



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

**Independent  
Observer of the  
Global Fund**



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# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## “Change and Continuity”

### The change: a new strategic plan and board of directors

2018 was the year of “change and continuity” at Aidspace. It started with the development of a 2018-2022 strategic plan aligned to the 2017-2022 strategy of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, the organization that Aidspace watchdogs.

#### Our strategic objectives aim to:

1. Increase analytical depth, utility and influence of Aidspace’s published content based on the needs of our audiences
2. Promote data-informed decision-making with respect to the Global Fund strategy, policies, processes and investments
3. Facilitate country-level feedback to the Global Fund and its stakeholders
4. Strengthen organizational capacity

Aidspace continues to be a leading source of reporting and analysis on the implementation of the Global Fund’s strategy, policies, processes, and investments. Reporting and analysis aid the decision-making of Aidspace’s audiences which include: Global Fund board members, the Secretariat and OIG staff, Global Fund donors and partners, implementers at the country level, governments, civil society, communities of people living with or affected by the three diseases and you.

This year, Aidspace reviewed its board of directors and elected a new board chair. We bade farewell to long-time board member Dr. James Deutsch, who stepped down from the Aidspace Board after 16 years of service and welcomed Dr. Jesse Boardman Bump.

We’ve also increased capacity to our team by recruiting a new editor for our flagship newsletter Global Fund Observer (GFO) and new staff to support our policy team.

## The continuity

In 2018, the Global Fund Observer which is published twice a month both in French and English reached more than 14,500 subscribers. In addition, four in-depth reports (see publications below) gave context to pertinent Global Fund concerns around domestic financing, use of data for decision-making, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) evolution HIV funding for adolescents and youth, Global Fund grant absorption capacity and innovative financing. What's more, we organized a very well received stakeholder's meeting to discuss a significant weak link in grantmaking and implementation, namely how project data is collected and used. This policy work opened an avenue for a new project strengthening the capacity of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), to audit or increase the scope of the audit of Global Fund grants.

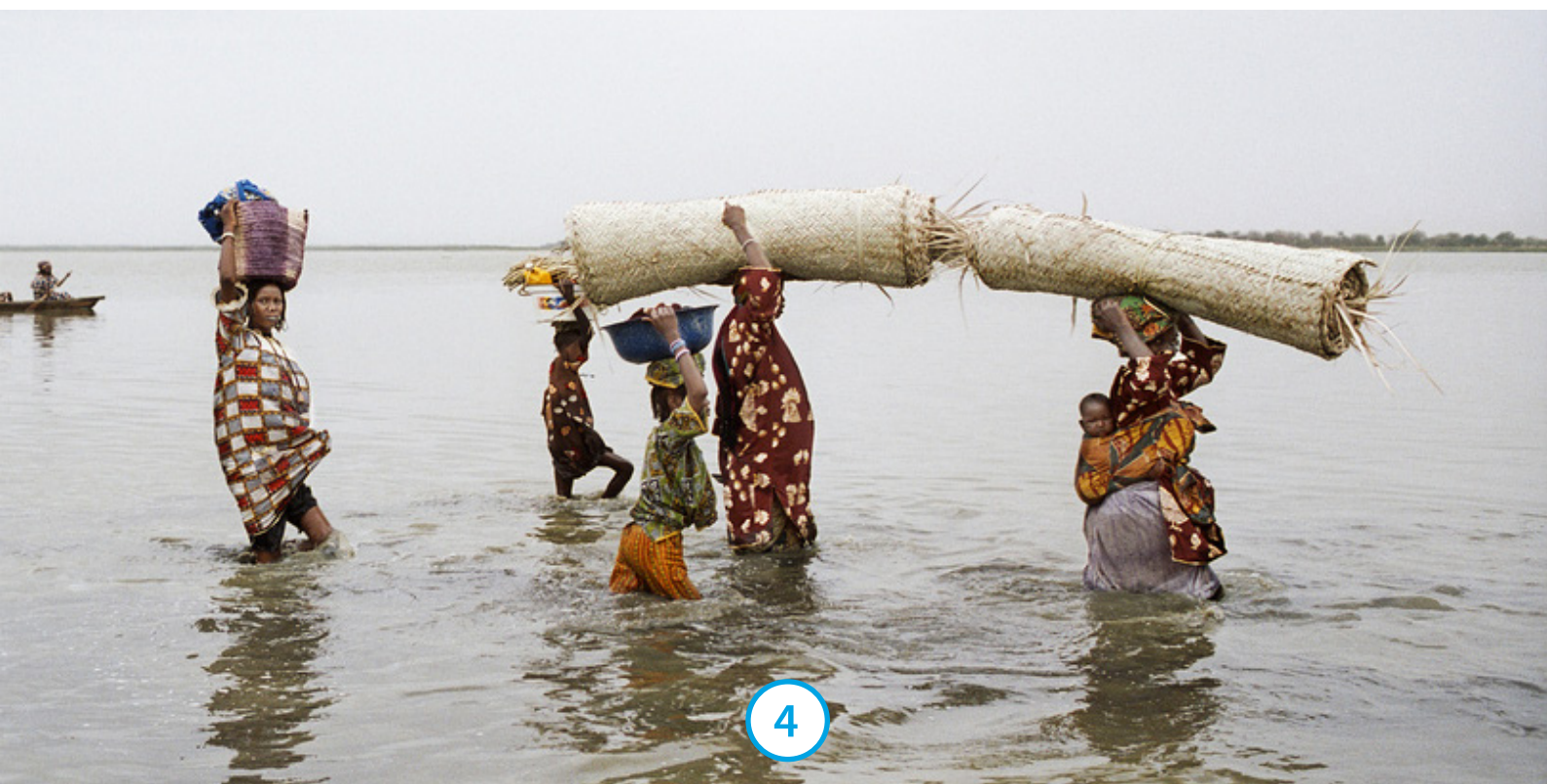
We intend to advance even further in 2019. While continuing to do what we do well - in giving you information, analysis, and commentary through different means - we plan to bring to you more data-based, country-level analysis, with a greater emphasis on the francophone countries.

All this is only possible with your support – be it funding or insightful information. We are grateful that we can continue to count on you in the future.

**Best,**

**Isaac Awuondo, Chair of the Board**

**Ida Hakizinka, Executive Director**



# AIDSPAN AUDIENCES

**The Global Fund  
(Board and its  
committees,  
Secretariat, Office  
of the Inspector  
General (OIG), etc.)**

**Global Fund  
donors**

**Country  
Coordinating  
Mechanisms  
(CCMs)**

**Implementers:  
Principal  
Recipients (PRs),  
sub-recipients  
(SRs) and sub-sub-  
recipients (SSRs)  
(state & non-state)**

**Non-implementing  
civil society**

**Local Fund Agents  
(LFAs), fiscal  
agents**

**Governments:  
accountability  
institutions  
and national  
policymakers**

**Technical  
partners e.g.  
World Health  
Organization  
(WHO)**

**Researchers,  
academicians,  
and media**

# AIDSPAN OVERVIEW

**Aidspan is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) created in 2002 as an independent observer of the Global Fund to fight HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria. Aidspan provides stakeholders of the Global Fund with information and analysis to understand and evaluate the Global Fund progress.**

Aidspan aims to influence the transparency and effectiveness of the Global Fund at the global and country level.

Aidspan avails information through its flagship publication, the bi-monthly newsletter [Global Fund Observer \(GFO\)](#), which is available in both **English** and **French** ([Observateur du Fonds Mondial \(OFM\)](#)). Aidspan also publishes [in-depth reports](#) on its website ([www.aidspan.org](http://www.aidspan.org)); the website also contains a series of [open-access data tools](#) that allow other researchers to conduct analyses on Global Fund-related data, in turn helping the Global Fund to become more effective.

## 2018 AT A GLANCE

**2018 started and ended on a high, as Aidspan built on the previous year's successes and lessons learned.**

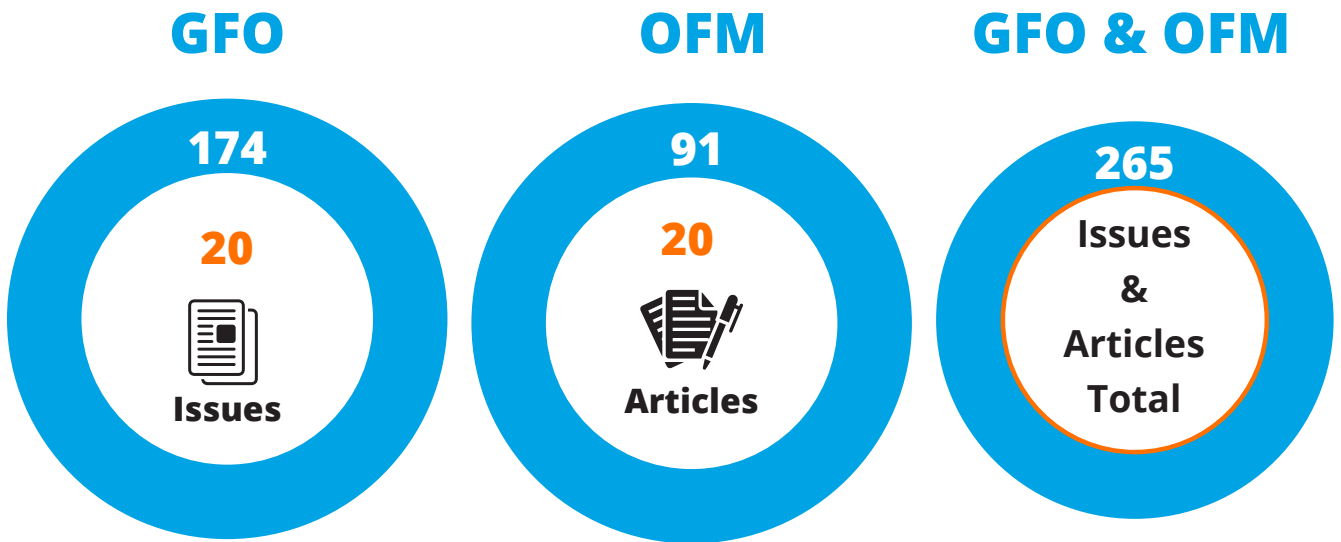
### Strategic highlights

At the end of 2017, Aidspan commissioned an evaluation of the previous 2016-2018 strategic plan. Considering the feedback from the strategy review done in 2017 and changes in the Global Fund, the Aidspan Board commissioned a new five-year strategy 2018-2022, aligned to the Global Fund's 2017-2022 strategy. The strategy has four objectives as shown in the strategic framework below. Aidspan began implementing the new strategy in August 2018. This report, therefore, covers two strategic periods: 2016-2018 and 2018-2022.

### Operational highlights

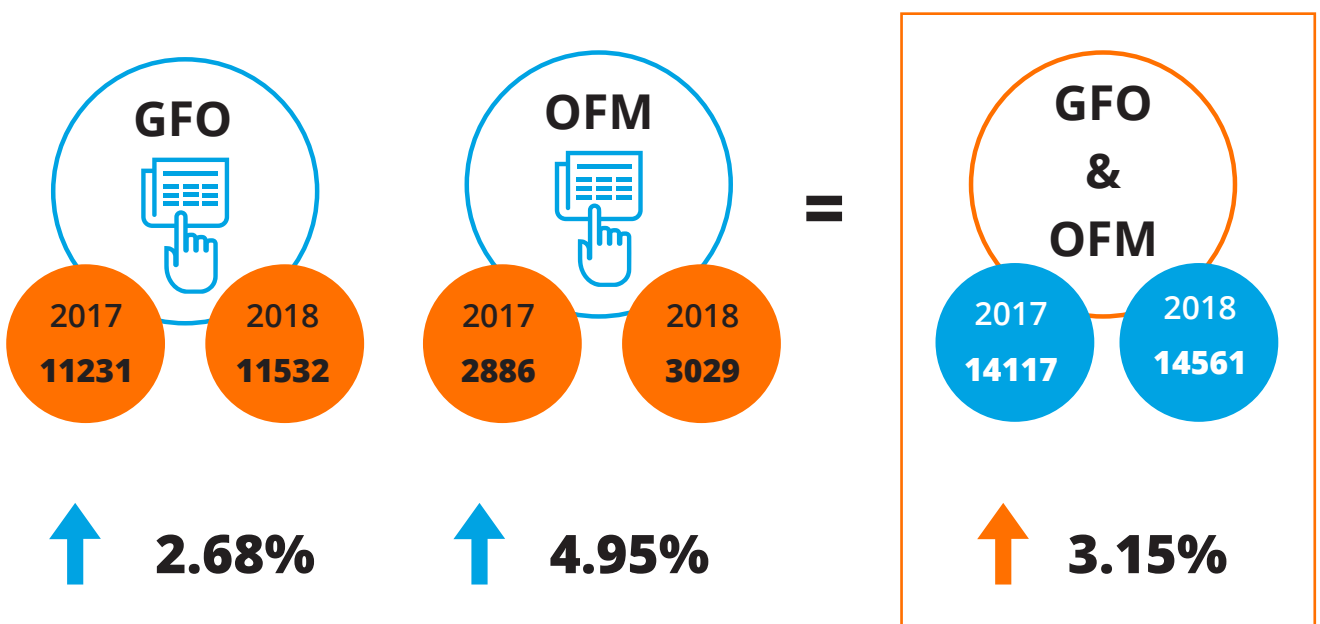
Aidspan kept its commitment to provide stakeholders with news, analysis, and commentary on the Global Fund's strategies, policies, and processes and grant implementation at the country and regional level. We maintained a regular publication of our flagship publication, the Global Fund Observer (GFO) in English and French (Observateur du Fonds Mondial (OFM)).

## GFO & OFM issues and articles



In total, Aidspace published 265 articles which were a mix of news, analysis, commentary, and features, among others, covering countries across the five continents. Of the 174 articles published on GFO, approximately 50 were country-specific while 10 pertained to regional or multi-country issues. Content published in GFO in English and French is available to the more than 14,500 subscribers and to non-subscribers at no cost. Subscription to GFO and OFM remained stable in 2018.

## Number and % change in GFO and OFM subscribers



Aidspan improved how it delivers content to its diverse audience by developing a GFO Newsletter mobile application. The mobile app eases access to GFO content. The app was downloaded 1,365 times from when it was launched in June 2018 to the end of the year.

Aidspan published a series of analyses on prioritized thematic areas in four in-depth reports available on the website. We also published the fourth edition of the [Beginner's guide](#) which provides a broad introduction to the Global Fund for people who have little or no experience of the Global Fund.

Aidspan continues to challenge the Global Fund to apply its principle of transparency in the publication of data and information. The Global Fund's transparency has progressively increased, however, gaps remain. The Global Fund is yet to publish key documents, for example, its committee reports and decision points, Technical Evaluation and Reference Group (TERG) and grant review reports by the Grant approval committee. Aidspan continues to advocate for this data to be made publicly available.

## Financial highlights

In 2018, Aidspan maintained its traditional donors and secured additional funding from GIZ BACKUP and one new donor – the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Grant income increased by 13% in 2018.







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## VISION

A world without epidemics of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

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## MISSION

To be an effective watchdog highlighting, analyzing and influencing the transparency and effectiveness of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, at the global and country level

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## GOAL

To be a leading source of reporting and analysis of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria's strategy, policies, processes and investments for all stakeholders

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## CORE VALUES

Transparency

Accountability

Collaboration

Integrity

Timeliness

Effectiveness



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

## 2018-2022

### 1. Increase analytical depth, utility and influence of published content based on the needs of the audiences.

- 1.1 Analyze prioritized thematic areas to focus research, analysis and publication resources.
- 1.2 Analyze linkages across the Global Fund and other external actors.
- 1.3 Differentiate content and delivery mechanisms to tailor to diverse audience groups.

### 2. Promote data-informed decision-making with respect to the Global Fund strategy, policies, processes and investments.

- 2.1 Analyze available data throughout the Global Fund's grant lifecycle.
- 2.2 Highlight areas to improve the availability and format of data to analyze the Global Fund's progress towards strategic and policy aims.

### 3. Facilitate country-level feedback to the Global Fund and its stakeholders.

- 3.1 Assess and share stakeholder experiences with Global Fund grants and processes at the country level.
- 3.2 Analyze how grant implementation at country level aligns with the Global Fund's strategic or policy aims.
- 3.3 Analyze how the socioeconomic, environmental or political context in-country impacts the Global Fund's strategic or policy aims.

### 4. Strengthen Aidspace's organizational capacity.

- 4.1 Improve operational effectiveness and efficiency.
- 4.2 Mobilize resources from current and new sources to support effective implementation of the strategy.
- 4.3 Build and leverage strategic alliances and collaborations at global, national and community levels.

## Strategic Enablers



Quality People



Innovation



Thought  
Leadership



Continuous  
Improvement

## OUR WORK IN 2018

### Aidspan assessed Global Fund policies across different themes

**In 2018, Aidspan continued to critically analyze the Global Fund's policies, processes and structures, and implementation of the policies at the country level for improved effectiveness.**

The analyses generated evidence to inform policies and their implementation generated feedback from the various Global Fund stakeholders and provided recommendations.

These analyses covered different themes including domestic financing for health, availability, quality, and use of data, procurement, investments in vulnerable populations, and innovative financing and covered approximately 20 countries.

The analyses were either published through [GFO](#) and or as in-depth [reports](#) on the Aidspan website or both and include:

### Domestic financing for health

Aidspan assessed domestic financial contributions to the AIDS, TB and malaria responses in the 2015-2017 (actuals) and 2018-2020 (projected) grant implementation periods. The analyses targeted 13 High Impact countries: Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The domestic financial contributions, as a proportion of the total available funding, were low: 16% for HIV and AIDS, 36% for TB, and 36% for malaria. The proportions are roughly the same across the two implementation periods, particularly for HIV and AIDS and malaria. The countries will continue to experience huge gaps in funding unless domestic and international commitments increase.

This analysis was published on [GFO](#) and as an [in-depth report](#).

## Availability and use of accurate data to inform decision-making

Aidspan sought to describe how countries calculate the resources needed for their fight against the three diseases and the related challenges faced due to the scarcity or poor quality of country and program data.

Aidspan argued that the use of erroneous data results contributes to inefficient resource allocation and subpar service delivery. We advocated for the Global Fund to invest and catalyze domestic and other partners' resources to improve the quality and availability of data in countries where the Fund invests.

This analysis was published on the [GFO](#).

Still, on data, Aidspan assessed flows of grant information and measurement of grant performance in five countries: Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, and Zambia. The analysis suggested that countries may not be using data optimally to inform grant implementation. The study also showed that the Global Fund offers countries the flexibility to select performance indicators that are in line with the countries' own strategic plans as well as with the Global Fund's objectives.

The analysis was published as an [in-depth report](#) and a summary of the report can be found on [GFO](#).

## Procurement

**Aidspan assessed the procurement process for Global Fund-supported health commodities in Kenya. Kenya is one of the few African countries that procure health commodities using national systems and not the Global Fund's Pooled Procurement Mechanism (PPM).**

Aidspan's [analysis](#) showed that Kenya, through the government procurement agency, successfully procures and distributes government, Global Fund, and other donor-funded health commodities. In fact, the analysis revealed that Kenya obtains health commodities at prices lower than international reference prices. Moreover, stock-outs of health commodities are rare in Kenya, commodities are delivered in a timely fashion and inventory is properly managed at all stages of the supply chain. Kenya's success is as a result of strong legal and institutional frameworks, robust procurement arrangements and strategic partnerships.

The analysis can be found [here](#).

## Global Fund investments for HIV prevention among adolescents and youth

**Aidspan analyzed the Global Fund investments for HIV prevention among adolescents and youth.**

The analysis found that countries in Africa's Eastern and Southern regions – the region most affected by the HIV epidemic - dedicated on average only 4.6% of their total HIV grants to HIV prevention among adolescents and youth for the 2018-2021 implementation period. This proportion was rather small in view of the over-representation of this segment of the population in the new infection rates.

**This age group contributes slightly more than a third of all new HIV infections globally.**

The analysis recommended increased emphasis on this age group and the need for the Global Fund to further incentivize higher investments in adolescents and youth and particularly among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW).

This analysis was published on [GFO](#) and as an [in-depth report](#).

## Innovative financing

In a three-part series of analyses published on the GFO, Aidspan assessed the Global Fund's current approach to innovative financing and areas in which the Global Fund is currently exploring opportunities. Aidspan described the background and rationale for the change in policy and discussed the pros and cons of development cooperation mechanisms, such as debt swaps and blended finance. Aidspan also delved into outcomes-based financing and discussed the pros and cons of mechanisms such as impact bonds and social success notes. Lastly, Aidspan described innovation and cost-reduction incentive mechanisms and discussed the pros and cons of instruments, such as challenge funds and prizes, advance market commitments and seed funding.

The three-part series of articles was published on the GFO: [part one](#), [part two](#) and [part three](#).

## Select quotes from our audience

"Timely and thorough information with an analysis of the GF grant management and grant-making approaches"

"Regular, updated information, great insight, critical analysis"

"Independence, data collection and quality of its (past) analysis"

"Well-documented articles; accessible information, easy to use and disseminate"

"Practical and useful guides and sources of information provided to the GFATM beneficiaries"

"It's a good source of information on new developments related to the Fund"

"Apprécié ce canal qui permet de nous donner des informations utiles pour notre travail" (I really appreciate this channel that gives us useful information for our work)

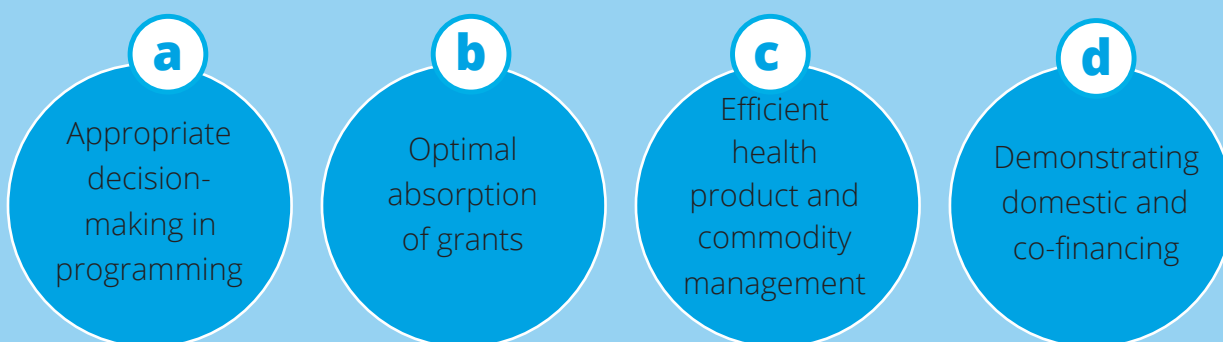
"Les informations sont succinctes et répondent au besoin d'information" (The information is succinct and responds to the need for information)

## Aidspan brought together stakeholders to share experiences on data collection and use

Inaccurate and poor-quality data can lead to poorly structured grants and over-commitment, and subsequently limited absorption of funds. Aidspan, being cognizant of this, organized a three-day round table on the collection and use of data in Global Fund grants. Participants included representatives of Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), state and non-state implementers and civil society organizations (CSOs) from seven countries and the Local Fund Agent. The countries included Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia. The theme of the meeting was 'data for decision-making'.

The meeting discussions pursued shared solutions to the challenges of data collection and use in Global Fund operations in these seven countries.

### Discussions focused on data for:



A vibrant exchange of ideas led to countries verbally affirming their commitment to testing best practices within their own contexts.

The detailed meeting discussions are available in the [report](#); [images](#) of the meeting are also available on the Aidspan website.



## Participants at the data for 'data for decision-making' roundtable recommended actions for the various partners:

### Principal Recipient (PR)

- ◉ Timely planning, implementation, reallocation, and reprogramming (*start early*).
- ◉ Closer follow-up on indicators by PR leadership, grant managers and heads of programs (*regular data review meetings involving in-country stakeholders e.g. PEPFAR, UN agencies, Civil Society, government ministries*)
- ◉ Submit the Progress Update and Disbursement Request (PU/DR) with detailed, documented explanations to inform grant direction and reprogramming.
- ◉ Joint Pre-review of PU/DR by CCM and PRs and endorsement before submission
- ◉ Dedicate staff for PU/DR and offshore procurement (keep updated on *paperwork and amounts*).
- ◉ Improve timely feedback mechanism to SR (covering both program & finance, capture SR data).
- ◉ Engage the private sector for data collection and quality assurance for the CCM oversight activities.

### Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)

- ◉ Improve working relationships amongst the CCM, LFA and Global Fund country team.
- ◉ Make better use of electronic data reporting and dashboards (complementing paper-based systems).
- ◉ Develop clear strategies for moving toward a single, harmonized data reporting system, culminating in regular national health accounts
- ◉ Ensure effective oversight of PRs in all their grant managerial functions.
- ◉ Engage ministries of finance/treasury in calculating co-financing and setting strong data systems for national health accounts and public expenditure tracking surveys
- ◉ Engage relevant national government institutions towards increasing domestic & co-financing beyond three diseases.
- ◉ Strengthen CCM secretariat (HR, M&E systems) for effective data analysis.

## Global Fund Secretariat

- ◉ Improve the relationship between and amongst LFA, PR & CCM.
- ◉ Provide focused continuous mentoring and capacity strengthening on Global Fund requested documents, reporting tools and forms to CCM & PR by the country team and Local Fund Agent.
- ◉ Strengthen collaboration with CCM, PRs, LFA at all stages while preparing and conducting onsite data verification.
- ◉ Provide flexibility and support as countries transition to new data systems.
- ◉ Emphasize country ownership and priorities.
- ◉ Prioritize investments in Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) to address weaknesses in M&E systems.

## Aidspan

Create regular roundtables for PR, CCM, LFA, partners, and Global Fund secretariat interaction and learning (Such roundtable will document learning and share with countries in an independent setting).

Avail more and deeper analysis on prevailing issues (e.g. co-financing practices, RSSH, pool procurement Mechanism, Wambo.org, etc.).

Support the African Constituencies Bureau mandate.

Provide a more prominent best practices exchanges discussion forum of State and non-state PRs in future roundtable discussions.





*Participants at the 'data for decision-making' round table held on March 14-16, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.*



*Ida Hakizinka, Aidspan's Executive Director, giving the opening remarks at the data for decision-making round table*



*Djesika Amendah, Aidspan's Senior Policy Analyst, introducing Aidspan to the round table participants*

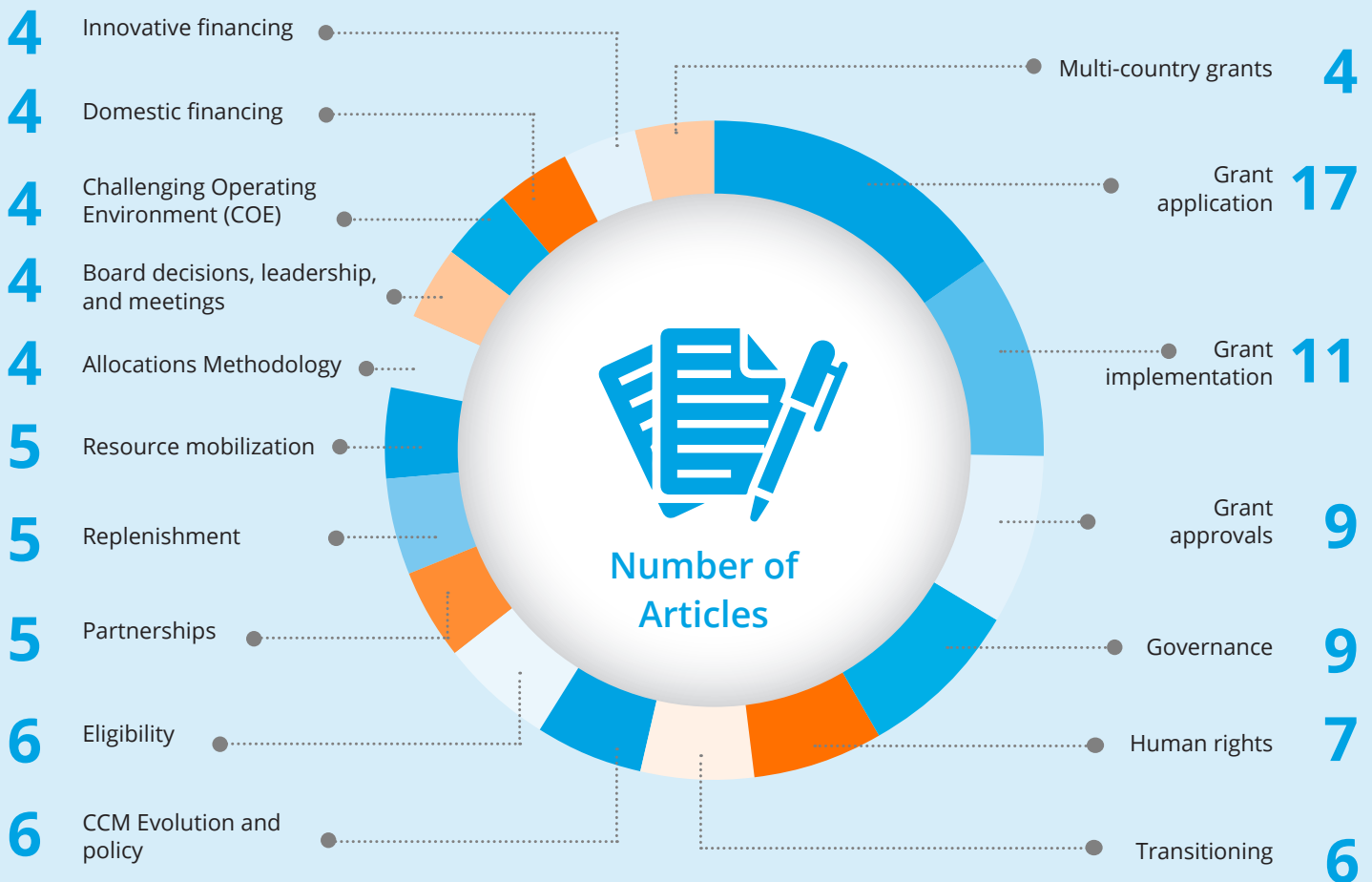


*Group discussions at the 'data for decision-making' round table held on 14th to 16th March 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.*

## Aidspan provided information on Global Fund's ongoing and emerging themes

Aidspan's flagship newsletters, the GFO and OFM, remained informative in 2018 and kept our audience updated on a wide variety of issues and developments at the Global Fund. In 2018, countries were still making funding applications to the Global Fund for the 2017-2019 allocation. It is therefore not surprising that 'grant applications' was the most recurring theme on GFO. Content on 'grant implementation' was also popular, closely followed by 'grant approvals' and 'Global Fund governance'.

### Leading thematic areas



The most sought out information by the audience was on the Global Fund Board decision points, the partnership between the Global Fund and Heineken, treatment success of multidrug-resistant TB, the proposed budgetary cuts by the US administration to the Global Fund and the proposed changes to the Global Fund's eligibility policy.

## Most read news articles

No	GFO article title
1	<a href="#">Peter Sands delivers first report as Executive Director to the Global Fund's 40th Board meeting</a>
2	<a href="#">Global Fund suspends partnership with Heineken</a>
3	<a href="#">Global Fund grant to Ukraine finds treatment success for multidrug-resistant TB with a two-pronged approach</a>
4	<a href="#">More reaction to the Global Fund's partnership with Heineken</a>
5	<a href="#">President Trump's proposed budget for FY 2019 includes cuts of \$425 million for the Global Fund</a>
6	<a href="#">The blog discusses proposed changes to the Global Fund's Eligibility Policy</a>
7	<a href="#">TRP focuses on gaps in services for key populations in its review of Ethiopia's TB/HIV funding request to the Global Fund</a>
8	<a href="#">Global Fund reports steady progress in recovering outstanding amounts owing</a>
9	<a href="#">Global Fund chops \$170.6 million from Nigeria's 2014–2016 allocation</a>
10	<a href="#">TRP and GAC raise concerns about the sustainability of Nigeria's Global Fund-supported malaria program</a>

## Aidspan provided a series of robust commentaries

In 2018, Aidspan voiced its opinion through published commentaries in the GFO. Below are a few highlights

- Aidspan highlighted transitional financing challenges that middle-income countries with a high HIV and AIDS burden. Most of these countries are heavily reliant on external donor funding for their HIV and AIDS response. Unfortunately, few of these countries were proactive in reducing their reliance on external donor funding.
- Aidspan expressed the need for HIV and AIDS service retention among vulnerable groups through sensitizing healthcare workers toward an attitudinal change. In our commentary about the allocation of responsibility, it is our considered opinion that the highest obligations should be the people and communities affected by the diseases rather than the countries they come from.

No	Commentary title
1	<a href="#">The 'Risky Middle': HIV spending, economics, and perceptions</a>
2	<a href="#">Sensitivity training for health workers is crucial for reaching adolescents and key populations</a>
3	<a href="#">International AIDS Economics Network meeting in Amsterdam focuses on sustainability of global response to HIV</a>
4	<a href="#">The Allocation of Responsibility</a>

“I think the GFO is the best way we receive synthesized info on what we are up to, and learn faster from you than within!” [Quote from a GFO reader who works for the Global Fund]

## Aidspan diversifies newsletter delivery

Aidspan’s audience is diverse. We aim to deliver our content in the most conducive form for the different audiences. For content published on GFO, Aidspan launched a mobile application, the [GFO Newsletter](#), in June 2018. The app is available to both Android ([on Google Play Store](#)) and iPhone Operating System (iOS) ([Apple Store](#)) users and was downloaded 1,365 times from its launch in June to the end of 2018. Aidspan plans to develop a similar app for the French version, OFM.

## Aidspan pushed for more data to be made available

**In 2018, Aidspan continued to advocate for Global Fund's key documents and information to be made publicly available.**

**These key documents and information include those relating to the Global Fund's strategy, policies and processes, grant application, and implementation.**

The Global Fund has made progress towards greater transparency, but gaps remain. They do not publish some reports, including the decision points from the committee meetings, and reports commissioned by the committees. The Global Fund Board regularly delegates the decision-making to the various Board committees. However, the decision points from the Committee meetings are often published months later. Conversely, the Global Fund publishes decision points from the biannual Board meetings. Reports by the Technical Evaluation Reference Group (TERG) are also not publicly available; the TERG conducts independent assessments of the Global Fund.

The Global Fund also does not publish crucial documents relating to grants such as grant application documents, grant application review reports by the Grant Approval Committee (GAC), detailed grant budgets and grant expenditures, among others.

These gaps in information compel interested parties, such as Aidspan, to request for information on an ad hoc basis. In such cases, obtaining the information and in a timely manner is not always guaranteed.

## Aidspan highlighted gaps in data

**In 2018, Aidspan highlighted the Global Fund's failure to publish information on the qualitative adjustment process – the final step in the allocations methodology**

**"Editor's note: When the Secretariat refers to the qualitative adjustment process being "transparent" and "accountable," it means that the Secretariat has been transparent and accountable to the Board with respect to the factors used to make the adjustments. We cannot help but observe that the application of the qualitative adjustments has been anything but transparent to the wider Global Fund universe." ([Work underway to refine the Global Fund's allocation methodology for 2020–2022](#), GFO 335, 25 April 2018)**

Aidspan also highlighted gaps in health financing data at the country level:

"Tracking financing to HIV, TB, and malaria programs is difficult due to the lack of accurate, complete and timely data available. Countries have taken strides to improve the quality of health financing data, such as the National Health Accounts (NHAs) and disease-specific efforts such as the National AIDS Spending Assessments) NASAs. More needs to be done to improve the frequency and outputs of these existing tools. Accurate and timely data is necessary to monitor and track health financing and its efficiency." ([Domestic financial contributions to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria responses remain low, GFO 340](#))

Throughout the preparation of informational or analytical content, Aidspan makes direct requests for data and information to the Global Fund if they are not publicly available, which is often the case.

## Aidspan aims to narrow these gaps in data via its data tools

The Aidspan website hosts data tools – most notably the [Grant Performance Analysis tool](#) and the [Aidspan Portal Workbench \(APW\)](#) - which contain data relating to allocations, grant disbursements, expenditures, and performance rating. The tools aid in data analysis by Aidspan staff and other external stakeholders. They are particularly useful for obtaining older data that may no longer be available on the Global Fund site. For instance, the Global Fund website only provides the most recent grant ratings; however, the Aidspan grant performance analysis tool provides all the available ratings for each grant.

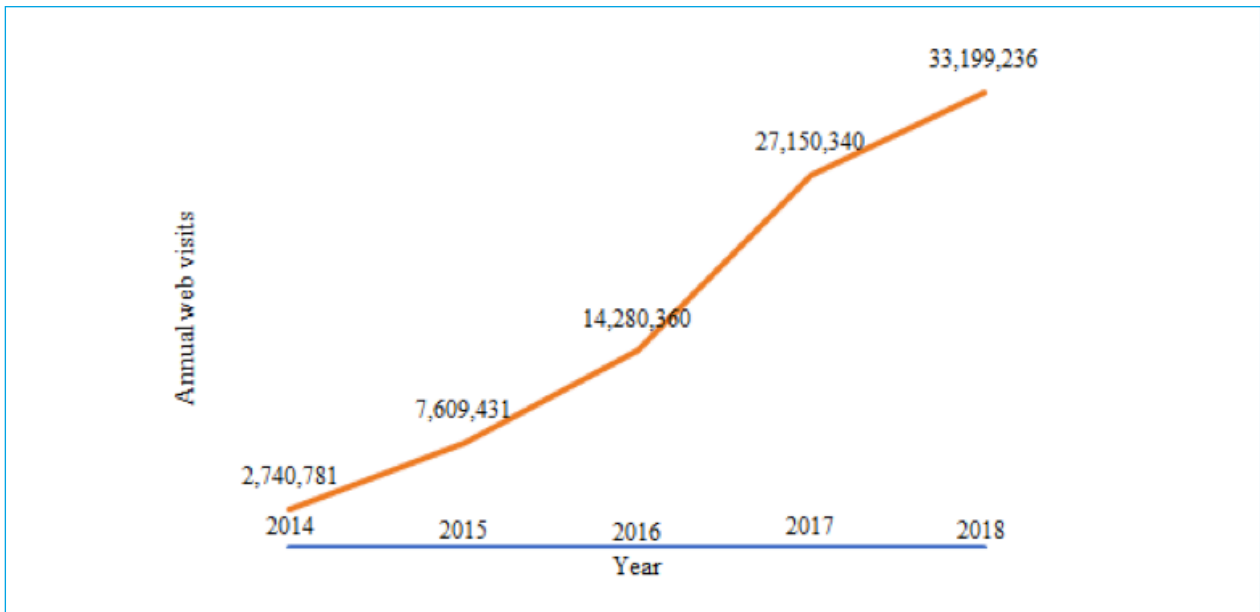
## Feedback on data tools

"Aidspan's data portal is very useful both as a demonstration tool and as a check on other information (i.e. to triangulate) information."



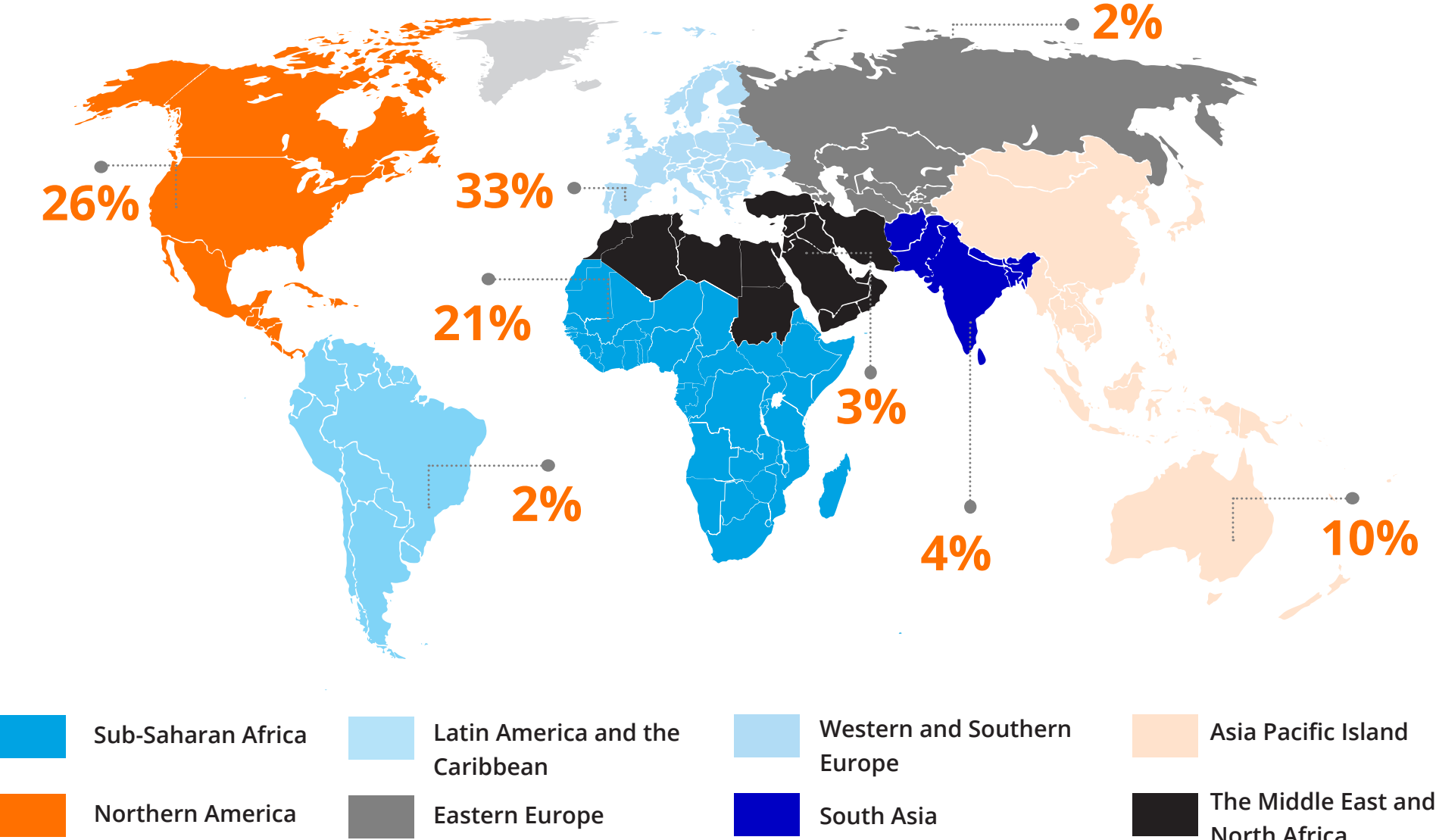
## More visits to our website

More stakeholders are engaging with Aidspan's content through its website. The number of visits to Aidspan's website has increased over the years. In 2018, web visits increased by 22%, from 27,150,340 to 33,199,236.



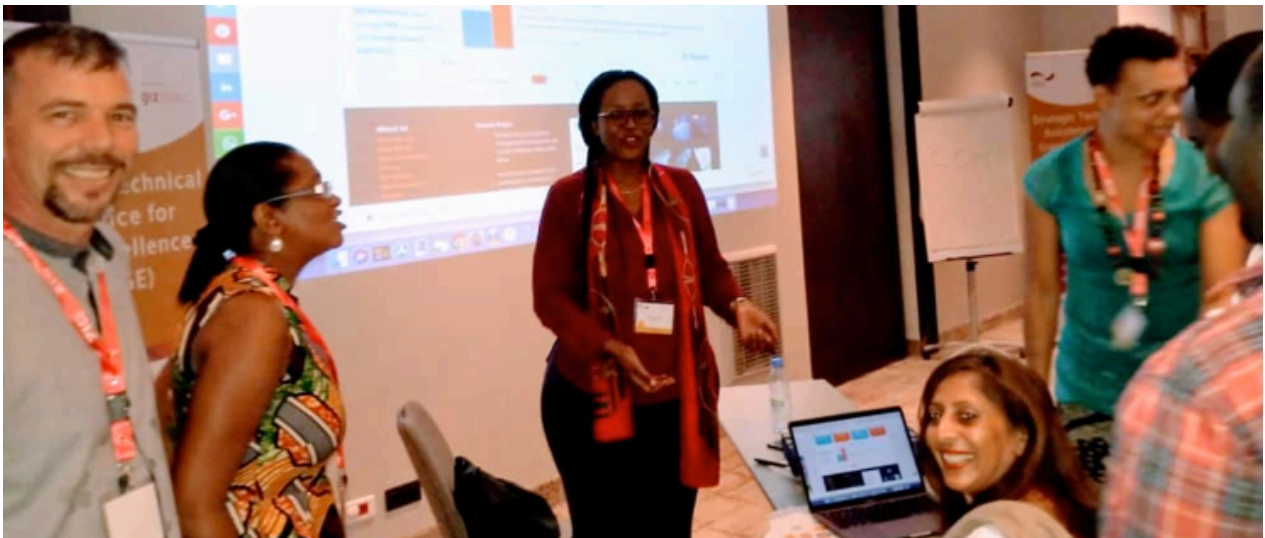
# Aidsan audience spread across the globe

Aidsan audiences are all over the world. Western and Southern Europe is the region we have the highest concentration of our audience.



## Aidspan's participation/representation sought in meetings

In 2018, Aidspan participated in meetings on a wide variety of themes convened by civil society, governments, technical partners, Global Fund and the Africa Constituency Bureau (ACB), among others. In these meetings, Aidspan presented relevant policy analyses and provided insight into our watchdog role to the Global Fund.



*Ida Hakizinka, Aidspan's Executive Director presenting Aidspan's work at the GIZ BACKUP STAGE Workshop held on 24th-27th September in Dakar, Senegal*



*Ann Ithibu, Aidspan's Policy Analyst, presenting an abstract at the 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018) hosted by The International AIDS Society held on 23rd to 27th July, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The abstract highlighted domestic financial contributions to HIV and AIDS in high impact African countries.*



*Samuel Muniu, Aidspan's Research Assistant, attended the 2nd Annual Scientific Conference on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights held on 27th to 29th June, in Eldoret, Kenya. Aidspan presented about Global Fund HIV funding for adolescent girls and young women in Kenya*

## Aidspan maintained strong relationships with partners

**Aidspan believes in strong partnerships; we do our best to maintain existing relationships while working to bring more into the fold. In 2018, we maintained a close relationship with our partners:**

- ◉ Accountability International (AI)
- ◉ AIDS Alliance
- ◉ Eastern African National Network of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO)
- ◉ Réseau d'Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels (RAME)
- ◉ Health N Right Education Programme (HREP)
- ◉ For Impacts in Social Health (FIS)

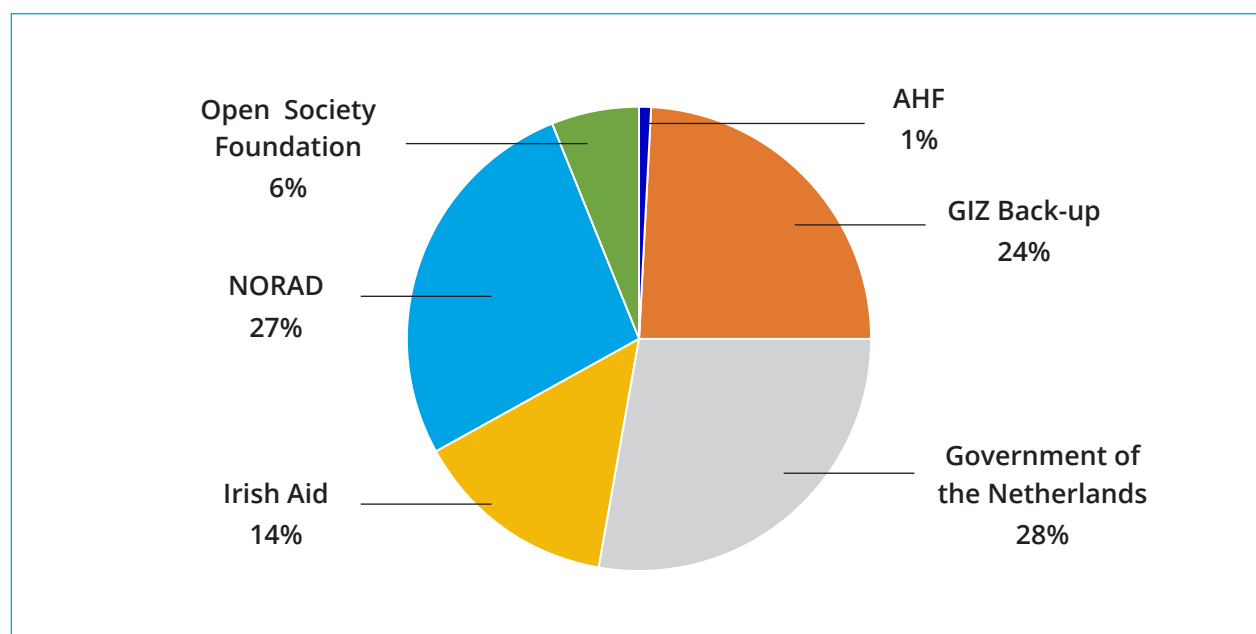
We strengthened our working relationship with the African Constituency Bureau (ACB). Aidspan was regularly invited to observe and present our work at the ACB Constituency meetings in 2018. The African constituencies are continuously seeking independent analyses from different stakeholders on issues pertaining to the Global Fund strategy, policies and processes, as well as their implementation.

# AIDSPAN FINANCIALS

## Resource mobilization

In order to preserve its independence, Aidspan does not accept any financial resources from the Global Fund. As a watchdog of the Global Fund, most of Aidspan's funding comes from governments that also fund the Global Fund.

In 2018, we retained all our traditional donors and secured additional funding from the GIZ Backup and one new donor - the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). Grant income increased by 13%.



## Audited Income and Expenditure

Income & expenditure (USD)	2018	2017
Grant income	866,067	769,056
Other income	26,677	33,515
Program expenditure	(641,526)	(641,817)
Administrative expenses	(116,052)	(97,883)
Other operating expenses	(90,703)	(60,477)
Surplus	44,463	2,394
Tax	(4,631)	(4,424)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	39,832	(2,030)



## Going forward into 2019

**2019 will be the first full year of implementation of the 2018-2022 strategy. Aidspan will seek to:**

- Offer even deeper analyses on prioritized thematic areas: The analyses will make sense of the issues including the context and the implications and offer recommendations. We will expand our focus on francophone Africa by increasing analyses on relevant thematic areas and recruiting an OFM Editor. Aidspan will continue to tailor its content and delivery to our diverse audience groups.
- Promote data-informed decision-making by publishing content that presents and analyzes available data, or highlights gaps in data provided by the Global Fund.
- Facilitate country-level feedback to the Global Fund and its stakeholders by sharing stakeholder experiences with Global Fund grants, and analyzing grant implementation at the country level including, context-specific evidences. We will create a platform for countries to share experiences and learn from each other, for instance, through round tables or publication of best practices.

Aidspan will also strengthen the capacity of eight supreme audit institutions (SAIs) to conduct annual audits of Global Fund grants in their countries. In countries where SAIs audit the Global Fund grants, there is increased country ownership, accountability, and sustainability.

In 2019, Aidspan will seek to increase and strengthen existing partnerships, especially with the ACB.

## CALL TO ACTION

**We need your help to continue watchdogging.**

- ◉ Donate to Aidspace: [info@aidspace.org](mailto:info@aidspace.org)
- ◉ Sign up for the [Global Fund Observer](#) e-newsletter
- ◉ Write for the [Global Fund Observer](#) e-newsletter
- ◉ Visit our [website](#)
- ◉ Download our [publications](#)
- ◉ Use our [data platforms](#)
- ◉ Give us feedback about our services; help us serve you better!



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>ACB</b>	Africa Constituencies Bureau
<b>AGYW</b>	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
<b>CCM</b>	Country Coordinating Mechanism
<b>GAC</b>	Grant Approval Committee
<b>GFO</b>	Global Fund Observer
<b>LFA</b>	Local Fund Agent
<b>OIG</b>	Office of the Inspector General
<b>OFM</b>	Observateur du Fonds Mondial
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organization
<b>PPM</b>	Pooled Procurement Mechanism
<b>PR</b>	Principal Recipient
<b>PU/DR</b>	Progress Update and Disbursement Request
<b>SR</b>	Sub-recipient
<b>SSR</b>	Sub-sub-recipients
<b>RSSH</b>	Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health
<b>SAIs</b>	Supreme Audit Institutions
<b>TERG</b>	Technical Evaluation and Reference Group
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization





Independent observer  
of the Global Fund

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