

Global Financing Facility

Civil Society and Youth-led Organization Landscape Assessment

April 2023

Country Report: Pakistan

Number of respondents: 3

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

Three respondents to the 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey reported working in Pakistan. All of them identified themselves as CSOs, and none of them have received funding from PAI. Respondents were asked to select the geographical focus of their organizations. Two respondents work at the sub-national level, and one works at the national level.

Survey respondents were asked to select all the geographic levels at which they work (e.g., subnational, national, regional, and global). All three respondents that work in Pakistan reported working in health and nutrition (including SRMNCAH-N) and the majority work in education, gender equality, and humanitarian response. Of those that work in health and nutrition, the organizations that responded to the survey focus on the

following areas: sexual and reproductive health (SRH), maternal, newborn and child health, adolescent health, and nutrition. Respondents also predominately conduct the following activities: advocacy, research, coalition building, and service delivery.

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 Pakistan, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey

| Sectors | Number of respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Health and nutrition, including SRMNCAH-N | 3 |
| Climate change | 1 |
| Education | 2 |
| Human rights | 1 |
| Gender equality | 2 |
| Humanitarian | 2 |

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

| Health and Nutrition Focus Area | Number of respondents |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sexual and reproductive health | 3 |
| Maternal health | 3 |
| Newborn and child health | 3 |
| Adolescent health | 3 |
| Nutrition | 3 |

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

| Organizational Activity | Number of respondents |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Advocacy | 3 |
| Research | 3 |
| Accountability and monitoring | 1 |
| Civic engagement | 1 |
| Youth engagement | 2 |
| Policy development | 1 |
| Technical assistance | 1 |
| Coalition building | 3 |
| Service delivery | 3 |

As indicated in Table 4 below, most of the respondents in Pakistan categorized their significant accomplishments or “wins” as the following: implemented high-impact programs; mobilized multilateral or bilateral resources for health and/or nutrition; and effectively carried out civic engagement and conducted impactful research.

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

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

CSO/YLO Capacity Gaps and Opportunities

The respondents that work in Pakistan ranked the activity of the broader CSO/YLO community in Pakistan as 5 out of 10 where 1 indicates 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 respondent shared that they are “conducting evidence-informed policy and advocacy” as part of a “wider generation” of CSO/YLOs in Pakistan.

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

- Program development and management (e.g., Program design and implementation)
- External Relations (e.g., Media and press engagement, social media, community and beneficiary engagement, private sector engagement, government relations, donor engagement)
- Partnerships and Coalitions (e.g., Coalition creation, coordination, management)

Two of the survey respondents that work in Pakistan also listed the top three areas that their organization needs the most support related to technical capacity as follows:

- Advocacy
- Research
- Accountability and monitoring

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

- Funding (e.g., grants)
- Working session or technical consultation with a technical expert (1:1)
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration (including government stakeholders, multilateral and bilateral stakeholders, CSOs/YLOs, etc.)
- In-person training

Two out of three respondents that work in Pakistan preferred that these interventions be offered in a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual components.

SRMNCAH-N Policies and Health Financing Priorities and Challenges

One respondent that works in Pakistan reported being very familiar while another reported somewhat familiar with the country's government priorities related to SRMNCAH-N. The third respondent declined to answer this question. Two respondents reported engaging in work related to the development of policies that are supportive of SRMNCAH-N in their country context. Respondents listed the key entry points for their engagement in this work:

- Direct advocacy toward country government representatives
- Engagement in country government policy-level fora
- Participation in CSO/YLO networks
- Key meetings with multilateral and bilateral donors

The respondents reported that the following are the most pressing opportunities and/or needs to advance or sustain SRMNCAH-N in their country contexts:

- “Do advocacy with representatives of each political party.”
- “Youth engagement and advocacy for scale up of high impact practices.”

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

- Lack of funding for SRMNACH-N issues
- Lack of funding for civil society and youth engagement

Global Financing Facility (GFF)

Before receiving this survey, two respondents that work in Pakistan reported that they were aware of the GFF. They described the greatest value add of the GFF as follows:

- “Introduce newer CSOs/YLOs as GFF representatives and guide them.”
- “Catalyst platform to scale up evidence-informed policy and practice change using social accountability platforms.”

Generally, respondents reported that CSO/YLOs in their networks learn about engagement opportunities or health and development mechanisms through social media and PAI.

Out of the total of three respondents that work in Pakistan, one was aware of GFF-related activities that were underway in their country at the time of the survey, while one was not aware. The other respondent declined to answer this question. The one respondent that reported being aware of GFF-related activities in their country said that the GFF Multi-stakeholder Country Platform had been established and that an initial meeting had been held as of the time of the survey.

Two respondents reported being somewhat familiar with their country's Investment Case implementation status, while one respondent declined to respond. Similarly, two respondents were unsure whether CSO/YLOs had been invited to engage in GFF processes in Pakistan. One respondent said that there is no CSO/YLO Country GFF Coalition in their country, and one was unsure. These respondents also ranked their relationship with the GFF Liaison Officer a 1.4 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. One respondent stated that "there is very little coordination of CSOs/YLOs and functionaries [country government staff] at the Federal and Provincial levels. We would appreciate it if the GFF Liaison Officer could provide assistance to initiate a dialogue."

One respondent working in Pakistan reported that their organization has engaged in GFF meetings/stakeholder consultations in their country. This respondent described their engagement in GFF meetings as somewhat impactful. When asked to describe their organization's contributions to these GFF processes that led to impact, they said: "We have done advocacy for GFF process with some policymakers."

Two respondents working in Pakistan reported that the following top five 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
- Strong CSO/YLO Country GFF Coalition
- Opportunities to engage in the GFF Multi-stakeholder Country Platform
- Opportunities to engage in the development of the Investment Case

According to the respondents, the top two barriers that hinder meaningful CSO/YLO engagement in GFF processes in Pakistan are:

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

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

- Basic information about the GFF
- How to apply for grant funding through the GFF NGO host
- Regular information about health financing mechanisms (e.g., country, multilateral, and bilateral)
- Country government targets related to SRMNCAH-N
- Data resources for SRMNCAH-N advocacy and accountability
- Capacity building for domestic resource mobilization
- Best practices on civil and youth engagement in GFF processes

Respondents in Pakistan listed the following future opportunities to strengthen CSO/YLO engagement with GFF processes at the global, regional, and country levels:

- “Opportunities exist and will increase if the donor countries, UN agencies, and Government of Pakistan are receptive towards engaging with CSO/YLOs.”
- “Development of a formal Platform to engage and build a coalition.”