

Civil Society & Communities Town Hall: Pandemic Fund Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

7-8pm WIB (Jakarta) 3-4pm EAT (Nairobi) 1-2pm BST (London) 8-9am EDT (New York)

6-7am CST (Mexico City)

NOTES AND READOUT

Interim Civil Society Board Member **Elisha Dunn-Georgiou** (Global Health Council), along with alternate Board Members Nitish Debnath (One Health Bangladesh) and Olya Golichenko (Frontline AIDS), held a Civil Society & Communities Town Hall on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. The Town Hall provided a readout from the March Pandemic Fund Board in-person Meeting, and updates from the First Call for Proposals process, the permanent civil society board representative selection process and a proposal for establishing a civil society engagement mechanism. The Pandemic Fund Secretariat (Priya Basu) also joined the meeting to provide an update. Feedback, reflections, and priority-sharing from civil society and community colleagues were invited.

Updates from Pandemic Fund Governing Board Meeting

Board Updates

- The first in-person Pandemic Fund Board Retreat was held in Washington, DC from March 20–22, 2023.
- Retreat objectives:
 - Strengthen working relationships;
 - Make progress on a plan for how to allocate financing to proposals under the first Call for Proposals;
 - Discuss strategy and resource mobilization;
 - Brainstorm on governance issues and working processes, build a shared understanding of the constituency system, and make progress in preparing for the Board reset in May 2023.

Resource Mobilization Strategy

- Representatives of other multilateral funds — Gavi, Global Financing Facility, Global Fund, and GFF – shared their experiences and lessons learned on what it takes to mount an effective resource mobilization campaign — including a well-capacitated fund secretariat with the proper skillset and a well-organized, well-resourced coalition of civil society and other external advocates and champions.
- There have been recent discussions with the Pandemic Fund governing board as to whether the Pandemic Fund should add emergency surge financing as part of its mandate; the emerging consensus is that it is too soon to add this to the Pandemic Fund's portfolio and would require a much larger resource mobilization effort.
- Need to think beyond Official Development Assistance (ODA) and explore other sources and innovative options, e.g. defense and other non-ODA government budgets, philanthropies, and private sector.
- US\$1.6B mobilized as of April 2023 against a US\$10.5B annual funding target. A resource mobilization strategy will be developed in summer of 2023 and is expected to launch in late 2023 or early 2024.

Board Reset and Selection

- Interim board seats of sovereign co-investors, philanthropies and civil society organizations are due to reset in May 2023. Constituencies will self-organize the selection of their permanent seat representatives.

First Call for Proposals

- Interested Eligible Countries, Regional Entities and Implementing Entities are invited to

submit proposals for potential projects to be supported by this initial funding. — Applications are due **May 19, 2023**.

- Civil society organizations can't apply independently, they will need to work with implementing entities to submit a proposal.
- The Pandemic Fund Governing Board has approved an envelope of US\$300M in financing for its first round.
- This Call for Proposals will prioritize high-impact investments in:
 - i) comprehensive disease surveillance and early warning;
 - ii) laboratory systems; and
 - iii) human resources and public health and community workforce capacity, in line with relevant Joint External Evaluation 3rd edition (JEE) targets, National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), One Health and related national and regional health and community systems strengthening plans, as applicable, as well as with the [Pandemic Fund's Results Framework](#).
- Process: the [Technical Advisory Panel \(TAP\)](#) expert panel will review proposals on a technical merit before making recommendations to the Board.
- Expression of Interest (EOI): received 650 EOIs from over 100 countries requesting grant funding of over US\$7B.
 - **The demand for additional grant resources far exceeds the available Fund resources to date — clear need for resource mobilization and additional funding.**

Update on selection process of new CSO board representatives

- WACI Health, the Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations (EANNASO), Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) and STOPAIDS — are inviting applications for Global North and South civil society (CSO) representatives to the Pandemic Fund Governance Board. Deadline was April 6, 2023..
- The selection for the Global North Process was reopened and the deadline for nominations was extended to May 4, 2023.
 - To apply, the [full terms of reference](#) for this role are here and send the following to admin@globalfundadvocatesnetwork.org.
- Global South Process — call for applications closed. Received 31 strong applications.
- Global South and North representatives will be selected by Friday, May 12, 2023.

A proposal for establishing a permanent, independent, and well-resourced civil society engagement mechanism is currently being developed

- Since September 2022, there has been an interim support team to the Interim Civil Society Board Members.
- [A proposal](#) for a formal permanent, independent, and well-resourced civil society engagement mechanism has been developed.
- The proposal draws from best practices of global health institutions to cover delegations and support board members, to engage broad civil societies as well as possible financing mechanisms.
- The proposal is being developed based on mechanisms at the Global Financing Facility and Global Partnership for Education.
- The mechanism would be responsible for key functions including:
 - Providing coordination, technical and communications support for the nomination, selection, and participation of civil society Board Members.
 - Providing a virtual forum to provide information for interested CSOs about the Pandemic Fund and to seek timely feedback from civil society from the Global North and South on issues for discussion at the Governance Board, making sure that the board can be inclusive.
 - Supporting the development of civil society resources and tools to enable and

- support their engagement in Pandemic Fund activities.
- Financing for permanent support structure is needed.
- **Next steps:** The proposal is open for civil society and community feedback until **May 5, 2023**.

Closing & Next Steps

- More information from the Pandemic Fund Board on processes to come.
- Additional support that can be provided to civil society representatives:
 - CS will need to work very closely with their Ministries of Health and government to ensure CS are adequately engaged and consulted in the proposal process, especially on surveillance and other work at the community level.

Resources

- [The Technical Advisory Panel \(TAP\)](#)
- [The Pandemic Fund Results Framework](#)
- [Additional Funding From C19RM and the New Pandemic Fund](#)
- Models for CSO Engagement:
 - [Country Coordinating Mechanism Policy Including Principles and Requirements](#)
 - Global Fund — [COVID-19 Response Mechanism Information Note](#)
- One Health High-Level Expert Panel — [Prevention of Zoonotic Spillover](#)
- [WHO led courses](#) — useful to get the overview of the national processes ([more here](#)).
- [WHO RFP to partner with WHO](#) — deadline is April 30.
 - [WHO supportive documents](#).

Annex: Questions & Answer

Question: The first call for proposals includes the health workforce — has any effort been made to consult or include health worker professional associations or their unions in proposal design? Or community health workers (CHWs) representatives?

Response: There is very strong recognition by the Pandemic Fund that pandemic starts from the community. The way the Fund works is that it announces to countries and so that countries can work together to develop and submit the proposal. The proposal call has emphasized communities. There will be an initial screening, then the technical advisory panel will review the proposals, if there is no engagement of the communities then it's likely to not be scored higher. It has been made clear that proposals must engage communities.

Question: Can you share the terms of reference for the Civil Society Representatives, so we can share with our networks?

Response: [Full terms of reference](#) here.

Question: Can you share more on the Pandemic Fund's resource mobilization strategy and the proposal for the Pandemic Fund to incorporate surge financing in its mandate? Is there a strategy to include non-ODA financing through either of these strategies?

Response: Resource mobilization strategies had been discussed at the board retreat. There is limited ODA and there needs to be looking at creative sources such as defense budgets (non-ODA govt budgets), from philanthropies, private sectors.

Question: Request to clarify the role and linkages of the Global Fund COVID-19 Funds in the Pandemic Fund.

Response: The Global Fund has at least US\$350M funds available in unspent funds from its C19 emergency mechanism, and discussions are underway as to how these funds could be made available to support country proposals to the Pandemic Fund.

Question: What is the inclusivity in the board? Will the deadline for the proposals be moved?

Response: The TAP represents 21 experts with a range of expertise, the board representatives are diverse multi-stakeholders from the global north and south.

Question: Will the deadline for the proposals be moved?

Response: No, May 19 is the hard deadline.

Question: Will the Pandemic Fund's Secretariat be disclosing high-level data on the proposals received after the submission deadline? For example, number of proposals received, implementing entities, priorities covered, financing requested, etc.

Response: We will and we are committed to transparency. Information will be shared on what is received, what was funded and not funded.

Question: On the Results Framework — there seems to be limited information on preventing zoonotic spillover, is there something included that is more upstream than surveillance?

Response: The focus of the first Call for Proposals are on 3 areas: surveillance, laboratories, health workforce, [please review the website](#) for more on the Results Framework.

Question: Will the call for proposals be updated in the future and what about the broad architecture of pandemic preparedness health services indicators?

Response: The framework is broader, but the indicators are tailored for the first call for proposals. There is a strong recognition that preparedness and prevention have to be linked to health systems strengthening.

Question: Will the resource mobilization strategy incorporate the necessary guardrails and safeguards where mobilizing funds from the private sector/ private sector engagement is concerned, in order to ensure equity is upheld?