

GFF x CIVIC Platform

Driving Better Health and Nutrition Outcomes for Women, Children, and Adolescents.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

About the Platform

- **What is the GFF x CIVIC Platform?**

The GFF x CIVIC Platform is a partnership between the [Global Financing Facility](#) (GFF) and the [World Bank's CIVIC: The Civil Society and Social Innovation Alliance](#). This partnership has been formed to further strengthen the role of civil society and youth-led organizations (CSOs and YLOs) in advancing health and nutrition outcomes for women, children, and adolescents. The platform will provide funding and technical assistance to two consortiums that will manage and implement two separate pillars. The pillars include:

Pillar 1: Strengthening Civil Society Engagement and Community Voice for Domestic Resource Mobilization – supporting CSOs and YLOs to influence health financing, accountability, and systems reform at country level.

This pillar supports civil society and youth-led organizations to shape health financing priorities and improve accountability for maternal, child, and adolescent health. It aims to deepen civil society's influence in national decision-making and resource allocation for women, children, and adolescent health priorities. This pillar looks to work through and leverage GFF country platforms and World Bank operations.

Through subgrants and technical assistance, key areas of focus include:

- **Country Alignment:** Equips CSOs and YLOs to engage in World Bank Country Partnership Frameworks—through training, consultation, and structured feedback loops—to ensure local voices influence national health policy and planning.
- **Coalition and Network Building:** Supports coordination among CSOs and YLOs by facilitating shared learning, partnerships, and joint advocacy around domestic resource mobilization and budget tracking.
- **Strategic Stakeholder Collaboration:** Fosters collaboration with global health institutions and other key actors to amplify civic voice in policy processes and investment decisions.

- **Capacity and Advocacy Strengthening:** Builds CSO/YLO capacity in health financing, policy analysis, budget tracking, data literacy, and coalition-based advocacy.
- **Communities of Practice:** Builds regional peer learning platforms and cross-sector collaboration to support stakeholder coalition building, country alignment, domestic resources mobilization for maternal, child and adolescent health and policy integration of impactful health solutions.

Pillar 2: Scaling Community-Led Solutions for Adolescent Health and Nutrition-- enabling youth and civil society groups to engage effectively in the development and scale-up of effective programs to improve access, equity, and outcomes in adolescent health services.

This pillar empowers youth and civil society organizations to shape and scale innovative, community-driven solutions that improve adolescent health and nutrition. Rather than funding direct service delivery, it enables CSOs and YLOs to participate meaningfully in the design, evaluation, financing, and policy integration of effective adolescent health programs, ensuring sustainability and systems change.

Through subgrants and technical assistance, key areas of focus include:

- **Policy and Systems Integration:** Supports governments in identifying and embedding proven, community-validated adolescent health solutions into national health plans, financing frameworks, and World Bank-supported operations.
- **Evidence and Impact:** Funds monitoring, data systems, and operational research to demonstrate effectiveness, equity, and cost-efficiency—strengthening CSO capacity to communicate impact and influence decision-making.
- **Scaling Proven Solutions:** Enables co-creation and policy uptake of adolescent-centered interventions, such as HPV vaccination outreach, school health clubs, mobile Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) initiatives, and nutrition-linked programs.
- **Communities of Practice:** Builds regional peer learning platforms and cross-sector collaboration to accelerate adoption, adaptation, and policy integration of impactful adolescent health solutions.

Together, these pillars aim to elevate civic leadership, improve alignment with national health strategies, and strengthen the overall resilience and equity of health systems across GFF partner countries.

Consortium Composition and Eligibility

- **What is a consortium?**

In this platform, a consortium refers to a partnership among 2-3 legally registered CSOs or YLOs that form a partnership to deliver on the goals of one of the two GFF-CIVIC platform pillars. One organization will serve as the lead applicant responsible for fiduciary

management, grant administration, and reporting. Partner organizations may be global, regional, national, or thematic actors contributing to implementation, technical expertise, or coordination.

Through the EOI process, the consortium needs to articulate its strategic value of its configuration. This approach is designed to encourage organizations to leverage each other's strengths and complementarities, including breadth and depth, to achieve the GFF-CIVIC outcomes. A strong consortium should reflect:

- Trans-local reach and embeddedness, including grassroots and community-based organizations with deep presence in GFF partner countries;
- Thematic and technical expertise on issues such as health financing, adolescent health, gender equity, or accountability;
- Capacity-building leadership, particularly strengthening smaller CSOs and YLOs through coaching, training, and institutional development;
- Knowledge management and learning systems, enabling documentation, synthesis, and cross-country exchange of what works and why, including a focus on results;
- Policy engagement and convening power, particularly the ability to connect civic voice to government, World Bank, and global health processes;
- Fiduciary and operational strength, with the ability to manage grants effectively and meet World Bank standards.

This approach draws on the successful [GPSA Green Accountability consortium](#), which brought together:

- World Resources Institute (WRI) – a global organization with extensive local presence in key countries providing policy expertise and fiduciary leadership;
- Huairou Commission – a trans-local network of over 5,000 grassroots women's organizations across 38 countries embedded in communities;
- SouthSouthNorth (SSN) – a Global South actor leading on capacity strengthening and knowledge management.

Applicants are encouraged to form consortiums that reflect this kind of intentional, principle-driven design—blending regional/global health policy leadership, highly local grassroots networks, technical excellence, learning systems, and institutional resilience to amplify CSO and youth leadership in health systems and domestic resource mobilization.

Eligible consortiums of civil society organizations (CSOs), include youth-led and youth-serving organizations (YLOs/YSOs), community-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These may include national, regional, and global organizations.

- **What's the difference between a lead partner, consortium partner, and subgrantee?**

- **Lead Partner (1 per consortium):** Holds fiduciary responsibility, technical expertise on subject matter, manages the grant, and leads coordination and reporting.
- **Consortium Partner (1-2 per consortium):** Implements a portion of the grant activities under the Lead's management.
- **Subgrantee:** A local CSO or YLO that receives a sub-grant managed by the consortium to carry out country-level work. (Sub-grantees will only be selected once consortiums are formed and application process launched)

At the EOI stage, consortiums must identify the lead applicant and outline the structure of partner engagement.

- **Can a single organization apply on its own and is there a limit to how many members a consortium can have?**

Individual organizations must apply as part of a consortium of up to three members. The ***preferred model is a three-member consortium, as it enables a broader range of complementary capabilities***—such as policy advocacy, technical expertise, grassroots engagement, and regional reach—while fostering shared learning and equitable partnership between global, national, and community-based actors. A three-member structure also strengthens the resilience of the implementing team and increases the likelihood of effective delivery across diverse settings.

However, in exceptional cases, two-member consortiums may be considered—provided the applicants can clearly demonstrate that they collectively offer the same depth and breadth of experience, geographic scope, and thematic capabilities that would otherwise be expected from three organizations. These cases will be assessed based on the consortium's ability to deliver on all key functions outlined in the call for proposals.

- **Can one organization apply to be part of multiple consortium application?**

No. Organizations can only apply to be part of one consortium and under only one pillar. Further, federations are encouraged to integrate proposals to join a consortium as one entity.

- **Can consortiums include CSOs from different countries?**

Yes. Multi-country consortiums are allowed and encouraged.

- **Can an organization submit an EOI independently and join a consortium later?**

No. EOIs must be submitted by fully formed consortiums.

- **Are youth organizations required to be part of the consortium?**

No, but their inclusion is encouraged. The platform prioritizes youth-led and youth-serving organizations (YLOs/YSOs) as key partners in both Pillars 1 and 2.

- **Do the organizations that are part of the consortium need to have legal recognition in the proposed project countries?**

- The lead consortium organization and all consortium members must demonstrate **the ability to legally operate in each of the proposed implementation countries**. This capacity can be demonstrated through one or more of the following modalities:
 - **Direct legal registration** in the target country;
 - **Formalized legal arrangements** (e.g., memoranda of understanding, sub-agreements, or hosting agreements) with in-country registered entities;
 - **Established partnerships** with legally registered CSOs or community-based organizations operating in the country.
 - Pre-existing or planned **sub-granting pathways** to national or subnational CSOs legally registered in GFF countries;
- While full registration in all GFF countries is not required, applicants must **clearly describe the mechanisms by which they will ensure legal, fiduciary, and programmatic compliance** in the countries selected for sub-granting and engagement.

- **Can a member of the consortium consist of several coalitions or networks?**

Yes. Coalitions and networks are eligible, as long as their governance structures and roles within the consortium are clearly defined and in line with the eligibility criteria included in the call for proposals.

- **Will members of the selected consortiums be eligible to apply for and receive sub-grants.**

No, members of consortiums will not be eligible to receive sub-grants from either pillar 1 or 2.

- **Will either pillar prioritize local organizations over international ones?**

There is no restriction on whether a national or international organization can serve as the lead partner in a consortium, as long as they submit evidence of experience managing grants in the magnitude of \$5M. Lead partners will require the ability to:

- Operate across multiple GFF partner countries;
- Provide fiduciary oversight;

- Coordinate sub-granting at scale;
 - Offer technical assistance and capacity building;
 - Engage with World Bank and government counterparts at both national and global levels.
- **Are federated organizations eligible to apply?**

Federated organizations (e.g., international NGOs with independent national chapters) should submit one EOI per federation, not from multiple national entities. Multiple national affiliates of the same federation will be counted as one consortium member. Legal registration of any member chapter may be used to meet lead eligibility, provided the designated lead holds fiduciary and legal responsibility.

Coordination

- **Will there be a system or platform to help organizations find partners and form consortiums? Will assistance be available to help form or support consortiums?**

While there is no formal matchmaking platform, CIVIC and GFF hosted information sessions may facilitate networking opportunities to support consortium formation. Interested organizations are encouraged to connect through webinars and respective networks.

Country Eligibility and Thematic Focus

- **Which countries are eligible?**

A list of eligible countries will be published in the Call for Proposals (CfP), drawn from [GFF partner countries](#). In Pillar 1, up to 30 countries will be eligible to take part in grant activities. In Pillar 2, up to 12 countries will be selected from a list of 23 eligible countries to engage in grant activities. Preference will be given to consortiums with demonstrated engagement in a majority of eligible countries respective to each pillar. Country coverage required will be specified in the CfPs.

- **Will proposals need to include specific countries at the EOI stage?**

Yes. Consortiums must indicate targeted countries, based on strategic priorities and their operational capacity.

- **Will thematic priorities include equity and hard-to-reach contexts?**

Yes. The platform will prioritize inclusion, equity, and meaningful engagement of organizations in fragile, underserved, and marginalized contexts.

- **Can the consortium focus on one country or multiple countries?**

Consortia are expected to work across multiple GFF partner countries, not just a single country. The specific countries targeted should align with the GFF-CIVIC country prioritization criteria, and reflect the consortium's strategic and technical approach, as well as its operational capacity and in-country or regional networks. Applicants must demonstrate a proven track record of engagement and impact in GFF partner countries and show how their multi-country strategy will advance the goals of the platform while ensuring context-sensitive, locally anchored implementation.

Funding Structure and Sub-granting

- **What is the size and duration of grants the two consortiums will implement?**

Each pillar will be awarded a grant of up to **\$5 million USD**, to be implemented over a **two-year** period. The \$5 million will include administrative costs which must cover all coordination and operating costs. The ceiling for the administrative cost and technical assistance is 25% of the total grant amount.

Is there a required allocation split between sub-grants to CSOs and other consortium activities (e.g., management, technical assistance, capacity building)?

At the **EOI stage**, applicants are **not required to submit detailed budgets**, but should provide a **high-level indicative breakdown** of how the overall funding would be used in line with the objectives of the platform.

While there is **no fixed allocation ratio**, applicants should be guided by the expectation that the **majority of the total grant** should be directed toward **sub-granting and direct support to national and subnational civil society and youth-led organizations** in eligible GFF partner countries.

As **indicative guidance**, consortia may consider models where approximately **75% of total funds** are allocated for **sub-granting**, and the remaining **25%** is used for **program coordination, technical assistance, capacity building, learning, and operational support**.

We welcome **innovative implementation models**—including those where consortium partners play an active role in country-level execution, regional facilitation, or technical accompaniment—that may require a **different allocation mix**. The key is to ensure that the proposed structure **maximizes impact, strengthens local civil society, and delivers value for money**.

- **What is sub-granting?**

Sub-granting refers to the process by which the selected consortium administers and disburses funds to local civil society and youth-led organizations in GFF partner countries. These sub-grants will be awarded on a competitive basis through country-specific calls an/or other mechanisms aligned with the priorities of the two platform pillars:

- Pillar 1: – sub-grants will support advocacy, accountability, and coalition-building efforts by CSOs and YLOs to influence national budgets, policies, and planning processes.
- Pillar 2: – sub-grants will enable local organizations to adapt, expand, and integrate proven, community-based innovations into public health systems.

The aim of sub-granting is to channel resources to organizations closest to the challenges and most capable of delivering impact, while ensuring alignment with national priorities and opportunities for scale. The consortium will provide technical assistance and oversight throughout the sub-grant lifecycle.

Consortium Application Process and Selection

- **Do applicants need to provide a full proposal at the EOI stage?**

No. At the EOI stage, consortiums submit an initial expression of interest outlining their concept, lead and partner organizations, and target countries. Only shortlisted consortiums will be invited to submit full proposals.

- **Can consortiums apply for both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2?**

No. Consortiums are encouraged to only submit one EOI for only one pillar.

- **How will applicants be assessed?**

Criteria will include strategic alignment, capacity, partnerships, country focus, potential for impact, and contribution to the GFF and World Bank goals.

- **Are the two selected consortiums for Pillar 1 and 2 expected to work together?**

While each pillar operates independently, synergies and shared learning between consortiums are encouraged and will be facilitated through joint learning sessions or technical assistance. The GFF-CIVIC teams will support coordination and knowledge sharing across selected consortiums.

- **Will the EOI include a request for a preliminary budget?**

At the EOI stage, applicants must demonstrate capacity to manage grant funds. Applicants should indicate the amount of funding requested (\$ 5 million) as a percentage of the organization's average annual operating budget over the past three years. [Note: This amount must not exceed 50% of the organization's average annual budget over the past three years.]

- **When will the EOI be published? And how long will the review process take?**

The EOI will be published the week of July 28, with a three-week deadline for submitting. The review of EOIs is expected to take approximately **1 week**. Shortlisted consortiums will be notified and invited to submit full proposals shortly thereafter.

Technical Assistance and Learning

- **Will technical assistance (TA) be provided?**
 - TA provided by the selected consortium: Capacity-building and technical support are key platform pillars, supporting areas like policy engagement, financial management, and M&E. The selected consortium will provide TA to sub-grantees per the terms of references for each pillar.
 - TA provided to the selected consortium: The GFF and CIVIC team will provide collaborative support to the consortium.

Additional information, Access, Language, and Communications

- **Will all materials and sessions be accessible in English and French?**

Yes. French translation and interpretation will be available throughout the process.

- **Where can I find updates or recordings?**

All updates, materials, and recordings will be published on: www.civicglobal.org

- **Who do I reach out to with questions?**

Please email gffcivicplatform@worldbank.org