

A Community Guide to the Global Fund's Gender Equality Strategy Action Plan 2014-2016



Regional Platform
Latin America and Caribbean
Support, Coordination and Communication



SOME CONTEXT:

The Global Fund responds to the needs of the most vulnerable. In order to achieve this, the Global Fund has adopted a new funding model. The new funding model provides fresh opportunities for the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy through its strategic focus on addressing those who are vulnerable to and affected by HIV, TB and malaria, its institutionalization of a participatory process in the development of countries' proposals, as well as through its emphasis on more active grant management.

What has the health landscape been up to in terms of gender equality, HIV, TB and malaria?

- Increased commitment to address gender-based violence, with linkages to HIV, as part of the global gender agenda
- Increased commitment to address reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, as well as family planning
- Enhanced engagement of civil society groups in the fight against TB
- Increased focus on health systems strengthening, which supports the system environment and ensures more equitable access to services
- Launch of the Global Plan towards the elimination of new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive



So, what is the Gender Equality Strategy?

The Global Fund's Gender Equality Strategy is part of the Global Fund Strategy 2012-2016: Investing for Impact. It is all about meeting the health needs of women and girls in tackling HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. The overall aim is to achieve strategic, high-impact investments that are gender-responsive (care about gender equality) that will save lives and prevent new infections.



The big idea is that Global Fund grants should address gender inequality.

The Global Fund is committed to a positive bias in funding programs and activities that tackle gender inequalities and strengthen the responses to the three diseases for women and girls. The Global Fund will support and fund proposals that:

- Improve services and interventions that reduce gender-related risks and vulnerabilities to infection
- Decrease the burden of disease for those most-at-risk
- Lessen the impact of the three diseases
- Address structural inequalities and discrimination



WHAT ARE HIV, TB AND MALARIA INTERVENTIONS THAT CARE ABOUT GENDER ABOUT?

Scientific evidence

Caring about gender means responding to gaps in interventions and so meeting the needs of women and girls who are vulnerable to, living with or directly affected by HIV, TB and malaria

Human rights

Caring about gender means dealing with gender inequalities is all about protecting the human rights of women and girls.

In light of the focus identified above, some of the key areas of work will be:

1. The prevention of mother-to-child transmission
2. The prevention of gender-based violence and tackling harmful gender norms
3. Responding to the needs to most-at-risk populations of women



WITH THE OVERALL INTENTION THAT COUNTRIES RESPOND BETTER TO THE NEEDS AND PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS, SOME KEY ACTIONS WILL INCLUDE:

Seizing the opportunities of the new funding model

The new funding model opens a number of opportunities and entry points for gender equality and for the engagement of women in all their diversity.

Improved communication about gender equality

Effort and attention will be dedicated to making the Gender Equality Strategy and its implications accessible and relevant to all stakeholders.

Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships

Proper implementation of gender equality will be impossible without strong partnerships with a range of stakeholders. These include NGOs and community organizations.



Related to these actions, in order for its grants to support rights-based and evidence-based programming, certain approaches are needed that achieve the inclusion of gender at all stages of the grant cycle.
The Global Fund will:



Work to support the engagement of women representatives and women's organizations in its structures and procedures.



Create and sustain partnerships to support gender-responsive grants.



Strengthen gender-related technical capacity through improved communications.

THE STRATEGY HAS FOUR OBJECTIVES TO MAKE SURE GLOBAL FUND GRANTS ADDRESS GENDER INEQUALITIES:

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
1. Ensure that the Global Fund's policies, procedures and structures effectively support programs that address gender inequalities	1. The principles of gender equality need to be at the basis of all decision-making. Gender equality is the key component of the grant cycle.
2. Establish and strengthen partnerships that effectively support the development and implementation of programs that address gender inequalities and reduce women's and girls' vulnerabilities, provide quality technical assistance, and build the capacity of groups who are not currently participating in Global Fund processes but should be.	2. Partners receive support to ensure gender equality is part of their Global Fund grants.
3. Develop a robust communications and advocacy strategy that promotes the Gender equality strategy and encourages programming for women and girls and men and boys.	3. Make sure that everyone has access to all the necessary information regarding gender equality.
4. Provide leadership, internally and externally, by supporting, advancing and giving voice to the Gender Equality Strategy.	4. Make sure those at the Global Fund are equipped with the necessary skills and support to tackle gender inequality.



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CONTACT LAC REGIONAL PLATFORM

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication of Civil Society and Communities

CRAT - VÍA LIBRE - International HIV/AIDS Alliance

Jirón Paraguay 490. Lima 1 – Peru.

www.plataformalac.org | facebook: www.facebook.com/plataformaLAC | Twitter: @plataformalac