

Working with the GFF, governments in low- and lower-middle-income countries are taking charge of their demographic future, increasing domestic resource mobilization, and investing in their human capital.

The Global Financing Facility – the catalyst for country-led health and nutrition

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Governments in low- and lower-middle-income countries are taking charge of their demographic future, increasing domestic resource mobilization, and investing in their human capital. Dr. Oly Ilunga Kalenga, Professor Isaac F. Adewole, and Hon. Umyy A. Mwalimu, describe how the Global Financing Facility (GFF) in Support of Every Woman Every Child helps make that possible.



The GFF starts with a single, locally designed plan

“The GFF has helped the DRC to effect a paradigm shift in how we think of health. It’s an investment that gives a huge return – not only in lives saved but in the ability of healthy women, children and adolescents to achieve their full potential.

“Our ‘Single Contract’ pools all financial resources to support a single health care action plan. This brings the ministry of health at the provincial level, the provincial health authority and development partners together behind a cohesive plan that we align domestic and external resources behind to achieve a more effective coverage of health and nutrition services. It is reducing fragmentation, increasing alignment by using a single accounting system, and enabling more accurate monitoring – while also allowing each province to operate in a decentralized way.

“So far, the results are promising. In less than one year, thousands more women and children in 14 provinces have accessed essential services; vaccination rates for children (DTP, HepB, Hib) are up 25%; and assisted deliveries are up 14%. We have a long way to go but we are on the path to building a health system that cares for the basic needs of our people.”

Dr. Oly Ilunga Kalenga, Minister of Health, Democratic Republic of Congo



The GFF helps drive domestic resource mobilization

“The GFF has brought to bear a new perspective with respect to health financing in Nigeria. One thing that fascinates me about the GFF is its ability to drive domestic resource mobilization. It creates a new sense of awareness that you must put your money on the table. And that to me is the beauty. It’s not money from the GFF but it’s a catalyst for encouraging governments to say, look, own this initiative, put your money there. When you invest in health, you don’t lose the money. The gains are huge, immense, and eye-catching. We’re seeing the benefits of this new outlook on health as a priority investment. In 2014, we set up the Nigerian Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), a funding vehicle for the Nigerian Basic Minimum Package of Health Services. With the advocacy and support of the GFF, the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Affairs Canada, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and other partners, the Government of Nigeria has finally invested its money, alongside a US\$20 million grant from the GFF, to test the package in three states. We are using a results-based approach, so this represents ‘smarter money’, enabling Nigeria to invest more deeply and sustainably in high-impact areas.

“This has set us on the path to build and finance a sustainable health system that ensures that no women, children or adolescents are left behind.”

Professor Isaac F. Adewole, Minister of Health, Nigeria



The GFF helps countries prioritize results

“With limited resources and multiple priorities, one of the single most important questions we face in Tanzania is how to ensure that health investments have the maximum positive impact on people’s lives. Using high-quality data to inform decision-making is therefore essential, and our work with the GFF has placed a renewed emphasis on using measurement and analysis to improve health services. This ensures that our investments are high-impact. Our investment in women and children’s health and nutrition uses a district-level health scorecard to monitor results across a range of key indicators. Organizations including the GFF provide financing at facility level, based on certain results being achieved. This ensures that the investments are reaching those with the greatest needs.

“Results-based financing is one vital way to improve accountability and transparency. And it is already bearing real fruit. The number of high-performing health facilities rose from 1% (2016) to 22% (2018) and coverage of key maternal health services, including institutional deliveries, and preventive care during pregnancy steadily increased from 2015 to 2017. The quality of care during pregnancy also improved as evidenced by improved coverage of malaria treatment during pregnancy. In addition, utilization of outpatient care for the poorest quintile, who are the most in need of care, has risen from 2.5% to 14% between mid-2016 and the end of 2017. We are excited to see progress continue in the months and years ahead. Changes like this mean the future for women, children and adolescents in Tanzania is bright.”

Hon. Umyy A. Mwalimu, Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Tanzania

The GFF can change the game for women, children and adolescents

The Global Financing Facility (GFF) was founded to help countries to transform how they invest in and finance the health and nutrition of women, children and adolescents.

Just US\$2.6 billion of GFF Trust Fund money will mobilize between US\$50 billion and US\$75 billion of additional health and nutrition financing, and support GFF countries to stop the preventable deaths of as many as 35 million women, children and adolescents by 2030.



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