

January - June 2024

# Making Global Fund Malaria Programs (GC7) work for Communities

## A CS4ME special publication :

How community consultations across six countries helped identify priority needs for the most vulnerable groups

How strategic meetings and workshops in 2023 have influenced national strategic plans for malaria

How support provided by CS4ME have ensured quality participation of CSOs in the Malaria GC7 application processes

# More than a Community, *A Global Movement!*

CS4ME is a global platform of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and communities that contribute to malaria elimination, with more than 800 members in 48 countries. Our mission is to make malaria programs more effective, sustainable, community-based, rights-based, equitable and inclusive. Our vision? A world without malaria. Working with National Malaria Control Programs (NMCPs), we aim to put communities at the heart of malaria strategies.



**Are you a Civil Society Organization working in malaria? Join the movement and become a CS4ME member!**

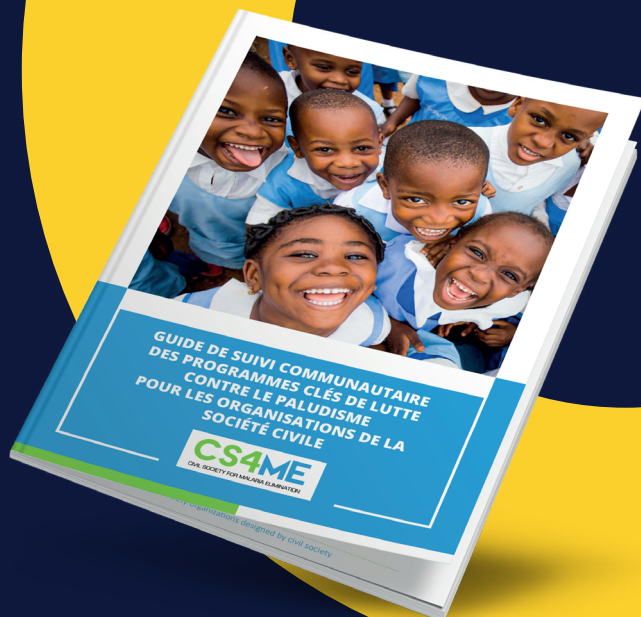


**Scan here :**

## New Resource

# Alert!

Do you wish to improve your knowledge of Community Led-Monitoring as a key factor in improving service delivery and health outcomes, particularly in the fight against malaria? Here is the latest guide developed by CS4ME.



**Scan the QR Code to access the guide or find more on [www.cs4me.org](http://www.cs4me.org)**



## To Read in this Edition

1. Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) Highlights: 09 key Civil Society activities during the development of GC7 malaria concept notes!
2. What we learned
3. Society in action
4. Coming soon

**In this special edition of our newsletter, we celebrate the incredible efforts of civil society organizations (CSOs) in 2023!**

## GC7 Highlights



Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) is the seventh funding cycle of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, running from 2024 to 2028. As part of the preparation of funding requests submitted to the Global Fund for this cycle, the GF recognized the importance of involving malaria civil society, as in past grant cycles it was not always strongly associated with the various processes. As a result, populations vulnerable to malaria were not represented enough to make their voices and needs

heard in decision-making bodies. That's why the Global Fund stepped up in 2023 and partnered with the CS4ME Secretariat to award mini-grants to CS4ME members in nine key countries: Benin, Congo (Brazzaville), Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, DRC, Nigeria and Cameroon. The Goal? Amplify Local Voices!

## 09 key Civil Society activities during the development of Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) malaria concept notes!

The CS4ME network has been instrumental in ensuring that the voices of civil society and local communities are heard in the development of Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) malaria concept notes. Here's a look at some key activities and achievements from various countries as part of the GC7 process.



**1**

## **BENIN: ASSAP-TB working for a synergy of actors in the GC7 process**



The “Association des Anciens Patients Tuberculeux du Bénin” (ASSAP-TB), established in 2007, unites individuals who are either current or former tuberculosis patients. This organization holds a seat within the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund in Benin, playing a pivotal role in developing funding requests, monitoring grant implementation, and defining strategic approaches. Additionally, ASSAP-TB has a contract with the National Tuberculosis

Control Program (NTCP), which further enhances its impact.

With support from CS4ME, ASSAP-TB actively contributed to the development of the GC7 malaria concept note. On January 20, 2023, ASSAP-TB and the National Malaria Control Program team held a working session to share a mapping of malaria-focused CSOs and initiate the identification of key population organizations. Approximately 20 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) participated in the entire GC7 process, including community consultations, validation of civil society and community priorities, national dialogue, and drafting the concept note. The strong involvement of civil society, facilitated by ASSAP-TB and its partners, ensured that some activities were included in the malaria concept note, highlighting the effectiveness of their advocacy efforts in Benin.

**2**

## **CONGO BRAZZAVILLE: Strengthening CSOs Participation in GC7 Concept Note**



The “Plateforme des ONGs et Associations de Lutte contre le Paludisme en République du Congo” POALP is the Platform of NGOs and associations to fight against malaria in the Republic of Congo. POALP actively participated in all meetings and webinars related to the GC7 process, and also took part in preparatory activities for community consultation targets and

dialogues, as well as the process of the elaboration of the GC7 concept note submitted in February 2023. During the drafting of the concept note, malaria civil society worked closely with the NMCP and the civil society health platform for the three diseases (POSCO).

Another significant activity carried out by POALP was their participation in the workshop to review the National Malaria Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022. Thanks to the strong advocacy of POALP and civil society involved in the concept note drafting, 17 activities were approved in the GC7 budget out of the 23 proposed.

The two flagship activities selected for Congo were to collect and analyze data on the priority needs of communities in terms of malaria and to actively participate in the national dialogue and the drafting of the GC7 concept note on malaria.

**3**

### **COTE D'IVOIRE: “La Plateforme” prioritized community consultations as the heart of the response to malaria**



During the project’s implementation in Côte d’Ivoire, La Plateforme actively engaged in community consultations from February 27, 2023, to identify the priority needs of vulnerable groups and communities. They also participated in the national dialogue and contributed to the actual drafting of the GC7 concept note until its submission. In March 2023, in Yamoussoukro, the Platform participated in a workshop to present the Community-Led Monitoring system. The team and partner CSOs attended workshops to finalize and validate the GC7 malaria concept

note with the NMCP, ensuring comprehensive input from civil society.

La Plateforme took a proactive role in three crucial workshops in Yamoussoukro aimed at finalizing the GC7 funding application. The main objective was to ensure effective civil society participation in the finalization and validation of the funding application. These workshops saw the attendance of representatives from the NMCP, technical departments of the Ministry of Health, the United Nations System (UN), the CCM, the community principal recipient and its sub-recipients, international organizations, and civil society actors. The outcome was a robust inclusion of civil society, with six CSOs/CBOs participating in all key stages of the GC7 process, including community consultations, validation of consultation results, development of civil society and community priorities, country dialogue, and drafting of the concept note.

**4**

### **MADAGASCAR: Identifying priority needs for vulnerable populations in the fight against Malaria**



In Madagascar, “Action Socio-sanitaire Organisation Secours” activities revolved around participation in all meetings of the process led by the CCM. Among them, the most noticeable is the CSO consultation workshop on malaria as part of the process of developing the concept note on malaria in Madagascar, held in March 2023 with vulnerable populations, with the support of traditional leaders and members of the Elders Committee of the Anosy region.

At the end of these activities, they had the results of collecting and taking into account the perception, and knowledge of prevention methods, care and the daily practices of communities in terms of prevention and in the event of suspected fever.

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**5**

## **NIGER: ESCAVI advocating for a Super Sub-Recipient coming from the community into the Grant Cycle 7 process**



“Éducation, Santé et Amélioration du Cadre de Vie” (ESCAVI) participated and implemented a wide range of activities, including a meeting with CSOs and communities to identify malaria-related needs, active participation in the concept note drafting committee, through participation in community consultations and national dialogue, submission of the concept note

in February 2023.

The organization of a workshop to present the malaria concept note to civil society actors in Niger, and a consultation of stakeholders on the principle of obtaining a person responsible for community activities within the framework of the GC7; And so on. The workshop brought together 57 participants, including 10 women from Niger civil society, and unanimously adopted the principle of integrating community SR into the GC7 grant management system. The workshop brought together the CCM permanent secretary, the CCM malaria civil society representative and program representatives. It should also be noted the active participation of partners: WHO, Unicef, CRS, Initiative France, etc.

The main objective was to reach a consensus on the integration of a Community Super SR for better implementation of GC7 subsidies.

**6**

## **NIGERIA: ACOMIN strengthens the participation of CSOs and communities in the formulation of funding requests to the Global Fund to Fight Malaria**



During the process, ACOMIN developed community consultation tools to facilitate the implementation of project activities, and identify

the priority needs of communities vulnerable to malaria and their consideration in the development of the GC7 concept note.

During a strategic workshop held in March 2023 in Abuja, the priority needs of the community were identified and subsequently used in the development of the GC7 funding request. This strategic workshop brought together the ACOMIN National Executive Council (NEC), zone coordinators, and some state coordinators. The meeting identified strategic ways to more effectively engage and monitor CSOs and communities. And, the results of these activities made it possible to collect, analyze and prioritize the contributions of community organizations and communities.

**6**

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: The “Réseau des Associations Congolaises des Jeunes” involve more CSOs in the GC7 application process



The NGO “Jeunesse Congolaise Vers La Voie Du Savoir (JCVS) in addition to participating in all events related to the GC7 process, participated in all activities related to the GC7 funding application process, from preparatory activities to

community consultations and dialogues, such as the development of tools for collection, until the submission of the application file in February 2023. She participated in various workshops (validation of the results of the community consultation, prioritization of the needs of civil society and communities, National Dialogue, drafting of the concept note, etc.) with funding from Impact Santé Afrique, the CS4ME Secretariat, for several JCVS members and partners. The project strengthened the capacity of CSOs in all key elements of the GC7 application process and many other aspects of the Global Fund. Representatives from the Tshuapa and Tanganyika, which are remote regions from DRC, were able to participate in the entire process.

## SENEGAL: The “Comité de Suivi, de Veille et d’Alerte”(CSVA) briefs communities and civil society representatives for proper monitoring of the GC7 project



The CSVA, as the coordinating CSO of the GC7 project in Senegal with the support of many other partner CSOs, implemented numerous activities and participated in all the meetings organized during the GC7 process led by the CCM and the NMCP. These included: participation in the workshop to discuss the funding allocation letter for Senegal and exchange on the challenges and needs to be considered in the GC7 process, from February 2023.

The meeting was organized by the CCM to analy-

ze the previous funding mechanisms granted by the Global Fund, share the challenges identified and develop an acceleration plan. In addition to the implementation of community consultations, the CSVA, alongside several partners, was able to participate in all the meetings organized as part of the process of developing the concept note on malaria.

As achievements, the project has strengthened the capacities of CSOs in all key elements of the GC7 application process and in many other aspects of the Global Fund. It enabled CSVA and several other CSOs/CBOs to participate in all key stages of the GC7 funding request process and ensured that priorities identified by CSOs and communities were included in GC7 funding requests.

The CSVA and its partners pushed for these strategies to be annexed to the documents to be submitted to the Global Fund and taken into account in the Malaria Elimination Acceleration Plan (2022-2025).

## CAMEROON: Impact Santé Afrique Leads the Charge in Building Civil Society Capacity for GC7 in Cameroon and beyond



Impact Santé Afrique / CS4ME Secretariat, as the coordinator of technical assistance in the GC7 process for the nine countries and as the GC7 project focal point in Cameroon, has focused its strategy on organizing training and capacity building for CSOs, both at local and regional level, and on developing guides and other tools on GC7.

Before the implementation of the various activities in Cameroon, ISA in collaboration with eleven other CSOs such as (APDSP, RESIPAT, RELESS- NSONGON, OFIF, AJESSEY, YOUTH ACTION, ALMA YOUTH ARMY, POWER, POSITIVE GENERATION, REACH OUT and ISA) set up a working group to support the development of the malaria concept note called «GC7 OSC PALU Cameroun». This is a group of civil society organizations involved in the

fight against malaria to support the development of the GC7 Malaria Concept Note.

Following this, community consultations were organized in 6 regions of the country (Centre, Far North, Littoral, South, West and East) between February and March 2023, and the priority needs of populations vulnerable to malaria were identified.

During 2023, ISA also participated in several strategic meetings, such as the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Control in Cameroon, the workshop organized to develop the new National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2024-2028, and the GC7 malaria concept note drafting workshop to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations were taken into account in these strategic documents.



## GC7: Cotonou Hosts Regional Meeting to Empower Civil Society

A regional gathering of civil society organizations from across Africa convened in Cotonou, Benin, from March 28 to 31, 2023. The purpose? To equip these vital organizations with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively engage communities in the fight against malaria. Participants from Benin, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Niger, the DRC, and Senegal came together to share experiences, learn from one another, and strengthen their collective impact. The goal? To elevate civil society's role in shaping the Global Fund's malaria country concept notes for 2023 (GC7). By ensuring that community voices are central to these plans, we can drive more effective and sustainable malaria prevention and treatment strategies.



## Insights and Takeaways

### From Consultation to Action: What Civil Society learned in their GC7 Journey so far

This project has been a valuable experience, providing valuable insights for future initiatives. We've identified key lessons that can help us improve similar processes in the years ahead.

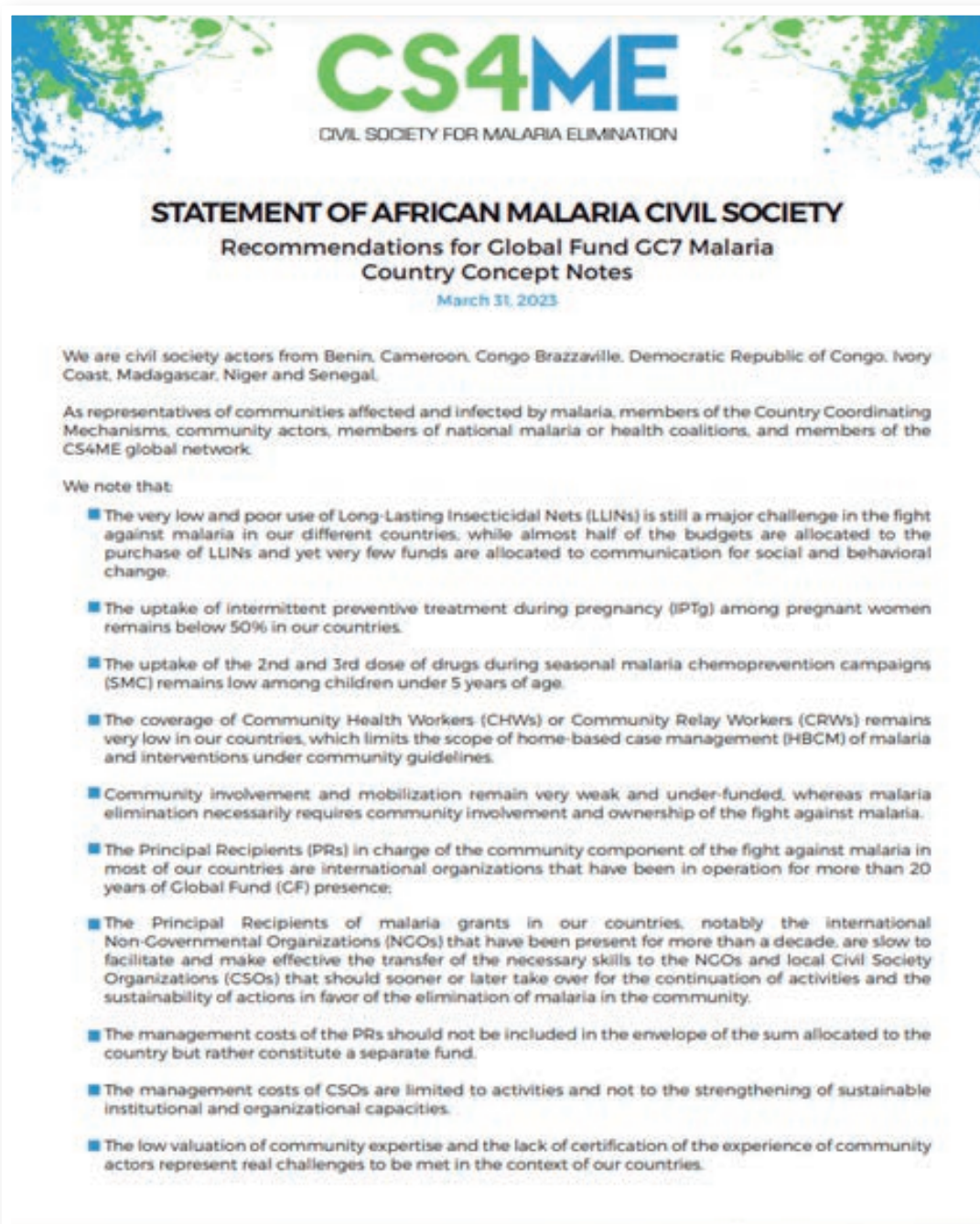
- The importance of online tools and activities: These tools have been instrumental in strengthening civil society's participation and ensuring high-quality involvement.
- The value of capacity building and tool development: By providing training and resources, we've helped CSOs and CBOs better understand and implement key approaches and processes.
- The need for community engagement and needs assessment: Community consultations have been essential for identifying the urgent needs of vulnerable groups and ensuring that these needs are reflected in the concept notes.
- The power of empowering small CBOs: This project has given a voice to small CBOs, many of whom have been fighting malaria for years but have never been part of this kind of process.
- Overall, this project demonstrates the significant impact that civil society can have when organized and involved at all levels of these initiatives.





## Through a Statement, Civil Society called leaders to action in countries supported by Global Fund

Civil society organizations from nine African countries, including Benin, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Senegal, have issued a joint declaration. These organizations, members of national malaria coalitions, health networks, and the global CS4ME network, are calling on their respective governments to take urgent action to address critical gaps in malaria elimination.





## A glimpse of the future

This is just the beginning! In future newsletters, we will share more exciting news about CSO activities regarding the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7.

# CS4ME

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