

THE GLOBAL FUND'S POST 2022 STRATEGY

INPUT FROM THE FRONTLINE AIDS PARTNERSHIP IN ANGLOPHONE AFRICA



KEY MESSAGES

- 
Urgently scale up investment in HIV prevention for key and marginalized population, including investing in data, advocacy and biomedical and social interventions with proven evidence of effectiveness.
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Address marginalisation and advance the sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescent girls and young women, including those from key and marginalized populations.
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Focus on gender-transformative approaches and interventions geared towards actively challenging harmful gender norms and addressing the power inequities that exist between different genders.
- 
Invest in strengthening community reporting and monitoring mechanisms that collect holistic and qualitative data looking at stigma, human rights, and social determinants of health to complement biomedical data.
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Strengthen the capacity, knowledge, and oversight role of civil society and communities on Country Coordinating Mechanisms for improved engagement, transparency and communication.

Frontline AIDS' civil society and community partners in anglophone Africa want to see the next Global Fund strategy:

DELIVERING AGAINST HIV, TB, AND MALARIA

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 Urgently and significantly scale up and expand investments in HIV prevention, prioritising programmes and approaches known to be effective in reaching adolescent girls and young women, people who inject drugs, sex workers, gay and other men who have sex with men, and trans communities.
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 Invest in biomedical interventions with proven evidence of effectiveness such as early initiation of antiretroviral treatment (ART), self-testing, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) – including new injectable forms – and the dapivirine ring.
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 Invest in data and population size estimates which are critical for baselines to track progress and for programme planning.
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 Invest in leadership and advocacy skills building among young women working in community-led organisations and/or who are peer counsellors.
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 Scale up investments in interventions to address behaviour risk for adolescent girls and young women. This should include access to psychosocial support and mental health services.^{1,2}
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 Address the marginalisation of young women who lack access to education and livelihoods which contributes to the growing incidence of gender-based violence.

In December 2020, Frontline AIDS conducted a series of interviews with civil society and community partners in anglophone Africa to provide inputs into the 2023-2027 Global Fund strategy development process. These organisations work primarily with marginalised groups including men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers, adolescent girls and young women and children.

¹ A recent global consultation with 380 adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) from 45 countries was conducted as part of the WHO's guidelines development process. ALHIV (including young key populations) unanimously reported that mental health and psychosocial support services were key drivers in determining their engagement with HIV services and health outcomes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kys44Xx2tyA>

² Studies have confirmed high rates of poor mental health, secondary to violence and stigma among young mothers, affecting adherence and engagement in PMTCT.

- Address institutional neglect of diseases of poverty that affect women specifically. Such as female genital schistosomiasis, a waterborne tropical disease that remains underreported, under- and misdiagnosed and largely untreated, yet is a demonstrated co-factor in HIV infection.
- Invest in reaching adolescent mothers with support, testing and postpartum follow up. More broadly, investment is needed beyond testing pregnant women and enrolling them on ART in order to accelerate progress on preventing transmission to children.
- Increase investment for harm reduction given the decreasing donor landscape in this area and lack of national ownership to take over existing services. This should include addressing policies and creating an enabling environment for people who use drugs.

INTEGRATION AND SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH

Health outcomes are determined by more than health systems; they are driven as much by social and structural determinants of health as they are by access to clinical and facility-based health services. In this way, community systems are instrumental to ensuring that no one is left behind in the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes; in advocacy to address equity, stigma, and discrimination; and in providing oversight and accountability for spending and results. We recommend that the next Global Fund strategy should:

- Re-commit to and promote dual track financing and ensure allocations to civil society Principal Recipients (PRs) build capacity of community led response and support the scope and reach of the programming under their responsibility.
- Ensure that programming for key populations and broader civil society activities are not within the remit of government PRs, especially if they do not fully understand how community systems enhance quality and improve impact for national responses and systems for health.
- Reorient its engagement with civil society toward indigenous and regional civil society organisations and away from international NGOs and UN agencies.

- Ensure capacity strengthening and skills transfer in areas of governance, management and monitoring be in-built into Grants so that over time, community-based and community-led organisations can become Principal Recipients and assume greater positions of leadership, authority and implementation.
- Require that community system strengthening (CSS) activities be incorporated into all requests for matching funds or strategic initiatives, and better integrated into approaches to achieve improved equity, more visible commitments to human rights and greater gender sensitivity.
- Invest in strengthening community reporting and monitoring mechanisms that collect holistic and qualitative data looking at stigma, human rights, and social determinants of health to complement biomedical data.
- Support a more robust KPI framework for community system strengthening, incorporating community-led monitoring to ensure timely and accurate reporting on the quality and funding level of CSS responses, leading to improved transparency and accounting of allocation and absorption of resources.

EQUITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

By framing the new strategy around addressing equity, human rights and gender issues, and backing it with clear metrics to monitor and measure results, the Global Fund will truly be transformative with practical, high impact interventions. To achieve this, we recommend that the next strategy should:

- Incorporate requirements for national and community-level reporting and engagement on human rights and gender-based violence into the KPI framework, in order to document and disseminate best practices and ensure they are brought to scale.
- Focus on gender-transformative approaches and interventions geared towards actively challenging harmful gender norms and addressing the power inequities that exist between different genders.

- Support and oversee collection of gender-disaggregated data and interrogate methodologies to, over time, move away from collecting binary gender indicators to better reflect diverse gender identities.
- Develop normative guidance to support better understanding of how human rights and gender equality fit into broader programme implementation.
- Engage in joint planning with other funders to avoid duplication and avoid leaving gaps in programming for the most vulnerable, to allow countries to leverage funds to optimise their national, coordinated responses.
- Establish, in coordination with countries, a principled way of working that clearly maps out roles and responsibilities.
- Support engagement with the private sector and provide guidance on opportune ways of working with both civil society and government.
- Further strengthen the capacity, management, and oversight of Country Coordinating Mechanisms for improved engagement and communication with civil society as well as government to mitigate emerging conflicts of interest.

PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

The strength of the innovative partnership model at the heart of the Global Fund's structure is being compromised by the failures of coordination and cooperation at country level with development and technical partners. Greater clarity around roles, responsibilities, and oversight of technical assistance are essential for operationalising the post-2022 strategy and to ensure that countries have the best possible opportunity to achieve and sustain gains in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund should: