

INVESTORS GROUP MEETING REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Investors Group (IG) approved the [report from the eighth Investors Group \(IG8\) meeting](#), after reviewing a table of follow-up action items that the Secretariat had addressed since the last convening, and adopted the **IG9 meeting agenda** (GFF-IG9-1) as proposed.
- **The Director of the Global Financing Facility (GFF)**, Dr. Muhammad Pate, gave an overview of his perspectives since beginning the dual role of Director of the GFF and Global Director of the Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) Global Practice of the World Bank. He also announced Secretariat staffing updates and updated the IG on the IG Chair rotation.
- The Minister of Health from Côte d'Ivoire provided a detailed account of the **GFF experience in Côte d'Ivoire** (GFF-IG9-2 PPT), and presented next steps for successfully meeting Côte d'Ivoire's health priorities.
- The update on **Country Expansion and the GFF Approach to Results** (GFF-IG9-3 PPT) included a brief overview of the GFF approach to results as reflected in the recently published 2018 GFF Annual Report. Ministers of Health provided insights on progress in the new GFF-supported countries.
- Partners participated in a panel discussion on the **Global Action Plan Health Financing Accelerator** and discussed next steps for country-level implementation.
- The Chair of the Task Team for the **Review of the Investors Group** (GFF-IG9-4) updated partners on the status of the process and provided an overview of the pending decisions for the review.
- Muhammad Pate presented an update on the proposed approach for the upcoming **GFF Strategy Refresh**.
- There was an overview of the proposed plan for the independent **Country Platform Assessment** (GFF-IG9-5 PPT) with the overarching goal to conduct an internal review to guide actions and provide feedback, knowledge, and learning on the functioning of country platforms.
- The overview of the GFF strategy for **Resource Mapping and Expenditure Tracking (RMET)** (GFF-IG9-6 PPT) informed IG representatives about the strategic approach to reach RMET objectives, including an update on RMET work in the 36 GFF-supported countries, existing challenges, and the role the IG can play in addressing these challenges at the country level.
- The partner-led session, **Assessing Gender Equity**, highlighted the importance of considering gender in all aspects of the GFF process with the main objective of reaching agreement among IG members that advancing gender equality is fundamental to achieving outcomes on RMNCAH-N.
- The proposal to develop a time-bound **technical advisory group (TAG) on Quality of Care** (GFF-IG9-7) was approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The GFF IG held its ninth meeting from November 22-23, 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The follow-up table (Annex 1) and meeting agenda (Annex 2) are attached. All documents and presentations are available at www.globalfinancingfacility.org. The agenda (GFF-IG9-1) for the meeting was approved. Chris Elias, Gates Foundation, Chair of the Investors Group, welcomed the new IG country representatives including Ministers of Health from Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, and Côte d'Ivoire. The Chair also thanked the Minister from Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the ninth IG meeting in Abidjan. The Chair welcomed Muhammad Pate, new Director of the GFF and Global Director of HNP at the World Bank, along with new IG partners.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Muhammad Pate presented his first **Director's Update**, and provided his early insights including the importance of extending the GFF's impact, given that the GFF countries supported by the partnership – one-third of which are classified as fragile and conflict-affected states – experience many of the world's most pressing challenges in sexual and reproductive health and the poorest reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N) outcomes. Muhammad previewed the GFF Strategy Refresh discussion he would present later in the day and updated the IG on the strengthened Secretariat team, headed by Monique Vledder, with dedicated leads for the key technical areas to ensure the effective delivery of the work program. Muhammad also announced that the current IG meeting would be Chris Elias's last meeting as Chair. To finalize the process of Chair rotation, he explained that the Trust Fund Committee (TFC) will propose a decision, based on nominations, for the IG to ratify virtually. Muhammad announced that, since the GFF Trust Fund is housed within the World Bank, and considering the transitions that took place earlier that year, Annette Dixon, Vice President for Human Develop at the World Bank, would serve Chair of the TFC starting with the meeting taking place the following day. Muhammad then asked Monique to present the pending action items from the April 2019 IG meeting to ensure all items were being implemented as agreed.

Action items:

- The TFC will deliberate the IG Chair nominees and then conduct a virtual ratification process with IG members following the discussion.

FOCUS COUNTRY: CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The Minister of Health for Côte d'Ivoire, Honorable Minister Eugène Aka-Aouélé, presented a **Focus Country Update on Côte d'Ivoire**. He provided a detailed account of Côte d'Ivoire's experience with the GFF, as well as next steps for successfully meeting their country's health priorities. Throughout the presentation, the Minister drew on the experience of the National Dialog that took place in Abidjan a few months prior, to outline the process for the development of the Investment Case (IC) as well as the timeline. He explained that the vision for the national health strategy entailed four interventions, including community awareness to increase the demand for health care and change behaviors, improving the provision of quality health care services, strengthening the system to increase the availability of strategic services and inputs, and resource mobilization to improve access and demand for health care. Some key challenges the Minister described included monitoring the commitments made by stakeholders, institutionalizing RMET systems, effective alignment of the technical and financial partners and efficient implementation of reforms. The Minister concluded by offering opportunities to move forward and discussing how the IC provides a framework for sharpening the focus of the health care system on primary health care and bringing together various stakeholders including the office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Health, private sector, civil society, and technical and financial partners.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- Agreement that the IC process in Côte d'Ivoire is exemplary and should be used as a learning opportunity for other countries developing Investment Cases.
- Discussion about the strong value of working with civil society and clarifying questions to the Government about the role CSOs are currently playing on both the country platform and in supporting the country to improve delivering services to women, children, and adolescents.
- Clarifying questions on what kind of interventions the Government is putting in place to achieve service delivery goals, including increasing access at the lowest level.
- Clarifying questions on youth engagement and what specific efforts the Government is making to ensure adolescents have access to services, payment for vaccines, etc., so that the cost burden is not on women alone.
- Questions about the country platform and its functionality, as well as the Government strategy for DRM.
- Update from various partners regarding ongoing in-country engagement, including participating in the health financing working group and providing support under the sustainable financing initiative. This included discussions on the areas the portfolio is focusing on including malaria, aid relief, health systems strengthening, funding for health commodities, and private sector health services.
- Clarifying questions about whether the Investment Case can be the platform for aligning technical and financial partners (such as UN agencies active in-country).

Action items: None

UPDATE ON COUNTRY EXPANSION AND THE GFF APPROACH TO RESULTS

Monique Vledder, Practice Manager for the GFF Secretariat, presented the **GFF Approach to Results**. She provided an overview on progress and next steps, as well as highlights from the recently released annual report. She explained that the refined logic model and theory of change has helped articulate how the GFF currently functions including measuring inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impact. She said the main objective of this was to identify what is needed in each country in order to develop a functional national data platform that is systematically used to inform decision making. Monique emphasized that good data enables countries to know where vulnerabilities lie, in turn allowing them to course correct and improve, which is why the GFF invests in capacity strengthening, routine monitoring, resource mapping and tracking, and tracking progress and results. She explained that the Secretariat has developed a range of tools, including a tracker using Tableau, which allows for management oversight of GFF activities and actions at the country and portfolio levels. She reviewed three case studies from the annual report (DRC, Ethiopia, and Kenya) and highlighted how the GFF currently tracks results at country level. She clarified that despite the lack of uniformity in ICs, each GFF-supported country reports on a set of GFF-wide core indicators as well as indicators specific to their IC. Monique ended by updating the IG on the Secretariat's plans to further systematize the approach as part of the strategy refresh process, to ensure that countries have the resources they need to enable them to measure and monitor progress, and ensure the capacity to analyze the quality data.

Luc Laviolette, GFF Secretariat, presented an **Update on Country Expansion** where he shared the status of the ten newest GFF-supported countries, including a list of partners and potential alignment at country level. Luc then moderated a discussion with the three Ministers of Health from Burkina Faso, H.E. Pr Léonie Claudine Lougué Sorgho; Central African Republic, Dr. Pierre Somse; and Ethiopia, Dr. Amir Hagos. The Ministers focused on addressing two key questions: (1) what support do governments need to effectively take the lead in the development and implementation of the Investment Case? and (2) how can the Investors Group maximize the

alignment of financiers around the Investment Case? The Minister from Burkina Faso began by acknowledging the collaborative nature and consultative process (between the MoH, CSOs, technical and financial partners) as a large added value for Burkina Faso. She said her expectations of the GFF include allowing the country platform to govern the development process, as well technical and financial support of the roadmap and drafting of the IC. She said Burkina Faso could use support in the implementation of the public expenditure review to help mobilize domestic resources. From Central African Republic, the Minister said GFF support had created momentum and a sense of urgency in maternal newborn and child health in their post conflict country. The sense of urgency was strengthened by data collection which, he believed to be stronger than policy, and can effectively drive change at high levels. He reiterated that the quality of the relationship between the government and partners is key, and strengthening country support for fragile states is essential. He said CAR needs a workforce to implement the Investment Case and the GFF could help mobilize resources and partners to fund specific needs such as staff. Lastly, the Minister from Ethiopia provided the recommendation to always use a country's existing national plan for IC development as it reduces transaction cost and allows Ministers to be efficient.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- Subnational data aggregation is key to enhancing the importance for equity, and ensuring RMNCAH-N is prioritized in National Plans.
- Need clarity on how the global platforms are functioning at the country level and whether they are coordinated.
- Continue to build on the added value of the GFF by learning from existing GFF-supported countries when developing national plans in the IC and existing country platform, with a particular focus on alignment.
- The new country expansion is an opportunity for the GFF to enhance the horizontal approach and think about how the work is monitored, documented, and shared.
- Data collection and mutual accountability across various partners should be coordinated.
- Important to clarify and identify the role the IG can play to enhance alignment at the country level.
- Bigger role for CSOs to play in multi-stakeholder platforms, as well as stakeholders who are not represented but heavily involved in GFF engagement.
- Important for the GFF to continue to adapt the model as it expands and hone the “learning by doing” course correction.
- Need to think about the role of the Global Action Plan (GAP) and how this is implemented at country level.

Action items: The Secretariat will arrange an IG Technical Alternates call to discuss issues involving alignment at country level.

GLOBAL ACTION PLAN- HEALTH FINANCING ACCELERATOR

Ellen Van de Poel, GFF Secretariat, moderated a discussion on the **Global Action Plan (GAP)-Health Financing Accelerator** with partners from the Ministry of Health, Gavi, Global Fund, Norway, WHO and the World Bank. As all agencies represented in the GAP are members of the GFF Investors Group, the IG meeting was a good opportunity to discuss how to further focus implementation of actions and collaboration in a sub-group of GFF-supported countries that have recently joined the GFF partnership. The session also provided an opportunity for the agencies involved to discuss with countries and other partners on how the accelerator will roll out, how it can leverage the work of the GFF partnership and processes, and how IG members can strengthen their engagement in support in the process. The panel discussed how countries and IG members expected the Global Action Plan Health Financing Accelerator to increase alignment, support acceleration of progress and impact, and strengthen sustainable approaches to financing for health and nutrition. The discussion also helped identify concrete opportunities for increased collaboration between all IG members to achieve impact at scale and greater

efficiencies in GFF-supported countries. The Minister of Health from Côte d'Ivoire was explicit about the types of reforms that are needed in the sector, especially private sector. Gaston Sorgho, World Bank, explained how the Bank and GFF can better work together to incentivize and support teams to deliver on this agenda. He also described which instruments the Bank must support to advance the health financing agenda at country level. Marijke Wijnroks, Global Fund, discussed how partners can better align financial instruments around a common health financing agenda and that there is a large opportunity now with the nine new GFF-supported countries to benefit from new Global Fund funding. Marijke also discussed the challenges and opportunities with aligning resources and incentivizing a common reform agenda at country level. Anuradha Gupta, Gavi, explained how in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, where Gavi is transitioning, how the HF accelerator agenda concretely supports transition from external to domestic resources. Ellen then led a discussion with the IG on challenges with implementing the HF agenda at the country level, opportunities for coordination with other IG members at the global level, and whether integration should focus on country level.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- Challenges include coordinating technical assistance, ensuring sustainable transitions, lack of prioritization of all stakeholders around country priorities and Investment Cases, and the restrictions that different agency mandates and governance mechanisms pose.
- Strong appetite to move towards action on collaboration and alignment behind country priorities.
- Large opportunity to build upon existing collaboration, platforms, and processes.
- Explore opportunities in targeting out of pocket payments to shape market quality and increasing coverage and financial protection.

Action items: None

REVIEW OF THE INVESTORS GROUP

Paul Fife, Norway, Chair of the [Review of the Investors Group](#) Task Team, presented the session for decision on the strategic recommendations from the ongoing IG Review. Paul provide a background of the process and explained how the review identified several recommendations on how to strengthen the IG, which were categorized into operational and strategic recommendations. At the April 2019 IG meeting, members agreed to establish a small, time-bound Task Team to discuss the strategic recommendations outlined in the review, and to develop proposals for how to operationalize the recommendations. The Task Team met monthly to discuss clarifying and defining the IG's primary role, providing guidance to the GFF Secretariat on the update of the IG governance document and operating procedures, delineating the role and responsibilities of the IG vis a vis the TFC, and clarifying IG member responsibilities. Additionally, the Task Team made recommendations on strengthening ways of working and deepening synergies with the other governing bodies, and suggested a process for aligning IG, TFC, and Secretariat priorities. Key issues for discussion during the session included the updated roles and responsibilities of members, IG size and composition, ways of working, and establishing standing committees. Paul explained that the key deliverables to come out of the review are a revised IG Governance Document, which includes a process proposal for improving alignment of IG with other GFF functions (including work of TFC, Secretariat), and recommendations for improved ways of working and TORs for IG members. Paul explained that following the discussion of the options and key changes during the current meeting, the next steps would be for Task Team to review the final input to the Governance Document, finalize the deliverables in December, circulate all final deliverables to the IG, and implement decision points in January 2020.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- Consensus on the decisions proposed by the Task Team including testing out a virtual meeting, establishing standing committees, expanding the composition of the IG for more country representations and a youth representative, and creating a dual- IG Chair function to include a country representative.
 - Strong preference was shown for maintaining the in-country IG meetings so that partners can align with other events (e.g. CSO forum, field visits, etc.).
- Need further clarification on how to implement the committees, streamline processes, etc. The Secretariat could explore options for coordination.
- Suggestion for Paul as Chair to write to other board chairs regarding similar decision-making processes.
- Need for a stronger link between IG global level representatives and the country level, and the dissemination of information to the TFC.
- Need for clearer accountability and mandate for IG representatives to serve as champions.
- More time during meetings for strategic discussion would be useful, along with more interactive sessions.
- Clearer action points associated with each agenda idea would be clarifying as well as being more disciplined about the length of presentations and interventions.
- Strong appetite for a monitoring and evaluation standing committee as it provides more strategic guidance at global level, as well as accountability. Important to ensure this committee functions also independently of the IG and TFC.
- Important to carefully establish standing committees while ensuring there is no fragmentation and the work is not duplicative of ongoing work from various partners.
- Important to keep in mind the mandate for the accountability committee was to assess the GFF internally and not for other platforms to assess the GFF.
- The country alignment function should operate mostly at the country level. Partners need to align around the country level processes instead of creating a standing committee on the global level.
- Enhance transparency in terms of IG and TFC agenda items and how both are strategically linked.
- Further discussion is needed on the number of IG meetings, as well as tradeoffs, and if composition is expanded to a larger group to enhance country engagement, should a constituency model be an option.
- Formalizing the role of observers would be useful.

Action items:

- Partners to send any written comments on the revised Governance Document to the Secretariat by end of December 2019.
- The Task Team to meet one more time in January 2020 to finalize the deliverables.
- The Task Team Chair will disseminate to the full IG the revised Governance Document and final decision points to be implemented following the last Task Team meeting.

UPDATE ON THE GFF STRATEGY REFRESH

Dr. Muhammad Pate, GFF Director, presented an update on the proposed approach for the upcoming GFF Strategy Refresh. He explained that the business plan for the GFF only covered the period 2015-2020, and there was an opportunity to pause and take stock on progress and lessons learned. Muhammad outlined how he proposed to engage in a strategy refresh process, to ensure that the GFF remains fit for purpose over the next strategic period, and that the key pillars that define the GFF remain the foundation. Muhammad emphasized the shifting global landscape which provides an opportunity for the GFF to take the collective impact even farther and accelerate progress at country level. He also highlighted what he saw as emerging issues, including quality of care and strengthening the demand side and long-term institutional capacity and demand. Muhammad linked the GFF Strategy Refresh to the Investors Group review, which had already begun discussions that would help better

position the GFF in the global landscape over the next years. Muhammad explained that he would, in his role as GFF Director, be leading the strategy refresh process over the next months with support of the Secretariat and in close consultation with the board Chairs as well as IG. He explained that his focus would be to address how to increase efficiencies and effectiveness in achieving RMNACH-N outcomes at country level, and in strengthening primary health care and financing systems to further accelerate progress. Muhammad announced that as a next step he would be establishing a working group for the process, of which he will serve as Chair. He explained the process will be as transparent and inclusive as possible, consulting key stakeholders of the IG, while also ensuring that the process is agile and nimble. He explained that the goal would be to kick off analytic and benchmarking work in December, and following consultations also with IG members, to present a revised draft strategy framework in April at the next IG. The revised strategy for the period 2020-2025 will then be finalized by summer 2020.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- This process is an opportunity to be more thoughtful about the GFF as a partnership and how to maintain momentum in the next phase, as well as utilize metrics/monitoring and evaluation, and innovation to scale.
- Important to keep human rights, gender, and SRHR at the heart of the discussion.
- Important to hear specifically from countries and other members about the added value of the GFF and look critically at what may not be working.
- Good opportunity to more fully engage CSOs in various ways, including alignment around DRM, advocacy, and accountability.
- Important to engage new technology and innovation that will change the landscape in the next years, while emphasizing quality.
- GFF needs to think through how to position itself moving forward regarding UHC and RMNCAH-N specifically, and convey a clearer storyline.
- Important to make clear the linkage or relationship between the GFF Strategy Refresh and the HNP Strategy.

Action items:

- Muhammad will provide a status update and opportunity for consultation with the IG members during the April 2020 IG meeting.

COUNTRY PLATFORM ASSESSMENTS

Monique Vledder gave a brief overview of the proposed plan for independent **Country Platform Assessments**. Monique explained that at the TFC meeting in May 2019, it was agreed that two approaches would be used to provide independent data on country platform performance including surveys of platform members in all GFF countries, and an in-dept assessment, involving a country visit, in a few countries each year. The overarching goal is to conduct an internal review (led by the Secretariat) to guide actions and provide feedback, knowledge, and learning. Monique explained that the specific objectives of the assessments include understanding/taking stock of how multi-stakeholder GFF country platforms are functioning, and whether (and how) functioning has changed over time (preparation vs implementation). Additionally, the assessments will identify the challenges and opportunities that multi-stakeholder GFF country platforms face at various stages of the GFF process (preparation vs implementation), and use these to take corrective action to strengthen platform functioning and improve overall performance of the GFF engagement. By the end of 2019 the Secretariat will have consulted on the quantitative tools with smaller technical groups, piloted and finalized the quantitative tools, and discussed the

assessment with government focal points. Monique said the Secretariat planned to launch the web-based assessment in early 2020 and by the Spring, present the quantitative (summary) results to IG and conduct the Qualitative deep dive assessments. By Q3 of calendar year 2020, the Secretariat plans to have the Qualitative reports made available.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- A benchmarking exercise that examines other existing country platforms would be helpful.
- Need to think proactively now about what kind of response there should be to any gaps or strengths that are identified.
- Important for the assessment to have an independent lens.
- Questions on the role of the Liaison Officer during these assessments.
- Functionality of the country platforms highly impacts the ability for civil society to engage and function effectively. civil society recently conducted independent assessments and found challenges in countries, so it's important for the GFF to build on these findings.

Action items:

- The Secretariat will provide an update on the assessment progress at the IG technical alternates quarterly meeting in the Spring of 2020.

CHAIR'S OPENING DAY TWO

The IG Chair opened day two of the Investors Group Meeting by recapping the sessions from the prior day and reiterating the action points (see ANNEX 1). He also asked the civil society representatives to provide a read out from the two-day **Civil Society Forum** that took place in the days leading up to the IG meeting. Pauline Irungu, Path Kenya, emphasized the major themes to emerge from the forum which reiterated the strong added value of civil society in strengthening country ownership, sustainable domestic resource mobilization, and fostering accountability. Pauline also shared recent cross-country learning that took place in GFF-supported countries. She explained that lessons from the forum included a need for skilled, knowledgeable, adequately resourced and independent civil society coalitions and functional government-led multi-stakeholder country platforms. Some concerns that she raised included the need for youth representation on the country and global platforms, need to increase technical capacity, and issues with sequencing. Pauline emphasized that civil society has a role to play in the GFF Strategy Refresh process from an independence and accountability standpoint, as well as deep understanding of political context.

GFF RESOURCE MAPPING AND EXPENDITURE TRACKING (RMET)

Marion Cros, GFF Secretariat, presented an overview of the GFF strategy for **Resource Mapping and Expenditure Tracking**. In addition to informing IG representatives about the strategic approach to reach RMET objectives, the presentation included an update on the RMET work in the 36 GFF-supported countries, existing challenges, and the role the IG can play in addressing these challenges at the country level. Marion explained that the objectives of the RMET work consists of (1) assessing whether the Investment Case (IC) is funded, and assessing the source of funding (domestic and external); (2) making sure the funding gap is not too high, and that the IC is prioritized and realistic; (3) making sure the IC is implemented – not only supporting the Ministry of Health in collecting budget data on the IC or prioritized national health strategy priorities, but also on expenditures. Marion indicated that this work is central to many donors and governments as it aims to strengthen existing financial management tracking systems so that such financial data (with respect to the IC and the national health strategy) are generated on a regular basis, as opposed to only for the purpose of the IC. Marion explained that when multiple RMET

exercises for specific RMNCAH-N programs are conducted in parallel, the on-going government-led public financial management (PFM) systems, such as program-based budgeting (PBB), are undermined. She encouraged partners to streamline efforts, so work isn't duplicated or diluted. Dr. Muhammad Pate also emphasized the collective responsibility of the GFF partnership to support strengthening systems, despite the potentially long process. Marion also linked the national health account (NHA) with RMET and explained if the GFF can support PFM reforms at the country level, then RMET and the NHA will be institutionalized.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- The presentation was well received, and all donors agreed to support this agenda at the country level as much as possible.
- Agreement on the linkage with the PFM work to enhance the confidence in the system and track the government performance.
- Many partners indicated that they provide budget support to countries, which requires basic PFM systems to be in place, and the GFF strategy for RMET would serve as a vehicle to support this further.
- Recognized the link between RMET and program-budgeting to anchor it. There was agreement that supporting these reforms in fragile states would take strong leadership from the government.
- The work of civil society is very aligned with this agenda, and CSOs should be more engaged in the RMET process from the start as they play a vital role in monitoring and ensuring that both government and donors share financial information related to IC.
- Visualization of results can also help CSOs to advocate for more funding in specifically underfunded areas and regions.
- Important to understand the sequencing with regard to the development of the IC and national plan and RMET.
- Important to focus on districts with the highest burden and need.
- RMET in relation to health, governance, and government effectiveness would be interesting to assess in a hybrid session. It is important to keep working with all IG partners including technical agencies.
- The RMET work is seen as a real value add of the GFF and there should be more space for this kind of discussion.

Action items:

- The Secretariat will provide more regular updates on the RMET work in GFF-supported countries, including a session to better understand the linkage between the RMET work and strengthening the local PFM systems.

ASSESSING GENDER EQUITY

Following the April 2019 IG meeting, there was strong sentiment from partners that the GFF can play a large role, and lead in advancing gender equality in GFF-supported countries through the various aspects of its operations. This momentum contributed to the development of the partner-led session on **assessing gender equality in RMNCAH-N**. The session was led by Reina Buijs, Netherlands, and Joshua Tabah, Canada, with interventions from Dr. Muhammad Pate, GFF Director; Pauline Irungu, PATH Kenya; Benoit Kalasa, UNFPA; and Mary-Ann Etiebet, Merck for Mothers. The session highlighted the importance of considering gender in all aspects of the GFF process with the main objective of reaching agreement among IG members that advancing gender equality is fundamental to achieving outcomes on RMNCAH-N. The session aimed to highlight the clear commitment expressed by IG members for the GFF to adopt a more ambitious and transformative approach to gender equality/intersectionality within GFF policy and operations. Partners were also asked to reflect on what the GFF and Investors Group could do to support equitable access by all to quality health services. Country representatives were asked about the

obstacles or barriers their countries are facing in delivering healthcare, and if women and men face different barriers in accessing health services. This session was the first of several upcoming conversations with the IG on the topic of gender equality.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- Agreement for the GFF to adopt a more progressive approach to assessing gender equity in GFF-supported countries.
- Several concrete actions the GFF can do including to assess gender inequity in health, including disaggregated data by sex and analysis during IC development and implementation.
- Agreement that gender equity needs to an assessment tool (similar to what UN women has).
- Remain cognizant that gender is not binary. SRHR is grounded in social norms and values which are dependent on the change of behavior/policy in practice. Keep in mind the importance of working with boys and men for gender-based violence with a goal of working toward legal frameworks related to child marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Key recommendations include that the GFF should include gender indicators that are tracked along side other critical indicators. Also, there should be robust technical support, not just at the country level, but at the community level.
- Important to commit to working with women and girls' rights organizations to seek opportunities to engage and bring their voice to all levels.
- Opportunity for joint advocacy between civil society and private sector as there are large funding gaps in gender/SRHR in which private sector can fill.
- Important to have the correct instruments for measuring impact. SRHR is a central element of GFF but very little of the "R" is found in GFF documents and indicators. Gender is also not disaggregated in these data.
- Gender is not only girls, but includes boys and women with disabilities.
- There are immunization gender gaps between boys and girls, but there are gender barriers to access for both boys and girls.
- Would be helpful to work with key partners, such as UNICEF and the Gates Foundation, to have enhanced metrics and measurement.
- Strategy refresh is an opportunity to proactively integrate gender into all aspects of the GFF model and approach.
- There is a need for technical assistance for assessing gender equity, as well as a tracker for identifying which partners are active on the Country Platform and when the IC is proposed and implemented.

Action items:

- A more in-depth discussion on gender equality will be planned for the April 2020 IG meeting.
- The Secretariat will work with key partners to prepare a report/draft operational policy and guidance at the next IG meeting.

QUALITY OF CARE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Monique Vledder, presented a proposal to develop a time-bound **technical advisory group (TAG) on Quality of Care**. She reviewed the process and conditions for establishing TAGs as agreed by the IG at the April 2019 meeting, and explained why the GFF partnership is well positioned to address the Quality of Care (QOC) agenda. Monique explained how the GFF brings together global evidence to bear in IC priorities, considers QOC at scale through a health systems approach, takes advantage of expertise in the GFF partnership, incorporates QOC into the measurement agenda, and addresses issues related to measurement and institutionalization in a health systems context. Monique also explained the Secretariat would be seeking the nomination of a maximum of one individual

from each Investors Group constituency to form the TAG. The Secretariat will also invite one to two global experts on QOC and a “user’s voice” perspective, who will be external to the GFF, to join the TAG. Monique described the qualifications for membership to include technical expertise working on global and country-level quality of care initiatives pertaining to the full scope of RMNCAH-N services, specifically in GFF-supported countries, and strong knowledge and familiarity of the GFF model including the Investment Case and country platform. This session was for approval which resulted in the IG decision to take forward Quality of Care Technical Advisory Group.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- There was consensus and approval among partners to develop the QOC TAG based on the proposal.
- Important that the TAG builds on existing work, as many international partners are already engaged in this agenda, including in the advocacy space, and the GFF should avoid duplication.
- The operationalization plan that was discussed as part of the TAG will be valuable, and it will be important to examine the issue of service delivery as well.
- This TAG is a good opportunity to assess QOC within the GFF model and understand what the GFF comparative advantage is. It is also an opportunity to elevate quality to a systems level.
- Important to assess the role and mandate of other multilaterals, including the World Bank Group, as part of this agenda.

Action items:

- The Secretariat asked for all nominations for the QOC TAG to be submitted to Stephanie Saulsbury ssaulsbury@worldbank.org by December 5, 2019.
- GFF Secretariat will collect nominations and provide an update on membership and status at the next IG technical alternates quarterly call (January 2020).
- TAG will provide final outcomes at the next in-person Investors Group meeting (April 2020).

CONCLUSION

The Chair thanked the Investors Group for a highly productive discussion, which he believed usefully advanced a shared agenda, and closed the meeting. The follow-up actions from the IG are outlined in Annex 1. The next IG meeting will take place in person in Washington D.C. in April following the World Bank Spring Meetings.

ANNEX 1: ACTIONS ITEMS, IG9

Topic	Action/Deliverable	Status
Update on Country Expansion and the GFF Approach to Results	The Secretariat will arrange an IG Technical Alternates call to discuss, in more detail, issues involving alignment at country level.	Tentatively scheduled for Q3 technical alternates quarterly meeting
Review of the Investors Group (IG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partners to send any written comments on the revised Governance Document to the Secretariat by the end of December 2019. ▪ The Task Team will meet one more time in January 2020 to finalize the deliverables. ▪ The Task Team Chair will disseminate to the full IG the revised Governance Document and final decision points to be implemented following the last Task Team meeting. 	Completed
Update on GFF Strategy Refresh	Muhammad will provide a status update and opportunity for consultation with the IG during the April 2020 meeting.	Completed
Country Platform Assessment	The Secretariat will provide an update on the assessment progress at the IG technical alternates quarterly meeting in Q2 2020.	Included in the IG10 Portfolio Update
Resource Mapping and Expenditure Tracking	The Secretariat to provide more regular updates on the RMET work in GFF-supported countries including a session to better understand the linkage between the RMET work and strengthening the local PFM systems.	Included in monthly RMET newsletters
Assessing Gender Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A more in-depth discussion on gender equality will be planned for the April 2020 IG meeting. ▪ The Secretariat will prepare a gender policy framework at the next IG meeting. 	Completed
Quality of Care - Technical Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Secretariat asked for all nominations for the QoC TAG to be submitted to Stephanie Saulsbury ssaulsbury@worldbank.org by December 5, 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secretariat will provide an update at IG technical alternates quarterly call. ▪ TAG will provide final outcomes at the next in-person IG meeting (Fall 2020).

ANNEX 2: NINTH INVESTORS GROUP AGENDA

INVESTORS GROUP MEETING Friday, 22 November Salle de Fete, Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire Boulevard Hassan II, 08 Bp 01, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire				
Time	Agenda Item	Objective	Presenter	Action
8.30 – 8.45 am	Opening: (GFF-IG9-1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Approval of IG8 Meeting Report – Update on action items – Approval of IG9 Agenda 	Approve report and agenda	IG Chair	<u>For approval</u>
8.45 - 9.15 am	Director's Report	Report on GFF and updates on follow-up items from previous meeting	GFF Director	<u>For discussion</u>
9.15 - 10.15 am	Focus Country: Côte d'Ivoire (GFF-IG9-2 PPT)	Update on progress	Minister of Health, Côte d'Ivoire	<u>For discussion</u>
10.15 - 10.30 am	Break			
10.30 am - 12.30 pm	Update on Country Expansion and the GFF Approach to Results (GFF-IG9-3 PPT)	Update of work in nine new GFF-supported countries, initial results from the Annual Report, and Country Representatives Panel	GFF Country Representatives and GFF Secretariat	<u>For discussion</u>
12.30 - 1.30 pm	Lunch			
1.30 - 2.30 pm	Global Action Plan Health Financing Accelerator	Global Action Plan Health Financing Accelerator status update and discussion on next steps for country-level implementation	IG members	<u>For discussion</u>
2.30 - 2.45 pm	Break			
2.45 – 4.45 pm	Review of the Investors Group (GFF-IG9-4)	Review the updated IG Governance Document and make decisions on strategic and operational recommendations from the Task Team	Chair of IG Task Team and IG members	<u>For decision</u>

4.45-5.15 pm	Update on GFF Strategy Refresh	Update on process	GFF Director	<u>For discussion</u>
5.15 - 5.30 pm	Country Platform Assessment (GFF-IG9-5 PPT)	Update on the process for Country Platform Assessments	GFF Secretariat	<u>For discussion</u>
5.30 - 5.45 pm	Chair's Closure - Day One	Summary of action items from day one	IG Chair	
5.45 - 6.00 pm	Group Photo			
INVESTORS GROUP MEETING Saturday, 23 November Salle de Fete, Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire Boulevard Hassan II, 08 Bp 01, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire				
Time	Agenda Item	Objective	Presenter	Action
8.45-9.00 am	Chair's Overview of Day 2 Agenda		Chair of the IG	<u>For discussion</u>
9.00 - 10.00 am	GFF Resource Mapping and Expenditure Tracking (GFF-IG9-6 PPT)	Update on RMET of Investment Cases; discussion on collaboration with IG members	GFF Secretariat	<u>For discussion</u>
10.00 - 10.30 am	Assessing Gender Equity	Discussion on an approach to gender equality in GFF policy and operations	IG members	<u>For discussion</u>
10.30 - 10.45 am	Break			
10.45 - 11.15 am	Quality of Care - Technical Advisory Group (GFF-IG9-7)	Proposal for quality of care work to be carried out as a TAG	GFF Secretariat	<u>For decision</u>
11.15 - 11.45 am	Chair's Summary and Closure	Conclude meeting	Chair	

www.globalfinancingfacility.org