



EURO HEALTH GROUP

GFF Evaluation

CSO's Analysis Report

September 2024

1. Approach and Methodology

1.1: Approach

To accomplish the assignment, a participatory approach was adopted utilizing multiple methodologies for the different segments of the assignment.

Participatory approaches allow for greater participation and meaningful engagement of stakeholders in the co-creation process leading to ownership and believability of the outcomes of the assessment.

1.2: Methods

A method mix approach was adopted for this consultancy work responding to the different phases of the assessment. The main methods adopted for this consultancy will include the following:

1.2.1: Document reviews: Relevant documents were reviewed to provide in-depth understanding of the GFF work and triangulate data from key informant interviews. Among the core documents reviewed included.

- Applying a primary health care approach to investments provided by the Global Financing Facility¹

1.2.2: Key informant interviews: Targeted interviews with selected individuals who have in-depth knowledge of the GFF work both at the global and national level were identified and interviewed. Using Key informants is an important approach as it provides a big-picture idea of the situation. The information gathered comes from people who have relevant knowledge and insight on the subject under evaluation. Key informant interviews allow for new and unanticipated issues and ideas to emerge. A total of 6 KIIs were conducted with CSO respondents.

1.2.3: Country case studies: Case studies offer unique benefits by providing in-depth information that otherwise could not have been created.

Four (4) Case studies from Ethiopia, Malawi, Code d'Ivoire, and Pakistan were documented and reviewed for evaluation.

1.2.4: Overview of CSOs consulted (number, organization, type of organization (e.g. focus– gender, youth, health, SRHR) country, involvement with the GFF, involvement with CPs; how feedback was obtained e.g. global KII or country case study KII)

The evaluation ensured a diverse spread of respondents across different cadres including those with global affiliation to the GFF process and those that are engaged in GFF processes at the country level. The table below presents the distribution of respondents by the different characteristics.

¹ https://extranet.who.int/uhcpartnership/sites/default/files/media_documents/GFF-Overview_0.pdf

Country	Organization	Type of organization	Respondent position in organization	Gender	Involvement with the GFF
Cote d'Ivoire	ASAPSU	CSO	Advocacy manager	Male	Youth representative at the Investors group
Ghana		CSO	Executive Director	Female	Global CSO Representative
Liberia	Public Health Initiative	CSO	Executive Director	Female	CSO Coordinating Host
Sierra Leone	Health Alert Sierra Leone	CSO		Male	
USA	Global Health Initiative	CSO			
USA	PAI	CSO			

1.2.5: Data analysis

Qualitative data analysis was done by reviewing interviews with respondents and grouping responses into key themes. These formed the basis of opinion in the final analysis of the assessment.

2. Findings

The GFF commitment is better described as a mechanism to ensure all women, children and adolescents can survive and thrive². The GFF mechanism launched by the United Nations in July 2015 aims to harness both domestic and international resources, including expertise using a multistakeholder platform to meet reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N) targets set in the 2030 sustainable development Goals.

2.1: Alignment, coordination and prioritization

Respondents highlighted several ways that the GFF works to support coordination and alignment of donors and other agencies supporting health and RMNCAH-N. Among the core ways identified by respondents include: -

- **The GFF investors group:** - Majority of the respondents said that the establishment of the investors group as one of the ways that the GFF fosters coordination : The investors group is a multistakeholder platform that brings together governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, UN agencies, Gavi, and the Global Fund and private foundations. The group convenes regularly and fosters alignment of GFF investments at the country level and serves as an advisory board to the GFF secretariat.

² https://extranet.who.int/uhcpartnership/sites/default/files/media_documents/GFF-Overview_0.pdf

“...The first thing I can say is the investors group at the Global level... The investors group is a multistakeholder platform that brings donors, civil society and government representatives...Because you have all the partners at the investors group meeting, the Government representatives will for example express the needs and gaps that they want support. The same way Civil society also express their needs, and the investors also share on what they can do and how they can support. So, this is the first example of how GFF supports coordination and alignment of donors and other agencies”

Youth representative

“...I think globally, the GFF helps to align donors around key RMNCAH-N priorities...Like the investors group, the trust fund committee, like any GFF strategy... they get behind specific priorities, like gender equality, SRH, youth. Mm-hmm. And so, in that way, globally, the GFF doesn't coordinate donors, but it creates a forum for them to come together”.

- **The GFF national platform:** - Majority of the respondents identified the country GFF platform as another structure that GFF supports coordination and alignment of RMNCAH-N investments. The national GFF platform is also a multistakeholder platform that brings together the different government ministries (Ministry of health, ministry of planning), the health budget committee, civil society, and donors. At the country level the GFF platforms convenes stakeholders to discuss the main RMNCAH-N issues and how best to respond to them

“...There is the GFF national platform and this platform in some countries like Cote d'Ivoire is led by the prime minister...at the GFF platform we discuss about what are the main issues in the country and how best to respond to the issues... This is another good example of how GFF supports coordination and alignment of donors and other partners”.

Respondent from Cote d'Ivoire

- **The Global Youth platform:** - Some respondents also mentioned the global youth platform as another established mechanism that the GFF uses to foster coordination and improve alignment of GFF investments.

“...The GFF youth platform ensure that youth are actively engaged both at the Global Investors group and the country GFF platform to share experiences of youth that inform GFF programs on RMNCAH-N”

Youth representative respondent

- **Clear Action oriented strategic Plan:** - The GFF has an elaborate action oriented strategic plan that provides guidance on critical issues and strategic areas of focus that stakeholders need to observe. Having an action oriented strategic plan allows stakeholders to align their efforts to realizing a common goal.

“...the GFF has an evidence-based action oriented strategic plan that improves alignment to a common goal of achieving RMNCAH-N targets”

CSO representative respondent

- Joint resource mapping and channeling: - The GFF supports the development of country investment cases where all stakeholders take part in its development. The country investment cases set out the national priorities and are contributed to by all stakeholders.
- Country RMNCAH-N technical working group: - Some of the respondents cited the establishment of the RMNCAH-N technical working groups (TWG) at the country level as another approach that the GFF fosters increased coordination and alignment of prioritized issues. The RMNCAH-N TWG are traditionally multistakeholder in nature ensuring different stakeholders (Government, technical partners, private sector, donors and CSOs) are involved.

“...The TWG is an important coordination structure as TWG members meets regularly and besides discussing the RMNCAH-N progress made also reviews the RMNCAH-N plan and make recommendations for improvement” ...

CSO Representative respondent

Besides the various ways identified that supports GFF coordination and alignment, some respondents thought that this was not enough. The lack of visibility of GFF at the country level was seen as one of the drawbacks to effective coordination.

Some respondents cited the example of the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism that is fully funded by the Global Fund to coordinate partners in overseeing the implementation of the Global Fund country grant as a good example that ensures continued and regular partner engagement and coordination. They recommended that the GFF could adopt a similar approach by establishing fully funded country structures that supports partner engagement and coordination.

2.2: Inclusion of diverse voices

SRHR and RMNCAH-N are context specific and different groups may be impacted differently depending on prevailing circumstance. Inclusion of diverse voices is therefore key to realizing desired RMNCAH-N outcomes. Respondents were asked to provide their perspectives on how they thought the GFF facilitated inclusion of diverse voices in the different platforms.

- **GFF platforms are multistakeholder:** - The GFF platforms both at the global level and at the national level are multistakeholder and involve different stakeholders that have interest in RMNCAH-N including CSO's and youth representatives. This ensure that the voices of communities are represented on the decision-making table.

“...Because we are from the communities, and we sit at the GGF platform we also share our realities as lived by communities. Thanks to this mechanism because it brings different stakeholders together and the same thing/same priorities are agreed upon by all. This ensures that the agreed priorities reflect the concerns and challenges faced by people in the country...”

Youth representative

respondent

- **Inclusive joint priority setting:** The country investment case that informs the country priorities was cited by majority of the respondents as an inclusive process that brings together the voices of diverse groups and stakeholders including youths in determining the RMNCAH-N priorities.
- **Inclusive decision making:** The implementation of the GFF investments in the country is managed through an inclusive process. The country multistakeholder platforms allow for inclusive decision making by all stakeholders.

“... So, when we meet, we discuss the progress of the implementation actions and look at various policies that contribute to the realization of the set priorities as prioritized in the investment case”.

Further respondents agreed that the GFF expects that country investment plans are developed through a consultative process led by the country platforms to make sure priorities are jointly determined by the different stakeholders.

“Because the GFF. Mm-hmm. Mm... The GFF kind of expects that an investment case will be developed through a country platform...”

- **Representation in decision making:** Some respondents agreed that the level of engagement for civil society is not sufficient to ensure civil society are adequately engaged in decision making.

“...like I was saying earlier, we have the country GFF platform that is a Multi stakeholder platform, but civil society organizations are hardly involved in the development of the investment case, especially the review of country level priorities...”

Limited representation in country GFF platforms: - Some respondents reported limited representation of some community groups such as the youth in the country GFF platforms. This limits the potential to include diverse voices in country GFF processes including the development of the investment case.

“...for example, the GFF platform at the national level, we don't have a representative of youth led organization. This is something we should do, because youth are the majority, so we need to have more of them at the decision-making table...”

Simplified communication materials about GFF: - Some respondents had the perspective that the GFF does not have simplified materials that enable civil society and communities to easily understand what GFF is and how they can be part of it.

“...Also, there is need to have simplified information sheets on GFF for communities and civil society organizations out in the communities to better understand the work of GFF and how they can engage. If the country platform can do that, it will improve the work of GFF and foster sustainability of what is being done...”

Overall respondents agree that there is evidence of inclusion in the GFF implementation process through the existing multistakeholder platforms. However, some of the members agreed that more can be done to further amplify inclusion of diverse voices in the decision-making process.

“...I have to say that we need more national platform meetings. Even as I commend the current incredible work being done to ensure the GFF platform brings members together to discuss the progress of RMNCAH-N in the country... there is need for more meetings on a more regular basis to make sure that we can determine what is going on well and what is not going on well to provide timely solution to improve implementation...”

2.3: Contribution of GFF in strengthening health systems to deliver and sustain high quality health services for women, children and adolescents

Platform for prioritization; - Majority of the respondents acknowledged that GFF existence has provided a platform for prioritization where partners and stakeholders are able to raise issues to be prioritized and accorded more attention.

“...While the issue may already be an issue well known by the Government and already a priority in its agenda, the fact that it is identified in the country investment case and prioritized by the GFF platform makes it more elevated and likely to be given more attention...”

Aligning partner interests with national priorities; - Majority of the respondents had the perspective that the GFF investment case provides a frame upon which partners can align their interest with agreed country priorities as reflected in the investment case. This ensures common focus in strengthening health systems and cultivating sustainability.

“...GFF supports countries to highlight their priorities that are aligned with their national priorities but also hold the Government to account because the different partners comprising the national GFF platform demands accountability from the government...”

Platform for accountability: - respondents also had the perspective that the GFF provides a platform for accountability where partners and stakeholders can hold government to account for the investments made on RMNCAH-N. This helps to sustain efforts towards health service delivery and systems strengthening.

“...the GFF platform has many partners and thanks to this arrangement because this improves accountability on the part of the government to deliver.

There are donors who seek to understand how their investments are contributing to progress while civil society holds the government to account for targeted implementation...”

2.4: - How the GFF supports delivery of services including partnership with the private sector?

Majority of the respondents did not have a direct answer on how the GFF supports service delivery including partnerships with the private sector.

Some respondents however cited the inclusion of the private sector as donors in the investment group platform as one of the ways that the GFF supports service delivery by harnessing the power of the private sector to invest in health service delivery.

Other respondents were however categorical that they did not know how the GFF supports service delivery especially in partnership with the private sector.

2.5: How the GFF supports countries to track expenditures on RMNCAH-N

Majority of the respondents acknowledged that the GFF plays a critical role in holding governments accountable for resources allocated to RMNCAH-N

The multi-stakeholder country GFF platform was strongly mentioned by majority of the respondents as a space where stakeholders can question how the government and any other GFF implementing entity have spent resources allocated to them to implement prioritized interventions. This enables stakeholders to track expenditures on RMNCAH-N implementation arrangements.

3.0: GFF and the WB

Respondents asked to present their perspectives on what they thought of the GFF and the World Bank. Respondents were asked to comment on how well the GFF is integrated with and supported by World Bank operations at the country level.

Majority of the respondents reported that the GFF and the world bank are independent entities.

Some of the respondent acknowledged that they did not know how GFF is integrated with the world bank operations at the country level.

Other respondents reported that the GFF is hosted by the World Bank as the GFF focal person is normally stationed at the world bank offices, but that is all they can say.

“...This is how I see the World Bank. I see the World Bank as maybe the place where the GFF is hosted, in the country...”

While a few of the respondents acknowledged the collaboration or partnership between the GFF and the World Bank, their perspective was that the two should remain independent.

A few more respondents however had the perspective that because the GFF focal person is hosted by the World bank in the country then the World Bank may be providing infrastructural support to the GFF including management of funds using the already established World Bank financial systems.

Overall, there isn't much knowledge from civil society regarding how the GFF is integrated with and supported by the World bank operations.

4.0: GFF's value add and contribution

According to the civil society respondents interviewed, the GFF has several important processes and arrangements that add value to the implementation of RMNCAH-N interventions. Among the cited GFF value add include the following: -

Partner coordination: - Most respondents cited the partner coordination approach of the GFF as one of the core value additions of the GFF. This helps partners align their interests to the national agreed priorities as set in the GFF investment case.

Streamlining priorities: - The GFF develops an investment case that guides the implementation of prioritized RMNCAH-N interventions.

Targeted RMNCAH-N interventions: - Respondents agreed that the GFF offers complementary resources to fill in the priority RMNCAH-N gaps that are not covered by already ongoing government or other donor supported programs. The complementarity nature of the GFF investment is seen by majority of the respondents as a strong value add component to RMNCAH-N programming.

Inclusivity: - Majority of the respondents cited the inclusivity nature of the GFF platforms both at the national level (the GFF national platform) and at the Global level (the investors group). This ensures that diverse voices from different partners are given an opportunity to be heard in the determination of priorities

“...The second value add is the involvement of civil society and youth organization in all the projects supported through GFF... This is also a key element of the value that GFF programs have...”

Joint priority setting: Some respondents reported that the inclusion of civil society and other partners in developing the investment case is an added value to ensuring the investment case reflects the people's priorities.

Strategic advocacy: - some respondents reported that the GFF platforms provides an opportunity to advocate for accountability and increased domestic resources for RMNCAH-N. This is because when partners come together at the GFF country platform they can ask duty bearers to account for GFF investments but also advocate for governments to increased domestic budgets to RMNCAH-N.

“...Another element is the advocacy piece that GFF brings to the table. Partners can advocate for increased domestic funding for RMNCAH-N during the national GFF platform meetings where the government responsible ministries are represented...”

4.1: What contribution has GFF made to ensure services reach those who are most in need?

Majority of the respondents acknowledged that the GFF investments have greatly supported the expansion of RMNCAH-N services that reach the underserved populations.

Other respondents cited the development of the investment case that is country driven as a way of ensuring issue priorities affecting the marginalized communities are brought out, prioritized and investments directed towards addressing these issues.

However, some respondents agreed that there is still a lot that need to be done to ensure the GFF investments becomes even more meaningful and impactful. Among the proposed recommendations included the following: -

- **Funding for CSOs:** - The GFF, to make sure that in the next funding cycle, they should be able to have the flexibility to fund directly CSOs in the implementing country. This will increase the autonomy of CSOs to be able to manage the implementation funds directly and GFF should support provide capacity strengthening support for CSOs.
- **Capacity Building for CSOs:** - CSOs need to be capacity strengthened to be able to manage resources and implement programs themselves and not always being under the guidance of another entity Let them manage their own funds concerning the project that they have defined
- **Longer term technical support and financing:** - In future there should be longer term advocacy funding for civil society because to do advocacy requires long term planning and implementation. There is need to have two-

or three-years funding for CSOs, and not support for one or two activities then no funding is left to continue any other activities

4.2: Main challenges and barriers and what GFF could do to address them

- Decentralize GFF national platforms. People at the country level do not know the existence of GFF except a few because the GFF does not have decentralized structures. Respondents reported that if GFF has decentralized structures then it will be easy to identify local challenges and ensure priorities are aligned to address the local issues and priorities.
- Invest in strengthening the capacity of civil society and communities to identify issues and shape the priorities within the country investment case
- Increase financial support to civil society to implement programs that address the priorities identified at the GFF national platform.

5.0 Summary of Key CSO Findings

Thematic Area	Key CSO Perspectives
Alignment, Coordination and Prioritization	• GFF provides coordination platforms both at the Global Level and national level that are multisectoral and inclusive of different stakeholders • Inclusion of diverse voices in decision making process • Coordinated Joint investment case development • National priorities determined by different national stakeholders including civil society • Partners align their interests to the national priorities identified in the investment case ensuring a common focus by all stakeholders • Avoid duplication of efforts as different stakeholders including donors are represented in the different GFF platforms such as the investors group where donors direct their investments to priority gap areas that are not already funded. Contrary perspectives on coordination • Decentralize GFF platforms
Inclusion of diverse voices	• GFF platforms are multistakeholder that brings together diverse partners Contrary perspective

	• There is need to ensure more representation of youth and other marginalized groups in GFF platforms
GFF and the world bank	• Majority of the respondents have no idea how the GFF is integrated with then World bank operations at the country level • Respondents understand that the GFF and the world bank are independent entities • Other respondents reported that the GFF is only hosted by the World Bank as the GFF focal person is normally stationed at the world bank offices • Some respondents agree that because the GFF focal person is hosted by the World bank in the country then the World Bank may be providing infrastructural support to the GFF including management of funds using the already established World Bank financial systems. • Overall, there isn't much knowledge from civil society regarding how the GFF is integrated with and supported by the World bank operations.
GFF value add and contribution	Partner coordination: - Most respondents cited the partner coordination approach of the GFF as one of the core value additions of the GFF. Streamlining priorities: - The GFF develops an investment case that guides the implementation of prioritized RMNCAH-N interventions. Targeted RMNCAH-N interventions: - Respondents agreed that the GFF offers complementary resources to fill in the priority RMNCAH-N gaps that are not covered by already ongoing government or other donor supported programs. Inclusivity: - Majority of the respondents cited the inclusivity nature of the GFF platforms both at the national level (the GFF national platform) and at the Global level (the investors group). Joint priority setting: Some respondents reported that the inclusion of civil society and other partners in developing the investment case is an added value to ensuring the investment case reflects the people's priorities. Strategic advocacy: - some respondents reported that the GFF platforms provides an opportunity to advocate

	for accountability and increased domestic resources for RMNCAH-N.
Contribution of GFF to ensure services access	• Development of the investment case that is country driven as a way of ensuring issue priorities affecting the marginalized communities are spelled out for action. What needs to be done • Funding for CSOs: - The GFF, to make sure that in the next funding cycle, they should be able to have the flexibility to fund directly CSOs in the implementing country. • Capacity Building for CSOs: - CSOs need to be capacity strengthened to be able to manage resources and implement programs themselves and not always being under the guidance of other entities. • Longer term technical support and financing: - In future there should be longer term advocacy funding for civil society because to do advocacy requires long term planning and implementation.
Challenges and barriers and what GFF could do to address them	• Decentralize GFF national platforms. People at the country level do not know the existence of GFF except a few because the GFF does not have decentralized structures. • Invest in strengthening the capacity of civil society and communities to identify issues and shape the priorities within the country's investment case • Increase financial support to civil society to implement programs that address the priorities identified at the GFF national platform.