

Community Perspectives: Guiding the CRG Special Initiative in Anglophone Africa

Survey results from a situational analysis conducted by the Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination for Anglophone Africa, hosted by EANNASO

January 2016

Introduction

As host of the Regional Platform for Anglophone Africa, EANNASO strives to enhance the knowledge 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 directly respond to identified gaps and needs. The Platform has made these survey results public in the hopes that they will also be useful for improved coordinating with other TA initiatives addressing similar needs of civil society and community groups.

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

33

responses from 15 countries: Botswana (n=1), Burundi (n=1), Ethiopia (n=2), Ghana (n=2), Kenya (n=4), Lesotho (n=1), Malawi (n=1), Nigeria (n=2), Rwanda (n=1), South Africa (n=3), Tanzania (n=7), Uganda (n=4), Zambia (n=1), Zanzibar (n=1), Zimbabwe (n=2).



(n=4) of respondents were from West Africa 12%

(n=9) from Southern Africa 27%

(n=20) were from East Africa. 61%



- 45% of respondents identified as male (n=15), and 45% as female (n=15). 6% (n=2) of respondents identified as transgender and 3% (n=1) preferred not to specify their gender.

52% (n=17) of respondents were from civil society organizations, 21% (n=7) were from key populations organizations, 9% (n=3) were from a PLHIV network, 6% (n=2) were technical assistance (TA) providers, 3% (n=1) were multilateral/bilateral partners, 3% (n=1) were from a women's organization, 3% (n=1) were from a community-based organization and 3% (n=1) were from a youth organization.

EXISTING KNOWLEDGE (Before First Regional Platform Meeting on 13-14 January 2016)

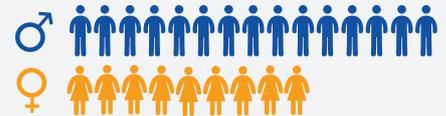


64% (n=21) had heard about the Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) Special Initiative, while **33%** (n=11) had not heard about it before.

58% (n=19) had heard of the Regional Platform already, compared to 39% (n=13) who had not.

52% (n=17) knew that they could request TA from the Global Fund CRG department and its partners, compared to **42%** (n=14) who did not know they could do this. 1 person (**3%**) said they “somewhat” knew you could request TA this way.

- Those who identified as male (**71%**) were more likely than those who identified as female (**53%**) to have prior knowledge of the Regional Platform. **0%** of transgender respondents had heard of the Regional Platform before the first meeting.



- Representatives from civil society organizations (**67%**) were much more likely than key populations (**29%**) to know that they could request TA from the CRG department and its partners.



DEVELOPED KNOWLEDGE (Gained During the First Regional Platform Meeting)

- Knowledge improved the most around how to access TA.** 30% (n=10) of respondents said that their knowledge improved the most about this element after the first Regional Platform meeting. CCM representation was the next biggest knowledge improvement, **with 21% (n=7) of respondents citing this as their biggest learning curve.**
- Knowledge improved the least about regional concept notes.** 24% (n=8) of respondents said their understanding about regional concept notes was still their biggest knowledge gap. Following regional concept notes, 18% (n=6) cited **civil society implementers (PRs, SRs, SSRs)** as their **largest persisting knowledge gap after the meeting.**

30%
(n=10)

21%
(n=7)

24%
(n=8)

18%
(n=)

PERSPECTIVES ON COUNTRY/REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND REGIONAL GRANTS



- 70%** of respondents (n=23) participated in the country dialogue process compared to **48%** (n=16) who participated in a regional dialogue.
- 55%** (n=17) said they thought country dialogues were more open spaces for civil society and community groups than regional dialogues. **16%** (n=5) thought regional dialogues were more open. **26%** (n=8) did not know which was more open. 1 person said they were about the same.
- 56%** (n=18) said concept note development was the most open part about the New Funding Model for civil society organizations and community groups, followed by **41%** (n=13) who said National Strategic Plan and Investment Case development was the most open.

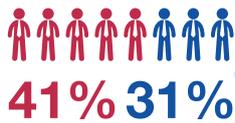
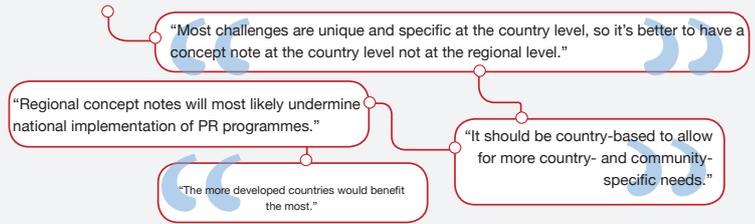


50% (n=15) said grant/making was the most closed part about the New Funding Model for civil society and community groups, followed by 20% (n=6) who said grant implementation was most closed.



- A vast majority – 77% (n=24) – said that the country dialogue requirements for the New Funding Model created greater openness for civil society organizations, community groups and key populations in concept note development. 19% (n=6) said that the New Funding Model did not create more openness.

The vast majority – 82% (n=23) - said regional concept notes are a good way for the Global Fund to make grants. However, the remaining 18% (n=5) said regional programs are not a good way for the Global Fund to make grants, citing the following reasons:



The most common response about the biggest benefit of regional grants was that they fill gaps in programming left out of national concept notes (41% [n=12]). This was followed by 31% (n=9) 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% (n=14) of respondents. Closely following accountability issues, 44% (n=12) of respondents said the biggest challenge with regional grants was the limited coordination with country programs and national grants.

Respondents from civil society organizations were more likely to participate in both country and regional dialogue spaces as compared to key populations:



PERSPECTIVES ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AS CCM MEMBERS AND GLOBAL FUND IMPLEMENTERS (PRS, SRS, AND SSRS)

62% (n=18) said that the biggest benefit of having civil society organizations as CCM members is making sure community voices inform Global Fund decision-making. Other popular benefits include holding government accountable, cited by 24% (n=7) of respondents, and coordination with other partners, cited by 24% (n=7).

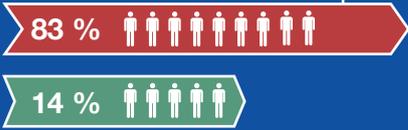


63% (n=19) of survey respondents said the biggest challenge for civil society and community CCM members is constituency consultation and feedback of information. 30% (n=9) said having their voices heard in meetings was the biggest challenge and 7% (n=2) said representing their constituency, and not their personal or organizational beliefs, was most difficult.





83% (n=24) said the biggest benefit of having civil society organizations as implementers is that civil society knows how to reach people on the ground with services better than government sometimes. **14% (n=4)** said having civil society and community implementers decreases corruption and mismanagement of funds.



37% (n=11) said that the biggest challenge with civil society organizations as implementers is that they are often sub-sub-recipients and receive very little money. This was followed closely by **33% (n=10)** of people who said civil society organizations do not always have the capacity to implement large grants. **23% (n=7)** said too much time is spent on complicated reporting requirements, which is a challenge for civil society and community implementers.



PERSPECTIVES ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA)

60% (n=18) said the biggest benefit of having Global Fund TA available is making sure that civil society organizations and communities participate fully in Global Fund processes.

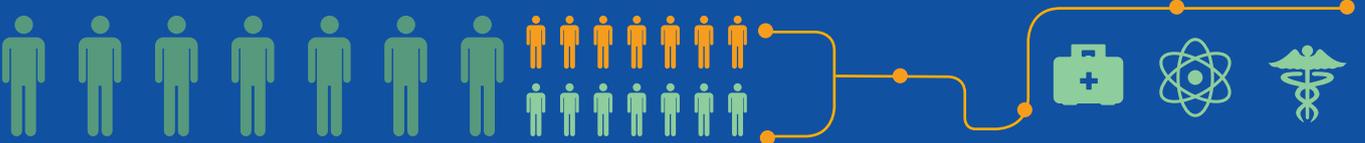


This was followed by **33%** (n=10) who said the biggest benefit is that it builds their capacity.

53% (n=17)

said the biggest challenge with Global Fund TA was that it often ends after the concept note submission, and that there needs to be more TA to support watchdogging of implementation.

Most respondents who had accessed TA before had received it from the German Back-Up Initiative (GIZ) (**11 respondents**) and UNAIDS Technical Support Facility (**11 respondents**) as providers. Global Fund CRG followed closely with **9 respondents** accessing TA from there. **7 respondents** accessed TA from Stop TB Partnership and 5 respondents accessed it from Aidspace. **3 respondents** accessed TA from the Alliance Technical Support Hub and **2 respondents** accessed it from Women4GF. Others mentioned accessing TA from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, MSMGF, AIDS Accountability International (AAI) and GMS.



Contact

Regional Platform EANNASO (Host)
 Arusha, Tanzania
 Tel: +255 737 210598
 Email: regionalplatform@eannaso.org | Website: www.eannaso.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/eannaso.org | Twitter: @eannaso