



**14 December, 2015**

**Update No 1**

Dear Investors Group Members,

It has been a busy two months since we saw each other in New York and I would like to update you on some of the GFF activities since then.

**Kenya Workshop:**

The Kenya Learning Workshop was held from 15 to 18 November on Mount Kenya including more than 100 participants from nine countries (as well as global partners). Several Investors Group members were able to attend or were represented. The workshop was attended by 8 country teams from Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda. Each country teams comprised 7 members including participants from within and outside government.

Participants were honored with the presence of Kenya's First Lady, the Honourable Margaret Gakuo Kenyatta who warmly welcomed them to Kenya expressing her gratitude that Kenya was one of the GFF front runner countries, and for the opportunity to host the GFF workshop for a cause that is close to her heart. She elaborated that the GFF comes at an opportune time for when Kenya is accelerating its efforts to improve maternal and child health and addressing the special needs of young adults to make them healthy and productive. The country level partnership was also well represented by the Kenyan Government, country partners including the UN, civil

Three major topics (investment cases, health financing strategies, country platforms) were covered in plenary and extensive group work was undertaken by country teams in addition to specific sessions on a range of thematic issues (family planning, adolescents, commodities, results frameworks). The workshop was ably facilitated by a range of partner institutions.

The evaluation was extremely positive, with country teams in particular finding the opportunity to engage and share lessons and approaches very valuable. Some key conclusions from the workshop included:

*The Success:*

- Alignment on the vision: there is a strengthened understanding of the GFF vision, particularly links between RMNCAH technical work and the financing agenda;
- Political engagement: there was strong engagement from countries, including Ministries of Finance which built noticeable momentum through the workshop and helped country teams bond;
- Technical progress: the discussions helped ensure a common understanding of key aspects of the GFF (Investment Cases and particularly health financing strategies);
- Strengthening partnerships: active engagement from H4+, civil society and the private sector.

### *The Challenge:*

- Limited engagement by key financiers: there was no participation from Gavi, Global Fund, and most bilaterals. Earlier planning and better outreach will be needed to ensure their presence in future.

The next steps were explicitly discussed at the workshop: each country presented their follow-up actions which are detailed in the workshop report circulated by the GFF Secretariat. At the global level guidance notes on operational policies and investment cases must be completed. Follow up discussions will take place with GAVI and Global Fund and bilateral financiers of the RMNCAH agenda to look for opportunities for collaboration at country level

The workshop format proved very valuable for the exchange of lessons and information sharing and there were requests for regular convening of countries to facilitate this capacity development and rapid advancement. Given this success, there is a need to foster a community of practice amongst the GFF countries that will enable an exchange on key technical themes as well as operational challenges. This will be done through regular webinars, an online platform and occasionally face to face meetings.

### **Country Progress:**

The portfolio as a whole is moving well and progress has been made in the development of investment cases and financing strategies. The following table gives an indication of the status of each country.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Investment Case status</b>	<b>Health financing strategy status</b>
Bangladesh	January kickoff	January kickoff
Cameroon	October kickoff; draft expected Q1 2016	October kickoff; expected late 2016
DRC	Health strategy in Q1 2016	Expect mid-2016
Ethiopia	HSTP prioritization	
India	tbc	tbc
Kenya	Draft developed	Draft developed
Liberia	November kickoff; draft expected December	November kickoff
Mozambique	December kickoff	December kickoff
Nigeria	Preparation for kickoff	Under discussion
Senegal	December kickoff	December kickoff
Tanzania	In implementation	
Uganda	October kickoff; draft expected December	October kickoff; draft expected December

The Secretariat and GFF partners have undertaken several missions to countries to support the implementation in first wave countries and the kick-off of the GFF processes in the second wave countries. In Kenya the process of rolling out the Investment Case approach with counties has begun. Of the second wave countries, Cameroon, Liberia and Uganda are moving most rapidly.

### Cameroon

The government of Cameroon officially kicked off the GFF process in the country with a two-day meeting that was very well attended, with approximately 200 participants from government (at different levels), non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, and development partners. The process of developing the Investment Case is building on existing strategies in the country and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2016, while the health financing strategy has less pre-existing work to build on and so is likely to take longer to complete.

### Uganda

The GFF process in Uganda is well-advanced, with the government updating and refining existing RMNCAH materials in the country. The strategic priorities for the Investment Case were discussed at a November workshop that brought together a range of key stakeholders.

### Briefings:

IG members and the GFF Secretariat have given briefings at several international meetings including the Global Maternal and Newborn Health Conference 2015 in Mexico, and the PMNCH Board meeting in Zambia, both in October; the briefings and side events planned for the International Conference on Family Planning will now take place in January at the rescheduled meeting.

In addition, the GFF Secretariat has been reaching out internally at the World Bank, holding an internal retreat with country teams and regional managers to ensure internal consistency and effective communication on the GFF based on the Frequently Asked Questions and Key Messages that were shared with the IG.

### Communications:

As I mentioned to you previously, a consultant, Ms. Sally Paxton, has been engaged to look at strategic communications for the GFF. Many of you have already shared your thoughts, if you would like to further discuss your concerns or ideas please contact Cynthia de la Cuesta ([cdelacuesta@worldbank.org](mailto:cdelacuesta@worldbank.org)) who can facilitate a conversation with the consultant. The GFF landing page is operational at [www.globalfinancingfacility.org](http://www.globalfinancingfacility.org) but a full website is under construction which will include a password protected site for the Investors Group.

### Upcoming activities:

The IG Task Teams will soon begin their work in preparation for the next IG meeting. Thank you to those of you who have responded to my request for engagement. If you have any queries on these task teams please contact Dianne Stewart ([dstewart4@worldbank.org](mailto:dstewart4@worldbank.org)).

Introductory meetings are planned for Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of Congo in January. For more information on this outreach please contact Dinesh Nair ([dnair@worldbank.org](mailto:dnair@worldbank.org)).

January will be a busy month as in addition to the International Family Planning Conference, there will be the World Economic Forum in Davos, and the Executive Board of the World Health Assembly in Geneva. I imagine some of you will be attending these gatherings and would encourage you to have our GFF key messages and FAQ in your briefing books so you can be advocates for the partnership!

Tim Evans, Monique Vledder and I will be in Geneva in January to meet with our Geneva based partners including our friends at WHO, Gavi and The Global Fund to strengthen our collaboration.

**Second IG Meeting:**

The dates of the Second Investors Group meeting are confirmed as Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016. As discussed in September we would like to have a two day retreat for the next meeting and we have decided for practical and logistical purposes to have the meeting in London, venue to be announced but we hope to identify a good location for a focused meeting (and ensure you are all kept warm and dry!).

*Diane Jacovella*

Chair, Investors Group