



The Global Fund's position regarding Human Rights issues

Human Rights in GF Strategy



The Global Fund enshrined its commitment to human rights as one of the five key objectives of its 2012-2016 strategy, including three priorities:

- Increasing investment in programs that address the human rights barriers to accessing health care
- Integrating human rights concerns into every step of the grant life cycle
- Ensuring that we do not fund programs that infringe on human rights



This commitment was recently reaffirmed and strengthened and is one of the four pillars of the Global Fund's 2017-2022 strategy. In particular, the Global Fund will vastly increase efforts to scale up programs to reduce human rights-related barriers to services.

Human Rights barriers



There are several human rights barriers people face, such as

- stigma and discrimination (including in health care settings)
- laws, policies and practices that create barriers to services, such as
- police abuse or interference with services



- lack of access to justice for people who have been denied services or suffered abuse and the many forms of discrimination women and girls suffer in many parts of the world.

Addressing these barriers is critical to ensuring that all those who need services can receive them, and critical to ensuring that Global Fund grants will have greater impact.

Many steps have been taken to embed human rights into the Global Fund's way of doing business.

Beginning at the country dialogue stage, GF works with countries to ensure that key populations are actively represented and involved in the country dialogue process. For countries who need additional support on this issue, we facilitate technical cooperation throughout the concept note development process.

The Global Fund says the country dialogue should be part of an ongoing process to develop strategies to fight the three diseases and to strengthen health and community systems. According to NFM, the country dialogue ensure that human rights and gender aspects are included in responses to the diseases. Among the specific responsibilities assigned to the country teams one is to promote consideration of human rights and gender equality in concept notes. The Global Fund recommends applicants accord a high priority to elements containing activities related to human rights and gender, especially in relation to barriers to services. The Fund stresses that during the grant-making stage, the country team and CCM should ensure that human rights and gender programming outlined in the concept note are fully reflected in the grant. The ultimate goal is to ensure that concept notes include technically sound interventions to address human rights barriers to health services, to address gender equality, and to strengthen community systems; and to ensure that key populations are meaningfully engaged in the country dialogues.

Means of overcoming the barriers



5 minimal grant standards regarding Human Rights



Once the concept note has been approved, the grant agreement includes a clause specifically detailing the five minimum human rights standards that countries are expected to meet:

- non-discriminatory access to services for all, including people in detention
- employing only scientifically sound and approved medicines or medical practices
- not employing methods that constitute torture or that are cruel, inhuman or degrading
- respecting and protecting informed consent, confidentiality and the right to privacy concerning medical testing, treatment or health services rendered



- avoiding medical detention and involuntary isolation, to be used only as a last resort.

If any of these five minimum human rights standards is believed to have been violated by an implementer of Global Fund grants, an individual or a group can submit a complaint to the Global Fund's Office of the Inspector General.