

Civil Society Engagement Strategy

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What is Civil Society?

Civil society includes the full range of formal and informal, non-governmental and not-for-profit, organizations that publicly represent the interests, ideas and values of citizens and their members.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) encompass a diverse range of groups, e.g. international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), regional and national advocacy groups, service-delivery organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs), youth-led coalitions, professional associations, faith-based groups and service-providers, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, research and academic institutions, and more.

Goal & Objective

- **GOAL:** Civil society is meaningfully engaged in the GFF, from sub-national to national to global levels, such that the full breadth of their skills and expertise can contribute to determining and achieving mutual goals and targets, including those laid out by the GFF and GFF countries, the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **OBJECTIVE:** GFF stakeholders will agree and act upon a clear set of roles and responsibilities for enhancing civil society engagement in the GFF, that contribute to improved GFF systems and processes at all levels, with particular focus on countries, including development, implementation, and accountability for GFF country investment cases and health financing strategies.

Strategy Consultation Process

The strategy draft was reviewed by nearly 250 partners from 28 countries



The consultation process included:

- **Nov 2016:** CSO meeting and IG meeting in Dar es Salaam
- **Dec 2016 – Feb 2017:** Input from the CSO Coordinating Group
- **Feb 2017:** Input from the GFF Secretariat
- **Feb – Mar 2017:**
 - Public online consultation
 - Presentations, webinars, and teleconferences with working groups (e.g. Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, GFF CSO webinar, Nigeria Quarterly Interactive Forum)
 - Additional input gathered from select IG members

The Value of Civil Society to RMNCAH

CSOs contribute to tangible outcomes and results for RMNCAH. Each of these “functions” can be leveraged in support of National Investment Cases, GFF goals, and the Global Strategy:

- Advocacy
- Monitoring and Accountability
- Elevating Voices of Affected Populations
- Implementation
- Research & Data Analysis
- Technical Assistance



Strategic Approach

The strategic approach is grounded in three objectives:

1. **COUNTRY PLATFORMS** are supported to meaningfully engage civil society in support of common goals, through use of the *Guidance Note: Inclusive Multi-stakeholder Country Platforms in Support of Every Woman Every Child*
2. **CSO COALITIONS AT NATIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS** are strengthened to enhance civil society alignment and capacity, and to streamline communications and technical assistance
3. **GFF ACCOUNTABILITY** is strengthened through support for civil society's role in accountability, and increased transparency and space for accountability in GFF processes

Roles & Responsibilities

- **CIVIL SOCIETY**

- CSO Representatives to the Investors Group
- Global CSO Coordinating Group (hosted by PMNCH)
- Country CSO Focal Points
- CSO Representatives to Multi-stakeholder Country Platforms
- National RMNCAH CSO Coalition(s)
- Individual CSOs

- **COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS**

- Multi-stakeholder Country Platform, under MoH leadership
- Country Platform Focal Point

- **GFF PARTNERS**

- GFF Investors Group and Trust Fund Committee
- Donors (outside of GFF formal structures)
- GFF Secretariat & Country Focal Points
- PMNCH

Special Focus: Grassroots CSOs

Engaging local, grassroots CSOs is critical for supporting countries to reach the poorest and most marginalized communities

- **Country Platform CSO Representatives**

- CSO reps should be selected by their own constituency
- CSO reps ideally from an RMNCAH coalition to facilitate consultation
- Must share info & solicit feedback from broader CSO constituency, including CSOs representing marginalized groups

- **Consultations**

- Country Platform should develop plans for continuous broad stakeholder engagement with particular attention to grassroots CSOs

- **RMNCAH Coalitions**

- Strong RMNCAH CSO Coalition offers robust consultation with:
 - The CSO Country Platform representatives & country focal points
 - Global CSO Coordinating Group
 - CSO Investors Group Members

GFF Civil Society Engagement in Process: **Nigeria example**

- Nigeria's first Quarterly Interactive Forum for CSOs and government working in the health sector, March 7, 2017
- Focused on effective CSO engagement in the GFF
- Presentations and feedback opportunities included:
 - Updates on GFF Nigeria activities by Country Platform co-chairs
 - CSO engagement in the GFF to-date in Nigeria and opportunities by the CSO representative to the Country Platform
 - GFF requirements for Nigeria by the World Bank
 - Civil Society Engagement Strategy by CSO representative to the GFF Investors Group



Results of CSO Engagement in the GFF: Cameroon & Uganda examples

Cameroon

- Civil society consultations with the Ministry of Health helped ensure that nutrition was included in the investment case

Uganda

- Civil society provided support and technical assistance to ensure that the Investment Case aligned with the national Costed Implementation Plan for family planning

Next Steps

- **ACTION REQUESTED**

- The Investors Group is asked to approve the Civil Society Engagement Strategy
- Discuss options and opportunities for supporting its implementation, including the provision of resources to support effective and meaningful civil society engagement in the GFF, particularly at the country level.

- **COSTED WORK PLAN**

- A time-bound and budgeted work plan will be developed, to ensure appropriate steps are taken to put the strategic approach, including key partner roles and responsibilities, into action.

Thank You from the CSO Community