



Ensuring Leadership of Civil Society and Youth in the GFF

Established in 2015, the Global Financing Facility (GFF) supports 36 low- and lower-middle-income countries with catalytic financing and technical assistance to develop and implement prioritized national health plans to scale up access to affordable, quality health care for women, children and adolescents. The GFF also works with countries to maximize the use of domestic financing and external support for better, more sustainable health results. The GFF is squarely focused on prioritizing and scaling up evidence-driven investments to improve sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (SRMNCAH+N) through targeted strengthening of primary health care systems to save lives. This is a critical first step toward accelerating progress on universal health coverage and the sustainable development goals.

Engaging civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth-led organizations (YLOs) at both the global and country levels is central to the GFF's multistakeholder approach and vital to the achievement of country goals. These organizations play crucial roles in the effectiveness of the GFF, including ensuring that the country investment cases are evidence-based, reflective of community needs and aligned with other national issue-focused policies and strategies. CSOs and YLOs can help ensure that the GFF-funded investments target hard-to-reach and excluded communities and can support demand generation for services. They also drive accountability by monitoring implementation, service quality and funding flows. At the global level, CSO-led advocacy can support the GFF by building and sustaining political will to invest in women's, children's and adolescents' health.

Guided by the 2017 GFF Civil Society, Adolescent and Youth Engagement Strategy and commitments of many GFF partners, CSO and youth engagement in the GFF has accelerated over time, showing promising results regarding inclusion, investment case priority setting, advocacy for more and better use of resources as well as social accountability. However, lessons from the country-level implementation of the GFF and recent CSO-led analyses demonstrate the need for clearer entry

points and better resourcing to ensure CSOs and YLOs have meaningful roles in shaping GFF priorities and investments at the country and global levels, monitoring progress and driving accountability.

A Civil Society-Led Approach

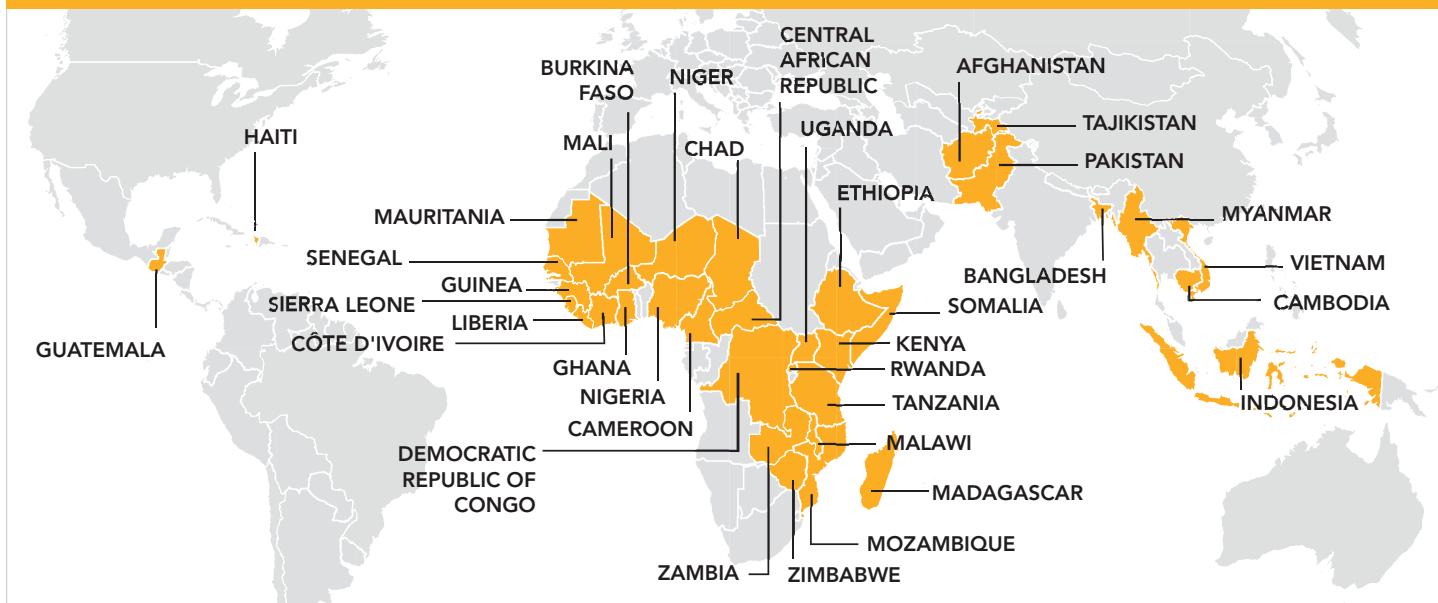
On May 19, 2022, PAI and the GFF announced a new partnership designed to enhance civil society and youth engagement in the 36 GFF partner countries. This unique initiative is funded directly by the GFF Secretariat, making it the second largest GFF/World Bank investment in CSO leadership. **The GFF NGO Host at PAI aims to unleash the full potential of civil society to increase the effectiveness of GFF investments** in the following ways:

- Serve as a virtual forum for public information on the GFF.
- Support the development and dissemination of advocacy and accountability resources and tools.
- Provide grants to power ongoing, effective CSO- and YLO-led advocacy at the country level, with a focus on constructive advocacy and collaborative accountability for health rights and results.
- Provide ongoing capacity building, technical assistance and coaching to strengthen advocacy.
- Coordinate the global Civil Society Coordinating Group (CSCG), which develops and advances a joint CSO and YLO advocacy agendas with the GFF.
- Lead ongoing monitoring, learning and evaluation to continuously strengthen CSO- and YLO-led advocacy.
- Capture the impact of the GFF investment in CSOs and YLOs.

Catalytic Grants to Power CSO- and YLO-Led Advocacy

As the GFF NGO Host, PAI will award small grants to CSOs and YLOs in the GFF to support advocacy, accountability and the production of evidence, including documenting best practices. Each partnership proposal is considered for its likelihood to improve policies and funding for SRMNCAH+N based on the country's health and political context, the status of the GFF process and CSO partners' capacities and stated priorities.

GFF focus countries



Two kinds of grants are available:

1. **Engagement Support:** coalition-strengthening and advocacy and accountability initiatives, ranging in size from \$35,000 to \$115,00 for a duration of six months.
2. **Global Goods:** generate materials and tools for advocacy, ranging from \$3,000 to \$20,000 for a duration of 12 months.

CSCG Mechanism

PAI also hosts the CSCG platform where CSOs and YLOs regularly meet to develop and advance shared advocacy goals to improve the health and nutrition outcomes of women, children and adolescents, and ensure meaningful engagement of civil society and youth in GFF processes at the subnational, national and global levels. The CSCG focuses on three objectives:

1. Ensure that civil society and youth working on the GFF at the country level have the information, resources and skills they need to meaningfully participate in decision-making, implementation and accountability.
2. Support civil society and youth at the country level to lead on and identify representatives through a transparent process that can act as focal points with the CSCG, GFF Secretariat, national CSO platforms and other GFF constituencies, such as the private sector and the multistakeholder GFF country-level platform.

3. Document the state of civil society and youth engagement in the GFF (and its results) at the country level to inform global advocacy.

The Next Era of Impact

PAI currently supports 39 active grants as part of the CSO GFF Hub across countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Many of these partners will transition seamlessly to the grants mechanisms that PAI is rolling out as the GFF NGO Host. Moving forward, PAI will use a transparent competitive grantmaking process to onboard over 50 CSOs and YLOs to lead advocacy at the country level. PAI will conduct a baseline survey with grantees to inform capacity-building activities for new partners and continue to document success stories and challenges.

PAI is fully responsible for the coordination, management and leadership of GFF CSCG activities, proactively engaging the steering committee to help shape and validate the process for GFF small grants to ensure transparency and fairness.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the criteria and process to apply for these grants, or visit www.csogffhub.org or email gffhub@pai.org.

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