

INVESTORS GROUP MEETING REPORT

ACTION POINTS AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Investors Group (IG) approved the **report from the Seventh Investors Group (IG7) meeting** after reviewing a table of follow-up action items that the Secretariat had addressed since the last IG convening. Additionally, the IG **endorsed the Youth Addendum to the Civil Society Engagement Strategy**.
- The Investors Group adopted the meeting **agenda** (GFF-IG8-1) as proposed.
- The **Director of the GFF Secretariat** gave an update on GFF progress from the last year, particularly with the strengthening of the partnership and its critical role in reaching the replenishment milestone of US\$1 billion in November 2018 in Oslo. Dr. Mariam Claeson also announced her departure from the GFF Secretariat on June 30.
- The **Minister of Health from Nigeria** provided a detailed account of Nigeria's experience and results with the GFF (GFF-IG8-2 PPT) as well as next steps for successfully meeting Nigeria's health priorities.
- The **GFF Portfolio Update** was presented as a synthesis of the progress in the 27 GFF-supported countries, and all country representatives presented updates on their country's individual successes and challenges (GFF-IG8-3).
- Global Affairs Canada facilitated a panel discussion on **the role of Gavi, GFF, and Global Fund in the Global Health Architecture**. Panelists included representatives from Gavi, the GFF, and Global Fund as well country representatives including the Minister of Health from Nigeria, Chief Medical Officer from Liberia, and the IG civil society representative from Senegal.
- Consultants from SEEK Development presented the **Review of the Investors Group** which included an overview of objectives and methodology, and suggested recommendations for next steps. The findings were discussed; the report will be finalized by May 2019.
- **The GFF Expansion Plan** was presented including the list of countries that had expressed interest in GFF support, by the IG meeting date, and an expanded list of selection criteria. The Investors Group endorsed the expanded list of country selection criteria to include a harmonized list of fragile situations and the bottom 30 countries on the Human Capital Index.
- The GFF CSO youth representative moderated a **Country Panel on Adolescent Health** which included a discussion on the value-add of GFF engagement in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASHRH). The panelists included country representatives from Bangladesh, Kenya, Liberia, and Senegal.

CHAIR'S OPENING

As part of the opening of the meeting, the Chair announced the following updates:

- The next IG meeting will take place in-country on November 20-22, 2019. The location will be announced in the coming weeks.
- Country representatives will rotate at the November 2019 IG meeting, and the Secretariat will facilitate the process of soliciting interest from the current 27 GFF-supported country Governments. Representation will include five new countries as principal and five additional countries as alternates, and will reflect geographic diversity.
- The Chair of the IG will rotate at the November 2019 IG meeting. The Secretariat will facilitate the process which includes soliciting nominations for the position from the IG for the Trust Fund Committee to make the final selection. The current Chair will officially hand over the position following the closure of the November 2019 meeting.

The IG endorsed the CSO Youth Addendum that was presented by the CSO youth representative at the April 2018 IG meeting.

Action items:

- The Secretariat to initiate nominations for the Chair of the Investors Group and country representatives virtually;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The GFF Investors Group held its seventh meeting April 15, 2019 in Washington, D.C. The follow-up table (Annex 1) and meeting agenda (Annex 2) are attached. The documents and presentations are available at www.globalfinancingfacility.org. The Chair welcomed all participants and expressed particular gratitude to the several Ministers of Health and country representatives in attendance. He also warmly welcomed the new partners, including the Civil Society representatives including the Youth Representative who had recently rotated. **The agenda (GFF-IG8-1)** was approved.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mariam Claeson presented the **Director's Update** and began by noting it had been a significant year for the GFF. She noted the GFF partnership and Investors Group members specifically had played a critical role in the GFF reaching its replenishment milestone of US\$1 billion in November 2018 in Oslo. This success put the GFF in a good place to respond to continued need and a surge of demand from countries. She also explained that the GFF Trust Fund/IDA financing ratio is now above 1:7, GFF is seeing progress on domestic resource mobilization, financing is increasingly aligned around the country-led investment case, and private sector financing is being mobilized. Mariam explained that the GFF is focusing on addressing gaps and improving the quality of multi-sectoral investments for the health of women, children and adolescents, and ensuring increased global alignment and acceleration through processes such as the SDG3 Global Action Plan. The World Bank's focus on human capital is spurring increased momentum for GFF investments in women, children and adolescents, for impact at scale. Mariam explained that as the GFF moves forward, the review of the Investors Group has been important for learning and course correction. As a result of feedback from partners and review findings, the Investors Group quarterly technical calls resumed earlier in the year, and the Investment Case guidelines will be discussed during the next call. The GFF Secretariat has also focused on ensuring that it remains fit for purpose, and has hired country liaison officers in each country to strengthen coordination and communication with partners at country

level. Lastly, Mariam announced that after 2.5 years as Director of the GFF Secretariat, she will be leaving on June 30, 2019.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- Investors Group members thanked Mariam Claeson for her leadership, and commended her role in the successful replenishment;
- Members highlighted the value-add of the GFF being a country-led model, and that the IG provides an opportunity to hear country voices and to discuss country progress and challenges. Several IG partners, including country representatives, requested that IG agenda items become more action oriented, specifying what needs to be done differently;
- Many liaison officers were noted to already make a difference in strengthening transparency, communication and outreach. The Secretariat was requested to provide an update on progress at the next IG meeting; Partners communicated support for a youth representative be added to the Investors Group.

Action items:

- The Secretariat to strengthen action-oriented focus at Investors Group meetings;
- The Secretariat to provide a report on the progress of the liaison officers scheme at the next Investors Group meeting.

FOCUS COUNTRY: NIGERIA

The Minister of Health of Nigeria, Professor Isaac Adewole provided a detailed account of the country's experience with and results achieved with support from the GFF ([GFF-IG7-2 PPT](#)). Following an introductory video, Professor Adewole reported on the current priorities of the Nigerian government on health and nutrition, and highlighted the government approach to expanding access to a prioritized package of free health services through the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF). Professor Adewole explained that the GFF provided an approach to, and funding for, the proof-of-concept for the BHCPF, supporting the investment case for expansion of services with a specific focus on primary health care (PHC). Through GFF support, investments were also directed to the fragile North Eastern region to provide services on an urgent basis in the context of the insurgency and in twelve states across the country to address malnutrition. The GFF in addition served as a catalyst to unlock additional resources and helped sharpen Nigeria's approach to prioritization, yet there is still much work to be done to use data for decision-making, measure progress and impact, reduce fragmentation, build partnerships, and mobilize financing in support of a government-led plan.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- Country representatives shared similar challenges and experiences, and discussed learnings across countries on how to prioritize investments and improve alignment;
- Various members requested to hear more about the role of civil society in advocacy and accountability;
- Challenges to strengthen government budgets and ensure government ownership for sustainable financing were also raised.

Action items: None

PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Luc Laviolette, GFF Secretariat, presented the **Portfolio Update (GFF-IG8-3)** of the current 27 GFF-supported countries. He noted that progress has been made on several fronts, including country leadership, with lessons learned that higher-level government GFF Focal Points enable better multi-sectoral and Ministry of Finance engagement. The supportive role of the newly appointed Liaison Officers to strengthen the government Focal Point role has also been beneficial. The Investment Case (IC) is also being strengthened in several countries and some frontrunner countries, like Tanzania and DRC, are starting the Mid-Term Review of the IC. Luc shared how the portfolio is disbursing, and how Investment Cases are helping countries prioritize MNCH investments in line with global recommendations, while specific attention is being paid to SRHR and nutrition, as well as CRVS. In addition to this overview, country representatives from Ethiopia, Liberia, Senegal and Kenya elaborated on progress as well as challenges in their respective countries. They raised the need to accelerate alignment around collective priorities, ensure financing is aligned around these needs, and to focus more on supporting countries in their efforts to raise domestic resources. Country representatives also commented on shared challenges in continued fragmentation, including specifically what was termed a “vertical approach to health systems strengthening”.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- In order for IG meetings to be more strategic and action-oriented, it was requested that the next portfolio update include issues and challenges identified across the portfolio that require concrete actions by IG partners;
- The frequency and sharing of portfolio updates was discussed; the Secretariat proposed that the portfolio update be presented and discussed on a yearly basis, supplemented by detailed country and global updates in the Annual Report;
- The challenge of tracking GFF and World Bank project results without including the contributions of other partners was raised and discussed;
- Further clarification was requested on the Investment Case process and timelines;
- Challenges with Country Platform performance and implementation including CSO engagement, were raised;
- The role of the Liaison Officer was discussed in more detail, including the importance to engage partners and have this reflected more prominently in the TOR of the Liaison Officer.
- Information was requested on the results-based-financing approach, and a proposal was made to include more information and discussion on strategic purchasing.

Action items:

- Portfolio updates will be made available on the website (in English and French) and discussed on an annual basis at IG meetings in an action-oriented format; and country specific and global updates will once a year be shared through the Annual Report.

THE ROLE OF GAVI, THE GLOBAL FINANCING FACILITY, AND THE GLOBAL FUND IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH ARCHITECTURE

In follow-up to IG7, where Gavi, GFF, and the Global Fund were asked to clarify their respective mandates and explore further areas of collaboration, the three global health agencies at IG8 presented a joint paper on the role of Gavi, GFF, and Global Fund in the global health architecture. In a panel discussion moderated by Amy Baker (Canada), Professor Isaac Adewole (Minister of Health of Nigeria), Dr. Francis Kateh (Deputy Minister, Liberia),

Moussa Mane (CSO Representative on the IG), and representatives from the three agencies (Anuradha Gupta, Gavi; Carole Presern, Global Fund; Mariam Claeson, GFF) discussed how collaboration has been progressing at global and country levels, which challenges remain, and what role the GFF Investors Group can play. Professor Adewole emphasized the need for all partners to fully align their financing behind country plans. Dr. Kateh highlighted how initial challenges in collaboration have been overcome between the agencies, and how the GFF has added value in strengthening the government's oversight of activities and financing in the country. Mr. Mane noted that CSOs can play a convening role and an important role in accountability, but need to be meaningfully engaged and strengthened.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- There are remaining challenges in coordinating technical assistance, ensuring sustainable transitions, in the lack of prioritization of all stakeholders around country priorities and investment cases, and the restrictions that different agency mandates and governance mechanisms pose;
- Several speakers concluded that it is time to move from talk about collaboration and alignment behind country priorities to action.

Action items: None

REVIEW OF THE INVESTORS GROUP

The Chair of the Investors Group along with the GFF Secretariat co-commissioned a **Review of the Investors Group** to assess the overall objectives, effectiveness, composition, and coordination of the IG and to present suggested recommendations. Christina Schrade and Jessica Kraus from Seek Development led the study and presented an overview of the findings (**GFF-IG8-5**). Based on the outcomes of the review, they suggested two sets of recommendations; operational and strategic. The operational recommendations include improved forward planning, enhancing engagement in meetings and execution, and an increased results and action focused agenda. The strategic recommendations include refining the mandate, roles and functions of the IG, as well as update the governance and operating documents. The consultants suggested the Secretariat initiate and facilitate a small task team, and that strategic recommendations would be discussed at the next IG meeting.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- General support for the recommendations, including the small, time bound task team to address concerns raised in the review and develop recommendations, keeping the process light;
- Agreement to focus on results and action-oriented agenda and way of working, and aim to increase accountability of the full group;
- Request for more clarity on the role of the Trust Fund Committee in relation to the IG; and
- Emphasized request for a youth seat on the IG.

The IG approved the operational recommendations as presented as well as the process for developing the strategic recommendations.

Action Items:

- GFF Secretariat in consultation with IG Chair to establish a time-bound task team charged to lead an open, frank discussion on the IG and develop recommendations for the drafting of an updated IG governance document and operation procedures, to be presented and discussed at the next IG meeting;
- The Secretariat was tasked to propose next steps and a process, virtually, on how to form the task team.

COUNTRY EXPANSION SELECTION CRITERIA

Monique Vledder, Practice Manager for the GFF presented an overview of the expanded **Country Expansion Criteria** for IG endorsement. The criteria presented was an extended list from the previously approved criteria and includes a harmonized list of fragile situations and the bottom 30 countries on the Human Capital Index. Monique showed the long list of eligible countries that had expressed interest in joining the GFF, by the date of the IG meeting. The Trust Fund Committee will on the basis of the updated criteria select new countries from this list for the next round of expansion.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- Support for the overall process and additional criteria including the cross-sectoral nature;
- Emphasized examining the pace of expansion to ensure quality across all countries;
- Suggestion to review country's national planning cycles, donor and other financier funding cycles as well as IDA cycles to ensure that these are fully aligned with Investment Case priorities;
- Proposal by civil society representatives to include CSO engagement as additional criteria;
- The opportunities for innovation were discussed in relation to the bottom 30 human capital countries.

The expanded criteria list was endorsed by the Investors Group.

Action items: Expanded criteria list shared with Trust Fund Committee to guide country selection.

COUNTRY PANEL: ADOLESCENT HEALTH

The Investors Group meeting concluded with a high-level panel discussion to further guide GFF engagement on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASHRH). The GFF Secretariat, together with a timebound Technical Advisory Group (TAG), developed a background paper to frame this discussion (**GFF-IG8-4**). Kosi Izundu, Youth Representative for the CSO constituency, moderated a high-level panel to elicit meaningful contributions the GFF has made to improve adolescent health efforts. The panelists included country representatives from Bangladesh, Kenya, Liberia, and Senegal. Panelists pointed to intervening where the health burden is greatest and mitigating risk. Panelists explained utilizing similar approaches to improve adolescent health in their respective countries, including by: developing progressive national and sub-national adolescent health strategies to prioritize and guide action; utilizing disaggregated data to tailor interventions by population segments; coordinating with non-health sectors to encourage school enrollment (ex. subsidies and scholarships) and improving health education (ex. honing health messaging through the national curricula); engaging with CSOs and religious leaders to reach out-of-school adolescents; and, by improving health delivery to adolescents (ex. establishing adolescent-responsive and accessible health facilities and developing training curricula for the health practitioners). Participants highlighted three areas where the GFF has demonstrated value-add in their countries; the GFF partnership has helped to (1) redefine and strengthen adolescent health policies and strategies; (2) facilitate greater collaboration with adolescent health actors around the priorities identified in country investment cases; and (3) facilitate knowledge sharing on global evidence.

The Investors Group expressed the following feedback:

- The GFF should continue to work toward engaging LGBTQ youth as well as men and boys to promote gender equality, and support countries experiencing rapid urbanization to maintain quality of care for adolescents;

- Important to continue advocating for the inclusion of post-abortion care within GFF Investment Cases;
- The GFF should identify clear adolescent health targets for the GFF Secretariat to achieve by 2030;
- The ASRHR background paper should be refined to include text on the normative agenda, post-abortion care, role of youth in the development of national adolescent policies and strategies, the importance of engaging men and boys, and the benefits of engaging with the private sector;
- The paper should also broaden the focus beyond ASRHR to include other dimensions of health and better represent the greatest drivers of burden across World Bank regions within the discussion, and showcase examples of cross-sector collaboration for adolescent health;
- The paper should additionally link the adolescent health agenda to the Human Capital Project and to Generation Unlimited, and apply a multi-sector lens to the finance mobilization/finance innovation theory of change

Brendan Hayes, who leads the work on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for the GFF Secretariat responded to the questions.

Action items:

- Investors Group to provide written feedback on the ASRHR background paper to Brendan Hayes (bhayes@worldbank.org);
- GFF Secretariat to explore in-person to review a further revised ASRHR background paper and to prioritize activities based on GFF comparative advantage;
- Final paper to be circulated to the IG prior to the May 30, 2019 quarterly technical call.

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 Investors Group are outlined in Annex 1.

ANNEX 1: FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ITEMS, IG8

Topic	Action/Deliverable
IG7 Pending Items	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More information to be provided on the GFF’s multi-sectoral engagement, including engagement with partners across sectors; 2. The GFF will increase its coordination with partners on private sector engagement, across the different private sector innovative financing workstreams and private sector partners
Chair’s Opening	The Secretariat to initiate nominations for the Chair of the Investors Group and country representatives virtually;
Director’s Update	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Secretariat to strengthen action-oriented focus at Investors Group meetings; 2. The Secretariat to provide a report on the progress of the liaison officer scheme at the next Investors Group meeting.
Portfolio Update	Portfolio updates will be made available on the website (in English and French) and discussed on an annual basis at IG meetings in an action-oriented format; and will once a year be shared through the Annual Report.
Review of the Investors Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GFF Secretariat in consultation with IG Chair to establish a time-bound task team charged to lead an open, frank discussion on the IG and develop recommendations for the drafting of an updated IG governance document and operation procedures, to be presented and discussed at the next IG meeting; 2. The Secretariat was tasked to propose next steps and a process, virtually, on how to form the task team.
Country Expansion Selection Criteria	Expanded criteria list to be shared with Trust Fund Committee, to guide country selection.
Country Panel: Adolescent Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investors Group to share written feedback on the ASRHR background paper with Brendan Hayes (bhayes@worldbank.org); 2. GFF Secretariat to explore in-person to review a further revised ASRHR background paper and to prioritize activities based on GFF comparative advantage; 3. Final paper to be circulated to the IG prior to the May 30, 2019 quarterly technical call

ANNEX 2: EIGHTH INVESTORS GROUP AGENDA

<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, 15 April Venue: Park Hyatt Washington, D.C. 1201 24th St NW, Washington, DC 20037 Room: Gallery Ballroom</p>				
Time	Agenda Item	Objective	Presenter	Action
7.00-8.00	Breakfast- Drawing Room			
8.00-8.15	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval of IG7 Meeting Report - Endorsement of CSO Youth Addendum - Approval of Agenda (GFF-IG8-1) 	Agree on agenda	Chair	For approval
8.15-8.45	Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on action items 	Director gives a status update, including update on follow-up items from previous meetings	GFF Director	For discussion
8.45-9.45	Focus Country: Nigeria <i>(GFF-IG8-2 PPT)</i>	Minister will update on progress, results achieved to date, and overall GFF experience	Country representative	For information
9.45-10.00	Break			
10.00-11.30	Portfolio Update <i>(GFF-IG8-3)</i>	Overview of Portfolio with updates from country representatives	GFF Secretariat, country representatives	For Information
11.30-11.45	Expansion Plan	Review of selection criteria for country selection	GFF Secretariat	For decision-country selection criteria
11.45-1.15	The Role of Gavi, GFF, and Global Fund in the Global Health Architecture	Panel discussion with Country Representative, Gavi, GFF, Global Fund, Canada (chair) and CSO Representative	Country Representative, Gavi, GFF, Global Fund, Canada (chair) and CSO Representative	For discussion

1.15-2.15	Lunch- Drawing Room			
2.15-3.45	Review of GFF Investors Group <i>(GFF-IG8-5-PPT)</i>	Presentation of findings, recommendations, and options for next steps	Independent consultant	For decision
3.45-4.00	Break			
4.00-5.30	Country Panel: Adolescent Girls' Health <i>(GFF-IG8-4)</i>	A panel of country representatives will share experiences	Country representatives Global Partners	For discussion
5.30-5.45	Chair's Closure	Update on IG Chair nomination, action items for IG9	Chair	For discussion

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