

# Global Financing Facility

## Civil Society and Youth-led Organization Landscape Assessment

April 2023

### Country Report: Zimbabwe

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 Zimbabwe. Of these organizations, two identified themselves as CSOs, one as a YLO and one as an international NGO (INGO). Two respondents reported that their organizations have received funding from PAI, but neither clarified if they are past or current GFF-funded partners. Two respondents did not receive funding from PAI, and one was unsure if it receives funding from PAI.

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 Zimbabwe, their geographical focus was as follows: all four respondents reported working at the subnational and national levels, while three also work at the regional level and one works at the global level. Two respondents work in different countries in addition to Zimbabwe, including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia,

Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. 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 that work in Zimbabwe reported working in health and nutrition, (including SRMNCAH-N), climate change, and gender equality. Of those that work in health and nutrition, the organizations that responded to the survey focus on the following areas: maternal health, adolescent health, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and newborn and child health. Respondents also predominately conduct the following activities: advocacy, civic engagement, youth engagement, and policy development.

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 Zimbabwe, 2023 CSO/YLO Community Survey**

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

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

Health and Nutrition Focus Area	Number of respondents
Sexual and reproductive health	3
Maternal health	4
Newborn and child health	3
Adolescent health	4
Nutrition	2
Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including malaria	1

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

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

As indicated in Table 4 below, most of the respondents in Zimbabwe categorized their significant accomplishments or “wins” as the following: supported policy development; effectively carried out youth engagement; supported a specific policy win; and mobilized domestic resources for health and/or nutrition.

**Table 4. Respondents’ accomplishments and “wins” in Zimbabwe, 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	3
Supported policy development	4
Supported a specific policy win	3
Implemented high-impact programs	2
Effectively carried out civic engagement	2
Effectively carried out youth engagement	4
Conducted impactful research	2
Convened or assumed a leadership role in coalitions	2

## CSO/YLO Capacity Gaps and Opportunities

The four respondents that work in Zimbabwe categorized the activity of the broader CSO/YLO community in Zimbabwe as 7.3 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. These organizations provided the following additional information about their categorization of the CSO/YLO landscape as follows:

- “There is a growing movement of youth-led organizations, and they are taking leadership in several sectors.”
- “A dynamic network of young people that participate in various activities and ensure that we input and represent the young voice in key decision-making processes.”

According to the four respondents, the top three areas in which they need the most support related to organizational development are as follows:

- Financial management (e.g., Fundraising, Business development, procurement, donor relations, grants management) – *4 respondents*
- Program Development and Management (e.g., program design and implementation) – *3 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 listed the top two areas that their organization needs the most support related to technical capacity as follows:

- The latest techniques/competencies/policies/trends in SRMNCAH-N – *4 respondents*
- Youth engagement – *3 respondents*

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

- Funding (e.g., grants) – *4 respondents*
- Long-term or short-term coaching or mentorship from a PAI staff – *3 respondents*

The majority (3 respondents) preferred that these interventions be offered in a hybrid format with both virtual and in-person components.

## **SRMNCAH-N Policies and Health Financing Priorities and Challenges**

Two respondents that work in Zimbabwe reported being very familiar and one was somewhat familiar with the country's government priorities related to SRMNCAH-N. Three respondents reported engaging in work related to the development of policies that are supportive of SRMNCAH-N in their country context. Of the respondents that reported engaging in policy development and health financing in the past, key entry points for their engagement include:

- Direct advocacy toward country government representatives
- Engagement in country government policy-level fora
- Participation in CSO/YLO networks
- GFF processes

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

- “Adolescent health and nutrition for school-going children and pregnant adolescent girls.”
- “Adolescent nutrition programming and domestic investment in adolescent health advocacy.”
- Sustained funding for CSO/YLOs
- “Empowerment of girls and the promotion of SRHR service uptake in hard-to-reach areas since the country still faces high teenage/unplanned pregnancy, high STIs, and intimate partner violence.”

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
- Limited civic space for civil society and youth engagement
- Restrictive policy environment
- Limited coordination among SRMNACH-N stakeholders

## Global Financing Facility (GFF)

Before receiving this survey, three respondents that work in Zimbabwe reported that they were engaged in GFF processes. One participant declined to answer. According to respondents that were at least somewhat aware of the GFF, they described the greatest value-add of the GFF as follows:

- “It has global reach and wealthy knowledge on reproductive health and nutrition of adolescents.”
- “Introduction of results-based financing has been very effective, and we are pushing for its sustainability.”

Respondents also reported being engaged in other health-focused platforms, financing mechanisms, and networks globally, regionally, and nationally, including, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and COPASAH- East and Southern Africa. Generally, respondents reported that CSO/YLOs in their networks learn about engagement opportunities or health and development mechanisms through the following avenues:

- Social media
- WhatsApp and/or e-mail groups or listservs
- PAI
- Peer organizations or coalitions
- Multilateral institutions or mechanisms (i.e., UN agencies, World Bank and other regional banks, PMNCH, SUN, etc.)

Out of the total of four respondents that work in Zimbabwe, two were aware of GFF-related activities that were underway in their country at the time of the survey, one was not aware of GFF-related activities, and one declined to respond. Of those that were aware of GFF-related activities in their country, three respondents reported GFF activity listed as follows:

- 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

Two respondents reported being very familiar with their country’s Investment Case implementation status, while one was not familiar at all, and one declined to respond. The respondent stated that “the Health Sector Investment Case was an excellent move that made the government value CSOs and their contribution to the health systems work.”

Two respondents that work in Zimbabwe 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

One respondent said they were unsure when asked whether CSO/YLOs have been invited to engage in GFF processes, and one declined to respond. Two respondents reported that there is a CSO/YLO Country GFF Coalition in their country, while one was unsure. These respondents also ranked their relationship with the GFF Liaison Officer a 5.5 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.

Three respondents working in Zimbabwe reported that their organization has engaged in GFF processes, while one 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
- Call for applications from GFF NGO Host

One respondent described their engagement in GFF processes as very impactful, while the other three declined to answer. When asked to describe their organization's contributions to these GFF processes that led to impact, they said their organization has "has been and is still leading the social accountability activities (community scorecards) that have influenced the funding and programmatic shifts in SRMNCAH-N." Another participant reported that their organization "led the processes and participated in the development of the Investment Case."

Respondents working in Zimbabwe 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 five barriers that hinder meaningful CSO/YLO engagement in GFF processes in Zimbabwe are:

- Lack of coordination among CSO/YLO stakeholders
- Lack of communication from GFF stakeholders (e.g., GFF Liaison Officer, GFF NGO Host)
- Inability to participate in GFF meetings and stakeholder consultations
- 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:

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

- “Strong coalitions at the country level, Global North partnerships, and South-South partnerships that have been established through the GFF past processes.”
- Continued engagements and “breakfast/portfolio meetings” with GFF stakeholders.