



CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT PLAN WITH UNITAID



Introduction

Civil Society (CS) has been critical in catalysing and shaping national, regional and global interventions successfully to mobilize donors and decision-makers to fund and scale-up the global response against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. In light of the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals and global health targets, it is essential to maximize the potential of UNITAID's partnerships with CS to work together to achieve these targets.

Since 2006, UNITAID has engaged with CS drawing on their knowledge and networks to support UNITAID's vision and innovative interventions at global and country levels towards improving access to diagnostics, medicines, and other health technologies for preventing, detecting, and treating HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria and more recently HCV/HIV co-infection.

Objectives

This Engagement Plan is designed to structure UNITAID's broader and deeper engagement with CS through: CS in-country involvement in monitoring implementation of specific UNITAID projects, demand generation for defined UNITAID-supported health products, UNITAID's strategic planning and priority setting, and UNITAID's work on intellectual property. It sets out specific principles at each level, recognising that CS has a unique ability to interact with communities affected by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, to react quickly to their needs, and to engage with affected and vulnerable groups.

Principles

The key principles for collaboration between UNITAID and CS are as follows:

1. Sharing information, enhancing accountability and providing feedback on UNITAID projects.

CS shall share information and provide feedback to UNITAID on the implementation of specific UNITAID funded projects in country. Strong feedback loops and advocacy at the CS level are a dynamic way of encouraging grantees, health authorities, and decision makers, to address problems with access and the appropriateness of products and services as they emerge.

2. Promoting demand generation for and transition of UNITAID supported health products.

Engagement with CS shall also support demand generation for specific UNITAID supported health products. Where appropriate and feasible, UNITAID's projects will



support CS's capacity to advocate for the uptake of these products. CS will do so by advocating with governments to accelerate the adoption and use of promising new health technologies, and by helping to catalyse community demand and health literacy concerning new technologies at the local level. CS can also advocate to include UNITAID supported products in Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) concept notes to the Global Fund and in Country Operational Plans (COP) submitted to the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

3. Strengthening dialogue with CS networks on UNITAID projects.

Engagement with CS networks shall ensure that grantees are connecting with the right people at country level. Advocacy needs to take place at the operational level, led by the right CSOs, targeting appropriate platforms (CCM, COPs, Govt., etc.) with the right interventions (overcoming intellectual property barriers, literacy, demand generation, policy change, monitoring, "watchdog" role, etc.). Plans will be developed on a case-by-case basis when there is a specific need for CS support.

4. Catalysing input in strategic directions.

Through a strengthened consultative process, CS shall be a resource (as are all Board constituencies), through a strengthened consultation process that encourages CS to provide more input to UNITAID upstream process (e.g. into policy or strategic areas, contributions to the elaboration of 2017-2021 strategy, development of a concept for UNITAID's work in IP).

5. Leveraging Civil Society's expertise and advocacy on addressing intellectual property barriers.

CS has broad expertise on intellectual property barriers affecting creation of and access to new well-adapted health technologies needed to overcome the three diseases. In collaboration with CS, UNITAID shall develop an intellectual property strategy and thereafter collaborate with CS to determine where CS support can be leveraged in its implementation.

6. Supporting efforts for Resource Mobilization.

The engagement with CS shall ensure collaboration at the donor country level to support UNITAID Resource Mobilization activities.



7. Building CS activities into proposals and otherwise resourcing civil society engagement.

The UNITAID Secretariat will identify opportunities for proponents to include CS engagement in relevant proposals and will provide proponents with best practice guidance for CS engagement and support. The Secretariat will explore additional modalities for supporting CS engagement in UNITAID activities and projects where appropriate.

8. Reporting CS engagement activities and outcomes to the Board.

The UNITAID Secretariat will report annually on CS engagement to the Board.

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COMMUNITIES LIVING WITH THE DISEASES

NGOs

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