

Concept Note: Special Session on Human Rights, 40th Board Meeting, Global Health Campus, Geneva, Switzerland, 13 November 2018, 15h30 -17h30

1. Background:

Strategic Objective 3 of the Global Fund Strategy 2017 – 2022 is to promote and protect human rights and gender equality. Human rights-related barriers remain major obstacles to the uptake of HIV, TB and malaria services. Only when these barriers are removed through concrete programs and policies are people able to access lifesaving services and treatment. There are five operational objectives that contribute to the strategic goal of promoting and protecting human rights and gender equality, namely:ⁱ

1. Scale up programs to support women and girls, including programs to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights
2. Invest to reduce health inequities including gender- and age-related disparities
3. Introduce and scale up programs that remove human rights barriers to accessing HIV, TB and malaria services
4. Integrate human rights considerations throughout the grant cycle and in policies and policy-making processes
5. Support meaningful participation of key and vulnerable populations and networks in Global Fund-related processes

The Roundtable on Human Rights will focus specifically on Strategic Objective 3's Operational Objectives 3 and 4: To introduce and scale up programs that remove human rights barriers to accessing HIV, TB and malaria services; and to Integrate human rights considerations throughout the grant cycle and in policies and policy-making processes.

Along with these ambitious objectives, the Global Fund's board approved a revised sustainability, transition, and co-financing policy that requires all funding proposals to include an "appropriate focus on interventions that respond to key and vulnerable populations, human rights and gender-related barriers and vulnerabilities in all countries, regardless of income level."ⁱⁱ

2. Rationale:

It is important to recognize that addressing human rights barriers is essential to building enabling environments that support communities to access timely and life-saving services for ending the three epidemics. The Global Fund has demonstrated considerable work in this area as illustrated in CRG reports to the Board. While monitoring and evaluation has been a focus of the twenty priority human rights countriesⁱⁱⁱ and there is a broader effort to improve the monitoring and evaluation of the human rights components of all grants^{iv}, there is a need for greater focus on the impact of these efforts and what is required to further amplify and cement progress. Hence, the need to highlight and share the experiences, lessons learnt and recommendations going forward on human rights based approaches for effective responses to the three diseases.

3. Objectives of the Session:

- a) To showcase the results and impact of the Global Fund's work to reduce human rights-related barriers to services across the three diseases through country allocations and catalytic funding;
- b) To learn about existing challenges in this work, and potential ways to overcome them;

- c) To learn how key barriers and challenges have been addressed by implementers of Global Fund funded human rights programmes;
- d) To convey lessons learned and recommendations from human rights implementers of Global Fund programming and other country and global partners to inform strategic issues and discussions at the Board level, including the mid-term review of the Global Fund Strategy.

4. Methodology:

- a) A facilitated panel discussion with audience engagement. Speakers will be selected in partnership with the CRG with the focus on organisations and groups who are implementing GF-funded human rights programming across the three diseases. Invited speakers will be funded by the Secretariat to attend.
- b) The session will be open to other self-funded partners of the Global Fund, including leaders from key populations, civil society networks and technical partners.

5. Anticipated Outcomes:

- a) Increased understanding of the work that is being undertaken to decrease human rights-related barriers, the results and impact achieved.
- b) Improved appreciation within the Global Fund system of the importance of human rights interventions to increase support and coordination for human rights programming.

Tentative Agenda

| Timing | Activity | Speaker |
|-------------|---|--|
| 3:30 – 3:40 | Moderator opens and Introduction of Panellists | Ambassador for Global Health, France, Stéphanie Seydoux |
| 3:40 – 3:50 | Community Rights & Gender - Setting the Context | Kate Thomson and Ralf Jurgens, CRG, Global Fund |
| 3:50 – 4:30 | Facilitated discussion with panellists | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On Africa Regional Grant: AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa - Felicita Hikuam 2. On Latin America and Caribbean: Dayana Hernandez, head of Transvida in Costa Rica 3. Representative from Ukraine: Dmytro Sherembey, CCM co-chair and Chair of the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV |
| 4:30 – 5:00 | Audience discussion | Ambassador for Global Health, France, Stéphanie Seydoux |
| 5:00 – 5:20 | Panellists provide final reflections | Ambassador for Global Health, France, Stéphanie Seydoux |
| 5:20 – 5:30 | Closing remarks | Peter Sands, Global Fund Executive Director |

ⁱ Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, *The Global Fund strategy 2017–2022: Investing to end epidemics* (35th Board meeting) Geneva: Global Fund; 2016.

Available at: https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/2531/core_globalfundstrategy2017-2022_strategy_en.pdf?u=636486807150000000

ⁱⁱ Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, *The Global Fund sustainability, transition and co-financing policy* (35th Board meeting) Geneva: Global Fund; 2016.

ⁱⁱⁱ Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (province-level), Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia (selected cities), Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Mozambique, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and Ukraine.

^{iv} Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, *Breaking Down Barriers to Access: Scaling up programs to remove human rights-related barriers to health services in 20 countries and beyond*, Geneva: Global Fund: April 2018