



How Shadow Report shades light on Global Fund Aid Effectiveness

Background

For Impacts in Social Health (FIS) is a civil society organization created in 1997 in Cameroon whose vision is to eradicate injustice in the health sector through critical monitoring of health policies and programs by taking government, development partners as well as other national stakeholders accountable to their commitments and communities more responsible of their health issues.

This involves monitoring and assessing all engagements that favor more efficient results of aid in the health sector which have most of the time hindered by inadequate frameworks to ensure transparency and accountability at national level.

In fact, the government of Cameroon identifies the promotion of good governance as a main challenge to realize its 2035 emerging vision. Despite several actions to improve governance of resources, especially in the health sector whose system of information is defaulting on both internal and external resources, management of resources are fairly coordinated and thus have very low impact.

Also vertical mechanism to improve transparency, accountability and community involvement in the delivery of public services especially health services are not implemented at local level.

Shadow reports are developed as a civil society response to effectively participate in Health policies monitoring and thus, improve aid effectiveness in health sector.

Shadow reporting is an approach to present alternative assessment of official health program performance by identifying gaps and priorities for improvement.

Shadow Global Fund (GF) grants report in Cameroon

According to its strategic axis to promote Aid effectiveness, FIS plays the role of Global Fund Watchdog by promoting accountability and transparency frameworks for effectiveness in the implementation of the GF grants in Cameroon.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund to fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases. The Global Fund raises and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in countries and communities most in need. Since 2004, Cameroon benefit from the GF grants to control those three diseases.

Involved and trained community actors in local monitoring of GF programs/services



For GF aid to be maximized efficiently and most optimally, FIS involved community members and strengthened their capacity to play the role of GF local watchdogs. FIS and its watchdogs' partners collect data on GF grants implementation to be compiled in a Shadow GF grant report as critical aid effectiveness tool to promote accountability by discussing official reports based on critical insight/feedback of affected and infected communities.

Tracking implementers performance



The principal recipients of GF grants (Being the Government) are the primary persons to be held accountable for GF grants effectiveness at national level. According to set indicators, they biannually report on their performance through the PUDR (Progress Update Disbursement Request) directly to the GF secretariat and to the CCM (Country Coordination Mechanism of the GF at national level), mainly responsible for ensuring good implementation of GF grants at national level..

Establish good relationship with strategic stakeholders to get access to information



Due to FIS' strengthened collaboration with the CCM, FIS succeeded to get access to the PUDR. Based on these performance indicators reported by the PR of the TB program (as TB grant was the only grant targeted for the first edition of the Shadow Report), we were able to track the effectiveness of the reported results among implementers and beneficiaries through development and administration of questionnaires assessing reported indicators in health facilities and communities.

Getting feedback from both implementers and beneficiaries to assess performance



To conduct these questionnaires/interviews on quality of GF services, the twenty watchdogs trained on tracking the implementation of GF services and procedures both at national and local levels, were mobilized from all over the ten regions of the country.

Specific requirements profiling watchdogs' profiles involved:

- Being from a legalized CSO/Media working of GF issues (HIV, Malaria and TB)
- Having good collaboration with regional delegations of health. Regarding the “culture of secret environment” where the country evolves, this criterion was a way forward to address issues of denied access to information which reduced thanks to the disposition taken to address the issue.
- Being able to reach the 480 targeted beneficiaries and health workers as well as regional PR (being the regional delegation of the ministry of health)

Make sure your data collection and analysis is reliable

After going through a critical analysis of the collected data with the support of an organization expert on GF data analysis namely Aidsplan, we compiled the data into a Shadow Report which highlighted a very weak involvement of civil society organization in the implementation of the grant.

Share the Shadow Report with implementers



The findings were shared with main stakeholders:

Principal recipient: As primary “guarantors” of implementation of GF programs at national level, the National TB program (NTP) was the first target to request and conduct advocacy meeting with. Notify the PR at the beginning of the research and its relevance, made the PR opened to a discussion on the results. After going through the Shadow Reports, they recognized the findings denounced in the report and committed to support in a strategy to address the raised issues and implement some of the recommendations.

Lobbying to take forward recommendations

Through a lobbying process, the PR committed to patronize a request for fund address to Stop TB partnership by FIS to support the community component to control TB in Cameroon as it was critically raised in the Shadow Report as the main weakness of the NTP.

Use all forms of Media for dissemination to advocate to a larger public



The report was shared with Media during a Press Media for a wide dissemination. Media is a main mean to use the information to agitate on the importance of the report among the general public and relevant decision makers at national and regional level.

- The Shadow report was published in three main newspapers and debate on it was broadcasted through Three radio media

- A private TV media invite both FIS and the NTP on a TV Show to discuss on the Shadow Report
- The Shadow Report was widely shared through social media and received many feedback especially from technical and financial partners

Conclusion

From the positive response/feedback received from principal recipients and CSO (who wanted to be also part of the monitoring work) as well as financial partners who committed to financial support the implementation of main recommendation (being strengthen the community component to support TB response), Shadow report will definitely be taken forward for other GF grants as an important tool to guarantee GF grants effectiveness in particular and Aid effectiveness in general.