

IntraHealth International

From: David Bryden [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Consultations <consultations@worldbank.org>
Subject: Comments on Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response - Engagement

[External]

Regarding the White Paper on Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response – Engagement, I would like to provide the following comments on behalf of the Frontline Health Workers Coalition, which I direct.

Focus of Financing:

We believe that the FIF will fail to reach its objectives if it does not strengthen health system resilience, including the capacity of broad categories of health workers, not only field epidemiologists and laboratory personnel, as well as workforce planning capacity. We urge that the FIF use an inclusive definition of public health workers, so that it finances institutions and programs that build the capacity of ALL categories of health and care workers who contribute to public health, including community health workers, physicians, nurses and midwives. It must support effective deployment of these workers during public health emergencies, by supporting the development of human resource information systems.

To provide this support, we urge that the FIF provide resources to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the primary mechanism for mobilizing and managing resources for the Working for Health Programme, a joint initiative launched by the ILO, OECD and WHO in November 2017.

<https://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/WHL00>

Governance:

We believe that to be effective the FIF must include in its governance high level experts on the health workforce, including the clinical and community health workforce, including representatives of these workers themselves, such as professional associations and unions.

David Bryden | Sr. Advocacy and Policy Advisor
IntraHealth International | Because Health Workers Save Lives.
6340 Quadrangle Drive Suite 200 | Chapel Hill, NC 27517

[REDACTED]
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the Global Fund in its work responding to pandemics with an inclusive model for civil society partnerships includes:

1. A governance structure that contains 3 voting seats (of 20) for civil society (Developed Country NGO and Developing Country NGO) and communities (Communities Delegation)

and supports the delegations with financial resources to ensure equitable participation in governance matters.

- I. • The Global Fund makes dedicated engagement of civil society and communities at global, regional, and national level a clear and explicit priority, and explicitly describes both constituencies as key partners in the global, regional, and national response.
- I. • Actively promoting and supporting linkages between investments and multiple technical partners and civil society and community partners at country, regional and global levels
- I. • Short term technical assistance to ensure community and CSO participation from the conceptualization, to design, to implementation to monitoring and long-term support for regional platforms to access information and further technical support
- I. • A funding model that seeks to continually revise and improve itself through policies, requirements, and tools to sustain a model which retains as core tenets a country dialogue and concept note processes that allows for – and is actively supported to include - significant opportunities to engage CSO’s and communities, especially those who may be excluded from national planning processes

The Global Fund’s investments in key and vulnerable populations have been significantly strengthened by working with technical partners and civil society and community partners at country, regional and global levels. The current strategy has seen the Global Fund work to scale-up evidence-based interventions with a focus on equity, gender and human rights and meaningful engagement of key and vulnerable populations and networks in the Global Fund-related processes. Building from this, the next strategy, which is set to be implemented in 2023, seeks to maximize the engagement and leadership of those most affected and continue to build out programs that maximize health equity, gender equality and human rights. In all these strategic objectives, CSO and community engagement is critical and supported via a core group of staff at the Secretariat who work to advance community and CSO inclusion and promote the expertise of CSOs and communities internally and throughout the partnership.

For these reasons, we also believe that, if created, the World Bank FIF should include multilaterals with proven track records for delivering impact before and during COVID-19 including the Global Fund as one of the agreed implementing entities from the outset. This PPR FIF should be catalytic and should build on the work of and transition from existing structures.

As an ACT-A partner, disbursing close to 5 billion of ACT-A funds, the Global Fund with its inclusive governance and decision-making structure proved effective and efficient at delivering timely and effective support despite there being obviously much to learn and improve upon for all ACT-A co-leads. Restricting the initial phase implementing entities only to MDB’s engaged in PPR, the WHO and “other relevant UN agencies” unnecessarily circumvents actors like the Global Fund, GAVI, UNITAID, FIND, CEPI and many others who have been critical partners in the COVID-19 response which should be an important consideration in terms of which actors are ready to step in and take on PPR work in meaningful and catalytic ways.

Should the FIF move forward, it is critical that the World Bank Group re-evaluate its base premise that impactful pandemic preparedness and response could be accomplished without meaningful, supported, and sustained CSO and community engagement in a FIF alongside country governments with their responsibility for delivery of health care including pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms. The co-Chairs and founding donors should begin now to put plans for meaningful consultation throughout the conceptualization and design phase of the FIF and commit to a FIF that ensures CSO and community engagement at the governance level as well as throughout the operational, strategic, decision-making, accountability, implementation, and monitoring of work funded via a FIF.