, not all CSOs/NGOs are open to this information. Take into cognisance of contentious issues and the implementers have to determine who to [give] feedback to, as it may not necessarily be beneficial to involve the entire country...

The Ugandan interviews point to the need for civil society engagement and participation in implementation of regional grants, but note that this is not taking place. Jacqueline Alesi from the Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV/aids (UNYPA) describes the 'ideal':



Our role is to make sure that during implementation we are there, to help monitor. It's not just calling us from concept development when it's closing. During implementation, let civil societies be part [of it], even though they are not implementing partners. It's important for civil society to have that information and capacity building and development.

Jane Wakikona from TASO, who was initially consulted, then notes that:

I think in implementation our key role has not been so much, but at least at the beginning our terms were meeting them to discuss those areas...Maybe what I really see is that as they started implementing,



I don't know what level they are engaging stakeholders, reviewing what they do, because they said a lot at the beginning, but now we don't hear much.

In Botswana, coordination of implementation is seen as problematic. This is true in terms of planning: "Very often the implementation arrangements are not worked out and agreed upon, even at the time of submission, so we find that it's only after the grants have been approved, that we then begin to dialogue on ok how should this be

implemented" (Mafeni, ACHAP). It is also true in terms of context: "I can just say it is difficult to implement them, because countries are at different levels. You will see there's something that you want to do in one country that is not necessarily affecting another country." (Kgwaadira, NTP).

Cindy Kelemi, Executive Director of BONELA, speaks to the issue of co-ordination, noting its importance to sustainability. She says that

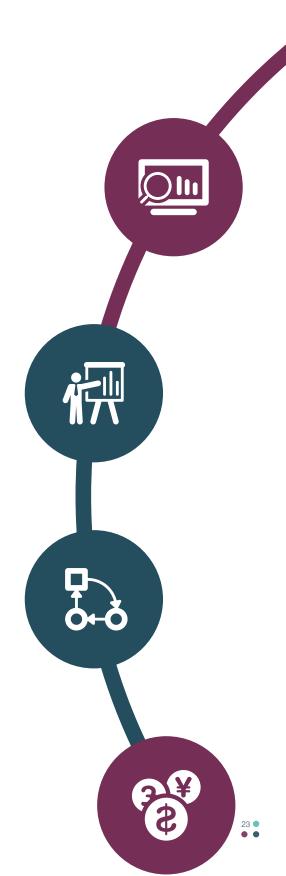


"It is vital for there to be a well-coordinated approach when similar programs are being implemented at national and regional level."

Speaking specifically about work on Removing Legal Barriers¹, which is a priority module for Botswana's national Global Fund grant as well as for the ARASA/ Enda Sante regional program implemented by UNDP (which includes Botswana), Kelemi says



"Regional programs must work closely with national implementers, to ensure regional work is complementary to national efforts and to avoid duplication."



¹ As part of the country's national Global Fund grant BONELA is implementing the Removing Legal Barriers module in Botswana. As a member of the ARASA network, Kelemi is optimistic that BONELA can provide useful linkages between national and regional programmes focusing on legal and policy reform.

THEME #5 – SUSTAINABILITY: COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IS KEY

The fifth theme – sustainability – is also closely linked with the previous themes in that key informants emphasized the need to have community buy-in. When asked about sustainability, all respondents from Nigeria identified that regional programs had the potential to be sustainable, but that this is "a major concern" (Key Informant E) and that certain features needed to be in place in order to ensure this. Some of those mentioned were: "If community ownership is ensured" (Key Informant D) and, "Making reference to structural issues, the only way for suitability is to integrate the programs at all levels. There is need for adequate dissemination of information before we speak about suitability" (Key Informant F, Heartland). Akanji from TIERs mentioned that,



"Regional grants can be sustainable if the community are involved in the development and implementation of the project, however, if the program starts with proper community buyin, sustainability of the project is not feasible."

Lastly, Akanni from JAAIDS states that: "I think that depending on how organizations can be, depending on the value placed on the programs by the countries involved, particularly if they know not addressing the issues would threaten their borders, they can muster the political will for sustenance."

Coming out of Uganda, there was some concern about the sustainability of regional grants. Respondents noted components that needed to be in place in order to ensure sustainability, specifically incorporation into national structures. Ssenabulya from FUE and the CCM believes that, "[Regional grants] can only be sustainable if they are incorporated into the country programs, otherwise I do not see them being sustainable". Wamboga from the key populations focus group notes that, "[Regional grants] are not [sustainable] depending on how the implementing bodies are going to structure them in terms of pilots either they are working within or outside the public health system, but definitely they are not sustainable". And

similarly, Wakikona from TASO believes that, "If they stand in isolation, they will fail, but if they stand with others who have also had previous words in the same area, I think they can succeed, the initial purpose of ANECCA is good but operations will keep them sustainable".

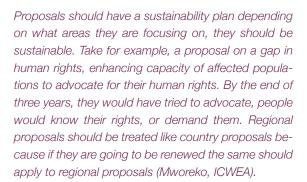
Nakibumba from the AHRI and CCM agrees with the above, but adds the issue of funding as central to sustainability:

No grant is sustainable because in program management everybody plans for sustainability and the sustainability component is important, but eventually how do we get resources locally and carry forward the activities? Because we know one way or another Global Fund may stop, so how do we move forward? It real takes the responsibility back to the regional government to look at the importance of the regional projects from the grants that are running and see how they can be carried forward in case global funds no longer continue.

In light of the above, Laing from the CCM Secretariat and Mworeko from ICWEA offer some suggestions regarding ensuring sustainability:

The Global Fund will need to look at how to ensure that the resources are allocated to keep them going. The fact that there's no full guaranteed funding after three years, it doesn't give good indications for sustainability. It will be good if the Global Fund can guarantee that they allow funds allocated for regional grants.

For the Global Fund, the recommendation I would make is that if they can set aside money for regional programs in the next allocation they will be announcing. This will make it more predictable and the regions can plan better because sometimes there are activities you can do much more cost-effectively on a regional level (Laing, CCM Secretariat).



In Botswana, sustainability was addressed in a different way. Here, how communities engage and are impacted was the core of how to interpret sustainability. Mathambo makes the point that:

if you do legal and policy change at regional level, you also need to change people's attitudes on the ground, otherwise it's no use.

Gleeson from BONELA goes into more specific detail:

Ultimately, national level partners who are working in that area, need to say 'this is true, this is relevant to us' and we can see that once it comes into play, even if it's at a SADC [Southern African Development Community] level or AU [African Union] level or whatever your regional area is, you should be able to do advocacy in country for it to then be domesticated or applied. But if it's something random you're not going to have that buy in... We've seen previous grants that didn't do so well. I think it was because of some inherent lack of ownership.

Mafeni from the ACHAP also touches on the issue of ownership as he makes a recommendation:



I think there are multiple ways that these regional grants, at least in terms of process, can be improved. It's just that sometimes dialogue takes time. One process, which is the process that the TB in the Mines actually originated, is to have multiple country dialogue, first, and then agreement. This was done for both TB and malaria – the Elimination 8 – you had multi-country dialogue, multi-country agreement on what needs to be done, and then from that dialogue, agree that there's a need to put together a proposal. And through that same dialogue, determine what mechanism is best to determine how to put the application together. And I think that if we followed that process, and get people to compete, to be the organizations selected to put the proposal together. That process will improve ownership. Because then it forces the organizations who are competing to engage with all the countries, to get their buy-in.







THEME #6 – ACCOUNTABILITY: ARE COMMUNITY VOICES HEARD?

In terms of accountability, most interviewees felt that there were no mechanisms for community accountability. Ugwuocha from CiSHAN and Key Informant E disagreed and felt that these mechanisms were in place in Nigeria. An anonymous respondent from Nigeria, Key Informant E, outlined these mechanisms:

One of the mechanisms is the CCM, as communities and affected populations are sitting on these instances. Additionally, annual reviews of the national strategic plans provide an opportunity for communities to question implementation and results.

Unlike the above, some interviewees felt that the regional programs were, in fact, not accountable to the CCMs.

In terms of the capacity of communities to hold regional programs accountable, key informants repeatedly expressed that communities would like to be involved, but that there are hindrances: "The community have the capacity to respond; however they still need capacity strengthening" (Akanji, TIERs), "People have [capacity] because of the structure is fairly organised, where they can engage with bodies responsible. But people are not properly aware of these structures" (Key Informant F, Heartland) and that, "Communities and affected people often ask for capacity building to improve their understanding on issues discussed in these instances. Also funding for transport refund may also be an issue for them" (Key Informant E).

For some, the situation for key populations appears to be particularly problematic:



"The regional programs have regional coordinating mechanisms, however, key populations are not represented on the RCM"

(Akanji, TIERs) and Key Informant F from Heartland notes that, "For Nigeria, it has been a difficult journey. For instance, it has taken a whole year to select SRs for key populations, but this key population does not know who their SRs are. The process is slow, leaving information gaps."

In Botswana, Pedersen from the EU notes that accountability is:



"One of the big issues. People are just all too happy to let it pass. And then the whole accountability of the CCM is really something. I don't know when I put my name on the paper what does that really mean?"

Mathambo and Molefe, who participated in a key populations focus group discussion in Botswana, feel that regional grants are not transparent or accountable because organizations pre-select their partners for the grant; "Maybe they choose their partners?" (Mathambo) and there is no way for others to get involved if they are not on the inside. Molefe continues by outlining the implications of questioning too much:

You can hold them accountable, probably, by talking directly to the CCM... But you are going to hold a regional program accountable, and then what? They may decide not to fund Botswana. And you know what they always say: 'you know we are not a donor, we get funds from donors, etc.' They get a big chunk, and the pie comes smaller. And they keep on reducing... Regional programs are in control. They are in control over who they pick or don't pick.

In Uganda, levels of accountability are questioned. While Dora Kiconco Musinguzi, the Executive Director of Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET), appears to think that accountability is possible, her comments also identify that there are structures that need to be put in place to facilitate this accountability. She says: "Yes, if they are mobilized and have information to hold them

accountable. They have capacity to hold regional Global Fund grants accountable. The issue is, civil society's role in these grants is that they play both the implementers and the accountability role in the region".

Others from the Ugandan interviews are more pessimistic. Wakikona (TASO), Mworeko (ICWEA) and Alesi (UNYPA) all state that there is no accountability when it comes to regional programs. Others, looking specifically at the role of CCMs, agree:

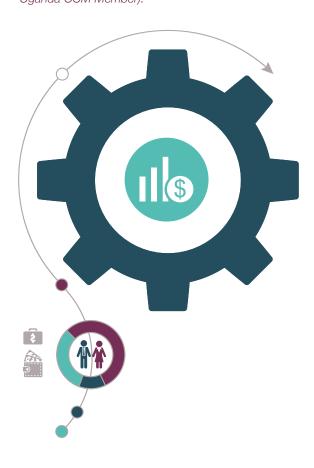
Global Fund hasn't made clear guidelines on what the role of the CCM is in oversight of these grants. KANCO voluntarily offered through CHAU, CHAU requested an update volunteering for the grant, but because Global Fund hasn't made it clear what the role of the CCM would be regarding regional grants, probably they haven't told them that that its mandatory to update to the CCM and as the CCM we plan to ask them to be updating (Laing, Uganda CCM Secretariat).

The role of the CCM is not clear so there's no linkage. I don't know whether they were supposed to report to the CCM... I said they didn't clearly indicate the role of the CCM. Now, do we really have the mandate to ask them what is happening? I don't think we have received any reports since they started working... CCM should also be actively involved in the approval and oversight not just approving and we need clear guidelines in accessing these national concepts, but no clear guidelines in assessment of regional concepts... At the moment there is no requirement for them to give us reports, it would be a good idea for them to provide quarterly reports to the CCM on the progress with in the countries they are operating (Ssenabulya, Uganda CCM member).

No, it's difficult for the community to hold anybody responsible for the regional grants because they don't have knowledge about them, the only people that can hold them accountable is the CCM, but the CCMs' agenda is also not focused on monitoring them, the main group that the CCM monitors are the national

grants but the regional ones requested, so there should be deliverable effort of the CCM to monitor those grants of the regional, then second there should be a connection between the community which is the civil society in general and the implementing arms are able to do monitoring of the grants (Wamboga, Uganda CCM Member).

[T]he CCM is not holding them [regional grants] accountable. They are interested but it's a new thing in the country, regional grants, they would assume it's the role of some body in Global Fund, so the CCM monitoring terms of reference have not yet been streamlined which can be improved because the CCM will always got to the civil society to monitor the national grants of the Global Fund, but never mentioned monitoring of the regional grants so it needs to be structured with the CCM mandate (Wamboga, Uganda CCM Member).



THEME #7 - VALUE: IS IT ALL WORTH IT?

The last theme – value – drills down to whether or not civil society and community groups think it is even worth it to overcome the above six obstacles and fight to engage in regional grants. Five of the seven Nigeria-based respondents felt that the Global Fund should continue to set aside money for regional programs in the next allocation period. Akanni from JAAIDS described this money as being, "like a seed" and Akanji from TIERs noted that the Global Fund should continue funding because of, "the need for sustained regional work, most especially with the mobility and free access within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region, which also makes key populations to be able to move freely within the region."

Key Informant F from Heartland Alliance International in Nigeria was more cautious about automatically supporting continued funding:

The problem with all these, is the way and manner these programs are implemented. It is shocking that most dialogues do not make it to implementation. In terms of saying whether or not something will work is not so easy. There is a lot of hypocrisy in the system there are personal opinions and views. People get busy because they are going to get paid. If they implement programs the way they are documented, it will be easy and smooth. They do not carry along the right people with the needed and necessary capacity.

Across countries, respondents highlighted the value of regional programs for key populations and communities: "There are some areas of the communities and key affected population that the national program cannot cover, but regional will fill the gap such as supportive policies" (Key Informant D, Nigeria). Laila Alberto Jose Sueye, a Mozambique MCP member, also identifies a gap being filled by regional grants:



"I'm very impressed that the Global Fund remembers sex workers. In my country, nobody wants to talk about sex workers. But Global Fund makes programs for sex workers [...] Global Fund improves the enabling environment, which is very important. Regional grants are important for this."

Another perceived positive is that, "there are opportunities for cross learning and also networking". Akanni from JAAIDS discusses the grant managed by ALCO in particular:

I may not be able to speak to many of the regional programs, but I can to ALCO because I'm aware of it. It has focused on HIV prevention given its focus and the porosity of the borders, one of the things this project has done is to kick-start awareness on status, prevention and more. It has become a wakeup call for the West African region.

Key Informant E (who participated in the regional dialogue) states:

Regional programs bring together a variety of organizations that facilitates sharing of best practices and experiences to benefit communities, operating both at the regional and national levels. Regional key population networks are emerging and supported by regional programs to develop sub-regional HIV strategies for key populations, promoting key populations involvement in policy development and advocate against common challenges faced by key populations. Also, the Hivos [Humanist Institute for Cooperation] grant aims to strengthen regional key population networks and community systems so they can successfully advocate for policy change and change of attitudes.

Contrary to the above, Ugwuocha from CiSHAN sees no added value of regional grants and states that the CCM itself is not effective. Others disagree and see the potential value of regional grants: "It helps in cross learning and also aids networking for better organizing. This will help in the engagement with the regional body ECOWAS in the collective efforts for advocacy on [key population] issues" (Akanji from TIERs). It also, "fills the gaps from the national programs" (Key Informant D, Nigeria). Akanni from JAAIDS feels that regional grants like ALCO have helped mobile populations come into focus and that they will, "enable countries [to] learn from each other e.g. human rights as countries are at different levels, best practices, creating an enabling environment for MARPs [most-at-risk populations]".

Otsogile with the Botswana CCM Secretariat is somewhat more optimistic.



"We think there's strength when you combine our efforts. Doing something regionally is very, very, important. These regional grants are very, very necessary, and they should be aligned."

This difference in perceptions of key populations and CCM members is an issue that needs to be explored further.

At regional level, organizations are able to operate outside of restrictive national legal and policy frameworks but still support national community systems and build their capacity... regional grants can avoid punitive national actions thus making it easier to work on human rights issues. They can also work well with RECs and the international community and undertake joint advocacy on initiatives of priority concern to the region (Key Informant E, Nigeria).

In Uganda, participants saw lots of value in regional grants. Their value was perceived to be about their ability to harness resources and to reach key populations. Ibanda, who is on the EANNASO board, thinks that: "We still don't know what the impact would be, but I think in terms of targeting the hard to reach populations it could have some value". Kiconco Musinguzi from UGANET believes that, "The added value is that these regional grants come in on issues like human rights, key populations, legal environment which are not always looked at". Tinyebwe from ANECCA has this to say:

In the Botswana interviews, some participants were sceptical about the value of regional grants. Mathambo and Molefe were not convinced about their worth. Speaking to the Global Fund, Molefe asks, "You want to fund the regional networks, and then what? Some of us are not partners with the regional networks, so how are we going to benefit? And they get to say 'we have Botswana as part of this'". Mathambo has a similar concern:

It's a good idea. That new funding model set aside money for regional grants, this arrangement should continue...When you engage regional stakeholders, they learn from each other, I can give you an example; we held a meeting of the national CCMs from seven countries, during the launch of the program in January people were talking about issues affecting their CCM operational issues, they were sharing ideas on how to implement these funds in their own countries and they were learning from each other so these lessons learnt is a very good example...

My thing with the regional grants is, what was informing that part of the grant that they were looking for Botswana? Even though I might not be reached by them, but how well will it actually trickle down to the people on the ground? Because you find sometimes that the issues that we want to target are not the actual issues on the ground.

The advantage with regional programs as related to human rights is that you are not talking with in the CCM mechanism, so you can actually tackle a human rights issue when you are at a regional level as opposed to national level and because people want to learn from each other when you bring regional people together they learn from other countries...

Tinyebwe also identifies an important consideration in terms of the value of regional grants:

they miss out on the general grants so I think if funds are available I would recommend to consider the prioritized groups for funding".

D

One of the shortfalls of regional programs having impact at country level is ability to follow up on what we have already discussed. For example, if we want this policy to change in Tanzania, how can regional programs ensure that there is technical assistance available to establish a mechanism for following up on some of these recommendations at regional level?

Wamboga also spoke to the value of sharing expertise:

Like I said, since they are specialized, they come in with real facts about existence of key populations. For example, we didn't know how many are in the country but this program seems to be focusing this."

Namanya with CHAU shares a similar sentiment:



Ssenabulya, the vice chairperson of a CCM from the FUE, in her experience of sitting on the CCM is able to see the value in regional grants:

From the drafts we looked at, they were addressing gaps that were not being covered by the concept note, which means they are adding value. I think there was one of the labs, for example, it was looking at creating a linkage of the labs in region which is something that is very good because it enables one to know exactly what is going on in all the different countries.

There is an opportunity to learn across the region, if something is happening in Ethiopia and Burundi or Uganda, there's opportunity to learn that's why I think it's important to invest in regional grants. It provides an opportunity for these communities to learn from each other and also for implementers to apply what is happening in these communities or other regions so it becomes an additional impact because there's sharing and learning. So the regional programs provide opportunity for cross learning in terms of how to deliver programs, tools, technical assistance and evidence and resources that are available.

Twaibu from UHRN and Wamboga from UNASO both mention the ability of regional grants to reach targeted populations. Twaibu noted:



"If you look at many countries, key populations havn't benefited from country level and we think that more emphasis should be put at regional grants because they are doing better than country level and there's a lot of involvement"

As already hinted at in respondents' statement above, in order to maximize the type of impact, a range of technical assistance and support is necessary. Enemuo, representing NSWA goes right to the basics:



"The effort needed is to make sure that the key affected populations are on the know of what is happening".

and Wamboga said: "Yes, for targeted communities that's a good thing for targeted populations otherwise,

Akanji from TIERs identifies "Community involvement and policy analysis also need for community led in program designing" as necessary. Key Informant D adds that, "Technical assistance on advocacy and how to influence policies at the regional level and national level through interventions at the regional level" should be an area of focus. Key Informant F from Heartland adds this insight: "I have not participated in any regional program or activity. At most, a body is as strong as different components that holds the body, therefore, there is need to invest in tech and institutional capacity building to help disseminate".

In terms of accessing the types of assistance and support identified, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and RAME (Réseau Accès aux Medicaments Essentiels) and were identified as important providers. Also, "The PRs can provide TA to civil society and communities, if funded" (Key Informant D, Nigeria). In Mozambique, there appears to be less knowledge of available technical assistance:

One thing is the issue of communication. It's important to have regular communication so that we know what the requirements are to apply for [technical assistance], and which role we can play in those requirements. This will make us more involved and informed. This will help us be aware of the issues on time (PLASOC member)

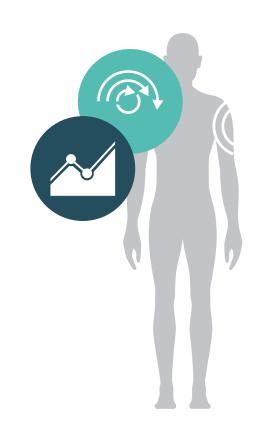
Gleeson from BONELA identifies a similar 'basic' level of technical assistance, the need for, "Information notes. An initial workshop that takes as many people as possible through 'this is the landscape'". The type of technical assistance seen as necessary in Botswana is also very focused on the capacity of organizations. Molefe from the key populations focus group captures these two perceived needs. He thinks the following is necessary:

If there were those opportunities to strengthen, first of all, to strengthen our systems at organizational level, and also strengthen our engagement with the community directly – community engagement – get the community to know more about Global Fund. Because in most cases, the communities still don't know what Global Fund is. They still don't know where funds are

coming from in terms of the government but also CSOs. They see you there and they think you have a lot of money because you are heading an organization.

Pedersen from the EU outlines the current context in which technical assistance operates. In light of her insights, technical assistance may need to be reimagined.

One of the dilemmas that civil society are faced with is that they are so resource poor that it doesn't matter if we build their capacity or if we give them technical assistance (TA). What's the point? And even being able to absorb such TA is a challenge, because there are so few of them. What they say to us is 'we don't need another workshop on governance, we need a finance officer! That's what we need!' And we say 'well we can't do that' and they say 'well, why do you want to build our accounting systems? The whole issue of TA I find is challenging.



CONCLUSION: MOVING FORWARD

Across the countries, representatives of civil society and key populations identified wanting to be included in regional grants. For example, one interviewee from Mozambique said, "I represent the affected populations in Mozambique, so we are really interested in being represented in those discussions". Civil society and communities want to be properly informed and to receive adequate feedback. Transparency of information is a necessary component for accountability. In order to make this a reality, there are five key recommendations – or "action points" – coming out of this research. These five action points are directly reflective of the views and perspectives of the key informants who participated in this research. According to informants, the following five actions will help to improve civil society and community engagement with regional grants, and in turn make regional grants more effective:



In Mozambique, these same suggestions apply, but language is identified as a particular barrier: "One of the issues is the barrier of language – we need to translate information. But the other one is for us to learn English, which is more complicated".

Key Informant D, a sub-recipient in Nigeria, identifies some of these same issues as important to them too:



Overall, there is a need for more engagement with communities and civil society as well as more inclusion. There is a need to increase their knowledge and capacity. Akanji from TIERs mentions these needs in terms of key populations explicitly:

The need for the establishment of a [key populations] technical working group that involves [key populations] themselves and other relevant stakeholders. The [key population] members of the working group will be responsible for information dissemination to their respective constituencies and relevant feedbacks to the working group.

In Botswana and Uganda, these same issues arise. Pedersen from the EU, however, makes an important point about considering context:

Something which is becoming increasingly clear to me is the very peculiar and special situation that civil society in middle-income countries find themselves in. Because if you are a Kenyan NGO, or a Zambian NGO or a Malawian NGO, you will have your core funding funded by donors. You will have your organization and you will have funding from different sources. But in a country like Botswana there is basically no funding. Which means that the civil society here is so resource stripped that it becomes almost pointless to provide that kind of assistance. We treat NGOs as if they're operating under similar circumstances and they are not. An NGO is Tanzania, Kenya, completely different from NGOs here. I think for NGO support and any other support, we need to diversify our toolkit. It's not relevant in these countries.

Tinyebwe from ANECCA sums up some of the key recommendations:

It's a good idea, that new funding model set aside money for regional grants, this arrangement should continue but I think more importantly the process of engaging regional stakeholders should be facilitated a little more, I can give an example that the global fund gave us \$10,000 for regional dialogue but it was a drop in the ocean, so if that element could be increased it would ensure greater engagement of different stakeholders in each of the countries in the region.

Civil society and community organizations clearly require better scaffolding to engage with regional grants and to make these meaningful to them.

Across the key informants who participated in this research, there is a relatively consistent belief that regional grants are not as effective as country-level ones, that community engagement is not consistent (and sometimes non-existent) and that the levels and lines of accountability are not clear. There is also overwhelming sentiment among the key informants that regional grants are valuable. The challenge now is to make this value a reality on the ground.

WHERE DO COMMUNITIES BELONG IN REGIONAL PROGRAMS?

A STRATEGIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE OF THE REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION FOR ANGLOPHONE AFRICA, HOSTED BY EANNASO

Interview Guide
March 2016

Introductory Note	e to go over with informant:
	research on behalf of EANNASO (The Eastern Africa National Network of AIDS Service Organizations) and how civil society and community groups are engaging with regional Global Fund programs.
will provide insigh	your participation as someone actively engaged with the Global Fund processes. Your responses nts that will help inform future strategies for supporting meaningful engagement of civil society and os in Global Fund processes.
The interview will	take 30-45 minutes to complete.
	BEGIN, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR VIEWS TO BE ATTRIBUTED IN THE THERE ARE THREE OPTIONS (CIRCLE THE OPTION THAT IS PREFERRED):
OPTION 1:	Your name and organization (i.e. Bongani Zulu with the Rural HIV Foundation)
OPTION 2:	Your organization only, keeping your name private (i.e. Key Informant A with the with the Rural HIV Foundation)
OPTION 3:	Both your name and organization are kept private (i.e. Key Informant A)
	CONTINUE IF RESPONDENT AGREES TO PARTICIPATE



TRANSPARENCY QUESTIONS

- Which regional programs is the Global Fund currently funding in your region?
- How many of these grants include your country as a priority/focus country?
- Did you participate in any regional dialogues leading up to any of the current regional grants?
 - o If so, which ones?
 - » Do you know if your input was taken on board in the concept note? Did they feed back to you after the consultation?
 - o If not, how come?
 - » Did you know about dialogues that were occurring but could not attend for some reason?
 - » Were there no opportunities for you to engage in the regional dialogues, even though the grants cover your country?
 - » Perhaps the regional dialogues were held in other places and you were not able to travel to attend?
 - » Were there any online consultation processes where you could participate remotely?
- Did you participate in country dialogue for your country's concept note?
 - o If so, how do you think country dialogue differs from regional dialogues?
 - » Are they more open spaces? More inclusive?
- Now that the dialogue part is over, and implementation has begun, are there opportunities for you to get involved in that part of the regional grants?
- Do people in your community know who the PRs and SRs are for the regional grants?
- Do you think people are interested to know more about regional grants, and how they can get involved?
- What kind of information or technical assistance would help you most to get involved and stay informed?
 - o Information notes?
 - o Requiring the regional programs to report to communities?
 - o Funding to bring together your constituency to brief the on regional grants?

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- Do you think there are mechanisms for communities and affected populations effectively hold regional programs accountable?
- Do regional programs report to CCMs regularly about their progress? Are they accountable to CCMs?
- If there are mechanisms, do communities and affected populations have the existing capacity, or do they
 have access to technical assistance, to hold regional programs accountable?



Do you think regional programs which focus on human rights and gender hold national Global Fund programs accountable for improvements in these areas?

SUSTAINABILITY QUESTIONS

- Do you think regional programs are sustainable, considering there is no guaranteed funding for them after three years?
- Do you think the Global Fund continue to set aside money for regional programs in the next allocation period?
- Should there be regional allocations, just like there are for countries, to make regional funding more predictable?

IMPACT QUESTIONS

- How are regional programs, in practice, providing additional value for communities and key populations operating at the regional level?
- Are regional programs able to demonstrate impact within three years, particularly for some of the longer-term outcome indicators such as legal and policy change? What effect does this have on the success of the program?
- What kind of technical assistance and support is needed most to ensure that regional grants maximize their potential impact?
- Do you know of any TA providers who are providing support to civil society and communities to engage with regional grants?

VALUE ADDITION

- What is the added value of the regional grants to the national level or grassroots level?
- What is the added value of regional grants in promotion of community, rights and gender?
- Do you think your CCM will be interested in getting information about the grants they signed onto? What do
 you think is the best way of providing feedback to the CCMs on the regional grants?
- What is the role of Regional Economic Community (REC) in the regional grants and what are the linkages?

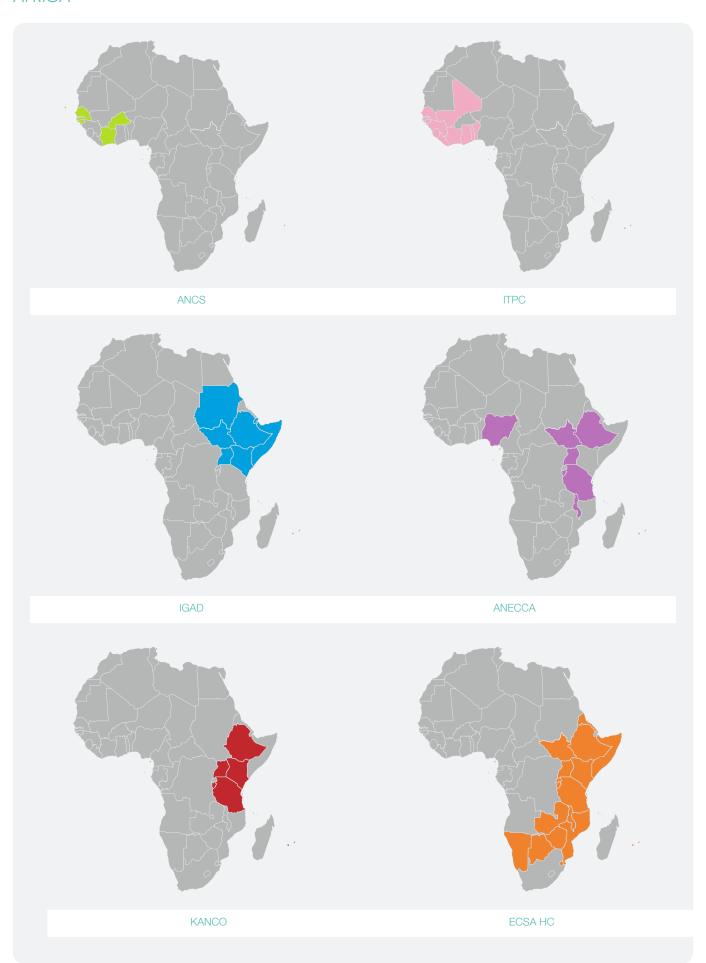
ACTION PLAN

- Do you think civil society and communities in your country would like to get regular updates about these grants?
- As a civil society or community what do you perceive as your role in the regional grant?
- Mention 2-3 things that can be done to ensure civil society and communities are more involved in the implementation of the regional grants?
- What do you think should the platform do to ensure that you are provided with continuous information?

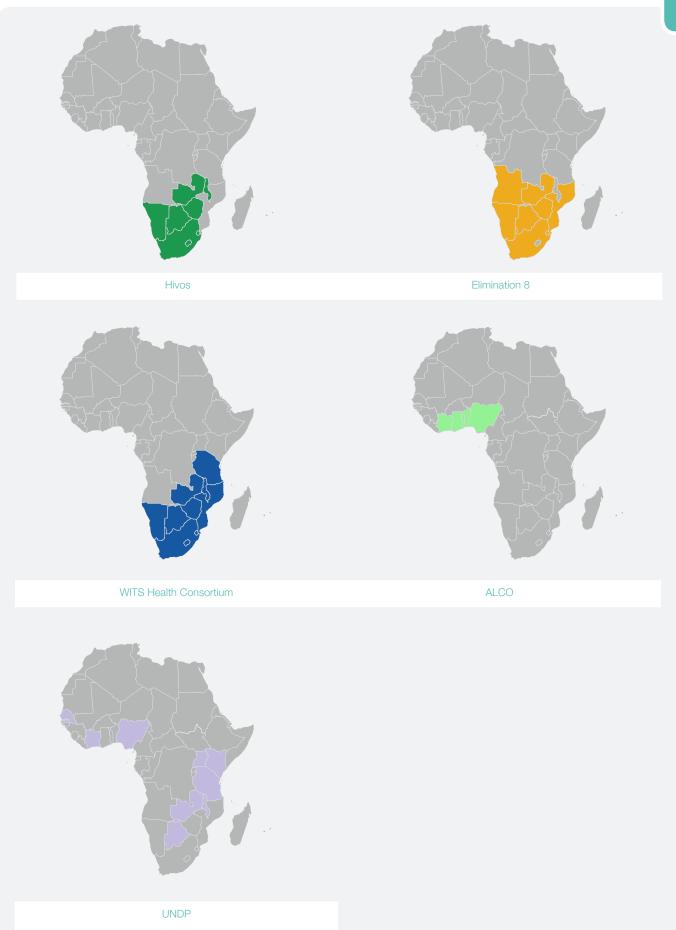
ANNEX 2 – OVERVIEW TABLE OF REGIONAL GLOBAL FUND GRANTS IN ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

Principal Recipient/ Name of Program	Disease Component	Grant Amount	Countries Covered	Aim of the Grant	Contact Name	Email
Elimination 8 Secretariat (E8)	Malaria	\$17,817,031	Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.	Malaria elimination in the frontline four countries through targeted border area services delivery	Kudzai Makomva (Director of E8 Secretariat)	kmakomva@ elimination8.org
The East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA HC) (TB Lab Strengthening)	ТВ	\$6,136,774	Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe	TB laboratory strengthening; increase the number of accredited TB reference labs in Africa	Dr. Stephen K. Muleshe (Regional Cordinator, Global Fund TB Lab Project)	skmuleshe@gmail.com amasese@ecsa.or.tz
Hivos (KP REACH)	HIV	\$11,465,336	Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zam- bia and Zimbabwe.	Regional key populations network strengthening (MSM, WSW, trans diverse populations and sex workers)	Sithembile Chiware (Director of KP REACH And/or Precious Njerere (Program officer)	schiware@hivos.org pnjerere@hivos.org
WITS Health Consortium (TB in the Mining Sector [TIMS])	ТВ	\$29,999,027	Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.	Improve cross-border systems for addressing TB vulnerability in Southern Africa mining sector	Julian Naidoo (WITS, Chief of Party) And/or Donald Tobaiwa (Chair of the RCM)	jnaidoo@witshealth. co.za dtobaiwa@ jointedhands.org
International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) Global	HIV	\$5,00,000 (TRP recommendation; grant not yet signed)	Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo	Community monitoring of access to treatment in West Africa; establishing a regional community treatment observatory	Solange Baptiste (ITPC Global Executive Director) Sylvere Bukiki (ITPC – West Africa, Director)	SBaptiste@itpcglobal. com sbiziyaremye@gmail. com; biziyaremyes@ yahoo.fr
Alliance Nationale Contre le Sida (ANCS)	TB/HIV	€5,892,565 (approximately \$6.7 million) (TRP recommendation; grant not yet signed)	Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire	Reducing the risk of transmission of HIV, TB and other comorbidities among people who inject drugs	Magatte Mbodj (ANCS Executive Director)	magatte.mbodj@ ancs.sn
Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization (ALCO)	HIV	\$9,512,171	Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo	Access to services for key populations along transport routes in West Africa	TBC	TBC
Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium (KANCO) (HIV and Harm Reduction in East Africa)	HIV	\$5,566,264	Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Sey- chelles, United Republic of Tanzania (Main- land), Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar)	Harm reduction in east Africa; strengthening national networks of people who use drugs and establishing a regional network	Peter Kamau (Deputy Executive Director)	pkamau@kanco.org
United National Development Program (UNDP) (Removing Legal Barriers)	HIV	\$10,522,144	Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.	Removing Legal Barriers to accessing HIV services for key populations	Deena Patel	deena.patel@undp. org
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	TB/HIV	\$10,00,000 (TRP recommendation; grant not yet signed)	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda	Improve coordination of IGAD countries to respond in hot spot refugee camps, including better data collection.	TBC	TBC
African Network for Care of Children Affected by HIV / AIDS (ANECCA)	HIV	\$10,522,144	Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda	Improving the HIV response for children and adolescents living with HIV in Africa	Dennis Tinyebwe (Executive Director)	dtindyebwa@anecca. org dtindyebwa@ gmail.com

ANNEX 3 – MAPS OF COUNTRIES COVERED BY REGIONAL GLOBAL FUND GRANTS IN ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

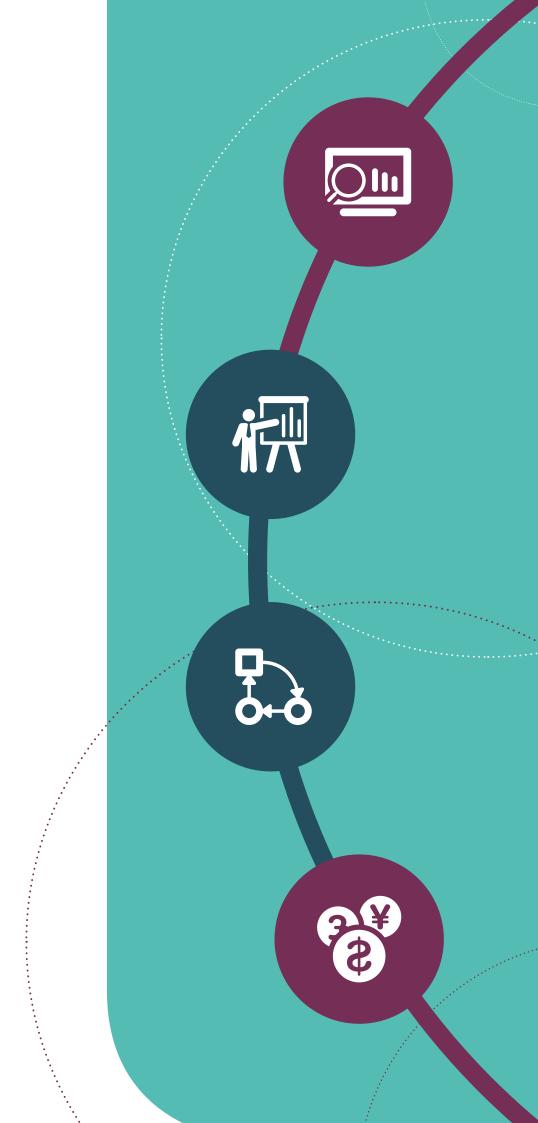






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