

CONNECTING THE DOTS

A series of RHSC bulletins on family planning
and the Global Financing Facility



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Civil Society holds out great promise in enabling the GFF to fulfill its potential to improve the health and wellbeing of women and children. But there is growing concern, especially at country level, that civil society organizations (CSOs) are often not sufficiently informed on the GFF process to realize that promise. Governments often fail to recognize the added value CSOs can bring, whether it is by contributing effectively to the development of national investment plans or by ensuring that SRHR figures prominently within them. The GFF Advisory Group, together with the RHSC's A&A Working Group, has launched an initiative that will draw on the experience of the original GFF forerunner countries to help CSOs contribute actively to setting priorities and ensuring accountability in national investment frameworks.



GFF Country Consultation fact sheet

IPPF and Advance Family Planning, with support from the RHSC, have produced a GFF country Consultation fact sheet. This briefing paper shares lessons learned from national advocates during the GFF country-level process in Kenya and Tanzania and provides national advocates with key messages and tips for successful CSO engagement in country.

The paper can be found [here](#). Please circulate among potential interested stakeholders. For more information please contact Erica Belanger (ebelanger@ippf.org)

Kenya showcases what CSOs can deliver on the GFF

In Kenya, the GFF process unfolded rapidly, taking many in the CSO community off-guard. But support from IPPF, the RHSC and AFP helped CSOs engage with key decision makers through technical briefings, shared intelligence, and continued mentorship. The

RHSC Advocacy and Accountability Working Group and biweekly teleconferences of the GFF Advisory Group have served as invaluable forums for coordination and information sharing. Through the teleconferences, doors were opened that enabled Kenyan CSOs to engage directly with the World Bank country officers, Ministers of Health and UN agencies. This allowed family planning to be pulled out from the shadows, and positioned as a key investment case pillar. The engagement of civil society has also led to calls for a more robust accountability and tracking framework, equivalent to the independent Review Group (iERG) of Every Women Every Child. Kenya's experience holds our many valuable lessons for CSOs globally. Please contact Angeline Mutunga (angeline.mutunga@jhpiego.org) for more information.



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