

Global Financing Facility

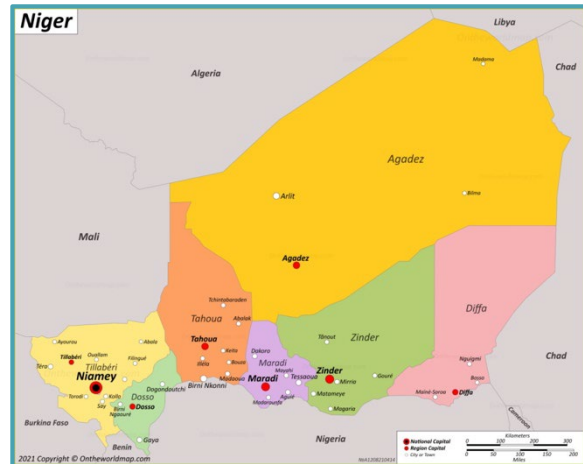
Civil Society and Youth-led Organization Landscape Assessment

April 2023

Country Report: Niger

Number of respondents: 4

PAI conducted an open consultation in February and March 2023 inviting civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth-led organizations (YLOs) to share their perspectives about civil society and youth engagement in country-level policy processes as well as global health financing fora, including those related to the Global Financing Facility (GFF). The survey, which was publicly available in both English and French, received a total of 150 responses from 33 GFF focus countries. The survey elicited feedback on the CSO/YLO landscape in each GFF partner country, including strengths, gaps and challenges faced by CSO/YLOs in their work and engagement in GFF processes. The findings from the consultation will be used to define opportunities to strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration, including increasing meaningful CSO/YLO engagement GFF



processes at the country level. The survey is also intended to identify priorities and opportunities to strengthen CSO/YLO networks to ensure they are positioned, resourced, and equipped to act as advocates to advance sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (SRMNCAH-N).

Overview

Four respondents to the 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey reported working in Niger. Of these organizations, one identified themselves as a CSO, one as a YLO, and two as international NGOs (INGOs). Three respondents reported that they do not receive funding from PAI and one respondent was unsure.

Survey respondents were asked to select all the geographic levels at which they work (e.g., subnational, national, regional, and global). Of the respondents who work in Niger, their geographical focus was as follows: two respondents work at the national level and two work at the regional and global levels. As a result, some of the findings presented in this report may also reflect the respondents' experience working regionally and globally.

Most of the respondents work in health and nutrition, education, gender equality, governance, and education. Of those that work in health and nutrition, the organizations that responded to the survey focus on the following areas: maternal, newborn and child health, adolescent health, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Respondents also predominately conduct the following activities: advocacy, accountability and monitoring, and civic and youth engagement.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 below provide additional information about the respondents' work by sector, areas of focus in health and nutrition, and specific activities. Please note that the respondents selected all answer choices that were relevant.

Table 1. Sectors in which respondents work in Niger, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey

Sectors	Number of respondents
Health and nutrition, including SRMNCAH-N	4
Climate change	1
Education	2
Gender equality	2
Humanitarian	1
Governance	2

Table 2. Health and nutrition focus areas of respondents in Niger, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey

Health and Nutrition Focus Area	Number of respondents
Sexual and reproductive health	2
Maternal health	3
Newborn and child health	2
Adolescent health	3
Nutrition	2
Community health	1
Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including malaria	1

Table 3. Activities that responding organizations implement in Niger, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey

Organizational Activity	Number of respondents
Advocacy	4
Research	2
Accountability and monitoring	4
Civic engagement	1
Youth engagement	3
Health financing	3
Policy development	2
Technical assistance	2
Coalition building	2
Service delivery	1
Community participation	1

As indicated in Table 4 below, most of the respondents in Niger categorized their significant accomplishments or “wins” as the following: supported policy development; mobilized multilateral or bilateral resources for health and/or nutrition; and implemented high-impact programs. Additional details can be found below.

Table 4. Respondents’ accomplishments and “wins” in Niger, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey

Organizational Accomplishment or “Win”	Number of respondents
Mobilized multilateral or bilateral resources for health and/or nutrition	3
Mobilized domestic resources for health and/or nutrition	2
Supported policy development	4
Supported a specific policy win	2
Implemented high-impact programs	3
Effectively carried out civic engagement	1
Effectively carried out youth engagement	3
Conducted impactful research	2
Convened or assumed a leadership role in coalitions	3
Involved communities in health policy development	1

CSO/YLO Capacity Gaps and Opportunities

The organizations in Niger categorized the activity of the CSO/YLO community as a 5.1 out of 10 where 1 indicates that the CSO/YLO community is not active; 5 indicates that it is moderately active including dynamic coalitions and partnerships; and 10 indicates that it is highly active in a manner that leads to impact. One of the organizations reported that they are one of the leading NGOs engaged in the Health Democracy and Citizen Involvement Platform in Niger. They also champion community involvement in health, so this respondent has “positioned itself in advocacy for the effective mobilization of domestic resources for health, particularly reproductive health.”

These organizations listed the top three areas in which they need the most support related to organizational development:

- Financial management (e.g., Fundraising, business development, procurement, donor relations, grants management) – 3 *respondents*
- Governance and Leadership (e.g., Legal registration, Board relations, Strategic Plan development) – 2 *respondents*
- External Relations (e.g., Media and press engagement, social media, community and beneficiary engagement, private sector engagement, government relations, donor engagement) – 2 *respondents*

The survey respondents that work in Niger listed the top three areas that their organization needs the most support related to technical capacity as follows:

- The latest techniques/competencies/policies/trends in SRMNCAH-N – 3 *respondents*
- Advocacy – 2 *respondents*
- Research – 2 *respondents*

To address the areas where organizations would need support related to organizational development and technical capacity, two respondents listed each of the following preferred interventions:

- Funding (e.g., grants)
- Working session or technical consultation with a technical expert (1:1)
- Regional webinars on a specific topic
- Long-term or short-term coaching or mentorship from a PAI staff
- Sharing of resources via online platforms (e.g., guidance, templates, self-guided PowerPoints, videos)

The majority preferred that these interventions be offered using a hybrid format that includes both virtual and in-person components.

SRMNCAH-N Policies and Health Financing Priorities and Challenges

One of the organizations in Niger reported being very familiar with the country government priorities related to SRMNCAH-N and another respondent was somewhat familiar, while the other two declined to answer. Two respondents reported engaging in work related to the development of policies that are supportive of SRMNCAH-N in their country context and listed the following as the key entry points for this work:

- Direct advocacy toward country government representatives
- Participation in CSO/YLO networks
- GFF processes

These organizations reported that the following are the most pressing opportunities and/or needs to advance or sustain SRMNCAH-N in their country context:

- Opportunities for advocacy
- Youth involvement in SRMNCAH-N decision-making
- Engagement with FP2030 Niger

They also reported the following as the greatest challenges to advancing these opportunities:

- Lack of funding for SRMNCAH-N issues
- Lack of funding for civil society and youth engagement
- Limited civic space for civil society and youth engagement
- Limited coordination among SRMNCAH-N stakeholders

Generally, organizations reported that CSO/YLOs in their networks learn about engagement opportunities or health and development mechanisms through the following avenues:

- WhatsApp and/or e-mail groups or listservs
- Peer organizations or coalitions
- Social media
- PAI

Global Financing Facility (GFF)

Before receiving this survey, one organization that works in Niger reported that they are engaged in GFF processes and another respondent had attended a GFF information session. The other two respondents declined to answer. According to organizations that were at least somewhat aware of the GFF, they described the greatest value-add of the GFF as follows:

- “Support to national CSO coalitions, support to advocacy actions”
- Increased civil society and youth engagement

Two organizations in Niger were aware of GFF-related activities that were underway in their country at the time of the survey, including:

- GFF Multi-stakeholder Country Platform
- CSO/YLO Country GFF Coalition
- Consultations related to the country’s Investment Case
- Other GFF meetings / stakeholder consultations
- Consultations with GFF Liaison Officer

One of these organizations reported being very familiar with their country’s Investment Case implementation status, while another respondent was somewhat familiar and the other two did not respond to this question.

Two organizations in Niger reported that CSO/YLOs have been invited to engage in GFF processes in their country, including:

- GFF Multi-stakeholder Country Platform
- CSO/YLO Country GFF Coalition
- Contributions to the country’s Investment Case
- GFF meetings / stakeholder consultations
- Engagement with GFF Liaison Officer

Two organizations reported that there is a CSO/YLO Country GFF Coalition in their country, while the other two respondents declined to answer. These respondents also ranked their relationship with the GFF Liaison Officer as 4 out of 10, where 1 indicates no relationship between CSO/YLOs and the GFF Liaison Officer, 5 indicates some engagement and communication between the two, and 10 indicates active engagement and collaboration between CSO/YLOs and the GFF Liaison Officer.

Two respondents working in Niger reported that they have engaged in GFF processes, while two declined to respond. Organizations reported engaging in the following GFF processes in their country:

- GFF Multi-stakeholder Country Platform
- CSO/YLO Country GFF Coalition
- Civil Society Coordinating Group (CSCG)
- Development efforts related to the country's Investment Case
- GFF meetings / stakeholder consultations

One described their engagement in GFF processes as very impactful, one respondent was unsure and two declined to answer. When asked to describe their organization's contributions to these GFF processes that led to impact, one organization said they were the lead for the development of the advocacy and eligibility plan for CSOs in Niger.

Organizations working in Niger reported that the following top two factors enable meaningful CSO/YLO participation in GFF processes:

- Open communication with GFF stakeholders (e.g., GFF Liaison Officer, GFF NGO Host)
- Invitations to attend GFF meetings and stakeholder consultations

According to these organizations, the top three barriers that hinder meaningful CSO/YLO engagement in GFF processes in Niger are:

- Weak CSO/YLO Country GFF Coalition
- Inability to engage in the GFF Multi-stakeholder Country Platform
- Lack of communication from GFF stakeholders (e.g., GFF Liaison Officer, GFF NGO Host)

These organizations also said that CSO/YLOs need the following information to engage effectively in GFF processes in their country:

- Data resources for SRMNCAH-N advocacy and accountability
- Capacity building for domestic resource mobilization

Participants that work in Niger listed the following future opportunities for CSO/YLOs to engage with GFF processes at the global, regional, and country levels: stakeholder meetings regarding the National Strategy for Universal Health Coverage and the Advocacy and CSO Eligibility Plan for Niger.