

## **IPPF recommendations ahead of the November 2018 Global Financing Facility (GFF) replenishment event: *Four concrete asks for GFF investors and stakeholders***

The current first replenishment of the GFF Trust Fund is an important moment to take stock of the GFF as a financing mechanism, assess successes and challenges encountered in its implementation to date, and apply learnings and make improvements to the GFF model as it enters its next phase.

IPPF recognises the potential of the GFF to increase resources available for sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (SRMNCAH+N) from different funding sources and welcomes its efforts to rally SRMNCAH+N stakeholders around country-developed Investment Cases determining country priorities for investment and ensure better alignment of external support. Yet, we also see several challenges to the GFF living up to its ambitions.<sup>1</sup>

As the GFF undergoes its first replenishment and enters a new phase in its implementation, we call upon GFF stakeholders and investors, including existing and new donors to the GFF Trust Fund, to ensure the following:

- Increased transparency and clarity of GFF communications on resources mobilised, including for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Commitment to a holistic understanding of SRHR in GFF processes, in line with the integrated definition of SRHR put forward by the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission
- Strengthened focus on domestic resource mobilisation and vigilance as to the potential adverse effects of the GFF funding model on the sustainability of health financing in GFF focus countries
- Improved structures for civil society engagement with GFF processes, particularly at national level

### **1) Increased transparency and clarity of GFF communications on resources mobilised, including for SRHR**

The GFF seeks to use a small amount of grant resources provided through the GFF Trust Fund to mobilise much larger amounts of funding in the form of World Bank loans, domestic government and private sector resources as well as aligned external donor funding. However, only very limited information is available on funding provided in support of GFF Investment Cases from domestic government, private sector and external donor sources. Resource mappings included in the latest GFF portfolio overview from April 2018 and its 2017-2018 Annual Report do not offer detail on the funding shares they include or explain how these relate to the respective Investment Cases.

- The GFF should provide clearer and more concrete information on funding mobilised in support of Investment Cases from all funding sources. Resource mappings provided by the GFF should give more detail on the different funding shares and explain the criteria for their inclusion in the mappings.

A GFF factsheet on SRHR released in 2017<sup>2</sup> suggested that SRHR had been identified as a priority in all of the then 16 GFF focus countries, and that nearly 30 per cent of GFF Trust Fund and linked International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) financing “contribute to SRHR”. However, no further detail or breakdown of this figure was provided, and no information was given on support for SRHR from other funding sources, beyond GFF Trust Fund and IDA/IBRD resources. A revised GFF factsheet on SRHR,<sup>3</sup> released shortly after the announcement of ten new focus countries in November 2017, said that SRHR had been identified as a priority within the RMNCAH-N continuum in all of the then 26 GFF focus countries but did not explain how this assessment was made. A GFF press release from September 2018 suggests that “family planning [accounts] for about 30% of the GFF’s funding in countries”, but again without explaining how this figure was arrived at.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See IPPF (February 2018). TAKING STOCK: IPPF Recommendations on the Global Financing Facility. Available at: [https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/GFF\\_Recommendations\\_IPPF\\_Feb2018.pdf](https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/GFF_Recommendations_IPPF_Feb2018.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> This factsheet is no longer available on the GFF website.

<sup>3</sup> GFF (undated). Fact Sheet, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Available at: [https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff\\_new/files/SRHR\\_GFF-FactSheet-EN.pdf](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/SRHR_GFF-FactSheet-EN.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> GFF (September 2018). Press Release: Government of the Netherlands Invests US\$68 Million in the Global Financing Facility to Accelerate Progress on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Available at: <https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/government-netherlands-invests-us68-million-global-financing-facility-accelerate-progress-sexual-and>.

- The GFF should provide clearer and more specific information on the funding support it provides for SRHR, including family planning. It should explain how it has calculated its estimates suggesting that family planning accounts for about 30% of GFF funding and that nearly 30% of GFF Trust Fund and IDA/IBRD resources contribute to SRHR and should provide a breakdown of these figures.

## **2) Commitment to a holistic understanding of SRHR in GFF processes, in line with the integrated definition of SRHR put forward by the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission**

A recently released Guttmacher-Lancet Commission report<sup>5</sup> underscores the centrality of realising sexual and reproductive rights to achieving sexual and reproductive health. It puts forward an integrated definition of SRHR reflecting this along with a recommended essential package of SRHR services and information, which, aside from contraceptive services, maternal and newborn care, and prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, includes the often less commonly provided components of: care for sexually transmitted infections other than HIV; comprehensive sexuality education; safe abortion care; prevention, detection and treatment of infertility and cervical cancer; and counselling and care for sexual health and wellbeing. The package is recommended for inclusion in national and international plans and frameworks that work towards universal health coverage, with special attention to the poorest and most vulnerable people.

- The GFF should endorse the integrated definition of SRHR put forward by the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission and embrace the recommended essential package of SRHR services and information throughout its operations.

## **3) Strengthened focus on domestic resource mobilisation and vigilance as to the potential adverse effects of the GFF funding model on the sustainability of health financing in GFF focus countries**

Grants provided to countries from the GFF Trust Fund are necessarily linked to financing from the World Bank's two lending arms. The Trust Fund grant to World Bank resources ratio currently stands at 1 to 7.2.<sup>6</sup> Loans increase countries' debt burden, even when they are concessional, and may inadvertently lead to higher out-of-pocket financing of health services as countries struggle to repay the loans. The GFF also encourages countries to enter into partnerships with the private sector and leverage private finance in support of Investment Cases. Its Private Sector Engagement Strategy suggests that its work with the private sector will be "equity-" and "values-driven" but it is not clear how these principles are being operationalised.

- The GFF must ensure that its reliance on loan funding does not expose countries to unsustainable debt, with dire consequences for their health systems. It should strengthen its focus on the generation of domestic public resources through progressive revenue mobilisation and a move away from out-of-pocket financing of health services. It should further make available sufficient grant resources to ensure that access to essential health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, information and supplies, can be ensured without loan financing of annually recurring operating costs.
- The GFF should further clarify the criteria that guide its private sector engagement and explain how it operationalises its principles of an equity- and values-driven approach throughout this engagement.

## **4) Improved structures for civil society engagement with GFF processes, particularly at national level**

The GFF aims to involve civil society in GFF processes, however, in practice, opportunities for civil society participation have often been limited.

- The GFF should ensure better structures and opportunities for civil society participation in GFF processes, particularly at national level, in line with recommendations set out in the GFF Civil Society Engagement Strategy, and as put forward by the GFF Civil Society Coordinating Group. Particular emphasis should be placed on outreach to civil society stakeholders working with marginalised groups.

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<sup>5</sup> Starrs, A M, Ezeh, A C, Barker, G et al (May 2018). Accelerate progress – sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission. The Lancet. Available at: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(18\)30293-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)30293-9).

<sup>6</sup> GFF Secretariat (2018). The Global Financing Facility Expansion Plan. Available at: [https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff\\_new/files/documents/GFF-Expansion-Plan.pdf](https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/sites/gff_new/files/documents/GFF-Expansion-Plan.pdf).