

# MOBILIZING FOR RH/HIV INTEGRATION

Dear Colleagues,

From 26-29 February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Global AIDS Alliance, Interact Worldwide, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and their Africa Regional Office, Friends of the Global Fund Africa, and Population Action International hosted the launch meeting for the initiative, "Mobilizing for RH/HIV Integration". This project aims to increase funding of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS integrated proposals by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in its Round 8 grant cycle, launched March 1, 2008: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/apply/call8/>

The civil society-led meeting provided an opportunity to review the experiences of a select group of countries in submitting integrated proposals to the Global Fund and, in addition, brought together 10 focus countries to begin planning for Round 8 proposal development: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia. We are happy to report that the meeting was a successful endeavor, and next steps are already underway:

- **Raised awareness of the opportunities, evidence and support** for submitting integrated RH/HIV proposals to the Global Fund Round 8 with country delegations from the 10 focus countries, partner NGOs and multi- and bi-lateral institutions.
- **Identified tangible and concrete steps** to prepare/ equip the CCMs from these 10 focus countries to develop high quality, innovative proposals with an RH/ HIV integration component.
- **Countries in the drivers seat.** Country delegations shared their experiences and expertise about openings for an integrated proposal in their policy and political contexts.
- **The Global Fund is open to country input and is responsive to their needs.** Participation by GF board member and Secretariat staff was important, as they shared with participants different opportunities for including RH/HIV integration in a Round 8 proposal.
- **A global advocacy strategy** was defined and advanced to optimize the Global Fund as a welcoming receptor of RH/HIV integrated proposals.
- **The Africa Advocacy Forum on RH/HIV Integration (AFRHI)** was created by participants as a way to discuss and promote advocacy for integration at regional/global levels. This forum is hosted by the Society for Women Against AIDS in Africa.
- **The meeting was timely.** Round 8 proposals will require "dual track financing" (i.e., both a government and a civil society principle recipient must be identified), thus the goal of positioning RH organizations a seat at the table is both timely and important.

- **Technical support/ assistance mechanisms were created**, and country delegations were briefed on how to access such support through this project and/or other means.

Country delegations are now back at home and ready to advocate for and work on a Round 8 integrated proposal. A mechanism has been put in place for the countries to work in partnership with project partners, consultants and other stakeholders to access any support needed to develop high quality, innovative proposals with an RH/ HIV integration component.

All materials from the meeting—including technical papers, background documents, powerpoint presentations, etc.—will be uploaded to the [Global Aids Alliance website](#) in the next few weeks.

We welcome your interest in this initiative. Please direct any questions or concerns to Lisa Schechtman, Project Manager ([lschecht@popact.org](mailto:lschecht@popact.org)), or any of the following individuals:

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