

## Global Financing Facility - US Civil Society Initial Consultation

10/16/14

### MAIN POINTS OF FEEDBACK FROM NGOS:

#### Financing

- It will be critical to articulate in detail how the fund can be used to leverage new funds to ensure that it is additive to current multilateral and bilateral funding and accesses new, untapped sources of funding. The IDA mechanism is generally not well understood and greater detail about how it works and how it might be leveraged in the GFF is needed. [see proposed next steps] Additionally, it will be important to understand to what degree IDA investments can be made transparently and what oversight mechanisms are in place.
- Participants saw potential in looking at other similar models that have been set up for other purposes such as GAFSBY and the nutrition catalytic funding hosted at the bank, both in terms of the financing mechanism as well as the ways they've drawn in civil society input.
- Participants felt that GFF provides an opportunity to apply what has been learned with Gavi and GFATM to overcome challenges those financing models have faced. Also, the GFF may be able to ease the transition of countries "graduating" from those financing mechanisms in smart ways.
- It would be helpful to understand what efforts have been made to reach out and secure support from other major bilateral and private donors. Their participation financially or in coordination of programs will be essential to success.

#### Equity

- Participants felt that the focus on equity is promising. We are lacking methods to measure equity and perhaps the GFF could serve as a testing ground for global best practice for measuring equity.

#### Country Consultations

- In countries, plans (with and without funds supporting them) abound and can place a tremendous administrative burden on both MOHs and civil society. It will be critical to ensure that GFF country plans can be designed in ways that are not redundant with other plans and processes and create incentives to integrate, not further silo programs.
- Participants noted that robust consultation should be done with country MOHs and MOFs. Input from countries like Ethiopia and Rwanda who have used other financing tools very well would be particularly useful in setting up this fund so that it can be maximized.
- Consultation with civil society at the country level will also be critical and is often not included in outreach to country governments.

#### Working across RMNCAH

- Participants were pleased to see nutrition called out as a critical RMNCAH intervention. Several participants suggested placing an even greater emphasis on nutrition.

#### Engagement of Civil Society

- In addition to participating in consultations, and providing technical assistance at the country level, participants felt that funding to civil society to advocate for domestic resources would be important.

- A model worth exploring is the approach taken by Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanisms, which ensures civil society signs off on strategies, not just as a formality.

#### US Congress

- Participants feel that there is a danger in not bringing the US Congress into discussions about the GFF early, but it needs to be done very carefully and with strong, agreed upon messaging. With all that Congress is dealing with right now and will be addressing soon (Ebola, Gavi replenishment, legislation to carry forward US commitments made on June 25 and at US Africa Leaders Summit), there is tremendous potential to derail other important processes with disastrous results.
- Lastly, there were several offers to help from the MNCH, RH and nutrition communities to do further consultation amongst key stakeholders that fall under the RMNCAH + N umbrella.

#### Governance

- Participants had many questions about how this would work in practice and would appreciate a longer session dedicated to exploring these issues.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- PATH to approach World Bank to convene an open educational session on IDA and Results-based Financing, and further discussions about GFF Workstreams, Business Plan, Governance, etc.
- PMNCH is developing communications materials to help educate broader audiences about GFF; PMNCH will launch web consultation in October/November
- Global Health Council to convene roundtable leaders to discuss building out an advocacy strategy in the US, including targeting Congress