

## CRG SI 2020-22 Case Study Guidance

The purpose of this case study is to complement the other reporting that you do as part of the CRG SI and to strategically capture qualitative information showcasing your work.

In your **biannual reporting**, you quantify your progress on completing activities and expending your budget. In your **annual narrative reporting**, you reflect on your progress towards the expected outcomes that you have defined for yourself across the three CRG SI Sub-Objectives.

The **annual case study** is a chance to tell a story and showcase your work in the context of the CRG SI grant. The story may focus on a specific achievement or a unique challenge that you and your in-country partner(s) have encountered while working towards your outcomes that year. It may also be an example of your ongoing work that you'd like to share widely. We encourage you to use quotes, testimonials and images as appropriate when telling your story. The goal of this exercise is to capture the key information sought by the CRG SI to better understand and promote your work. To that end, we might also publish these stories on our website, share them with the Global Fund Secretariat and other partners.

It is important that the **case study is thematically linked to one of the three CRG SI Sub-Objectives** for Component 2. Some examples of themes for each Sub-Objective are listed below. Please select one of them (or provide your own in the box marked Other), by marking it with an X in the right-hand column. **Your case study may capture your work on this theme in a single country or may reflect on similar thematic work in up to three countries.**

### Thematic examples (please choose one)

#### Sub-Objective 1 Participation and voice

Increasing community representation on CCM and/or other Global Fund-related decision-making bodies	
Increasing community interaction with CCM representatives and/or other Global Fund-related decision-making bodies	
Setting advocacy priorities/developing formalized community-endorsed advocacy agendas	
Other (Describe here)	

#### Sub-Objective 2 Influence

Influencing or contributing to national strategic plan (NSP) development	
Influencing or contributing to Global Fund Funding Request development	X
Influencing or introducing new policy or service delivery approaches	
Other (Describe here)	

#### Sub-Objective 3 Generating and using data

Community-led monitoring	
Special surveys or assessments	
Other (Describe here)	

### Key Details:

Name of your organization	CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION (CS4ME)
Country	Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria
Title of the Case Study	Influencing or contributing to Global Fund Funding Request development
GF may use my data for publicity, including for website, public presentations, or other uses:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> With some exceptions (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> No

### Context and Need:

Briefly describe the situation that led you to undertake this thematic area of work in your country. Who was impacted by this situation and how? This could relate to a specific challenge faced by the community or a unique opportunity that required action.

(Suggested word limit: 150 words)

During the process of drafting concept notes for the fight against malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, very little effort is generally devoted to identifying the real needs of populations and communities vulnerable to these three diseases. Daily, civil society is in contact with the populations in the implementation of community activities. The opportunities for exchange provided by community meetings allow civil society actors to identify and prioritize their essential needs with these communities. However, these community priorities are not always considered by decision makers. Despite the Global Fund's recommendations, civil society is not very much involved in the decision-making process. As a result, the needs of vulnerable populations and communities are not easily addressed by decision makers. In addition, civil society, the voice of the communities, is poorly represented in the process of developing country concept notes. It is therefore essential that civil society organizations (CSOs) be better involved in the decision-making process in the fight against these three diseases, particularly malaria. Malaria CSOs need to be well-coordinated and act together with their respective governments to end malaria, especially in the current context of the severity of COVID-19. CSOs members of the CS4ME platform in Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria were among the 10 selected beneficiaries of a sub-grant to implement a Global Fund project. The project aimed at improving the quality of malaria civil society contribution and participation in the development of the Global Fund 2021–2023 country concept notes to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on malaria interventions, the so-called COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM). CSOs from Cameroon (**Reach Out Cameroon**), Niger (**Organisation Nigérienne des Éducateurs Novateurs, ONEN**) and Nigeria (**Civil Society in Malaria Control, Immunization and Nutrition, ACOMIN**) conducted community consultations to identify priority needs for vulnerable populations and collaborated in proposing revisions to the country concept notes that took these opinions into account. The impact was felt by the different communities, whose needs were included in the concept notes.

### Desired Change:

What did you hope to achieve and why is it important in the context of an effective response to HIV/TB/malaria?

(Suggested word limit: 100 words)

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down malaria control activities, resulting in an increase in the number of cases and deaths in communities. To maintain the progress already made in malaria control, it is essential to provide the necessary resources to the population and malaria control stakeholders to ensure the implementation of high-impact activities to end the disease. Civil society is one of the major actors in the fight against malaria and must be involved in all aspects of the fight, from the development of concept notes to the implementation of high-impact activities. To this end, capacity building of civil society and technical assistance to CSOs are essential factors for a better contribution of civil society in the fight against malaria. It is within this framework that, with the support of the Global Fund, the CS4ME secretariat benefited from a grant to ensure the quality of the contribution and participation of civil society in the development of the Global Fund Country Concept Notes - COVID-19 Response Mechanism 2021-2023. To this end, CSOs conducted community consultations in the intervention areas with increased participation of vulnerable populations. As a result of these national consultations, eligible activities reflecting the priority needs of vulnerable communities were identified and included in the country concept notes.

### Your approach:

How did you and your partners you worked with approach this situation? What activities were undertaken to support this work?

Consider (and answer, as relevant):

- For capacity strengthening, what gaps did your work address (and how were they addressed?)
- For advocacy, what were the advocacy 'asks' and how was the advocacy campaign carried out?

(Suggested word limit: 250 words)

Throughout the process, Impact Santé Afrique (ISA), the CS4ME secretariat, provided technical support to the ten CSOs involved in the implementation of the project. This support took the form of capacity building through information and experience sharing webinars, technical monitoring of the implementation of activities and ongoing mentoring. Partners thereby strengthened their capacities on the C19 response mechanism itself as well as how to conduct community dialogues, identifying the priority needs of populations vulnerable to malaria, and advocating for the inclusion of these needs in the concept notes.

In addition, tools developed or adapted by ISA, the Global Fund and other partners were made available to CSOs in French and English, for example, National social dialogue to guarantee the participation of civil society and communities used to conduct a community diagnosis. The COVID-19 Information Note: Consideration for Global Fund Support for Malaria and COVID-19 Guidance Note: Community Rights and Gender, were two tools appreciated and used by civil society during the process of the development of their concept notes in the three countries. ISA also organized training sessions on how to use these tools. CSOs received quality technical assistance from the CS4ME secretariat, which was always available via email or phone to answer questions or provide clarifications.

The advocacy efforts conducted by CSOs namely ISA, Reach Out in Cameroon, ONEN in Niger and ACOMIN in Nigeria, and other CS4ME members in these three countries have resulted in the inclusion of eligible community related malaria activities in the C19RM concept notes of their respective countries. Following the identification of priority needs during the national consultations, civil society led advocacy actions for the inclusion of these reformulated needs into eligible activities for the concept notes of the three countries. CSOs in these three countries conducted consultation workshops with civil society actors in order to define the activities that require funding in the concept notes; they also held working sessions with health and government authorities to finalize the concept notes. The CSOs in the three countries held working sessions with the CCM partners to define the role and responsibilities of civil society in the process of developing the C19RM concept note for that country.

***“Thanks to CS4ME and C19RM grant, we are now able to do an effective community diagnosis”***

(Reach Out Cameroon)

***“We never knew how negatively COVID-19 has affected the fight against malaria until we implemented the C19RM project in Nigeria”*** ACOMIN, Nigeria



**Civil society concertation to prioritize eligible activities in Nigeria**

**“The inclusive participation of representatives of all stakeholders involved in the development of the concept note contributed significantly to the writing of a quality C19RM funding application in Niger”.** (ONEN, Niger)



**Consultation workshop with civil society actors for the development of the C19RM concept note activities in Niger**

**Change(s) to date:**

What has changed as the result of the work that you’ve done to date? How will this change be sustained / built upon going forward?

Where relevant, describe the key partnerships or complementary funding that made the outcome(s) possible. If possible, please also include (short) quotes from members of your constituency or organization.

(Suggested word limit: 200 words)

Malaria CSOs are now able to effectively advocate on malaria issues in their respective countries and the voices of the communities and vulnerable groups have been heard, as their needs were included in the countries’ concept notes.

*“After several trainings on advocacy from the CS4ME secretariat, we can now advocate effectively to our government and partners on the importance of including civil society in the fight against malaria”*

ONEN, Niger.

The main result of this advocacy was the inclusion of the priority needs of communities and vulnerable populations in the C19RM concept note. The collaboration with other civil society networks such as GATE, RAME, EANNASO, and others on development of tools, building civil society capacity on how to effectively carryout community diagnosis and advocacy strategies facilitated this work. The objectives set in concert with civil society actors in each country have been met, as many of the priority needs identified with vulnerable communities and proposed have been accepted in the country concept notes. Below is a summary of the proposals made by civil society in Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria.

Country/civil society	Number of priority needs proposed by civil society	Number included in the submitted concept note
Reach Out, Cameroon	05	03
ACOMIN, Nigeria	04	04
ONEN, Niger	09	06

Going forward, CSOs have now the skills on data collection, communication, strategic advocacy, better knowledge of the Global Fund financing process and an example of good malaria community activities for similar projects, so this knowledge will help in the development of future C19RM proposals.

*“The voices of our communities and vulnerable population were taken into consideration when the concept note of Nigeria was done and our CSOs were actively involved in the concept note development process”* by ACOMIN (CSO, Nigeria).

**Key Lessons and Messages:**

What did you and your partners learn from this experience? Consider (and answer, as relevant):

- What were the “enabling” factors that contributed to the success?
- What were the factors (internal or external) that made it challenging to make progress?

(Suggested word limit: 200 words)

The C19RM 2021 - 2023 Global Fund concept note development process was an excellent opportunity for malaria civil society to provide their contribution to the design of this note and to include the real needs of communities as identified through community consultations.

Several positive points were noted throughout the process of developing the country concept notes. There should be a Civil Society Representative on the writing team to ensure appropriate representation of vulnerable communities as this was seen during this concept note process. Civil society representatives were part of the writing team thus we think the approach is effective as CS are in direct contact with the community and will be able to be the voice of the community. The funding received from the Global Fund enabled civil society to implement quality activities in the C19RM concept note development process. It was thus able to participate

fully in the entire process of developing the concept notes in the three countries. It is crucial that civil society can participate in high-level decision-making processes, as national priorities are identified in such meetings.

Malaria CSOs in the three countries were united but there is need for them to be well-coordinated so that they can exchange experiences and information, which will contribute to higher quality contributions from civil society in decision-making.

As representatives of communities, civil society has advocated for their rights and called for stronger government commitment to the fight against malaria, HIV/AIDS, and TB. Advocacy was conducted for increased funding for the fight against these 3 diseases. The Global Fund Secretariat's availability to support us during the process was very effective as well as the collaboration between the different networks and we recommend more collaborations of civil society organizations to build on each other's strengths. Lastly, a higher sub-grant for CSOs at the country level will also help to implement quality activities in the fight against malaria and to develop even better recommendations and collaboration with the CCM in the three different countries (Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria).

The challenges were:

The limitation in terms of budget for the in-country activities reduced the scope of the work that CSOs had the potential to do. Also, the lack of expertise among CSOs in budget development for concept note activities. Furthermore, the need to increase collaboration efforts between civil society and government officials as was the case of ONEN in Niger where reluctance in collaboration was seen between the civil society and government officials. In addition, there is need to coordinate technical assistance (in trainings for capacity building in community diagnosis, communities' rights and gender, strategic communication, and advocacy) and we can improve on community led monitoring activities with other TA service providers (GIZ, Initiative 5%, Stop TB, RBM) as the CSOs were able to take advantage of the TA offered by the TA service providers. And finally, the very limited time given to countries to develop the concept note. More time would have resulted in increased community engagement.

#### Next Steps:

Briefly describes what remains to be done or how this work is continuing along this thematic direction, and what results are still awaited or anticipated. If adaptations to future work will be made based on lessons learned, describe those here. If resource adjustments (financial, technical, etc.) are needed, please also describe that here.

(Suggested word limit: 150 words)

For C19RM, all the activities are completed at this stage. However, if more funding were to be available for CS4ME, ISA in collaboration with CS4ME members would like to organize trainings on:

- Community monitoring and evaluation of community activities in Global Fund concept note,
- Budget development for community activities in Global Fund concept note,
- Grant writing, community diagnosis, advocacy techniques and other necessary skills.

The CS4ME secretariat could provide:

- Small grant to C19RM countries to conduct malaria C19RM community monitoring and evaluation activities.

The CS4ME secretariat:

- Develop tools and communication materials for CSOs on the importance of ensuring that malaria C19RM community activities are implemented and notifying when they are gaps.

What can be done differently as we move to NFM4 to ensure community engagement by:

**Other technical partners:** participate actively in the activities of the fight against malaria and assist in trainings and capacity building of civil society.

**CRG SI and TGF:** continuous technical assistance in developing advocacy tools, trainings and capacity building, sourcing for funding for civil society organizations.

**Country partners:** unity and collaboration in the fight against malaria, attend working groups, participate in the implementation of community activities in the fight against malaria (for example, in the distribution of nets, sensitization on preventive measures of malaria), in capacity building of civil society organizations and most importantly, involve civil society in decision making schemes.