



The GFF Civil Society and Youth Engagement Working Group

*19th Investors Group
November 5-6, 2024*

Why is civil society & youth engagement so critical?

Representation & Community Ownership

Voice and Agency

CSOs and YLOs provide a platform for underserved groups to voice concerns and influence policy decisions that affect their lives. This ensures that **community-specific issues** are addressed and promotes **equity** by giving a voice to the underrepresented.

Community Ownership

Engaging civil society and youth ensures that development initiatives are community-owned and culturally relevant, leading to more sustainable outcomes and **equitable** development.

Sustainable Development & Accountability

Community Monitoring

CSOs and YLOs hold governments and institutions accountable, ensuring transparency and good governance and progress, including on **sustainability** and **accountability** for RMNCAH-N development goals.



Alignment & Strategic Partnerships

Alignment with country frameworks

Aligning civil society and youth engagement with the GFF-supported country platform can help ensure that local actions contribute to country development targets through integrated approaches.

Key Acronyms

- CSOs: civil society organizations
- CS/Y: civil society and youth
- FP2030: Family Planning 2030
- Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health
- PMNCH: Partnership for
- UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
- YLOs: youth-led organizations

The active engagement of CSOs and youth is crucial in supporting the GFF partnership to reach its goals, as they bring grassroots insights, mobilize communities, and drive advocacy and accountability efforts.

Key lessons & progress of GFF CS/Y engagement to-date

Past GFF Support (2022-2024)

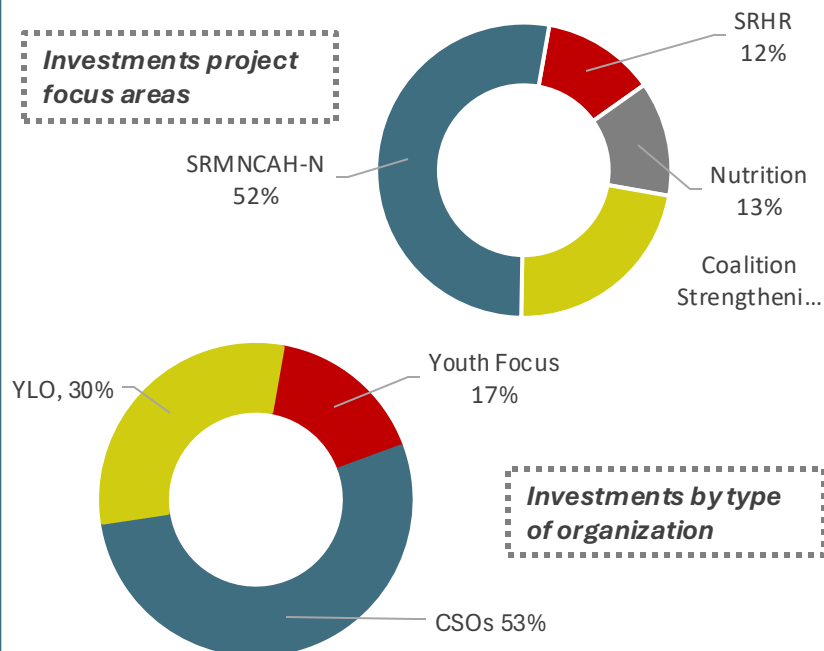
The GFF has provided consistent, coherent, and sustainable support for CS/Y engagement.

Capacity strengthening and additional Technical Assistance

- 400+ CSO Representatives trained on health financing, UHC advocacy, policy analysis, and Community of Practice Established through the JLA

Grants Support

- Since 2022, 51 organizations received small grants – US\$2.7 million in total – across 28 GFF partner countries



Progress to date (IG18 – June 2024)

The June 2024 IG18 paper underlined the following progress to date:

Multistakeholder country engagement

- **Improved multistakeholder engagement** in countries
- **Increased representation of CSOs and YLOs** in country platforms as part of program design and implementation.
- **Integration of citizen engagement activities**
- **Global Youth Platform**, to focus on coordination, resource sharing, and capacity building among young leaders, to foster a youth-led movement and ensure representation.

GFF secretariat staff and systems

- **Governance:** Civil society & Youth representations in the IG.
- **KPIs:** Integration of a new KPI to track CSO and youth participation on country platforms and investment case plan development.
- **Strategy:** Strengthening of CSO and youth engagement and integration into core strategic areas (e.g. JLA, AdLab).

GFF NGO Host Partner

- **Coordinating a strong global platform** for the GFF CSO and youth constituency (over 760 member organizations).
- **Providing TA to grant partner CSOs and YLOs** to contribute meaningfully to country investment cases and hold governments accountable.
- **Allocating grants** for advocacy and accountability.

Key Learnings (IG18 – June 2024)

The June 2024 paper outlines priorities to fully realize the partnership goals to elevate the role of civil society and youth in advancing its mission:

Strengthening the enabling environment

- **Strengthen structures** to improve CSO and youth representation and engagement in national policy processes
- **Strengthen national multi-stakeholder dialogues** and consultations at the country level.

Support grants to CSOs and youth

- **Provide multiyear engagement/support** for CSOs and youth to sustainably influence policy and programs
- **Provide longer-term grants** to support advocacy, accountability, research, and impact reporting.

Differentiated technical assistance

- **Respond to increasing demand for TA** in health financing, accountability, and community-level results monitoring
- **Consider a tiered approach to TA** to better address the diversity of needs and countries' experience with the GFF
- Provide additional support to **scale up successful projects** and interventions, serving as best practices.

Coordination and collaboration

- Strengthen **coordination and maximize alignment opportunities with partners:** e.g. the Global Fund, Gavi, PMNCH, FP2030, UHC 2030, and UNFPA for collective advocacy and accountability.

GFF IG Working Group on Civil Society & Youth Engagement

Objectives

Review and update the GFF-CSO engagement framework to provide recommendations to:

- Ensure continued funding and support to CSO and youth, including for this current strategy period
- Support the integration of meaningful CSO engagement as part of the next GFF strategy period, focusing on scaling up and sustaining support to civil society and youth

Methodology

- **In-depth review of GFF documents** and World Bank project reports across previous phases of work to identify models/approaches to CS+Y grant-making and TA experiences and lessons of CS+Y engagement w/ the GFF;
- A **synthesis of lessons surfaced** from CS+Y across GFF countries participating in the GFF CSCG and Host organization (PAI) experience with the granting mechanism and TA models used;
- A **research into TA models and approaches** used for CS+Y support/engagement in GHIs and other CS partnerships in other sectors such as the GPE and GPSA were explored; and
- A **consultation and a survey** to gather insights from the CSCG steering committee, including country and global CS+Y representatives

Roles & Responsibilities

- **Scope and focus** of GFF support grants to CSOs/YLOs
- **Prioritization and sustainability of GFF support** to CSOs & YLOs across GFF partners;
- The **optimal coordinating and funding architecture**;
- **Opportunities to strengthen collaboration and coordination** with other global health CSO engagement platforms, e.g., Global Fund, Gavi, FP2030, PMNCH, UHC2030.

IG Working Group Members



Timeline + Deliverables


Sept 18 – Oct 18
Working Group Kickoff + weekly meetings
Agendas, analyses, drafts

Oct 21
Pre-IG docs sent to IG members
PPT w/ recommended structure/mechanism

Nov 4-7
IG Meeting
Talking points + PPT for IG reps

March – June
Potential date for announcement of new CS + Youth support mechanism
Paper w/ additional detail on support mechanism

The GFF IG Taskforce identified the key guiding principles that respond to the learnings and considerations from the previous phase

	GUIDING PRINCIPLES		
Key Considerations from Previous Phase	Sustainability	Flexibility	Alignment
	 Localization (cross-cutting)		
Strengthening the enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country-focused strategies • Country-owned priorities • Locally-led agenda • Focused on multi-stakeholder country engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adaptative support to be compatible with country legal and policy frameworks</i> 	
Support grants to CSOs & Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant duration over 18-24 months on average • Grant size averaging larger than previous cycles • Targeted support for partners with demonstrated impact & engagement for women, children and adolescents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant size commensurate with CSOs and Youth organizations' capacity. • Grants for innovative approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alignment with GFF / WBG agenda and Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in country</i>
Differentiated technical assistance & capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country-led, localized, and sustainable short and long-term TA solutions • Global engagement support via the Civil Society Coordinating Group & Global Youth Platform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA matches CSOs and Youth organizations' and countries' needs (localization). 	
Coordination and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country and regional CSO/YLO coalitions • Partnerships with relevant GFF country stakeholders • Coordination with GFF/WB country operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot and scale-up collaborative, innovative, inclusive joint interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligned information-sharing and collaboration opportunities among donors/GHIs through existing/new support for grantees.
Enhanced communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Focus on south-south learning & exchange</i> • <i>Twinning and mentorship opportunities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adaptative materials, tools and information to local context, needs and opportunities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and information-sharing on locally-led and country-owned solutions that are informed by CSOs and youth organizations



Based on the guiding principles, the taskforce identified three objectives for this next phase

- 1. Expand Local Impact Across GFF Countries:** Strive for broad-reaching influence by empowering civil society and youth in all 36 GFF partner countries, and scaling-up successful and innovative CSO and Youth-led initiatives.
- 2. Accelerate Sustainable Grant Mechanisms:** Propose an efficient and sustainable grant distribution system to build momentum and ensure continuous support.
- 3. Optimize Resource Distribution:** Consider resource allocations between GFF partner countries through a differentiated approach that maximizes grant-making, while also supporting the technical strengthening necessary to make advocacy and accountability impactful. Prioritize grants for coalitions, advocacy, accountability, and youth, and tailor TA to address specific country needs, focusing on capacity building and sustainable impact.

“Engagement of civil society and youth often takes time to be set up, organized, and be meaningful. Advocacy for policy change is also a lengthy process that never brings immediate results. The longer levels of funding will increase the opportunity for results to come. CSO and YLOs can be better coordinated, have the resources to allocate more time to their engagement, have time to review policies and documents and develop joint positions, attend meetings, organize advocacy plans and activities, mobilize communities, engage in community accountability exercises and much more.”

CSCG Steering Committee Member

CSCG-SC Consultation

October 2024



Expected outputs

-  **Enhanced Advocacy:** Fostering constructive advocacy among CSOs and youth-led organizations on advancing locally-led agendas on the health and nutrition of women, children and adolescents, including through strengthened linkages and alignment between CSOs/YLOs partners and the GFF-supported multistakeholder country platforms.
-  **Effective Coordination and Networking:** Improving coordination, networking, knowledge-sharing and communication among partner CSOs/YLOs to ensure a unified approach towards health and nutrition goals and strategies, through the work of coalitions, joint initiatives and communities of practice.
-  **Increased Accountability:** Strengthening the capacity of civil society and youth-led organizations to systematically engage in collaborative accountability, and develop comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks to track progress and ensure effectiveness of interventions.

Anticipated results

We expect that continued robust support will deepen results, and scale-up impact across all GFF 36 countries



Enhanced Advocacy

- Health and Rights Education Programme (Malawi)**
- **Outcome:** Increased national health budget allocation
- Collectif Tous unis en faveur de la nutrition (Niger)**
- **Outcome:** Advocacy led to local government commitments to include nutrition in development plans and allocation of budgets for malnourished children
- Health Alert (Sierra Leone)**
- **Outcome:** Successfully campaigned for the removal of maternal health service user fees in the project area, despite policy for no out-of-pocket payment

Effective Coordination & Networking

- Organization of African Youth (Kenya)**
- **Outcome:** Mobilized 17 YLOs to advocate for adolescent health and participate in the development of Kenya's adolescent health policy
- CS/Y Investment case engagement in partner countries**
- **Outcome:** 17 GFF countries, Civil society and youth-led organizations in were actively involved in the development of country's investment case

Increased Accountability

- Faith and Family Health Initiative (Uganda)**
- **Outcome:** Developed a commitments and policy tracker for the investment case, endorsed by a wide range of stakeholders
- Slum and Rural Health Initiative (Nigeria)**
- **Outcome:** Established women-led groups in rural communities to educate on sexuality and mental health through the Simbihealth app
- Joint Learning Agenda on health financing advocacy (cross-country)**
- **Outcome:** Over 400 CSOs and Youth reps trained on health financing, UHC, advocacy, evidence-based policy analysis through the JLA

Country Scale-up of Advocacy / Accountability activities

- Scaled-up advocacy & accountability activities from 28 to 36 GFF countries, and at sub-national level
- Expanded scope of advocacy (health financing, climate) and community of CSOs & YLOs engaged on the GFF.
- Strengthened linkages between CSOs/YLOs and GFF-supported functional multistakeholder country platforms.

Improved Coordination and Networking

- Enhanced impact of coordinated advocacy when CSOs and YLOs unite around common priorities
- Expanded partnerships across other sectors e.g., GHIs, ADLAB, other sectors, e.g. water & education
- Functional CoPs and country coalitions

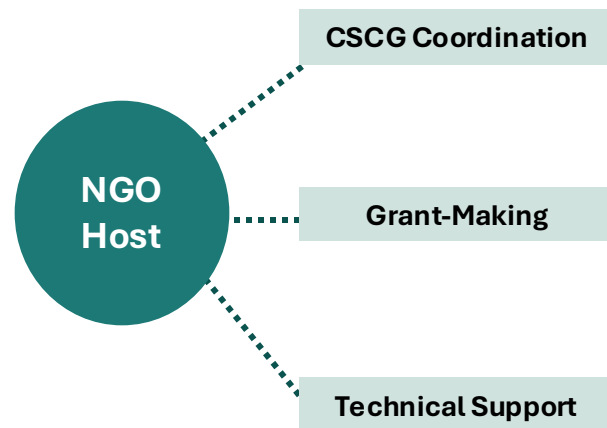
Increased Accountability

- Increased # of countries applying a wide range of accountability tools
- Increased capacity of CSO and youth in policy analysis, budget and expenditure tracking and accountability tools
- **Coordinated monitoring** of activities with the World Bank at the country and upstream CSCG levels

- ✓ Improvement in service delivery
- ✓ Improvements in quality of RMNCAH+N services <->
- ✓ Financing & systems reforms
- ✓ Data use for evidence-based advocacy, decision-making and accountability <->
- ✓ Adequate allocation and spending resources for RMNCAH-N services– budgeted and disbursed.
- ✓ Strengthened financed systems for UHC
- ✓ Resources for health
- ✓ Efficiency of health-related investments

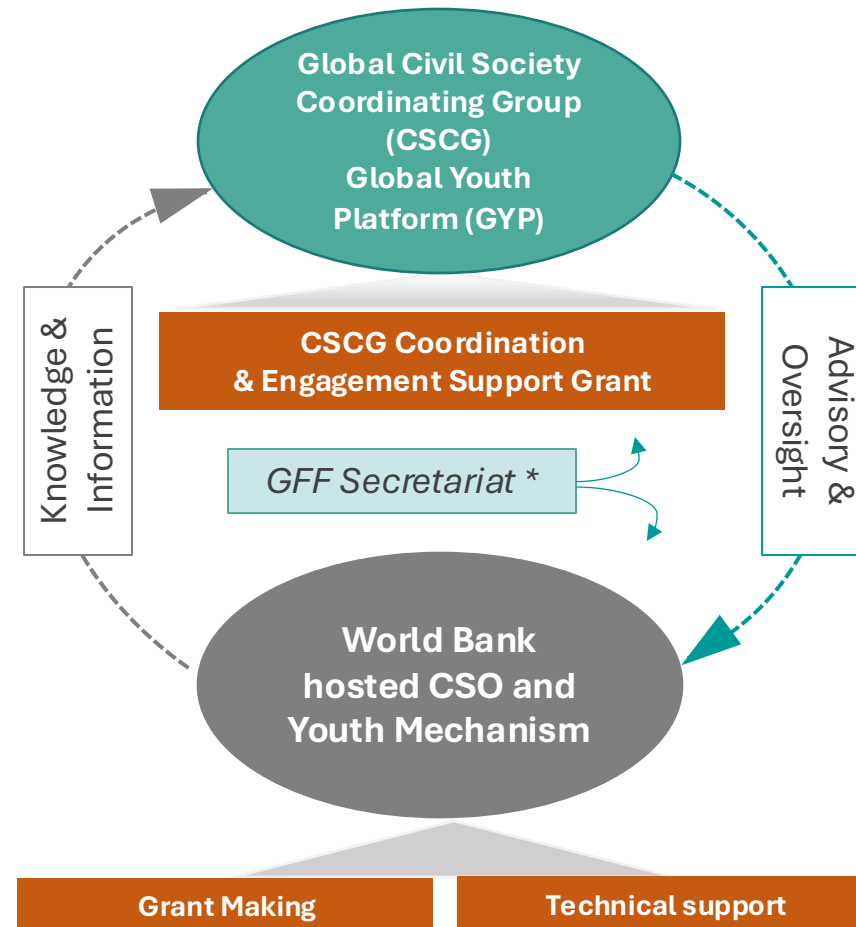
CS and Youth support structure options

Option 1: Recipient Executed Trust Fund (RETF) Project



Project Model:
 Strengthening of CSOs and Youth Organizations to Improve Health and Nutrition Gains for Women, Children and Adolescents (2022-2024)

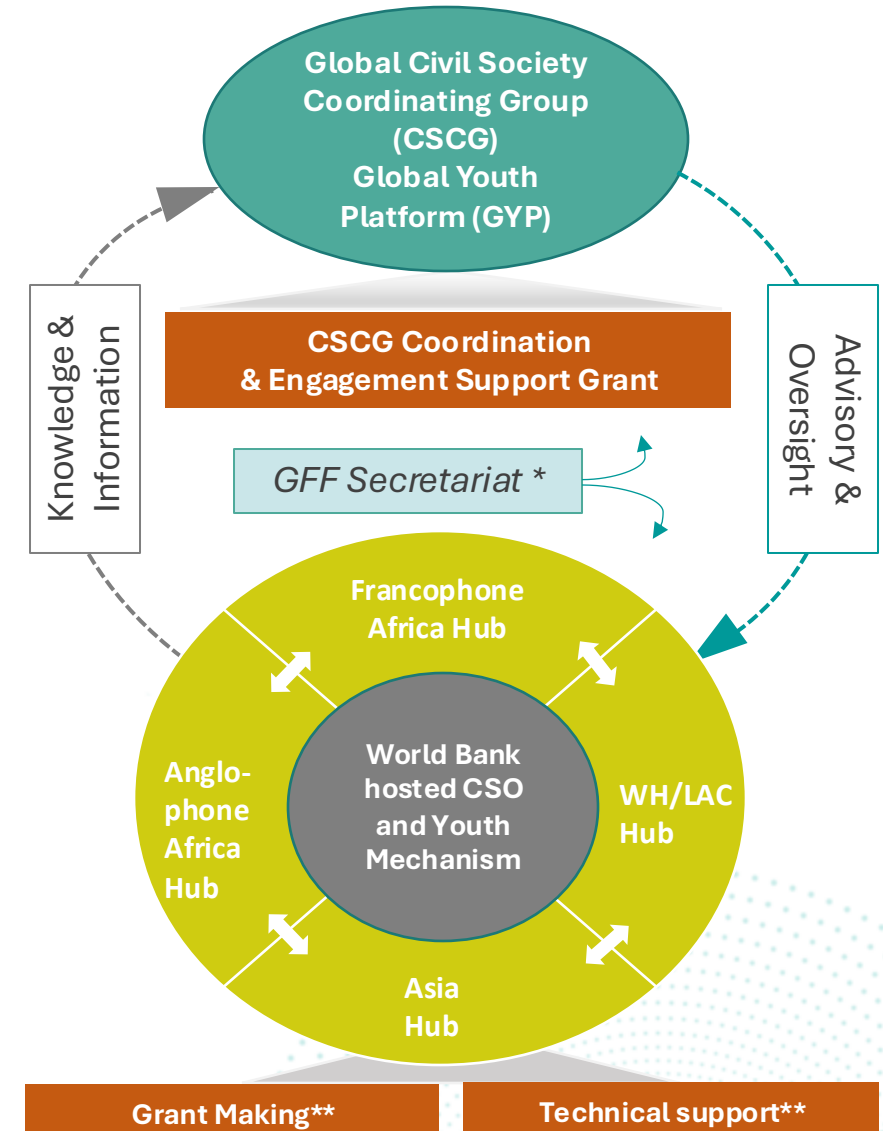
Option 2: Split Responsibilities



*** Role of GFF Secretariat:**

- Implementation support
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning
- Coordination
- Knowledge management
- Stakeholder outreach
- Strategic Communications

Option 3: Split Responsibilities with Regional Hubs



** Division of tasks/responsibilities to be confirmed

CS and Youth support recommended structure

For the next phase of support, we recommend a structure that divides responsibilities for CSCG coordination; and grant-making and TA between two different global support mechanisms: a World Bank hosted CSO and Youth platform; and another mechanism contracted specifically for CSCG Coordination.

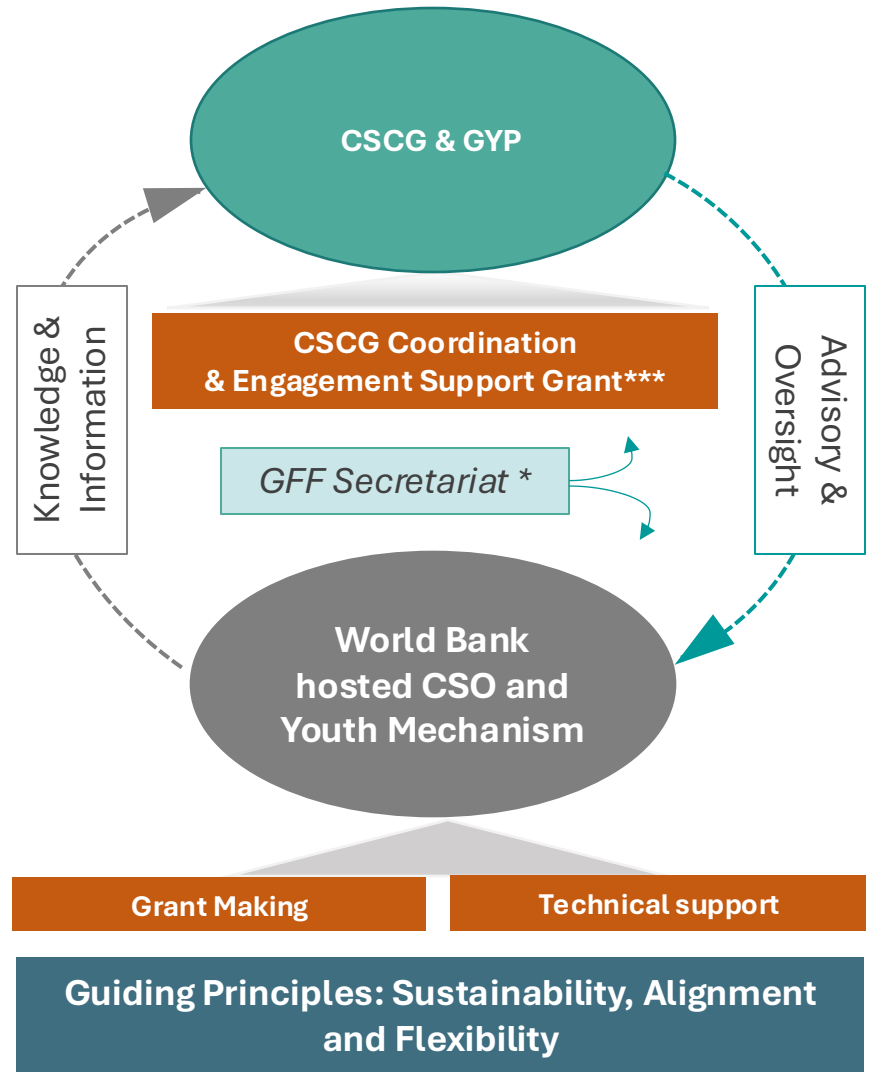
Enabling Environment for CSO engagement globally & country level through:

Government Policies and Practices

- Country Platforms
- Government Contacts

GFF Staffing and Systems

- GFF Secretariat Contacts
- Country TTLs
- Liaison Officers

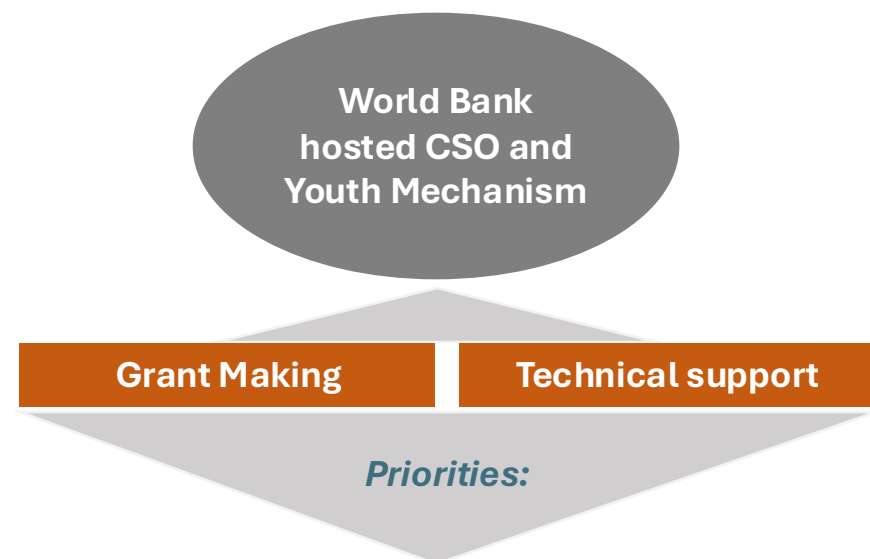


*** To be implemented per the Principles for the Meaningful Involvement of Civil Society and Communities in Global Health Governance

Roles & Responsibilities
<p>CSCG & GYP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued implementing of activities in accordance with the Governance Document • Co-creation of the ToR for grants and participation in the selection of grantees • Encourage alignment across GHIs at global and country levels
<p>GFF Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation support • Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning • Coordination within GFF, and with other GHIs • Knowledge management • Stakeholder outreach • Strategic Communications
<p>World Bank hosted CSO and Youth Mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating with the CSCG and GYP on including consulting on funding criteria and grants-making. • Facilitating communication between grantees and CSCG; GFF and WB country staff, government to ensure alignment with the GFF's health financing and RMNCAH-N goals. • Regular reporting to the CSCG Steering Committee and the GFF Investors Group • Fostering coordination and alignment across civil society and youth engagement mechanisms across GHIs and GFF partners

Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Host arrangement at World Bank ensures grant-making and TA better aligned with GFF's health financing and RMNCAH-N goals. ✓ Also signals sustainability of the mechanism and institutional commitment to CSO and youth engagement. ✓ Possibility to support regional TA partners through grant-making. ✓ Proximity to GFF country operations teams helps integrate CSO projects with national health systems. ✓ Split responsibilities ensures better checks and balances with two entities resourced to support CS/Y; Lower dependency risks; and enhanced accountability. ✓ Clear division of responsibilities for seamless coordination and communication. ✓ Simplified administrative, reporting and MEL duties various entities ✓ Straightforward, independent, and co-created grant-making process ✓ Shortened timeframe from kick-off to grant disbursement.

Grantmaking support would maintain priorities from previous phase, while adjusting the approach to be more flexible and impactful.



Coalition Strengthening Preferential funding for coalitions to coordinate civil society and youth engagement in government-led GFF processes.



Advocacy and Accountability Funding to support the development and implementation of country strategies, and monitoring implementation.



Youth Engagement Earmarked funding for advocacy, accountability, and TA support implemented by youth-led organizations and networks.



Grants for TA Provision Grant-making to support GFF-country based civil society and youth to share knowledge transfer capacity across GFF countries and regions.

Approach

- **Progressively expand support to civil society and youth in all 36 GFF partner countries**, with flexibility to respond to specific country contexts.
- **TA Provision Paired with Grant-Making:** Adequate support for technical assistance ensures that civil society and youth organizations have the capacity to effectively engage.
- **Maximize Grant Allocation:** Globally, the division of funds allocated to the grant/technical support mechanism should prioritize maximizing the available resources for civil society and youth engagement grants.
- **Management Expenses:** Reasonable program administration expenses provided to manage the grants and technical assistance programs efficiently.
- **Grant Duration:** Average duration of 18-24 months, with flexibility to provide shorter or longer-term grants depending on the objectives.
- **Increased Grant Size:** Larger grants compared to the previous cycle.
- **Impact-Driven Support:** Prioritize partners with proven impact and engagement for women, children, and adolescents.
- **Flexible, Capacity-Based Funding:** Grant sizes aligned with the capacity of CSOs and youth organizations, including support for smaller, community led organizations.
- **Align support to leverage GFF and partner initiatives**, including the Adolescent Health Learning, Action, and Benchmarking (ADLAB) initiative to support implementation research on the scale-up of adolescent health interventions through national systems in partnership w/ adolescents themselves

Recommended TA approach will deepen use of localized approaches while leveraging partnerships.

Supported Activities:

- Development and dissemination of **resources and tools, including advocacy, accountability and training materials**
- Direct provision of technical support
- Use of grant-making to encourage **experienced CS/Y to develop resources/tools and mentorship exchanges**
- **“Twinning” approaches** that mobilize CS/Y with experience engaging with country platforms, coalition strengthening, IC development, advocacy and accountability to provide TA support to less-experienced organizations. Includes leveraging the experience of CSCG/GYP members to support capacity strengthening at country level.


Approach:

- **TA is flexible and driven by CS and youth expressed demand for support** with coalition strengthening; health financing; advocacy and accountability.
- **TA is tailored to the localized context**, e.g. providers have knowledge of the status of the GFF process and important actors and can help CS/Y identify opportunities.
- **TA leverages existing initiatives** such as the Joint Learning Agenda (JLA) Community of Practice, country partnerships with WBG, and learning opportunities among GHIs.
- **Capacity strengthening and monitoring and evaluation** of TA impact is embedded in grant-making.
- **TA is mobilized to course-correct as needed** during the implementation of grant activities.
- **Baseline assessment** is conducted on the advocacy, accountability and coordination capacity of CS and Y coalitions in all GFF countries.
- **TA is supported by adequate human resources** with experienced staff to respond to individual TA requests as well as to proactively engage with partners.

Models consulted to develop the TA approach:


Country-based TA model (Global Partnership for Education)

- TA delivered through on-demand country partnerships
- Initiatives on key thematic areas such as gender equality, safe learning, etc.
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning of TA to assess impact and improvements




Training of Trainers TA model (Joint Learning Agenda)

- Joint initiative that uses ToT model to deliver Health financing training across countries
- CoP member network



Pool of Experts TA model (Global Fund)

- Pool of expert consultants support country dialogue, preparatory activities, grant-making processes or implementation
- TA available to country coordinating mechanisms, implementers and CSOs



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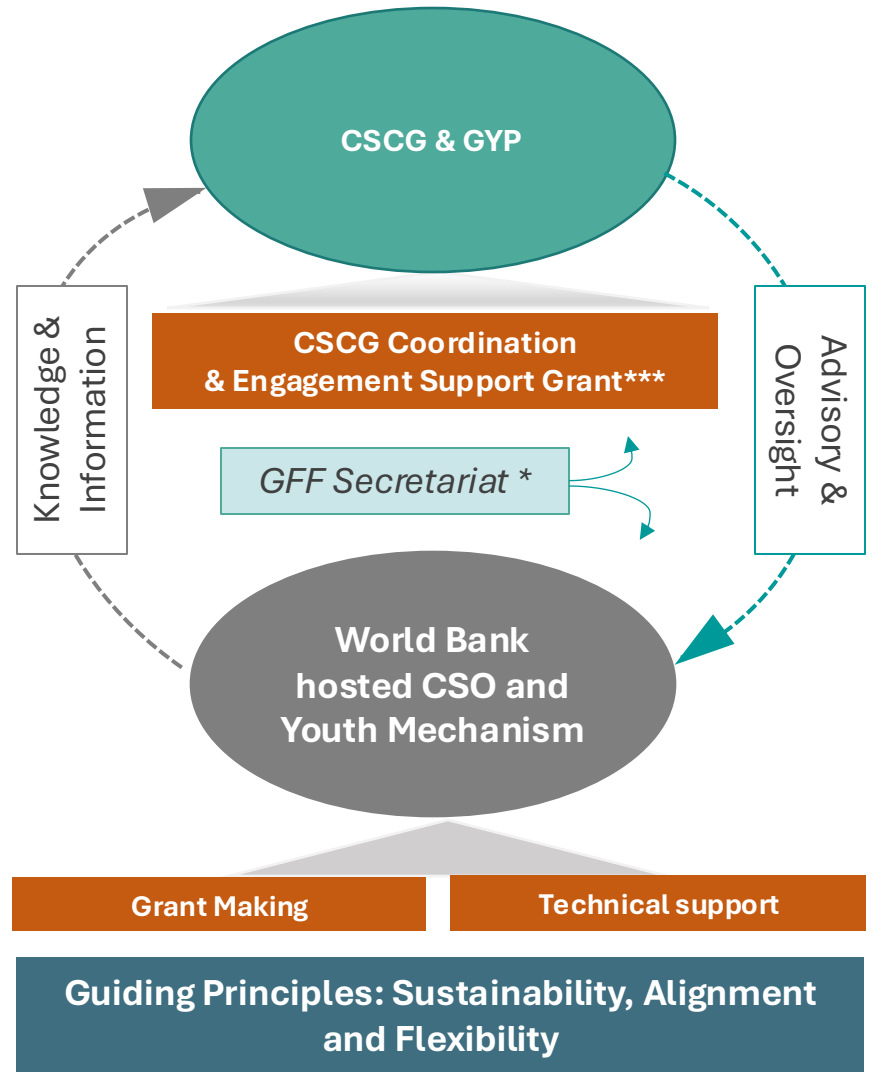
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Discussion questions

1. Do you concur with the recommended option?
2. Is there a proper balance among engagement priorities?
3. Is there an appropriate balance between country & global considerations?
4. How can the GFF ensure its Civil Society and Youth engagement initiatives are aligned with other global or country support mechanisms?