

SUMMARY

Community Engagement Strategic Initiative

Update

June 2023



Engaging in Grant Cycle 7

New Strategy, New Expectations:

The June 2023 update of the Community Engagement Strategic Initiative highlights significant advancements in promoting community engagement within the context of the Global Fund Strategy 2023–2028. This update showcases a range of initiatives, tools, and outcomes aimed at enhancing community involvement in tackling HIV, TB, and malaria, and advancing inclusivity, transparency, and accountability throughout the grant cycle.

These forums served as platforms to acquaint communities with the updated guidance and processes for GC7, equipping them to engage effectively in funding request development.

These events were crucial in ensuring community understanding and readiness, promoting transparency, and inclusivity in grant applications. Technical experts played a pivotal role in assisting communities to articulate their priorities and complete a new mandatory Annex, enhancing the overall transparency and inclusiveness of the process. Specific technical assistance was provided in Honduras for malaria, with communities in Colombia and Paraguay being the primary beneficiaries of this support. Moreover, partners of the Community Engagement Strategic Initiative have supported community consultations in 26 countries, aiding them in meeting the Global Fund's expectations.

**In preparation for GC7,
the Community Engagement
Strategic Initiative organized regional
readiness forums in
Latin America and the Caribbean,
held from **October 25 to 28, 2022**,
and in **Port au Prince,
Trinidad from September 13 to 15, 2022..****



The Global Fund /John Rae

Tools and Guidance for Communities

To empower communities in setting their GC7 priorities, the Strategic Initiative developed a [Costing Guide and Tool](#), available in multiple languages.

This tool aided technical assistance missions in helping communities formulate specific and cost-effective priorities for inclusion in funding requests. Additionally, a policy brief and a [guide for conducting country dialogue consultations in the Latin America and Caribbean region](#) were created.

**“ Costing Guide
and Tool ”**

Evaluation Of Community Engagement

In 2022, the Global Fund's Technical Evaluation Reference Group (TERG) evaluated the impact of community engagement. The assessment highlighted the positive influence of the Community Engagement Strategic Initiative in strengthening community involvement in Global Fund processes and national responses. The evaluation recognized the vital role of CRG Regional Platforms in promoting community engagement during the grant-making stage.

The [Community Engagement Toolbox](#) also received commendation for its contribution to community-led responses.

The Global Fund and SCDI / Lê Văn Kiên



A Focus On Safety And Security

Recent efforts have also concentrated on the safety and security of key and vulnerable populations. This comes in response to concerns arising from instances such as the murder of a transgender CCM member in Guatemala and the enactment of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023. Partners in the Latin America and Caribbean region developed a [Safety and Security Toolkit](#) to bolster HIV programs for these populations. The toolkit, piloted in Guatemala, is now being implemented in the Dominican Republic and Belize.

Supporting In CCM Elections

The CCM Evolution Strategic Initiative has utilized partners from the Community Engagement Strategic Initiative as technical assistance providers for supporting community constituency elections within CCM. So far, five partners have aided CCM elections in 11 countries, with documentation of election processes in [Colombia](#) and Kyrgyzstan underway.

Technical Assistance For Community Engagement

In 2022, CE-SI empowered vulnerable populations for Global Fund-related advocacy, leading to significant achievements like introducing opioid therapy in Pakistan, gender-disaggregated data collection in Ukraine, removing HIV treatment limitations in Ukraine, enacting changes in Indonesia, implementing needle programs in Nigerian states, inclusive insecticide net distribution, strengthening health personnel and net distribution in Nigeria, and introducing new engagement indicators in the European Region's TB Action Plan. Between 2021 and 2022, the initiative provided technical assistance in 47 countries and nine multicountry grants. By May 15, 2023, 76 assignments were completed, and 41 ongoing, with 20 completed and 2 ongoing assignments in the LAC region.

Mid-Term Evaluation Of The Community Engagement Strategic Initiative

A recent mid-term review of the Strategic Initiative, covering January 2021 to June 2022, revealed that it is largely accomplishing its goals. Supported key and vulnerable population (KVP) networks achieved impactful outcomes at the country level, with their capacity strengthened through the initiative's funding. The review highlighted value for money, particularly through increased investment in TB networks leading to policy changes and program improvements in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Africa. The Strategic Initiative's success also stemmed from robust community engagement in the COVID-19 Response Mechanism and situational analyses enhancing participation in Global Fund processes. The review suggests evolving the initiative in line with the new Global Fund Strategy 2023–2028, exploring opportunities like pandemic preparedness engagement and leveraging the Global Fund's influence to challenge restrictive laws and policies impacting community-based organizations.

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THE GLOBAL FUND / Vincent Becker



Selected Key Performance Indicators

All assignments achieved 100% utilization of experts from the relevant country/region for technical assistance. In 28 countries, key and vulnerable population community reports effectively influenced program funding or design. A total of 98,301 individuals accessed and used timely Global Fund-related information shared by Regional Platforms. In 93 countries, communities demonstrated improved engagement in national and regional Global Fund processes due to Regional Platform capacity strengthening. Additionally, 162 technical assistance requests were generated and submitted to diverse Global Fund technical assistance providers through support from Regional Platforms..

