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Advocacy Roadmap 2023-2025

19 October 2023

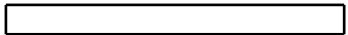
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What we have been reflecting on

Key issues around:

- The evolving advocacy ecosystem
- Its impacts on civil society and communities; and
- Implications for the Global Fund's partnerships with CS and communities



5 key global challenges and trends that impact the advocacy ecosystem

Shifting geopolitical alliances

Increasing inequalities and political polarization within countries

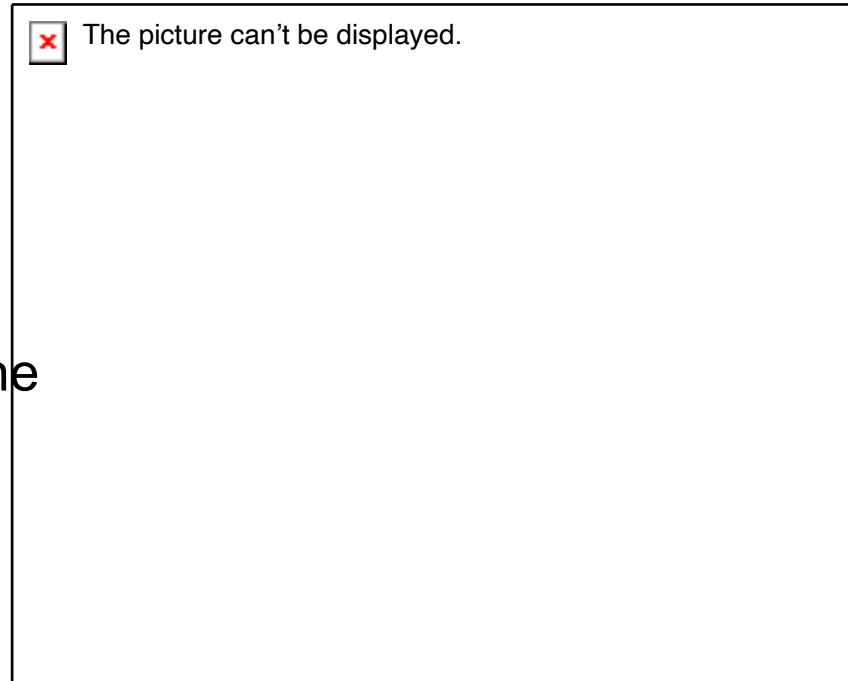
Economic turmoil and shifting development priorities

The evolving global health landscape

The increasing impact of climate change on health

About the Advocacy Roadmap

- Launched by the Global Fund in September 2023, the roadmap outlines objectives to guide its advocacy for the period 2023-2025, through the 8th Replenishment.
- Developed through a consultative process which involved internal stakeholders within the Global Fund Secretariat and external stakeholders from communities and civil society.
- Focuses on the work of the Political and Civil Society Advocacy (PCSA) department, in collaboration with other teams across the Secretariat.
- Outlines the concrete actions the Global Fund will take to sustain the advocacy ecosystem in support of the delivery of the objectives set out in the Global Fund's 2023-2028 Strategy.



Why is the Advocacy Roadmap needed?

The Context

The world is currently facing a confluence of crises due to conflict, climate change, the ongoing impact of COVID-19, and related global economic instability, which are:

- increasing inequality and polarization within countries and shifting alliances between them.
- setting back progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including those on health.
- contributing to increasing actions within countries to close civic space, curtail community and civil society advocacy, and restrict human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly related to gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights.
- threatening solidarity and cooperative action that is needed to achieve the goal of ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics.



**Community-led
and civil society
organizations are
central to the
implementation
of the Global
Fund Strategy**

The Roadmap's Objectives

- 1 Strengthen the leadership, engagement and funding of communities and civil society within the Global Fund's advocacy ecosystem.
 - 2 Mobilize increased financial support for HIV, TB and malaria responses and the Global Fund's mission in partnership with communities and civil society.
 - 3 Increase political support for HIV, TB and malaria, while contributing to health system strengthening, pandemic preparedness and response, and other factors that impact the Global Fund's work, within the evolving global health and development landscape.
 - 4 Leverage the Global Fund's diplomatic voice to protect and promote gender equality, human rights and equity, and challenge harmful and discriminatory laws, policies and practices.
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Focus of our discussion today

1 Strengthen the leadership, engagement and funding of communities and civil society within the Global Fund's advocacy ecosystem.

4 Leverage the Global Fund's diplomatic voice to protect and promote gender equality, human rights and equity, and challenge harmful and discriminatory laws, policies and practices.

1st Challenge:

Attacks on civil society and community organizing at the country level

1. The countries where the threats to civil society advocacy are greatest coincide with the countries where the Global Fund focuses its work (CIVICUS 2023, National Civic Space Ratings)

“Of the countries where the Global Fund supports programs for one or more of the diseases, 22 are classified as closed, mostly in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central and South Asia, where repression is extreme and any criticism of the state is met with severe penalties. Another 42 are classified as repressed, mostly in Africa, Asia, and Central America, and 32 are classified as obstructed, mostly in Africa and Asia.”

Between 2016 and 2021, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) documented more than 265 legal and administrative measures impacting civic space in **91 countries**.

Women’s rights and LGBTQI organizations and those working on other politically and socially sensitive issues, such as human rights, the environment, and youth are most targeted.

1st Challenge:

Attacks on civil society and community organizing at the country level

Some actions governments have taken to restrict civic space over the last decade governments have included:

- repressing rights related to freedom of expression, assembly, and association;
 - using broader laws such as those against terrorism to stifle dissenting speech;
 - using digital technologies to increase surveillance of civil society and community-based organizations;
 - blocking the ability to challenge rights violations in national courts and access to other accountability mechanisms;
 - restricting organizations from receiving funding from foreign sources, requiring those that do to register as “foreign agents,” suggesting that their advocacy is driven by external interests, rather than local needs; and
 - establishing administrative measures to that act as barriers to the registration and functioning of civil society and community organizations.
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2nd Challenge: Threats to civil society and community-led organizing at the international level

- The challenges that organizations face at the national level are also being reflected in international, UN-led decision-making spaces.
 - At the UN, participation is tightly controlled by governments. Organizations that work on LGBTQI rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and other politically sensitive issues often have their applications for UN accreditation deferred, sometimes for more than a decade.
 - At the World Health Assembly, CS participation is highly restricted, with limited opportunity for civil society organizations and communities to influence decisions that impact their lives.
 - Civil society engagement in new bodies, such as the Pandemic Fund, is not guaranteed and often challenging to secure.
 - At the same time, private sector/foundations, where basic accountabilities are absent, are playing an increasing role and have preferential access.
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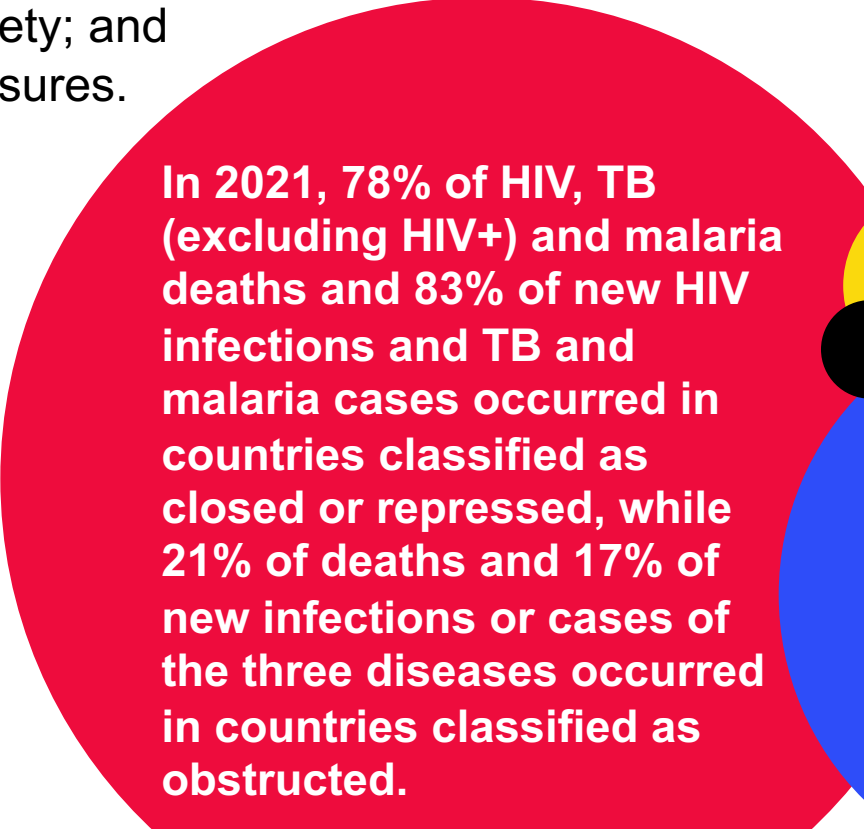
3rd Challenge: Decreasing funding for civil society and community-led advocacy

1. Funding for general operating support and advocacy is often hard for civil society and community-based organizations to mobilize and sustain, particularly in implementing countries.
 2. Most organizations receive short-term project support, primarily from foreign donor governments, international non-governmental organizations, and private foundations. They need to constantly adapt their programs to respond to changing donor priorities, rather than implement their own strategic plans that respond to the needs of the communities they serve.
 3. Most national governments prefer to fund civil society organizations to provide services, rather than advocacy.
 4. Donor governments and foundations are more likely to fund organizations in donor countries for work in implementing countries, than they are organizations in those countries directly.
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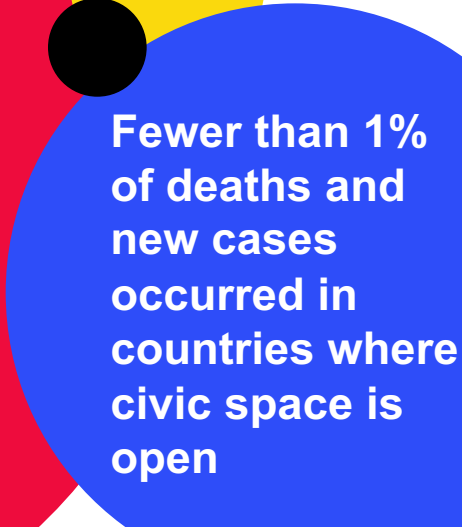
Objective 1

Strengthen leadership, participation and funding of communities and civil society within the Global Fund's advocacy ecosystem

- Increasing attacks on civic space, advocacy and limited access to funding are making it difficult for organizations to advocate for rights-based and equitable responses to the three diseases.
- Countries are increasingly taking actions that restrict freedom of expression, assembly and association; using digital technologies to increase surveillance of civil society; and restrict funding from foreign sources, among other measures.
- The countries where the threats are greatest coincide with many of the countries where the Global Fund works: more than three-quarters of countries that receive funding are classified as closed (22), repressed (43), or obstructed (34).
- The communities that are most deeply affected by the three diseases, and those that advocate for them, are often facing the greatest risks of government crack downs.



In 2021, 78% of HIV, TB (excluding HIV+) and malaria deaths and 83% of new HIV infections and TB and malaria cases occurred in countries classified as closed or repressed, while 21% of deaths and 17% of new infections or cases of the three diseases occurred in countries classified as obstructed.



Fewer than 1% of deaths and new cases occurred in countries where civic space is open

Objective 1

Strengthen leadership, participation and funding of communities and civil society within the Global Fund's advocacy ecosystem

- Many of the Global Funds' community-led and civil society advocacy partners are operating on shoestring budgets, with limited flexibility to conduct advocacy.
- State-imposed restrictions on funding for community-led and civil society organizations, have a particular impact on organizations that conduct advocacy, especially on issues related to human rights and key populations.
- Donor governments and foundations that support human rights advocacy are more likely to fund organizations in developed countries for their work in implementing countries than locally-based organizations directly.
- The number of private philanthropies that fund advocacy in the fields of HIV, TB and malaria is also shrinking. In 2020, just two donors—the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Gilead—provided more than 67% of funding to community-led and civil society organizations working on HIV, and most of that funding was for service delivery.



[C]ivil society organizations leading advocacy, education, community health monitoring, frontline community service delivery, human rights monitoring, and engagement with donors need more funding and longer-term partnerships, not less.

ICASO

Objective 1

Strengthen leadership, participation and funding of communities and civil society within the Global Fund's advocacy ecosystem

Outcomes:

- 1 Strengthened partnerships for advocacy with key community-led and civil society organizations, particularly those led by people living with and affected by the three diseases, key populations, young people, and women.
 - 2 Bridges built between community-led and civil society organizations, including those working on other global health issues and on the health-climate nexus.
 - 3 Community-led and civil society organizations within the Global Fund's advocacy ecosystem are sustainable and have the resources necessary to do their work.
 - 4 Strengthened advocacy for laws, policies, and practices that protect civic space and support community-led and civil society organizations.
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Key Actions

Outcome 3: Community-led and civil society organizations within the Global Fund's advocacy ecosystem are sustainable and have the resources necessary to do their work.

- A** From the PCSA annual budget, and to the extent possible, allocate funding for community-led and civil society organizations, including those led by key and vulnerable populations and young people, to coordinate and lead advocacy on the three diseases and in support of the Global Fund's mission at the country, regional and global levels.
- B** Incentivize and monitor investments in community-led and civil society organizations through Global Fund grants.
- C** Support community-led and civil society organizations to identify independent sources of funding and facilitate contact and dialogue between them and other donors, including multilateral organizations, governments, private sector, and private foundations, as feasible.

Key Actions

Outcome 3: Strengthened advocacy for laws, policies, and practices that protect civic space and support community-led and civil society organizations

- A** Develop messaging on and consistently communicate the Global Fund's support for civic space and the importance of ensuring that community-led and civil society organizations can operate freely, in social and traditional media and in Global Fund reports.
- B** Advocate for commitments that strengthen civic space and the meaningful engagement of community-led and civil society organizations in regional and global political forums.
- C** Use the Global Fund's leverage to advocate with governments and other decision-makers to engage communities and civil society in other health decision-making bodies.
 - Share the Global Fund's experience as a best practice.
 - Use access the Global Fund may have to other health forums to open space for community-led and civil society organizations and amplify messaging from them.

Key Actions


Outcome 4: Strengthened advocacy for laws, policies, and practices that protect civic space and support community-led and civil society organizations

- D** During country missions by Global Fund leadership, Country Teams and Fund Portfolio Managers (FPMs), ensure dedicated time to meet with civil society and communities, as set out in the Strategy.
- E** In countries where existing or proposed laws or regulations impact the engagement of community-led or civil society organizations in Global Fund processes and grants, work with affected organizations to understand the nature of the threat and support advocacy for change, including through use of the Global Fund's diplomatic voice.

Objective 4

Leverage the Global Fund's diplomatic voice to protect and promote gender equality, human rights and equity, and challenge harmful and discriminatory laws, policies and practices

- Women's rights, LGBTQ+, sex workers', and drug user's organizations, and those working on human rights, harm reduction, and youth have been targets of restrictions in many of countries, including those countries where the Global Fund supports programs.
- The Advocacy Roadmap commits to:
 - clearly and consistently communicate the Global Fund's values and support for human rights, gender equality, and health equity.
 - develop and consistently use messaging on the impacts of harmful laws, policies, and practices in media campaigns, in a manner consistent with the "do no harm" principle and in collaboration with community-led and civil society organizations.
 - report publicly on actions taken to advance human rights, gender equality, and equity and oppose harmful laws, policies, and practices, while safeguarding confidentiality and in a manner consistent with the "do no harm" principle.



Community-led organizations have been subject to harassment, forcibly closed, denied registration, or otherwise curtailed in their ability to operate. Individuals and activists have been arrested, subjected to violence, and in some cases killed. Online abuse and harassment towards these communities is also increasing, forcing advocates into the shadows.

Objective 4

Leverage the Global Fund's diplomatic voice to protect and promote gender equality, human rights and equity, and challenge harmful and discriminatory laws, policies and practices



Outcome:

1

Strengthened advocacy for human rights, gender equality, and health equity.

Key Actions

Outcome 1: Strengthened advocacy for human rights, gender equality, and health equity.

- A** Report publicly on actions taken to advance human rights, gender equality, and equity and oppose harmful laws, policies, and practices, while safeguarding confidentiality and in a manner consistent with the “do no harm” principle.
- B** Support community-led organizations, particularly those led by criminalized and marginalized communities, and civil society organizations to document the impacts of harmful laws and policies on HIV, TB and malaria responses.
- C** In global and regional political forums, advocate in partnership with communities and civil society for strong commitments to gender equality, human rights, and health equity, and for the elimination of harmful laws, policies, and practices, in a manner consistent with the “do no harm” principle.

Key Actions

Outcome 1: Strengthened advocacy for human rights, gender equality, and health equity.

- D** Clearly and consistently communicate the Global Fund's values and support for human rights, gender equality, and health equity.
- E** Highlight best practices on human rights, gender equality, and health equity in Global Fund-supported programs in communications materials.
- F** In collaboration with community-led and civil society organizations, develop and consistently use messaging on the impacts of harmful laws, policies, and practices in media campaigns, in a manner consistent with the “do no harm” principle.

Accountability and looking ahead

The PCSA Department will:

- 1 Coordinate with and support other departments within the Secretariat to implement the advocacy roadmap.
 - 2 Report annually on the implementation of the advocacy roadmap.
 - 3 Hold virtual briefings annually with communities and civil society to update them on implementation and identify where adjustments are needed because of emerging opportunities or the changing geopolitical context.
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Questions for discussion

1. When it comes to leadership, funding and engagement of civil society, which actions do you see as most urgent?
2. When it comes to the use of the diplomatic voice, which actions do you see as most urgent?
3. How can communities and civil society use the Advocacy Roadmap as an accountability tool?

Thank you!

To download the Advocacy Roadmap, visit:
<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/civil-society/>



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The Global Fund to Fight
AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

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