Small Grants Mechanism to Support Civil Society Engagement, Alignment, and Coordinated Action for Improved Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health (WCAH), particularly in countries with ongoing Global Financing Facility processes

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Management Sciences for Health (MSH), together with the global Civil Society Coordinating Group (CSCG) for the Global Financing Facility (GFF), hosted by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (PMNCH), is pleased to announce a new Small Grants Mechanism that aims to improve outcomes for women’s, children’s, and adolescents’ health (WCAH), by supporting better-coordinated civil society (CS) efforts to engage in national processes and programmes, with particular focus on the GFF. Below is set of FAQs which have been adapted from a recent webinar organized by MSH to help guide potential organizations in applying for the Small Grants Mechanism.

What kinds of activities will the small grants mechanism support?

The Small Grants Mechanism will support coalitions of civil society organizations (CSOs) in order to:

- Strengthen CS alignment and coordination, with a view to support engagement in national stakeholder platforms for WCAH and/or the GFF;
- Implement coordinated advocacy and accountability efforts for increased resources, improved policies and enhanced results for WCAH and nutrition in countries, particularly those with ongoing GFF processes.

Thus, this Small Grants Mechanism will support CSO advocacy and accountability in support of WCAH and not service delivery activities. Proposals must respond to one or more of the objectives as outlined in the RFP which is available here.

Are individual organisations eligible to apply for this grant?

No. As stated in the RFP, “The Small Grants Mechanism will support CS coalitions or networks, rather than individual organizations, with a view towards enhancing alignment, coordinated advocacy, shared learning, and improved communication among CS, and between CS and other constituencies (e.g. government, parliament, private sector, UN agencies, among others) in countries.”

Each applying coalition or network will identify a lead organization from their coalition to receive and administer the grant funds. The lead organization must provide evidence in their application that the organization represents and is applying on behalf of the network or coalition. If the coalition or network is an established, legal non-profit entity, with its own financial, staff, and governance structures, then the coalition entity may also apply and act as the lead organization.

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1 WHO uses “WCAH” and a “life course approach” to indicate a focus not only on services and care, but also on wellbeing, thriving, and transforming. For the purposes of this document, this reference to “WCAH” and/or a “life course approach” covers: sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition.
Can a multi-country network apply for the Small Grants Mechanism and for more than one country?

A multi-country network can apply for funding from the Small Grants Mechanism for activities in one or more of the eligible countries. However, the activities being proposed for funding must be national or sub-national in their scope, rather than covering multiple countries. In addition, the lead organization must meet the eligibility criteria as stated in the RFP, including being legally registered as a non-governmental or non-profit organization in the country where proposed work will occur.

Will the annual income and expenditure of applying organisations or coalitions be considered in selecting grantees?

There are no restrictions on the annual income and expenditure of the applying lead organization or of the coalition if it is applying as the lead organization. Annual income or expenditure is not considered in the evaluation of the proposals.

Are there any restrictions on the number of grants that can be awarded per country?

Multiple grants may be awarded within a country but only to CSO coalitions representing different constituency groups within civil society (e.g. NGOs, health care professional associations, youth-led coalitions/organisations, faith-based organizations, etc.). Evaluation of all the proposals received will also consider geographic diversity, identifying countries at various stages of the GFF process, thematic diversity and other factors to develop a well-balanced portfolio of grantees.

Are applying organizations required to have a working relationship with Management Sciences for Health (MSH), the Host Organization for the Small Grants Mechanism, in their respective country?

No. Applying CSO coalitions or networks (or the lead organization representing the coalition or network) are not required to have an established working relationship with MSH in their respective countries.

Can national and international organizations apply?

National or international organizations which are legally registered as a non-governmental or non-profit organization in the country where proposed work will occur can apply for the Small Grants Mechanism. The lead organization can either be nationally headquartered or be a national affiliate of a foreign-based organization. The applying organization must submit, as Annex A, a copy of the official document of legal registration in the country where proposed work will occur.

Are grantees of PMNCH are eligible to apply for this grant?

Current recipients of PMNCH funding support are eligible to apply for the Small Grants Mechanism.
Should the coalition be actively involved in GFF country level activities?

Coalitions or networks applying from countries currently receiving GFF support are required to demonstrate their engagement with the GFF multi-stakeholder country platform and/or GFF focal points in their country.

What is the total number of grants that will be awarded across all eligible countries?

The total amount of funding available under this Small Grants Mechanism is $600,000 USD. Grant applications can be submitted for up to a maximum of $70,000 USD to be implemented over a 12-month period. Depending on the final grant amounts awarded, we anticipate that a total of 8-9 grants will be issued across all eligible countries.

Do applying organizations need to ensure compliance to the Mexico City Policy?

No. The Small Grants Mechanism funding is not provided by the government of the United States. The “Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance” policy, also known as the Mexico City policy, is a United States government policy which applies to U.S. government funding for global health programs. Therefore, the policy does not apply to the Small Grants Mechanism funding.

Can the lead organization provide subgrants to other members of the coalition or network?

The lead organization can transfer funds to other coalition or network member organization to undertake specific activities as outlined in the proposal. The lead organization must identify the type of agreement or mechanism that will be used to make these subgrants and describe the lead organization's experience, if any, in using this type of agreement or mechanism to transfer funds to other organizations, and its experience with managing the accountability of the funds transferred.

For any additional questions, please contact GFFCSOgrants@msh.org