

Summary Note – Country Platform Webinar on Implementing the GFF Model February 13, 2020

The webinar focused on Implementation of the Investment Case (IC); how to rally country stakeholders around keeping the momentum that was created during the process of Investment case developing. This meeting was facilitated by Petra Vergeer – Lead Knowledge and Learning and Results-Based Financing – and comprised a presentation by Luc Laviolette – Lead Health Specialist. It was attended by country platform members from Myanmar, Central African Republic, Indonesia, Malawi, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Haiti, Rwanda, Cameroon and Madagascar. Haiti was absent with apologies.

Summary of Presentation

- The discussion placed emphasis on the investment case not being a list of requirements to get the GFF grant but more of a reference framework in the GFF engagement: a model that aims at rallying country stakeholders around investing in a common set of priorities with the government in the lead.
- The webinar also discussed the complexities surrounding transitioning from development of an investment case to implementation.
- Emphasis was placed on strong coordination by MOH or Government body leading the GFF partnership, including other line ministries, financiers and civil society.
- In terms of form and set up, the webinar emphasized that the platform was not a single committee, which was a common occurrence during the development of the IC, but multiple coordination structures that focus on the various areas of investment while reporting to a central body
 - It emphasized the need to continuously use data to measure progress and the critical role that advocacy plays in harnessing the political economy
 - Country examples from Nigeria on data use during implementation and Implementation plans from Liberia were shared.

Key issues

Coordination of data and Indicators & Scorecards

- The experience from Nigeria showed that scorecards are an important way to track progress, but they need to be embedded into the planning process as well as routine information management systems such as DHIS2 at the service delivery level.
 - The indicators in the scorecard should be derived from the priorities of the Investment case.
 - At the community level, the plan is to use community health volunteers and explore use mobile data collection methods. This however hasn't been rolled out yet
 - There must be strategic shift across the system to appreciate that data is most useful at the point where it is generated, and at the national and subnational level, the discussions are mainly around informing policy and advocacy
- Lessons from other countries around scorecards and data use:
 - Tanzania is now using scorecard as part of the planning process right from the health facilities, the RBF program has been used as a mechanism to strengthen the practice.

- CAR shared that they are working on a unified set of indicators that will make up the scorecard & have created a multi partner team that validates the information once a month before posting it
- Afghanistan: coordination is very critical otherwise it becomes very costly to manage the various processes involved in rolling out scorecards

Moving to Implementation: The Implementation Plan, Resource mapping and tracking

The membership of the country platform needs to be continuously reviewed to ensure it remains relevant. The approach of engagement will also vary during implementation. However, because there might not be much data generated to track changes on the reforms, especially during the first year, it is important to use this as time of advocacy to ensure continuous engagement, and program mapping to increase alignment around the agreed upon priorities: therefore, creating annual implementation plans is critical

- The Implementation plan: The Implementation plan: Participants requested examples that could illustrate how to develop an implementation plan. The implementation plan helps take stock of what has been achieved in the previous year and identifies pending issues, also shedding light on why issues are still pending. The pending issues, if still relevant, can be rolled into the new year as short-term goals. The plan needs to clearly state who leads each activity, when completion is expected and if possible, what are the funding sources.
 - Lots of processes are ongoing but often there is no link in between them. The starting point can be looking at what is on going and sewing them together to show how they link to the broader goals indicated in the Investment case
- Look at the political economy: knowing what is politically feasible is important because it helps create a platform for sustained engagement. It is also important to ensure continued advocacy, including around areas that are critical but politically sensitive; This further strengthens the need to have the CSOs engaged in the process
- Resource mapping can be one key area that sustains the country platform engagement. The process usually requires a lot of advocacy, especially in countries that are starting it for the first time. In addition, it will provide a basis for the platform to discuss issues related to financing the agreed upon priorities: how to close the resource gap (if any) and ensuring alignment of available resources. As momentum is built around the process, it can later morph into budget tracking
 - In Tanzania, the process of RM has been linked to the NHA which also looks at the expenditures hence; It has been possible in Tanzania because they do NHA on an annual basis hence possible to link RM and resource tracking.

Working with the Private Sector

It is important to note that the contribution from private sector towards results is multifaceted. Their ability to innovate is one area that the private sector can help in implementation. In some countries, subcontracting service delivery has been done as part of the engagement process: take the example of USAID support in Pakistan. From the secretariat, countries can get support in forms of a comprehensive private sector assessment: what is the size of the market and what will interest the private sector.

The implementation guidelines can be found at:

https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/documents/GFF-Country-Implementation-Guidelines-En.pdf