



Representación LAC
Fondo Mundial



GCTH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Optimizing the Global
Fund resources

INTRODUCTION



This report presents the results of the survey on experiences and opinions regarding the processes and arrangements supported by the Global Fund in the LAC Region. It was launched jointly by the LAC constituency and the HCTCG (Horizontal Technical Cooperation Group) with the intention of contributing to harmonize and optimize regional coordination structures.

The specific objectives of this quanti-qualitative survey, were:

I.- Assess the transition processes taking place in the Region taking into consideration the different dimensions established by the Global Fund itself in order to ensure it is inclusive, including both programmatic and financial considerations.

II.- Assess the sustainability of the response at country and Regional level, taking into consideration the provision of prevention, diagnosis, care and treatment services.

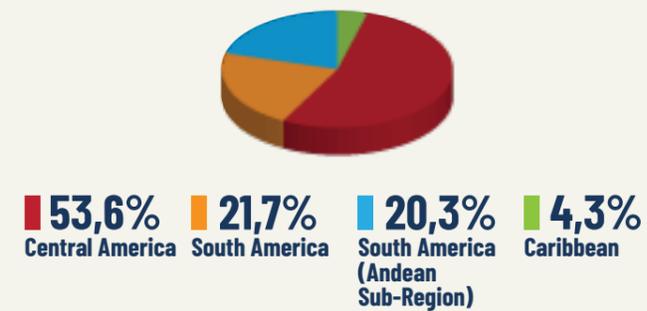
III.- Asses the functioning and implementation of those mechanisms supported by the GF in the Region.

The survey was undertaken through a structured self-applied electronic questionnaire (between March and April 2019) and in-depth interviews to 10 key selected reporters, considered to be relevant actors in the response to the three diseases in the LAC Region.

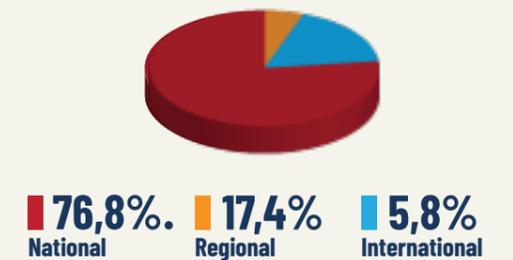
PROFILE OF RESPONDERS TO THE SURVEY

THE SELF-ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE WAS FILLED BY 69 PEOPLE FROM 17 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

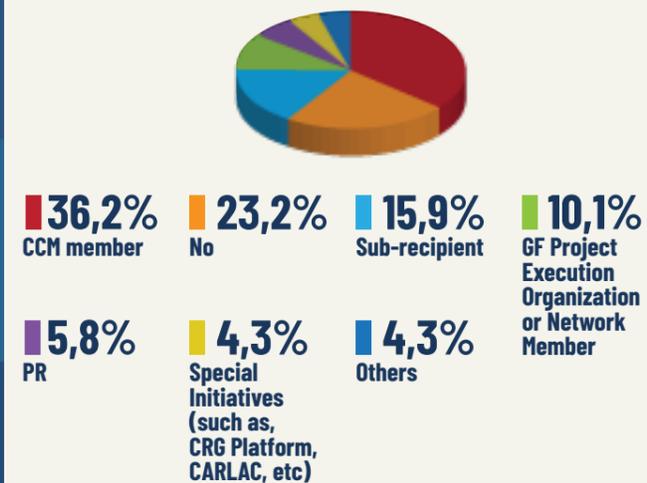
PLACE OF RESIDENCE / PLACE OF WORK



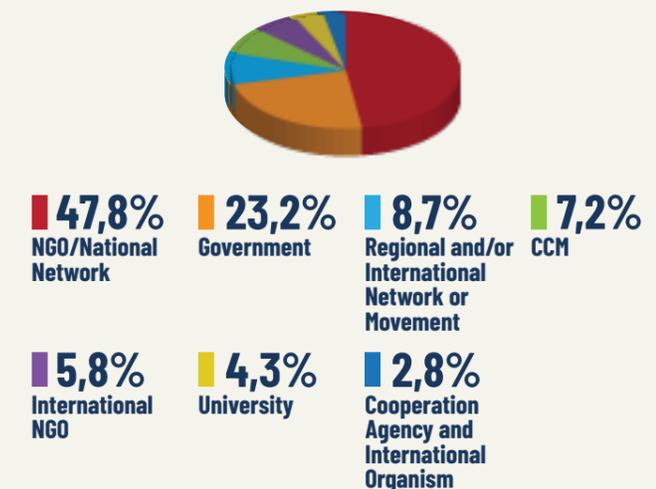
SCOPE OF WORK



ROLE RELATED TO THE GF



PLACE OF WORK



BENEFICIARY POPULATION RESPONDENT WORKS WITH



AREAS EXPLORED:

MAIN FINDINGS

TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE RESPONSE

Sustainability emerges as a critical issue in the agenda of the response to the three diseases in the Region according to both the questionnaire and the interviews.

- » 76.8% have participated in activities related to sustainability and transition at national or regional level; all of them referred having played a role in activities of the Global Fund.
- » Only 27,5% considers the national response to the three diseases to be sustainable both in technical and financial terms once the GF concludes the current grants. On the other side, there is a split between those who consider it may be sustainable (37,7%) and will not be sustainable (34,8%).
- » 94.5% of government officers or national program managers consider the response is sustainable in their countries and it decreases to 7.4% among NGOs and national/regional networks members.
- » Both in the responses to the questionnaire as during interviews, there was no mentioning or specific examples of countries where the response was completely sustainable.
- » Although some responders affirm that countries are beginning to walk on the road of transitioning, most of them consider that there are gaps and pending commitments, and that sustainability is not guaranteed to ensure a full and integral response including prevention and the participation of civil society organizations.
- » Supplies and treatment are mentioned as those components were there is more action from governments to guarantee sustainability.
- » Main obstacles to guarantee sustainability are in the political and programmatic areas. On the first one, the concern is about lack of political will and the current scenario of a “conservative” wave among new governments in the Region as well as the economic crisis. On the programmatic side the concern is about reduction or absence of support

to civil society organizations as well as absence of an integrated and multisectoral response. This last element was mentioned from almost all the voices of those persons related to the response who belong to CSOs, NGOs and UN agencies.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE UHC

Universal health coverage is seen as a very much needed policy to guarantee sustainability. Nevertheless, taking into consideration the very low number of actions/discussions on this topic where the responders have participated, it seems, in reality, the topic is not very seriously adopted and incorporated in the national agendas.

- » 55.1% have not been involved nor participated in the consultations/debate related to UHC. This is very worrying considering the profile and positions of the responders (most of them with active roles and responsibilities in the response to the three diseases) as well as the breadth of the question posed.
- » Unanimous consensus on the positive impact of UHC if adopted and implemented on the response to the three diseases.
- » An important challenge identified was the inclusion within the UHC package of services for those related to the three diseases in an integrated manner, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care .

REGIONAL INITIATIVES – LAC PLATFORM FOR COMMUNITIES, GENDER AND RIGHTS

The **LAC platform for communities, gender and rights** is referred to at a good level of recognition (78.3%) regarding its existence almost exclusively by those who have a role vis a vis the GF grants (98.5%). Nevertheless, when the responses are looked from the working place of the responder, 2/3 (75.3%) of those belonging to NGOs/national level networks do not know about the existence of the Platform. This reflects a very low level from those who are the focus and main objective audience for the Platform since its goal as stated by CRG is “that civil society and communities participate in a meaningful and effective way and contribute to the preparations, implementation and supervision of the programs financed by the GF”. Following the comments from responders to the survey, the LAC Platform is considered as achieving a low level for each of the objectives established, with serious gaps in those related to knowledge transfer, improvement of the strategic competences and knowledge about the GF among those community groups. During the interviews there was a consensus about the lack of clear identification of the LAC platform and very few could identify specific examples/experiences related to each of the established objectives

REGIONAL INITIATIVES- REGIONAL ADVISOR COMMITTEE FOR GF REGIONAL GRANTS IN LAC (CAR-LAC)

The Regional advisor committee for GF grants in LAC (CAR-LAC) has a high level of recognition by its name/brand (72,5%) and only among those who have a role in relation to the GF (90.5%), bearing in mind that only 16% of responders to the survey reported having any experience with CAR-LAC. Among the responders a marked confusion was observed related to its objectives, activities and reach. Taking into consideration the specific objectives established for CAR-LAC, the responses collected are concentrated in three of the five objectives and there is no mention to objective related to harmonization and complementarity between regional Grants and regional/national policies and actions nor to objective related to the provision of recommendations to the GF on strategic lines to be included/implemented regionally in future grants. When requested to assign values to each of the objectives in terms of its level of accomplishment, there was a limited level achievement, since “accomplished” plus “moderate accomplishment” got 45%. It is also noticeable the critical view of several responders related to duplication/overlapping efforts with other structures, limited focus to HIV/AIDS, absence of public and transparent selection of its members, potential conflict of interest of some of its members. Responders expressed concerns at the discordance between competences and qualifications of CAR-LAC members and their expected role since their profile is not aligned with their expected performance objectives.

GLOBAL FUND SECRETARIAT

Related to the GF role in the Region, the GF regional/national portfolio managers are very well known (73.9%) by those who participate/lead the grants. But this level is concentrated in those who are part of CCMs or are National Program Officers and is very low for those working in NGOs or national networks.

In case of conflicts/ problems or complaints related to national or regional grants, the Regional Manager, portfolio manager or the OIG are the main figures identified as referrals.

Recommendations for improving the GF Secretariat are in the following broad areas:

Related to the GF agenda: there are recommendations linked to increase visibility of the Region in the debates and allocation model (review of eligibility criteria), strengthen a human rights approach and UHC in the grants approved.

Related to Portfolio manager: recommendations are related to increase their knowledge of national scenarios and political culture, specific characteristics of the Region and its

main actors, facilitate exchange among countries and grants. Also establish horizontal relationships and better coordinated work among teams working in different grants.

Related to Project implementation: emphasis on avoiding duplication of efforts and structures, linked to the requirement of better knowledge and analysis of the national regional scenarios and actors, and undertake regular periodic monitoring and evaluation exercises of existing structures to understand their level of accomplishment of their commitments and the impact of their interventions.

Related to Project management: there was a clear complaint on the delays in responses and high level of bureaucratic requirements in daily management.

With reference to technical partners in the Region, very few people could identify who are they and what they do, and when why have been and interaction with them.

Based on the data collected, the main challenges for the GF agenda in the Region are:

- » Review the existing structures whose functioning is not clear or fruitful/useful or duplicate others already existing at regional national level,
- » Include the actions of transition/sustainability of the response to the three diseases into the current debate on UHC,
- » Redefine and structure the partnerships including diverse sectors to build/strengthen a multisectoral integrated response.

The valuable information collected with the survey and interviews and the richness of experiences and reflections, are well reflected in the expression “we are united but back to back” from one of the interviews. To be able to secure sustainability and aligned responses in the Region, a critical evaluation of the functioning of the regional structures created by the GF is needed to avoid duplication of efforts, establishment of mechanisms alien to the culture and structure and not achieving their established goals and objectives, maximize the impact of invested resources.