



Torch Caravan Marking The Global Fund @20

An Appreciative Enquiry

Acknowledgment

Appreciative Enquiry carried out by DP Evaluation

Dörte Pommerening & Alasdhair Collins

February - March 2022

Contents

Background.....	3
Purpose of the Torch Caravan.....	5
What was the Torch Caravan and What Happened?.....	11
Overall concept.....	11
Events and activities.....	12
Successes and Achievements	19
Success Factors and Lessons Learned.....	28
Success factors.....	28
Lessons learned.....	33
External Factors, Mitigation and Project Management.....	37
Coronavirus and other external factors.....	37
Project management.....	39
Impact and Conclusion.....	41
Methodology.....	48
Appendix.....	49

Background

The Global Fund was set up in 2002 and is designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as epidemics. It leverages and invests more than US\$4 billion every year to support programmes run by local experts in over 100 countries. Its impact has been calculated as having saved 44 million lives by 2021 - through prevention, control measures and treatment.

GFAN Africa is the 'Global Fund Advocates Network, Africa'. It is hosted by WACI Health in Kenya. GFAN Africa "has built a continent-wide social movement that demands health for all by recruiting, connecting and mobilising advocates to communicate the urgent need for successful replenishments of the Global Fund.¹"

WACI Health "is an African regional advocacy organisation, which influences political priorities through an effective, evidence-driven Pan-African civil society voice and action ... striving to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all in Africa.²"

The events to mark the Global Fund's 20th year were designed to tell the story of its impact and how it was achieved. To this end, from June to December 2021, a 'virtual' Torch Caravan passed through 20 African countries. The caravan entailed the lighting of the torch in each of the 20 participating countries to celebrate lives saved. Due to pandemic-related travel restrictions each handover from one country to the next country was shared virtually although some events took place face to face and some were hybrid.

Other activities included webinars, Parliamentary briefings, press conferences, media training and roundtables. An anniversary digital photo album was produced telling the story of African Civil Society's journey with the Global Fund along with a collection of one-minute-long video stories. These activities generated a wide range of newspaper, TV, radio and social media coverage.

It is the Torch Caravan, that marked 20 years of the Global Fund, that is to be evaluated in this Appreciative Enquiry.

Rather than giving a detailed description of the background behind the Global Fund, one personal story should suffice to make clear the terrible effects of these diseases, the need for funding and the impact which the Global Fund has been having:

1 The Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) – WACI Health

2 About WACI Health – WACI Health

“

“It is relevant to tell my personal story. I am a South Africa from Cape Town. Back in 1998 I was a young professional working for the Open Society Foundation and keen to change the world. Then my friends started dying and leaving behind young children and the disease that was killing them could not be talked about. There was no treatment in the public sector. People could not afford treatment or it was just not available. So I resigned and joined Access to Treatment. There were 1,500 new infections and 900 deaths per day at that time and we were attending funerals every week. We were fighting to get the Government to fund treatment and make it widely accessible in an affordable way. We took the Government to court, we protested and we called for a fund to support our Government and for global solidarity to face the challenge. Kofi Annan and other leaders supported our position. In 2002 the Global Fund was created. So the Global Fund is very much a personal journey for me – to save my people and myself by gaining access to treatment. The Global Fund became an equalizer, making treatment affordable for all. Finally, I joined the Global Fund in 2012.”

– Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

In the sections which follow we describe what happened during the Torch Caravan and identify a series of findings. For each finding we have grouped the evidence from document review, interviews and written comments under specific points which emerged and have illustrated these with quotes from the participants in this appreciative enquiry.

Purpose of the Torch Caravan

The formal purpose of the Torch Caravan was expressed through the expected outcomes of the programme of activities which were formulated as fostering:

- Greater understanding and appreciation of the Global Fund's role in global health leadership.
- Sustained, broadened, and increased political support for the Global Fund in targeted donor and implementing countries in the lead up to the 7th replenishment.

We also asked a wide range of participants what the Torch Caravan meant to them and why they wanted to participate.

Finding 1: The Torch Caravan meant something similar to all participants

It was striking, and very positive, that all participants were singing from the same hymn sheet and had a common understanding that the Torch Caravan was about one or both of the following:

- A celebration (commemoration and thanksgiving) of lives saved by the Global Fund's interventions
- An opportunity for advocacy (education and awareness raising) about the impact of the Global Fund

“

It was very symbolic of the appreciation I feel, as an African advocate for health, for the Global Fund's work. The Torch Caravan shed light on and symbolised, celebrated and gave thanks for the Global Fund's legacy and its impact in saving millions of lives.” - Hon Daniel Molohele, MP, Zimbabwe

“

It was a way to pay tribute to Civil Society and to celebrate all the lives saved in Africa and globally by the Global Fund and also to mobilise all the actors to discuss the impact and the importance of the unique collaboration between Civil Society, governments and the Global Fund.” – Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC (International Treatment Preparedness Coalition)

“

The Torch Caravan was about celebrating the Global Fund for 20 years of saving lives, 20 years of work to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and also for strengthening systems for health.” - Marilyne Noah, Programmes Assistant (Advocacy), Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

“

For me personally it was a real celebration. 1.6 million Tanzanians live with HIV and that is a real reason to celebrate. I have lived with HIV for over 20 years and I have been able to see my grandchildren born and grow.” - Joan Chamungu, Chair of Tanzania AIDS Forum

“

Since our organisation was created our objectives have been advocacy and community monitoring to try to influence political decision-makers in Burkina Faso and the Francophone region of Africa. So the Torch Caravan was a perfect activity for us, it fitted with our aims and mission and our advocacy approach to improve the lives of the poorest citizens.” - Ida Yugbare Savadogo, Programme Manager, RAME (Réseau Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels), Burkina Faso

Finding 2: People wanted to take part in the Torch Caravan for a variety of reasons

The motivation for taking part in the Torch Caravan, however, varied and was partly a function of personal background and also of local or national context. None of the motivations were contradictory, rather they were complementary and it was thanks to the flexible conceptualisation of the Torch Caravan that it appealed to people with different backgrounds and motivations. This really made it relevant for different contexts. The following were the most common reasons for taking part:

To celebrate, to give thanks and draw attention to the impact of the Global Fund. Many interviewees said that the Torch Caravan was a chance to celebrate and highlight the work of the Global Fund but also that they wanted to express their personal and professional gratitude to the Global Fund for saving so many lives.

“

As a thought experiment we tried to envisage the world without the Global Fund. In this conversation the world looked a lot less bright.” - Evaline Kibuchi, WACI Health Board Member, Kenya

“

I joined in because I wanted to share my gratitude for the Global Fund’s work.” - Hon Daniel Molokele, MP, Zimbabwe

“

I myself am a beneficiary so it meant a lot to me being actively engaged in the planning and coordinating processes throughout in my country, with the help of CSOs who wanted to involve young people who had benefitted from the Global Fund. It really meant a lot to me being able to participate and celebrate.” - Priscilla Addo, young person living with HIV and CCM member, Ghana

“

The Global Fund has made great progress against malaria, which is our main area of work, so we wanted to celebrate our work with them. I liked the project design and the concept, the caravan representing Africa and the torch our engagement. CSOs are very engaged and really appreciated the opportunity to celebrate the Global Fund’s innovations in the fight against the three diseases, especially malaria.” - Edith Zendja, Communications Officer, Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

An opportunity to bring HIV, TB and malaria back to the top of the agenda. Covid-19 has been affecting progress by diverting resources and attention away from the three diseases, and restrictions on travel and fear of Covid have reduced attendance at clinics. So, the Torch Caravan was a chance to do something positive against the dispiriting backdrop of the Covid pandemic and at the same time bring some attention back to the fight against HIV, TB and malaria.

“

It is important for us to notice the risk that Covid-19 poses in losing us the gains made, cancelling out the progress made so far. Covid also needs extra funding in order to safeguard those gains. The Torch Caravan was an opportunity to bring the stakeholders together and break the disruption caused by Covid, to plan together, to remind governments of commitments and remind them of the Global Fund's impact.” – Itai Rusike, Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health, Zimbabwe

“

It was a good innovation to celebrate in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid has restricted all our work, so it was good to be able to celebrate and to share. We still wanted to celebrate the Global Fund's achievements despite Covid.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

An opportunity to collaborate with other CSOs, both domestically and in other countries. The collaborative nature of the programme seems to have been attractive. Many interviewees mentioned this element, either as a motivating factor for being involved or as one of the major successes of the project.

“

The Torch Caravan created a great opportunity to work with new partners and to engage Civil Society in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt. The MENA region often does not have a very high profile, so we wanted MENA to be part of something bigger and celebrate all the good work done. It was different to other projects because we had to work with new partners and all the contexts are different. For example, we received the torch from Ghana, and Morocco and Ghana are very different countries. Each country celebrated differently.”
– Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC

The project was a vehicle to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in each country. Again, this was a very important element. The Torch Caravan was not just about CSOs talking to each other but represented a rare opportunity to engage with individuals, communities, politicians, civil servants, institutions and journalists.

“

The Torch Caravan managed to get Civil Society, communities and politicians engaged in a partnership to celebrate the Global Fund at 20.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

The Torch Caravan was seen as something innovative or unique

“

A pan-African Torch Caravan like this was something new.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

“

The Torch Caravan was different and exciting.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“

What appealed to me most was the concept of passing the torch from one country to another for the celebration; personally I had not yet had to carry out this kind of activity. I found it very original and different from other projects.” - Marilyne Noah, Programmes Assistant (Advocacy), Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

Both the symbolism of shining a light and the echo of the Olympic torch bringing peoples together appealed to many participants

“

It was an excellent idea to have a torch symbolizing the spirit of the people and moving around from country to country like the Olympic torch.” - Dr. Nii Hanson-Nortey, Vice Chair of CCM, Ghana

This was an opportunity for individuals to tell their stories. Because the Torch Caravan involved communities and individuals, this was a real chance for the voices of individuals to be heard, telling positive stories of how the Global Fund had made their lives better.

“

The Torch Caravan gave ordinary people from the community level, people living with the illness, an opportunity to tell their story. It also gave us the chance to document Civil Society voices. These were our main reasons for taking part, to tell our Zimbabwean story and for the community and people to tell their story.” – Itai Rusike, Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health, Zimbabwe

“

The Torch Caravan was a unique project where people were given the opportunity to express how the Global Fund has benefitted them personally, for example through access to treatment. Despite being virtual the Torch Caravan was really alive.” – Joan Chamungu, Chair of Tanzania AIDS Forum

“

For me as a beneficiary I was given the honour of actually participating. Hope For Future Generations ensured that young beneficiaries of the Global Fund were involved, allowing us to come in and bring ideas and it really made me feel included. It is very important that beneficiaries of the Global Fund are not on the side-lines alone or at the receiving end alone – I like to be involved in all the stages!” – Priscilla Addo, young person living with HIV and CCM member, Ghana



What was the Torch Caravan and What Happened?

Overall concept

The idea was to have a Torch Caravan moving from Cape to Cairo, the ancient trade route. The Torch would be passed from country to country and would return to South Africa during the ICASA conference in Durban.

This was a new and Pan-African concept. The Torch would travel through five regions, Southern Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, West Africa and the African part of the MENA region. Countries in each region would collaborate to organise the handovers of the Torch from country to country and would also organise their own national events.

Torch Caravan Launch; CAPETOWN TO CAIRO



**JAM
SESSION**

Wednesday 14 July, 3pm - 4:30pm

  **WACI HEALTH**



The Torch Caravan was launched with a Jam Session broadcast live on YouTube and Facebook which included music and a range of presentations from WACI Health, the Global Fund and advocates.

Events and activities

There is not enough space in this report to record all the events and activities which took place through the life of the Torch Caravan. We have selected a few countries and summarised what they did, in order to illustrate the common elements across countries and also the variation between countries.

Burkina Faso

The ceremony to mark the receiving of the Torch from Senegal, took place on 8th October 2021 and was attended by 41 participants including Civil Society Organisations and journalists. It included:

- A presentation to highlight the lives saved by the Global Fund, explaining the Fund's mission and the impact of its funding first-hand testimony from a man living with HIV, describing how the grant from the Global Fund had helped him to have a better life
- A press conference attended by ten journalists including national TV, national newspapers and radio and the sharing of messages on social media passing of the Torch to a "champion", namely Hugues Fabrice Zango, an Olympic medallist in the triple jump



- Media coverage including online, press and TV. Interviews with many people giving their personal testimony about the Global Fund and its impact, broadcast on TV and radio and on social media.

The ceremony to pass the Torch on to Nigeria was attended by heads of Burkina Faso CSOs and representatives of the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNAIDS. It included:

- A presentation by a representative of Civil Society

- A presentation by a representative of the beneficiaries of Global Fund support the cutting of a birthday cake and singing of a birthday song

- The handing over of the Torch by the President of the Burkina Faso Council of CSOs

- the receiving of the Torch by Nigeria

Cameroon

The official Anniversary Ceremony took place on September 24th, 2021, at the Merina Hotel in Yaoundé and was attended by over 70 participants from a wide range of CSOs, many journalists, representatives from the Japanese Embassy, a representative from the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, health experts and friends. It included speeches, presentations and testimony from a range of speakers, including CSOs, the President of the CCM and the Head of Civil Society Advocacy at The Global Fund.

The declaration of the Civil Society of Cameroon was read out, requesting from leaders and from Government, an increase in the budget allocated to health and the mobilisation of domestic resources to meet the Global Fund co-financing requirement to accelerate the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and an advocacy letter was handed over from Civil Society to the representative of the Ministry of Public Health.

CSO testimony about the impact of the Global Fund included many important points, such as the distribution of 400 million mosquito nets, demonstrating the importance of Civil Society in the fight against these three diseases and in decision making, the drastic reduction of death rates in Cameroon, access to diagnosis and treatment and revolutionising the approach to human rights, gender promotion and equity in the global response to these three diseases. Many platforms such as Civil

Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME), Community Rights and Gender (CRG), Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) have been created since the arrival of the Global Fund and thanks to the Global Fund many Community Based Organisations and Community Health Worker posts have been created.

Dr. Ebot, the representative from the National Tuberculosis Control Programme presented the major achievements in combatting TB in

Cameroon thanks to the Global Fund, including the creation of 305 centres for TB diagnosis in the 6000 health facilities in Cameroon, the decreasing number of cases and the revision of TB treatment guidelines. These achievements were greatly applauded by Civil Society and health experts present as many were hearing them for the first time.

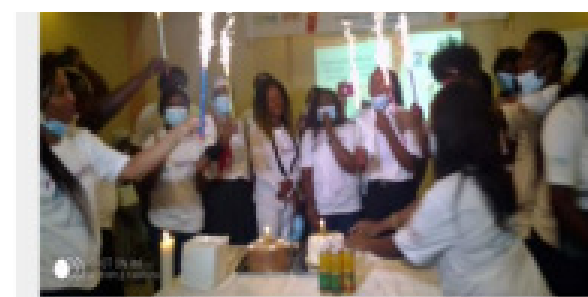
The representative of the Japanese Embassy, Mr. Makayivi Makoto added that, "Japan is one of the key donors to the Global Fund and contributes a total of 4 billion every year to the Global Fund. Japan pledged 840 million USD in the response mechanism against COVID 19 and always seeks better health for all."



The Torch was handed over to Niger and the anniversary cake was shared.



There was a range of media coverage:



“

Our main event in Yaoundé included Civil Society testimony, opening remarks from the Chair of the CCM. Many community leaders, political leaders and media representatives attended. The cutting of the birthday cake was a wonderful moment! We had a great deal of media coverage including national TV and several newspapers. Since ISA is the secretariat for ‘Civil Society for Malaria Elimination’ we were active on both the ISA and CS4ME social media platforms.”

- Edith Zendja, Communications Officer, Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

Zimbabwe

The online handover ceremony to Malawi was attended by delegates from WACI Health, GFAN Africa, Parliament, Government officials, the media and CSO members from the different countries. All delegates introduced themselves and thanked the Global Fund for the 20 years of unwavering support to health in Africa. There were presentations from a range of stakeholders, and there were other important elements, including:

- Zimbabwean MP, Hon MP Daniel Molokele described how the Global Fund has been influential in saving lives and financing Zimbabwe’s health sector and referred to the Global Fund as a ‘lifesaver’ and a ‘hero’
- A CSO representative, Tariro Kutadza, shared how the Global Fund has changed how communities view HIV; she talked about stigma and discrimination and how things have changed since 2002
- A media practitioner, Cathy Murombedzi, also shared how she changed the narrative and started reporting on HIV/AIDS issues that were usually stigmatised by using the first-person narrative so that people will be comfortable living positively
- Personal video testimony from an activist affected by one of the diseases the

passing of the Torch was marked by the lighting of candles

- Delegates from Zimbabwe and Malawi promised that they would continue to collaborate, demonstrating how important CSOs feel that this sort of cooperation is they also called upon WACI Health to continue providing technical support, illustrating how important this role is

Ghana

There were two ceremonies, a smaller one to receive the Torch from Nigeria, which was attended by community representatives, activists, the CCM and the UNAIDS country director and a larger one to hand the Torch over to Morocco which was attended by the Minister of Health and the Presidential Advisor on HIV.

“

I took part in several meetings for planning and coordinating with Nigeria on how to receive the Torch. Along with other young people living with HIV I was actually involved with the help of CSOs in planning, writing and delivering letters to stakeholders, designing campaign messages for Twitter. On the day we were engaged, giving a speech. So I was really involved in a lot of activities. I took part, from receiving the Torch to handing over the Torch to Morocco, I was involved throughout the week.” – Priscilla Addo, young person living with HIV and CCM member, Ghana

Finding 3: National and local events were many and varied, the adaptable template was successful and handover ceremonies included some key components

The key components of the handover ceremonies were:

- Attracting a wide and varied range of participants as speakers and audience members including communities, Civils Society, MPs and officials
- Delivering some clear messages on the impact of the Global Fund’s interventions, some of which were unknown to decision-makers and even to health experts

- Making it clear that the Global Fund's support has not only brought treatment and other resources which have saved many lives, but has also strengthened Civil Society, created new platforms and Community Health Worker posts
- Combining thanks, personal testimony, advocacy and external endorsements (from international bodies or Embassies) as a powerful way to get messages across based on a shared template having the flexibility to adapt ceremonies to national contexts

Successes and Achievements

Finding 4: The Torch Caravan created a common space for multiple stakeholders

The Torch Caravan created a space where all types of stakeholders could come together (often virtually) to share both celebrations and discussions around the challenges posed by the three diseases. This is not easy to achieve and should be seen as a major success. One of the reasons that all stakeholders could get on board was that the Torch Caravan was not just an advocacy tool, it was also a celebration and a chance to reflect and show gratitude, which everyone felt able to do.

All contributions from different stakeholders were equally valuable. Personal testimony from those living with the diseases was powerful and moving, the impact evidence provided by CSOs made an impression and the acknowledgement by politicians and officials of the importance of the Global Fund strengthened the basis for the Replenishment talks.

“

We had great participation from various stakeholders. Due to a last-minute change in the schedule we suddenly had to plan to receive the Torch a week earlier than expected. The planning meeting to map out the seven days of the Torch in Zimbabwe, was attended by Civil Society, the National Youth Council, media, the CCM and parliamentarians. We came up with quite a number of activities and grouped them around TB, Malaria and HIV. We hosted some physical meetings with numbers limited due to Covid-19. We also recognised a need to take the torch out of the urban centres into communities in the districts and provinces. The activities included personal testimonies from survivors, candle-lit memorials and a media event in Harare which generated a lot of media coverage.” – Itai Rusike, Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health, Zimbabwe

“

The Torch Caravan provided a space for Civil Society to come together with communities and Government.” – Olayide Akanna, Executive Director, Journalists Against Aids, Nigeria

Finding 5: The Torch Caravan raised awareness

Awareness was raised among the public through varied media coverage and social media (although it is hard to quantify these). Before the Torch Caravan many people did not realise that some resources (such as bed nets) and some treatments are actually provided by the Global Fund and not the government.

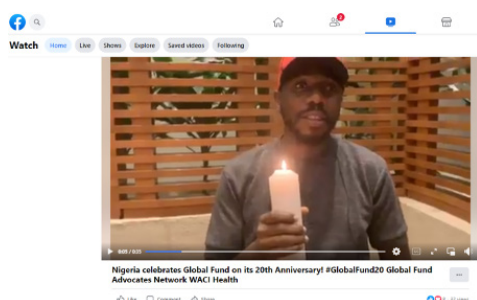
The media coverage varied in volume and media channels from country to country. Here is a small selection:



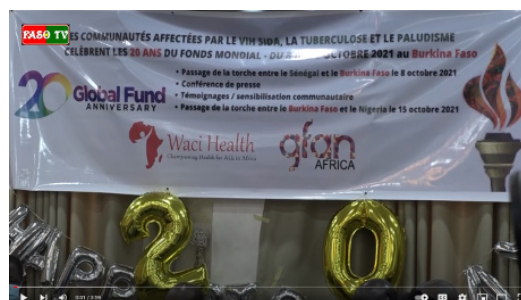
Media coverage (press) in Morocco



Media coverage (online) in Tanzania
(Aids Watch Africa website)



Media coverage (social media) in Nigeria



Media coverage (TV) in Burkina Faso



“We organised training for journalists on HIV, on treatments, on terminology and other issues. Partners brought journalists from Morocco, Mauritania and Egypt with 15 taking part overall from all types of media. We achieved great visibility with lots of media coverage including national TV and several newspaper articles and interviews.” – Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC

“The Torch Caravan was all over the news. The celebrations themselves were covered and the message was clear, including a call for the Government to put more funding into health. We had coverage from TV, including the main TV station, from newspapers and social media and we were happy with the amount of coverage obtained. As a result, we think that key stakeholders are now more aware and that we can push harder for more health funding.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“Communities now understand better that resources come from the Global Fund whereas before they thought they came from the Government. People started to say, ‘I am one of the 38 million’. This was the number of lives saved by the Global Fund according to the 2020 report but during the Torch Caravan a new report was released with up-to-date figures so then people could say, ‘I am one of the 44 million’. A great momentum was built in mobilizing different voices. It was a vehicle for public education through social media and personal testimonies in videos.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

“The Torch Caravan rekindled people’s memories of the Global Fund, the three illnesses and their effect on people. Some people did not know about the Global Fund’s role in fighting all three of the illnesses, maybe they only knew about some of their work. The testimonies from sufferers showed the impact of the illnesses. From the outbreak of AIDS in 1985 to 2003 there was no support for sufferers, people had to buy their own drugs and we lost many Malawians. In 2003 the Global Fund came to Malawi and since then many, many lives have been saved. The impact has been huge. In Malawi alone we have received around US\$ 1.6 Billion since 2003. The impact is known, it has reduced unnecessary deaths from HIV, there are far fewer people in hospital, HIV has been controlled, there is a regular supply of drugs for all three diseases and increased availability of drugs in the public sector. So the key was to raise awareness about the impact of the Global Fund but also how it is funded and to promote the idea of governmental co-financing.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“

Overall, we reached a wide range of audiences, including the public, communities, the Ministries of Health, youth activists, Civil Society representatives, the CCMs and university students. The Torch Caravan was a great success. We raised awareness in general as this provided a chance for all sectors to come together and discuss the issues for the MENA region; the public, Civil Society, academia, journalists and institutions.” – Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC

“

I think that the Torch Caravan has helped to draw more public attention to the importance of the role of the Global Fund. During this activity, participants were given more details and information about the role and impact of the Global Fund on community lives. We also reached the Ministry of Public Health, some representatives of Global Fund donor countries, the CCM, the National Tuberculosis Control Program, and Civil Society.” - Marilynne Noah, Programmes Assistant (Advocacy), Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

It may be worth asking host organisations in each country to put together a summary of all Torch Caravan media coverage and social media coverage obtained in their country with estimates of the potential audience reached. This information could be used as the basis for setting targets for similar events in the future and to help decide which metrics to collect.

Finding 6: The Torch Caravan reached MPs, Ministers and Government officials

- A significant number of parliamentarians and particularly Ministers of Health and Ministers of Finance participated, including some who had not engaged with the Global Fund before. Other Ministers sent their deputies or officials. The positive response to the project from politicians was a surprise to many of the CSOs involved and can probably be attributed to the facts that the Torch Caravan was pan-African and that it was based on celebration.

“

A few MPs took part even though they did not have much time, but because it was virtual, they could make it. A Presidential advisor took part as well as the Minister for Health, who even gave a conference room and staff to support the event.” – Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations, Ghana

“

There are signs that relationships between parliamentarians and Civil Society have been influenced. In countries where there is a TB caucus the relationship was already good, but in other countries this was a new concept! The Torch Caravan was particularly effective in building relationships between parliamentarians and Civil Society in those countries with no TB caucus and these new relationships will be helpful in the Replenishment process.” – Evaline Kibuchi, WACI Health Board Member, Kenya and advisor to African Parliamentary TB Caucus

“

Although there are still challenges in Ghana there is a sense that there is continued improvement in the Government’s approach to co-financing for the Global Fund. Since the Torch Caravan the issue is getting even more attention. We are hoping that we can get the President to attend the next Replenishment conference and that he will pledge funding. Generally, we feel the Government is already on board and that the political commitment is there, now the money has to follow.” Dr. Nii Hanson-Nortey, Vice Chair of CCM, Ghana

“

We organised a roundtable in the capital Rabat with participants from Civil Society, from the CCM and from the Ministry of Health.” – Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC

“

Other MPs also took part although I was probably the most engaged due to my previous relationship with the Global Fund. A Parliamentary Platform for health funding is now being set up so maybe now we

can engage more MPs. WACI Health and the Global Fund recently developed a new strategy to engage Parliamentarians and Civil Society and the Torch Caravan helped to highlight the impact of the Global Fund. It brought attention to the Global Fund and its very important legacy.” - Hon Daniel Molokele, MP, Zimbabwe

“

In Uganda and Ethiopia, this innovative approach not only gave us an opportunity to engage with a wide range of CSOs but also gave us an opportunity to engage with the senior leadership of Ministries and government programmes. It provided a window of collaboration with high level individuals.” - Alice Kayongo Mutebi, Senior Policy Advisor, WACI Health, Uganda

- Some politicians’ understanding of the role and impact of the Global Fund was significantly enhanced

“

We were able to educate some parliamentarians, many of whom did not previously know that the Global Fund provides funding to support their own governments’ spending on health.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

“

I took part in a face-to-face meeting in Harare and in several Zoom calls organised in other countries. This helped me to increase my own understanding and appreciation of the Global Fund’s work.” - Hon Daniel Molokele, MP, Zimbabwe

Finding 7: The Torch Caravan built the status and strength of Civil Society

- The Torch Caravan was an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of Civil Society in terms of organising around a specific focus and successfully delivering a complex, multi-national project

“

The fact that we successfully organised an international programme of visible events such as the Torch Caravan brought recognition and trust to wider Civil Society. People realised that Civil Society is not just about making noise, that we have a lot to offer. It helped to restore credibility.” – Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations, Ghana



“Civil Society involvement was very important as CSOs are the intermediaries between the funders and the main beneficiaries, the people, so they were best placed to organise the Torch Caravan. People were happy to see that the partnership between the Global Fund and CSOs could improve their lives.” - Ida Yugbare Savadogo, Programme Manager, RAME, Burkina Faso

African Civil Society was strengthened in several ways; the creation of a common space for engagement; enabling domestic and international collaboration between CSOs which created new contacts or developed existing relationships; demonstrating the success of this format (pan-African, CSO-led, a combination of celebration and advocacy)

“We had to collaborate with partners in other countries on dates, activities and general planning, including virtual preparatory meetings, sharing ideas and learning from each other. In fact, it was a great learning experience. At country level the host organisation had to engage with other stakeholders, getting their buy-in and working out how they would participate and involving them in the planning. As a result of the Torch Caravan we now have some new relationships and we have strengthened existing relationships in the region. This was the first time we had collaborated on a common project.” – Olayide Akanna, Executive Director, Journalists Against Aids, Nigeria

“One really positive point was the strength of the partnerships, both existing ones and new ones. Notably working with partners in the MENA region was completely novel, and it was a great success in that the partners were keen and committed.” - Sizwe Nombasa Gxuluwe, Programme Manager, WACI Health (Torch Caravan Project Team)

“The Torch Caravan was a big success! Just having an active network, coordinating so many activities across 20 countries, involving so many partners, different languages, different regions and time zones, and achieving engagement from Civil Society, politicians, and gathering individuals’ stories was a huge achievement. Engaging with the MENA region was really new, and a great success. And there are early signs that the network continues to function – recently GFAN Africa members were keen to engage at short notice in discussions about the Replenishment preparations.” - Sam Makau, Policy and Advocacy Officer & Youth Engagement Lead, WACI Health, (Torch Caravan Project Team)

“The number of GFAN Africa members increased through this process.” - Robinson Muigai, WACI Health, ICT Advisor (Torch Caravan Project Team)

“

The Torch Caravan built the status and strength of Civil Society! One Minister asked ‘why are we seeing Civil Society taking a lead in this process? Why not the Government?’ Furthermore, when Ministers were called upon by Civil Society with support from the Global Fund in Geneva, they dropped their schedules to accommodate the Torch Caravan.” - Alice Kayongo Mutebi, Senior Policy Advisor, WACI Health, Uganda

Finding 8: All participants felt very positive about their involvement in the Torch Caravan

Without exception, everyone from whom we heard, whether from the Global Fund or from CSOs, whether MPs or young people living with disease, felt positive about their involvement in the Torch Caravan and that the project was a success. Here are a few things which CSO participants felt most positive about:

- That Civil Society was able to deliver a successful programme and earn trust from others
- That CSOs collaborated well with others and that there was a sense of solidarity
- That participants were able to learn from each other
- That the Torch Caravan was delivered successfully in 20 countries despite the Covid pandemic

“

The Torch Caravan made Civil Society stronger, among ourselves; it brought us together. New and stronger partnerships were built and we gained trust and recognition. We demonstrated that Civil Society can achieve a lot when coming together around a focus.” – Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations, Ghana

“

I learned from this celebration that coming together contributes to strengthening collaboration between the Global Fund and Civil Society; I also saw the recognition of Civil Society towards the Global Fund, whose goal is above all to save lives.” - Marilyne Noah, Programmes Assistant (Advocacy), Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

“

We had a committee of 8 Civil Society organisations to organise the handover from Senegal. The handovers helped to create new relationships with new CSOs from other countries and helped us to collaborate by sharing ideas.” - Ida Yugbare Savadogo, Programme Manager, RAME, Burkina Faso

“

I think the most positive thing I learned is that there is regional and global solidarity. We all have the same sort of issues, so it was very positive to get support from other countries and to follow what other countries were doing. Overall, it was awesome and we received very positive feedback from all participants including the Ministries of Health.” – Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC

“

We learned from other countries. We received the Torch from Zimbabwe so we had to learn how they were organising their celebrations. Although each country’s approach was unique, we were able to learn from each other.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“

I have personally learned a great deal about the role of the Global Fund. Before I had less understanding, so I have learned a lot about the Global Fund’s objectives, strategies and impact.” - Edith Zendja, Communications Officer, Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

“

I think it was an amazing achievement to pull this off. It required great teamwork, flexibility and effort. I think the Torch Caravan has created a real sense of achievement ahead of the Replenishment process.” - Tabeth Chitimbe, Finance and Administrative Manager, WACI Health (Torch Caravan Project Team)

Success Factors and Lessons Learned

Success factors

It was striking that in our interviews with a wide variety of participants there was clearly a shared sense of what made the Torch Caravan a success. The same features were identified repeatedly.

Finding 9: Success Factor - Pan-African nature of programme of events:

- Participants (individuals, CSOs, communities and politicians) felt that they were part of something bigger which was thus more impressive, more compelling and something that had an African identity
- The involvement of so many countries and the fact that countries were able to deliver events in their own way meant that there was creativity, innovation and variety, ranging from roundtables and speeches to birthday cakes and music
- There was a real sense of solidarity and relationship building between CSOs across national borders
- Because the project was international and because, by definition, two countries were involved in each handover there was peer pressure among politicians to have equal profile at these events (i.e. “if their Minister of Health is attending then so must ours!”)

“

The fact that the overall event was pan-African made a difference as this meant it was bigger and wider and everyone was interested in something that went beyond their own country. The institutions such as the Ministries of Health and the CCMs also wanted to be part of the celebrations and they supported us too. I think a lot of the institutions which participated would not have done so if this had just been a national event. It was a symbol of solidarity within Civil Society across all the countries and of solidarity between many different actors from different sectors in the fight against disease – such broad solidarity is rare.” – Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC

“

The Torch Caravan was the best celebration of its kind, as it was pan-African. It was the first major African celebration of the impact of the Global Fund.” – Itai Rusike, Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health, Zimbabwe

“

The pan-African collaboration of many countries was important and made a louder noise in the fight. We want to be heard. We are strong when we are many!” – Edith Zendja, Communications Officer, Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

“

The pan-African nature of the event was important. The planning meetings were great and came up with lots of creativity which made the event more dynamic. It was an African event with ideas coming from different countries which made it more colourful. It also made it more attractive to the politicians as it was something bigger and because it was celebrating human survival.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

Finding 10: Success Factor - Combination of celebration and advocacy

The hook which got people involved was the 20th anniversary of the Global Fund but the celebrations proved an effective platform from which to advocate for Replenishment of the Global Fund and for more domestic resource mobilisation for health (in accordance with the Abuja Declaration)

The celebration element was something that everyone could get behind which gave the advocacy for future funding a non-confrontational flavour. In other words, there was a low threshold for politicians to enter into dialogue with Civil Society. In many countries the politicians were keen to be involved. This can now be capitalized on, for example by strengthening relationships during the Replenishment process. Civil Society now has the opportunity for a greater involvement in the Replenishment discussions and to take a strong position in lobbying their governments

“

The Torch Caravan was innovative. We engaged youth musicians and made our own music, a theme tune, and had a group of young Kenyan musicians playing at some handover ceremonies. This made events enjoyable for everyone as music is a big part of African culture. As there was no inter-country travel (due to Covid-19) we relied on hybrid meetings so we had to keep people's attention – we did this through celebratory elements such as music, spoken word and birthday cake cutting.” – Sam Makau, Policy and Advocacy Officer & Youth Engagement Lead, WACI Health, (Torch Caravan Project Team)



“There will be different opportunities in different countries for combining celebration with advocacy, but the same approach as the Torch Caravan can be used again at a national level. The key element of this approach is the bringing together of Civil Society and parliamentarians. It can be used to support the Replenishment process and calls for increased domestic health funding. It could also be carried out on a larger scale, for example including a presentation of the Torch to a national President at Parliament or in a stadium.” - Hon Daniel Mlokele, MP, Zimbabwe

“Combining celebration with advocacy was important because the politicians needed to learn more about the impact of the Global Fund and the importance of investing in the fight against these diseases. It is a fight for all leaders, all communities and for Civil Society.” - Edith Zendja, Communications Officer, Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

“It would be good to have this type of activity with the Fund and/or GFAN Africa in the individual countries to spread even more awareness and as a hook for our advocacy work with national governments to strengthen health systems.” - Ida Yugbare Savadogo, Programme Manager, RAME, Burkina Faso

“The combination of celebration and advocacy worked well. We were able to use the 20th anniversary as an opportunity to advocate for future support.” - Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

“The combination of celebration and advocacy also worked well. The Torch Caravan helped people step back and celebrate the Global Fund, reflect on the fact that the Global Fund has done so much but also that there is still much to do as we look forward to future impact. It was very timely because this year is a Replenishment year. The Torch Caravan has hopefully made the Replenishment process easier. Part of the purpose was to highlight the need and advocate for sustained resources for the Global Fund.” - Olayide Akanna, Executive Director, Journalists Against Aids, Nigeria

Finding 11: Success Factor - The programme of events was owned by countries

- the approach of having a central coordinator (WACI Health and GFAN Africa) providing a template, tools, artwork, messages and support but allowing countries to plan their own activities gave a sense of ownership and increased buy-in the collaboration between CSOs both in-country and with those from other countries increased motivation and learning

“I would repeat this format in future because the event was owned by the countries and people took pride in it. All stakeholders were saying yes, let’s celebrate. So we had Civil Society, communities, individuals and governments all in the same space. It was important that the project grew organically and was owned by Civil Society in the countries. The Global Fund stayed on the margins, for example attending the events, and allowed Civil Society to take the lead.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

“Although there was an overall schedule provided by WACI Health each country could decide how they wanted to celebrate and which activities to organise, so it felt like a country-owned process.” – Olayide Akanna, Executive Director, Journalists Against Aids, Nigeria

Finding 12: Success Factor - The diversity of stakeholders

- involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, both in planning and participation, from individuals living with the diseases, affected communities, Civil Society, international institutions, governments and media. It was a success in itself to engage all these sectors but also a success factor in the sense that the involvement of so many diverse actors made events more attractive and more impactful, for example by attracting media attention and political engagement.
- involvement of CCMs – the CCM structure, including as it does many different stakeholders, helped to reach out to a wide range of participants



“A key success factor was the collaboration with different stakeholders. Although this was driven by Civil Society at country level we engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including parliamentarians in some countries. The combination of Civil Society, beneficiaries and government is very important and very powerful. It gave Civil Society the chance to reach out to high level people. There was also a subtle peer pressure at play! If one country heard that another country’s Minister of Health was taking part in the handover ceremony, then they wanted their own Minister to participate.” – Olayide Akanna, Executive Director, Journalists Against Aids, Nigeria

“The Torch Caravan was an opportunity to gather together a range of stakeholders and this is very important. We were able to push our objectives and I believe the Government has heard more about the Global Fund and better understands its importance.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“The involvement of a variety of stakeholders made the programme very attractive! In addition to CSOs and governments, in Uganda we had a significant group of key populations and communities participating. This made the community fee valued, accepted and acknowledged. The inclusion of the CCM coordinator helped reach out to a wide range of stakeholders, particularly the high-level ones.” - Alice Kayongo Mutebi, Senior Policy Advisor, WACI Health, Uganda

“The CCM Secretariat was a crucial part of planning our events. They were able to arrange for us to piggyback on a PEPFAR meeting for our welcome ceremony in Lagos. They had hoped to attract the Minister of Health but he could not attend due to his schedule, but other representatives of Government did, along with UNAIDS and WHO. So, the Government was involved and although he could not attend, the Minister of Health as Chair of the CCM was aware of the Torch Caravan. The CCM Secretariat also made a video on the impact of the Global Fund which we used at our handover to Ghana.” – Olayide Akanna, Executive Director, Journalists Against Aids, Nigeria

Finding 13: Success Factor - The use of individual testimony

The personal testimony of those living with the diseases was very powerful and added to the legitimacy and credibility of both the celebration of impact and the calls for ongoing support for the Global Fund

“

I think the Torch Caravan was successful due to the testimony we received – it really interested people. People’s personal testimony was very powerful and touching as it really showed the impact of the Global Fund. We were still being approached by the media even after the week was over.” - Ida Yugbare Savadogo, Programme Manager, RAME, Burkina Faso

“

The Torch Caravan truly had affected communities and young people at its centre and really gave them a voice. It was a great moment. It showcased the impact of the Global Fund, but through the voices of communities and individuals themselves rather than the Global Fund singing its own praises. Many were saying, ‘I am where I am because of the Global Fund’s interventions.’” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

Lessons learned

In addition to identifying successes and success factors as described above we also noted a few lessons, both positive and negative, which were learned during the course of the project and which should be taken into account for future planning.

Finding 14: This format works and could be repeated

This format (a torch caravan, a pan-African programme, combining celebration and advocacy) works and could be repeated internationally and possibly adapted for in-country

“

As a concept for an advocacy campaign covering more than one country, we have seen that a Torch Caravan works. Like the Olympic Torch it brings regions together and profiles the countries and the issues.” – Evaline Kibuchi, WACI Health Board Member, Kenya

Finding 15: GFAN Africa is an important network to bring CSOs together

GFAN Africa is an important network and should continue to bring CSOs together to have maximum impact on the Replenishment process

“

GFAN Africa is a strong network that can bring all of us together from all over Africa. I just hope that the Global Fund will see the contribution of GFAN Africa and realise that it can rely on the Network to achieve a lot. We have synergies with other networks and were able to use these to identify and reach out to potential partners.” – Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations, Ghana

“

The most positive learning is that regional partnership in Civil Society is working. GFAN Africa and WACI Health were essential in identifying and mobilising key Civil Society stakeholders in different countries so that we could collaborate to produce high quality events. I would like to see WACI Health and GFAN continue in this role, for example by hosting a face-to-face meeting of all the country hosts to present the outcomes of the Torch Caravan in their country and to share where they have made progress and where they have faced blockages. This would be very useful learning. For example, we know that although our Health Minister is new, as a result of the Torch Caravan, she is now more aware of the Global Fund and is likely to be more involved with the Global Fund and with the discussions on Replenishment. We want to do more on Replenishment. Could GFAN Africa arrange a meeting for all the Torch Caravan countries to come together to discuss the Replenishment process and how we can all help?” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“

There is no other such network that could play this role better than GFAN Africa in my opinion. The innovations, tools and financial resources that they invest in the process can only but rally us to the ‘promised land’.” – Alice Kayongo Mutebi, Senior Policy Advisor, WACI Health, Uganda

Finding 16: More funding to deliver the Torch Caravan may have enabled countries to do more

Some CSO partners felt the level of funding limited what they were able to do and that they could have done more with more resources, although not all interviewees agreed with this. Countries were encouraged to work with other stakeholders/ collaborators to augment the limited resources. The MENA region managed to access additional funding to mitigate this and enhance their delivery.

“

We were limited by the amount of funding so next time it would be good to have more resources because this work is so important. We need to make people more aware and we need to show the Government the benefits so that they will fund the Global Fund. We hope to use this type of campaign to reach the Government again in the future. The Torch Caravan was limited to the two handover events and ideally we would like greater resources so we can do more.” - Ida Yugbare Savadogo, Programme Manager, RAME, Burkina Faso

“

We contacted partners in all three countries and as the MENA platform we were able to give them some additional funding to organise the celebrations as the funding from the Global Fund was not really enough on its own.” - Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC

“

Even if partners were given [more funding], there would still be more demand. I think that the money provided was just enough! We all had to adjust our budgets and fit within what was provided.” - Alice Kayongo Mutebi, Senior Policy Advisor, WACI Health, Uganda

Finding 17: Some earlier preparation could have helped things be even better

One or two partners mentioned that while they were very happy with the coordination by WACI Health and GFAN Africa, an earlier start to planning might have helped

“

Perhaps it would have been easier to complete the project a month or two earlier as people get very busy at the end of the year. And we should start the planning a year in advance.” – Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations, Ghana

“

Perhaps we should have conversations in advance on how to engage with Ministers of Health and Ministers of Finance. This was a hard task for countries early on in the journey of the Torch and maybe there was not a clear enough strategy, with it depending on relations between Civil Society and the Government. But countries later on in the journey were able to learn from this and that was awesome.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

Finding 18: The idea that the Torch Caravan was a celebration of the impact of the Global Fund “partnership” was not highlighted as much as intended

There was an intention to emphasise the celebration of the Global Fund “partnership” but while many of our interviewees mentioned partnership between Civil Society, communities and governments, when asked what the Torch Caravan was about, they nearly all referred simply to a celebration of the Global Fund. This is something to think about for future events if the emphasis on the “Global Fund partnership” is felt to be important, as stated by Linda Mafu:

“

It was important that we were celebrating the impact of the Global Fund’s partnership, not just the Global Fund itself. We were careful about the language. And the Global Fund’s partnership is very wide, involving parties such as WHO, UNAIDS, Stop TB, Roll Back Malaria, PEPFAR, governments, Civil Society, affected communities and people living with the diseases.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

External Factors, Mitigation and Project Management

Coronavirus and other external factors

Finding 19: The Coronavirus pandemic had negative and positive impacts

Covid-19 meant that handover events had to be virtual and only some in-country events could be in-person or hybrid. Some interviewees talked about how, in non-Covid times, a physical Torch could have moved from country to country and how the Torch might have been carried by motor-cycle riders and delivered to Presidents in football stadiums. However, the pandemic meant that stakeholders were taken into the digital space which meant that some stakeholders were more easily able to participate and there was less environmental impact, both of which are advantages which can be taken into the future. For example, MPs in Ghana, although short on time were able to attend the handover ceremony because it was online.

The pandemic forced host CSOs to be creative in the way they organised events. Covid-19 meant more focus on the use of technology and social media which led to useful learning and wider coverage because everything was virtual, plans could be turned around very quickly and the achievements came at minimal cost so there was a high return on investment

“

The pandemic meant we had to focus on media and social media such as Facebook and Instagram and the fact that we used Zoom meant that we automatically had recordings of the events which further helped our visibility.” – Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC

“

Covid-19 has encouraged us to go far more into the digital space which is a good thing and this was also true for the Torch Caravan. For example, Zimbabwe MPs now operate far more in the digital space

having been given tablets to take part in virtual meetings. Covid was the catalyst which has helped us to take advantage of this – it is much easier for people to meet online than in person and we are now sharing documents far more by email than in print which is better for the environment.” - Hon Daniel Molokele, MP, Zimbabwe

“

Our in-person activities had to be limited in terms of the number of participants and we could only organise events in Ouagadougou. However, this did mean that we had to focus on information sharing through the media and social media so maybe this was a benefit.” - Ida Yugbare Savadogo, Programme Manager, RAME, Burkina Faso

“

Covid-19 made face to face events impossible so the Torch Caravan was virtual, but we still managed to involve the Government including the Minister of Health, the Departments responsible for HIV, TB and Malaria, UNAIDS, the CCM, communities who have been supported, Civil Society networks, including some stakeholders who we might have missed had it not been for the pandemic.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“

Gatherings in person would have been the ideal in a pre-Covid world with a physical torch moving from country to country, but the handover ceremonies had to be virtual. In some countries, the in-country events could be face to face or hybrid although even then there was usually a limit on the numbers of participants. So, we had to be innovative and creative to get around the limitations and use technology and social media to share more widely. Overall, the Torch Caravan was delivered in a very cost-effective manner.” – Olayide Akanna, Executive Director, Journalists Against Aids, Nigeria

Finding 20: Internet connectivity was a challenge

There were some technical challenges such as internet connectivity in general which was exacerbated in Zambia by national elections. However, these were mostly overcome and events were completed successfully.

Project management

Finding 21: Strong planning, support and coordination were essential

GFAN Africa and WACI Health convened Civil Society across the twenty countries. They developed the Concept Note, identified regional and national partners, mapped out the route and schedule and coordinated events. Although politicians in some countries seemed to want to take over, the project remained in the hands of Civil Society. The Project Team held bi-weekly calls with partners in all the countries, to coordinate and to share ideas on ceremonies, media, promotion, branding and technology and once the Torch Caravan had started, to pass on learning to other countries later in the schedule. The following key tasks were identified as having been crucial by interviewees:

- Identifying and then coordinating and supporting appropriate country hosts
- The provision of the overall concept, of tools, messages and materials such as holding slides for the handover ceremonies, thankyou cards, tee-shirts and banners
- Arranging and hosting online planning meetings, hosting handover ceremonies on Zoom

Furthermore, we were told that:

- This was absolutely crucial in the context of the pandemic given that all the planning and all handover events had to happen online
- WACI Health and GFAN Africa were best placed to carry out these tasks and that they fulfilled them extremely well

“

GFAN Africa and WACI Health provided very good information and numbers along with tools such as a social media toolkit, guidance on the use of videos and key messages.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

“

WACI Health and GFAN identified key stakeholders who had been involved with the Global Fund in the past. Because of WACI Health's track record, their role as coordinators of the Torch Caravan was important as it made it easier for us to convince others to take part. I would like to thank WACI Health for a simple and effective strategy, with a central concept but with the flexibility for countries to adapt the approach according to their contexts. It was wonderful to hear the different sentiments and views from different countries.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“

It was an opportunity to collaborate with other CSOs, especially the lead organisations in other countries. We had lots of preparatory check-in calls. Some handovers involved a francophone country and an anglophone country so there was a language issue meaning that interpreters were needed. As the Torch Caravan moved along, WACI Health arranged and hosted Zoom calls with us and our neighbours to ensure that everything was in place. They provided a template to guide the ceremonies but allowed country hosts to adapt this as they wished. They also provided financial support to cover refreshments, technology requirements, venue hire and so on.” – Olayide Akanna, Executive Director, Journalists Against Aids, Nigeria

“

I think the Torch Caravan was very successful for my country. The CSOs that were coordinating it did a really good job. They were really interactive and the coordinators were well organised. They engaged key national stakeholders as much as they could and I think it was a success because everyone was involved. All types of beneficiaries of the Global Fund, those suffering from HIV, TB and malaria were all involved one way or another. That's what I see as a success – bringing everyone into the loop and giving everyone the opportunity to feel well represented.” – Priscilla Addo, young person living with HIV and CCM member, Ghana

“

WACI Health and GFAN Africa played a critical role in identifying solid and efficient country partners to host the Torch Caravan. And the provision of all support needed was key in the success of the event.” - Alice Kayongo Mutebi, Senior Policy Advisor, WACI Health, Uganda

Torch Caravan DRC - Cameroon

date
20th Sept

LIVE ON WACI HEALTH



Holding slide: example of materials provided centrally by WACI Health

Impact and Conclusion

It is worth reminding ourselves of the expected outcomes of the Torch Caravan:

1. Greater understanding and appreciation of the Global Fund's role in global health leadership.
2. Sustained, broadened, and increased political support for the Global Fund in targeted donor and implementing countries in the lead up to the 7th replenishment.

We believe that the Torch Caravan had significant impact by making progress towards both of these outcomes.

Progress on achieving greater understanding and appreciation

There is a wide range of evidence that awareness was raised among the public and that the understanding of politicians was increased. The Torch Caravan has clearly enhanced the appreciation of the Global Fund's role in global health leadership. More people know what it does and more decision-makers see its value.

“

Our primary target for raising awareness was communities (i.e. people who have been affected by one of the three diseases TB, Malaria or HIV Aids). There is evidence that we reached them, in the form of the numerous impact stories we gathered, and the fact that they participated in the campaign. People giving up their time for it is a good sign.” - Sam Makau, Policy and Advocacy Officer & Youth Engagement Lead, WACI Health, (Torch Caravan Project Team)

“

I think the Torch Caravan was very successful. We realised that the population and even the beneficiaries of Global Fund grants did not know what the Global Fund was. Even people who had been helped directly, for example by receiving mosquito bed nets, including some health workers, were not aware that the nets came from the Global Fund – they thought they were from the Government. So the Torch Caravan was a very important chance to spread awareness about the Global Fund and its impact. I believe people now have a better understanding as we had lots of coverage on TV, radio, Facebook and so on.” - Ida Yugbare Savadogo, Programme Manager, RAME, Burkina Faso

“

The greatest achievement was to make clear the need for domestic resource mobilisation. There can be a tendency for governments to relax because they know that the Global Fund is there, although many are not aware of who provides what support to combat the three diseases. The Torch Caravan was a reminder that although the Global Fund supplements health budgets, it is not here forever. A message was sent, saying that the health of the people is in the hand of governments and that while we should appreciate the Global Fund's support to date, ultimately governments must be more involved.” – Evaline Kibuchi, WACI Health Board Member, Kenya

“

I believe the Torch Caravan was noticed by policy-makers, MPs, local councillors, captains of industry, Governments and especially Ministries of Health, by health professionals and by some members of the public.” - Hon Daniel Molokele, MP, Zimbabwe

“

The Torch Caravan was a success. All countries were engaged and wanted to participate. The participation of Civil Society was very visible at the events and political leaders also engaged and made positive comments. Many journalists contacted us after our main event in Cameroon for information on the Global Fund and the changes it has brought about in the lives of the population.” - Edith Zendja, Communications Officer, Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

“

A lot of momentum and energy was generated. We successfully engaged the Ministry of Health at very short notice and UN agencies and the National Aids Council came on board and supported us.” – Itai Rusike, Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health, Zimbabwe

Progress on achieving sustained, broadened, and increased political support

It is too soon to see concrete and significant increases in political support in terms of policy and funding

“

We cannot yet quantify the extent to which the message has been received by the politicians. The earliest we might be able to see this is when new budgets are released. In fact, it would be useful to collate budget information across all countries in June to assess the level of domestic resource mobilisation – perhaps this is something WACI Health and GFAN could undertake. The real proof of political commitment to the Global Fund can only be assessed in October when the Replenishment conference takes place. If countries go above their average past commitment (measured over a few years) then some of that success could perhaps be contributed to the Torch Caravan.” – Evaline Kibuchi, WACI Health Board Member, Kenya

“

It is too early to see concrete evidence; it would come in the form of both traditional donor countries but also implementing countries giving funding. The proof will be if at least on a country level the funding goes up. This gets monitored (budget allocation and actual increases) by the Centre for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa, CEGAA, with whom we are in contact. But an incremental success to which the Torch Caravan might have contributed by highlighting the important role of the Global Fund, is that when the Global Fund approached five countries (South Africa, Kenya, DRC, Senegal and Rwanda) to host preparatory meetings for the Global Fund Replenishment all five agreed, which means that the Heads of State are behind the process. Advocacy is a long-term process.” - Sizwe Nombasa Gxuluwe, Programme Manager, WACI Health (Torch Caravan Project Team)

However, there are multiple early indications that the Torch Caravan has and will lead to more positive responses from Governments



“

Now Civil Society is more engaged in high level meetings, for example with the Minister for Health, and Deputy Minister for Health and our relationships are stronger. In December 2021 the Minister appointed me as a member of the Steering Committee for Global Standards for Pharmaceutical Traceability (which was inaugurated in January 2022). I believe that the Torch Caravan helped me to gain the Minister's trust.”

– Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations, Ghana

“

We organised a meeting of parliamentarians after the Torch Caravan and there were positive comments made about financial contributions. I think the Torch Caravan helped to achieve this as it ‘made a noise’. Afterwards, parliamentarians wanted to know more about how they could participate in the fight against the three diseases.” – Edith Zendja, Communications Officer, Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

“

I think there is now more awareness among the Government as a result of the Torch Caravan and they have been more responsive to Civil Society calls to honour their obligation to provide 15% co-financing to the Global Fund. The Torch Caravan made it easier for us to push the agenda. It was an opportunity to remind Government of the need for more resources. For the first time the Government has launched a National Domestic Resource Mobilisation Strategy. This should make it clearer what funding is available for which sectors and we believe that the health sector will benefit from this. The Torch Caravan helped us to lobby for this.” – Maziko Matemba, Executive Director, Health Rights and Education Programme, Malawi

“

To a certain extent the Torch Caravan will have some impact on the Replenishment process. It provided a common space for all stakeholders to come together. It helped to mobilise people and to set up certain lines of communication, so it has helped to prepare the ground. It has also helped to mobilise national funding. This same platform will be used to promote domestic funding for health in Zimbabwe. By platform I mean the coordinating networks, WhatsApp groups, relationships and so on. These were created last year and so momentum is building. It is important to remember that 2021 was not only the 20th Anniversary of the Global Fund but also of the Abuja Declaration where African countries pledged to commit 15% of their annual budgets to the health sector. So, we were also reflecting on the Declaration and the fact that although there have been improvements in some countries, there is still

nothing like enough funding for health overall.” - *Hon Daniel Molokele, MP, Zimbabwe*

“

In my judgement there are some soft signs that the politicians are listening such as the simple fact that many of them wanted to attend the Torch Caravan handover ceremonies.” - *Evaline Kibuchi, WACI Health Board Member, Kenya*

“

The receiving of the advocacy letter from Civil Society to the Ministry of Public Health calling for an increase of the health budget and mobilisation of domestic resources to meet the Global Fund co-financing requirement to accelerate the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is a sign that future political support can be expected from Cameroon.” - *Marilyne Noah, Programmes Assistant (Advocacy), Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon*

“

In Morocco I would say that the Torch Caravan events have strengthened our links with the CCM and the Ministry of Health. The MENA Platform is now closer to GFAN Africa and the Global Fund and we are more closely involved in the discussion on the next Replenishment of the Fund – so this a positive sign for us. It was also a chance to look more closely at impact. The Ministry of Health in Morocco carried out an assessment of the Global Fund’s impact in the country and estimates that its work helped to avoid 27,000 deaths.” - *Alia Amimi, MENA Regional Platform Coordinator, ITPC*

“

I am so excited. We pushed last year for a pan-African platform for health and this will help in the Replenishment process. MPs will be able to work better together. And as some of them become Ministers of Health or hold other senior positions in the future this can only help to raise the profile of health. We need to see a shift away from funding for security and the military towards more funding for health. This is what I advocate for and I am expecting there to be a positive shift and a progressive trend in the future. The Torch Caravan indirectly helped to support the growth of this pan-African platform and to engage more MPs in Zimbabwe. The Torch Caravan gave us a concrete hook on which to engage with national and pan-African MPs and this year we will see more parliamentarians coming into this space. We also need to push for greater accountability to show that health funding is actually reaching the intended beneficiaries so anything that helps to bring Civil Society and parliamentarians together can only help us to improve monitoring and be more effective. There was a meeting with

WACI Health very recently and it is clear than many MPs, not just those already involved in health, want to be part of the fight and we have set up a caucus on domestic funding for health.” - Hon Daniel Molokele, MP, Zimbabwe

“

I believe the Torch Caravan influenced or reinforced Government thinking on domestic resource mobilisation. In the past Zimbabwe’s allocation to the health budget was less than the 15% pledged in the Abuja Declaration. For 2022 the allocation is 14.9%. The political will is there and I think the Torch Caravan had an effect on this. The MPs who took part were very clear that commitments made should not remain on paper but must be translated onto the ground.” – Itai Rusike, Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health, Zimbabwe

“

It was noticeable in some countries that Ministers wanted to host the Torch. We had to make it clear that this was a Civil Society-led event. The politicians wanted to own it and they saw themselves as champions of the Torch Caravan. This is a positive sign as it shows that they really identified with the concept. It was important for us that they did not actually take over and in the end Civil Society organisations were able to retain control and managed it very well. We attracted politicians who we never expected to participate including Ministers of Health and Ministers of Finance which is very important.” – Linda Mafu, Head of the Civil Society Advocacy Department, The Global Fund

“

One of the stand-out successes for me has been the MP engagement process in different countries and them saying that they are committed to mobilizing more MPs and money for health financing.” - Sizwe Nombasa Gxuluwe, Programme Manager, WACI Health (Torch Caravan Project Team)

“

It is too early to look for concrete evidence of political support and any impact will be seen only when the Replenishment process is completed this year. However, it was unexpected that governments, especially Ministries of Health and Ministries of Finance and their officials, were so responsive. As soon as Ministries heard about the Torch Caravan, they wanted to be involved, even though it was a Civil Society led project, and in some cases they actually wanted to take over the events! 15 of 20 countries involved their CCM and in several countries Ministers took part in the handover ceremonies. The fact that Ministers wanted to be part of those events is an excellent indicator of their understanding and

appreciation of the Global Fund as it meant giving up their time and prioritising the event in their heavy schedules.” - Sam Makau, Policy and Advocacy Officer & Youth Engagement Lead, WACI Health (Torch Caravan Project Team)

Overall conclusion

The Torch Caravan was a great success in various ways and for a range of reasons as outlined in the findings above. To deliver such a complex project across twenty countries, involving so many partners and such a wide variety of stakeholders and to have made significant progress towards both of the ambitious intended outcomes, despite the Covid-19 pandemic is a real achievement.

A new concept has been trialled and has proven successful. It should certainly be repeated at an appropriate point and for the right purpose in the future. Relationships have been forged or strengthened and these must be maintained. Civil Society has also been strengthened and progress has been made in terms of raising awareness and priming a positive political response to the Replenishment process, all of which must also be built on.

Once budgetary information about the Global Fund's 7th Replenishment and about any increases in domestic resource mobilisation for health, across the twenty countries, is available, WACI Health and GFAN Africa should consider using this information to communicate with Civil Society, funders and politicians about the role the Torch Caravan is likely to have played. Such information will be motivational for stakeholders who had a part in the Torch Caravan and can be used for further awareness raising and advocacy work.

*Dörte Pommerening and Alasdhair Collins
March 2022*

Methodology

A mixed-method approach was taken, which comprised the following elements:

Development	Fieldwork	Collation, Analysis, Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing meeting (Zoom) desk research • Written proposal of focus questions and methodology • Scoping meeting with project team (Zoom) • Written project plan with methodology and timeline • Key stakeholder mapping by WACI • Semi-structured interview guide for 1:1 interviews • Email survey designed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 project team interviews (WhatsApp) • 1:1 key stakeholder interviews via Zoom or WhatsApp (video) calls followed up by voice messaging if poor connection • Review of internal monitoring documentation, country reports, selected media coverage including articles, blogs and social media • Preliminary findings submitted in writing to project team and wider for reflection and comment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings developed • Wider triangulation through desk research and attending two civil society meetings in preparation of 7th Replenishment of Global Fund • Production of draft report • Incorporating comments from stakeholders • Submission of final report

Appendix

Stakeholders consulted:

One to One Interviews:

- Tabeth Chitimbe, WACI Health, Finance and Administrative Manager (Torch Caravan Project Team)
- Sizwe Nombasa Gxuluwe, WACI Health, Programme Manager (Torch Caravan Project Team)
- Sam Makau, WACI Health, Policy and Advocacy & Youth Engagement (Torch Caravan Project Team)
- Linda Mafu, Global Fund, Head, Political and Civil Society Advocacy Department
- Cecilia Senoo, Hope For Future Generation, Ghana, ED
- Maziko Matemba, Health Rights & Education Programme, Malawi, ED
- Itai Rusike, Community Working Group on Health, Zimbabwe, ED
- Joan Chamangu, Tanzania Positive Women, ED
- Ida Savadogo, Réseau Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels, Burkina Faso, Programme Officer
- Olayide Akanni, Journalists Against AIDS, Nigeria, ED
- Alia Amimi, International Treatment Preparedness Coalition, MENA Region, ITPC MENA Coordinator
- Evaline Kibuchi, Stop AIDS, Kenya, Chief National Coordinator and WACI Board Chair
- Daniel Molokele, Member of Parliament, Zimbabwe
- Dr Hanson Nortey, CCM Ghana, CCM vice chair
- Priscilla Addo, CCM Ghana, Young person living with HIV and CCM member
- Edith Zendja, Communications Officer, Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

Consulted in writing:

- Rosemary Mburu, WACI Health, ED (Torch Caravan Project Team)
- Robinson Muigai, WACI Health, ICT Advisor (Torch Caravan Project Team)
- Alice Kayongo Mutebi, Senior Policy Advisor, WACI Health
- Marilynne Noah, Programmes Assistant (Advocacy), Impact Santé Afrique, Cameroon

Meetings attended:

- Young People's Roundtable Meeting in the Lead Up to the Global Fund 7th Replenishment Meeting, online, Friday 11th February 2022
-

- Civil Society Pre-Preparatory Meeting for the Preparatory Meeting of the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment, hybrid Africa CSOs meeting in Nairobi on 21st and 22nd February 2022
-

Documents consulted:

- Rapport de la Célébration du 20ème Anniversaire du Fonds Mondial au Burkina Faso
- Report of the Cameroon Civil Society Global Fund 20th anniversary
- GFAN Africa Report - The Global Fund at 20: Looking Back and Looking Forward (webinar on the Global Fund at 20: an Africa Civil Society Dialogue on the Side Lines of the HLM on HIV/AIDS)
- Global Fund Torch Caravan – Social Media Report #1
- Global Fund @ 20 Digital Photo Book
- Videos of Torch Caravan handovers and individual testimonies of those living with the diseases, of health workers and of CSOs
- Video of Torch Caravan Launch Jam Session
- Selection of media coverage, press, TV and online
- Torch Caravan Communications Strategy
- Minutes of Zoom Platform Torch Caravan Zimbabwe Handover to Malawi

Torch Caravan marking the
Global Fund @20

