

# How to strengthen community systems to increase impact? Country experiences

A **#CommunityHealth@CountryLevel** Series with CCMs, PRs and SRs

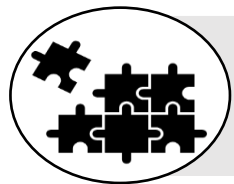
22 February 2023

## In one word, how would you describe Community Systems?

In introduction to the webinar, participants were asked to describe community systems in one word on Menti. Their answers read as follows.



# Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) at the Global Fund: a few definitions



## **Community Systems**

Organizations, mechanisms and networks that make community responses happen - distinct from, but complementary to, and often linked to, the formal part of health systems



## **Community Responses (based or led)**

The way communities act on the challenges and needs that they face, responses delivered by community-based or community-led organizations within, partially or completely outside of the formal health system



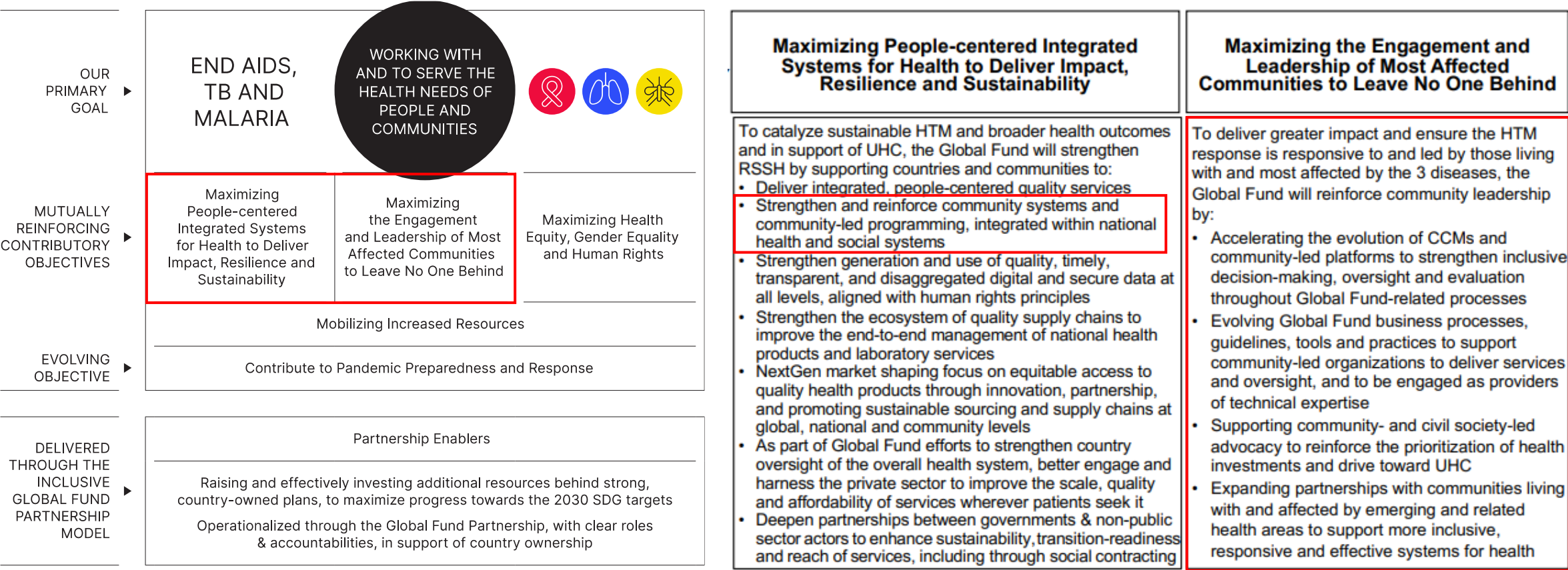
## **Community Systems Strengthening (CSS)**

A set of interventions that promote informed, capable and coordinated community responses and improve community responses and accelerate in-country results

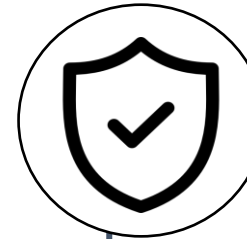
# Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) at the Global Fund: the interventions

Priority interventions supported in Global Fund grants				
	Community-led monitoring	Community-led advocacy and research	Community engagement, linkages and coordination	Capacity building and leadership development
Objective	Empower communities to hold service providers accountable so that <b>services are accessible, of quality, acceptable and responsive</b> to people's needs	Prioritizes <u>community-led and participatory research</u> that provides a better understanding of barriers and gaps that inhibit effective, people-centered health services from the community	Activities to <u>mobilize communities</u> , particularly of marginalized, under-served and key and vulnerable populations, in responses to the three diseases and beyond	Contribute to effective and quality community-led and community-based <u>service delivery</u> at scale while improving the <u>sustainability of community organizing</u>
Country examples from Technical Brief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing community-based monitoring of HIV treatment, <i>West Africa</i></li> <li>Establishing a human rights observatory to inform advocacy, <i>Cameroon</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing civil society priorities charters, <i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i></li> <li>Engaging key and vulnerable populations in transition planning, <i>Costa Rica</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a malaria platform for communities and civil society, <i>Greater Mekong Sub-region</i></li> <li>Building community partnerships across diseases, <i>Tanzania</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building organizational and technical capacity for integrated programs, <i>Ghana</i></li> <li>Strengthening key and vulnerable population leadership and institutions, <i>Kenya</i></li> </ul>

# How does Community Systems Strengthening fit within the Global Fund Strategy?



# Investing in Community Systems Strengthening is key to improve HIV, TB and Malaria responses and outcomes.



Investments in CSS contribute to reducing barriers to services, advocating for accelerated introduction and uptake of new technologies and policy reforms to address social determinants of health.



# Community Systems Strengthening in practice: **Mali**, HIV, community-led-advocacy

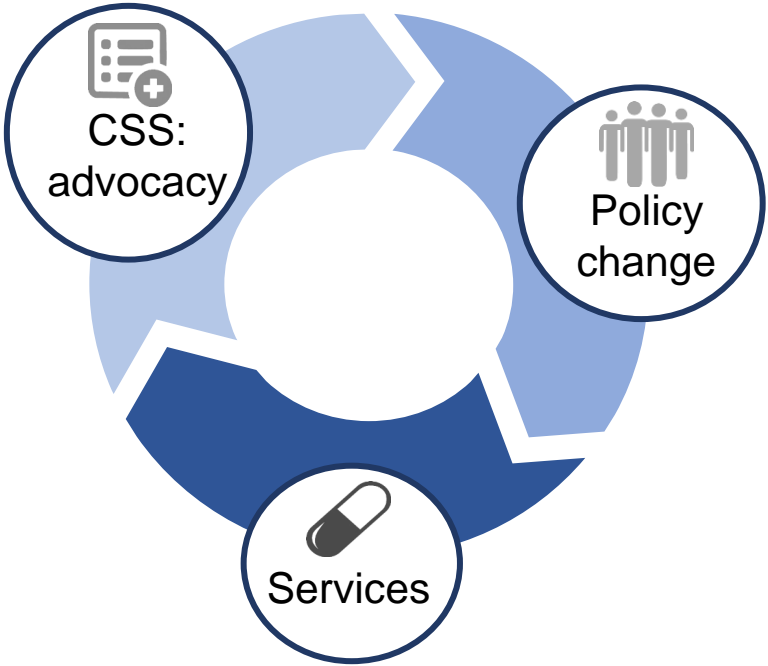


The issue: ARVs were not accessible. ARCAD Santé Plus Mali (PR in Mali) supported **social mobilization** via the creation of PLHIV networks. In 2001, the 'Mali ARVs Access Initiative' was formed.

**ARCAD - SIDA Mali**  
Association de Recherche de Communication  
et d'Accompagnement à Domicile des Personnes  
Vivant avec le VIH et le SIDA

Membre de la Coalition  
Internationale Sida






CSS: Between 2001 and 2004, the 'Mali ARVs Access Initiative' engaged in **community-led advocacy** work

Impact: In 2004, the Authorities in Mali declare **ARVs are free for all**

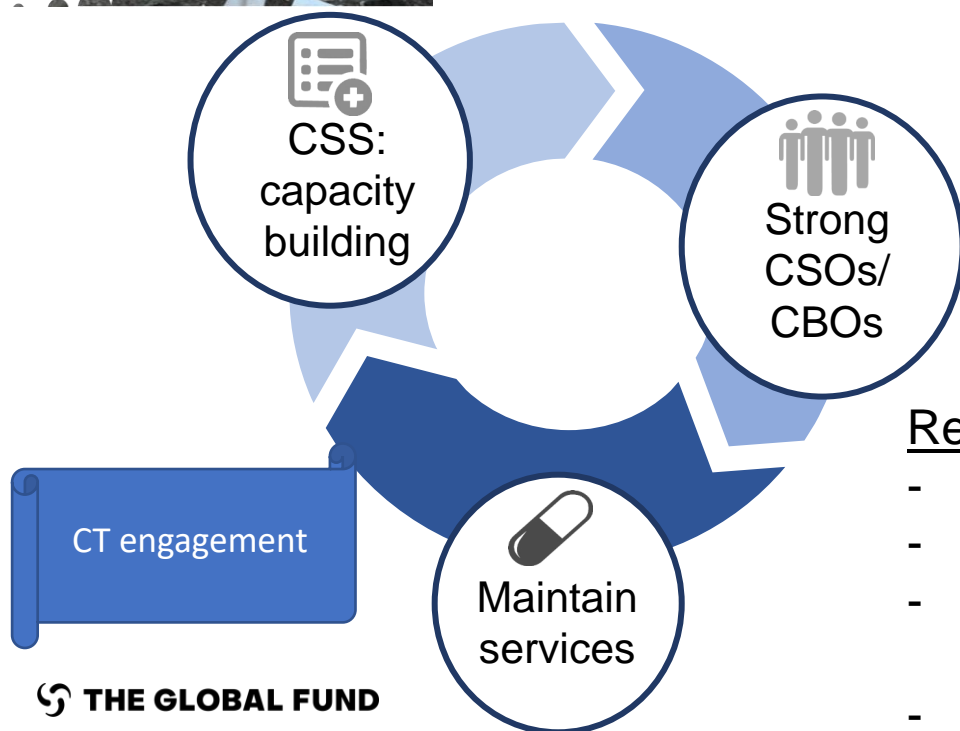


# Community Systems Strengthening in practice: **Ukraine**, HIV and TB, capacity building



The issue: The war, an **acute emergency**, puts HIV and TB gains under threat. How to maintain essential HIV and TB services?

CSS: Years of investments in **building the capacity** of civil society and community-led-organizations enabled them to play a key role in TB and HIV programs and **reach those in need**



## Results:

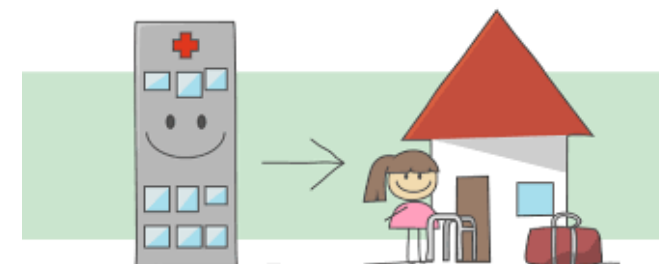
- Rapid estimation of the needs from communities
- Prevent ART and OST stock-outs and treatment interruption
- CSOs/CBOs providing prevention, care and support services, reaching last mile
- Leverage support from humanitarian partners such as health cluster



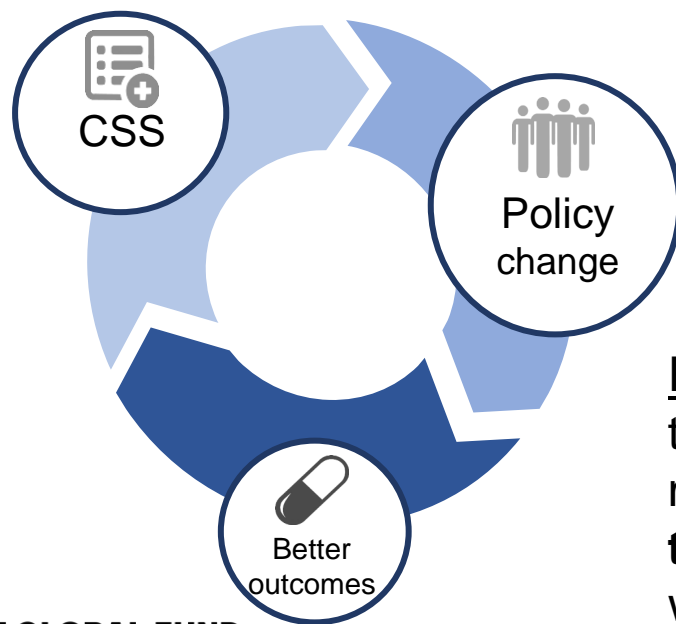
# Community Systems Strengthening in practice: EECA, TB, social mobilization



The issue: “Ukraine inherited from the Soviet TB service a system of TB hospitals where people with TB were **locked up for six months** or more” (Petro, Ukraine).



CSS: “Thanks to Global Fund **advocacy projects...(and) community mobilization**, more and more patients were transferred to **outpatient treatment**” (Petro, Ukraine)

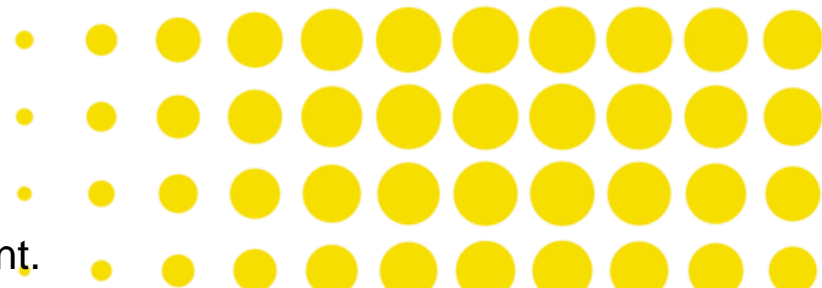


Result: In a similar shift to outpatient treatment that resulted from social mobilization in Georgia, the rate of **lost to follow-up reduced** from 12% to 6% within only 6 months.

# Discussion

Participants from Colombia, Honduras, Madagascar, Peru, Tanzania, etc. shared their country experiences on community systems strengthening.

# Your takeaway



Before the closing, participants were asked what they would remember from the event.

CSS can have impact

Need to prioritise CSS

Pues me llevo la necesidad de trabajar con las ong y conectarse con ellas y el servicio de salud para fomentar su participación

Many examples from GF funding that benefited CSS. Perhaps have concrete examples. PSI also heavily engaged - references available which may be cited

Understanding of community lead monitoring, role of communities in responding to the needs. The collaborations and its implication on the implementation of the grant to the affected one. The need to ensure linkage with governments.

Como nos hermanan las problemáticas con independencia de la región

We got the strength to keep developing community health actions! We are not alone :)

It is good to see the definitions shared

impact of CSOs and CBOs in providing community services during war

Other countries experiences. Very useful

CBO play critical role service delivery

Super!

The way to have access to technical Assistance by Community



# Thank you!

The Global Fund to Fight  
AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

+41 58 791 1700  
[theglobalfund.org](http://theglobalfund.org)