

# AIDS2016 ALERT

[EANNASO](#) will be presenting an oral abstract session at AIDS2016! The presentation will be on our research to measure the impact of civil society advocacy in Global Fund decision-making spaces.

See the details of the session below.

Session Title: **Pulling the Levers: Policy, Advocacy Approaches to Influence**

Session Date: **20 July 2016**

Session Time: **16:30-18:00**

Session Room: **Session Room 12**

## **Measuring The Impact of Advocacy: Civil Society's Influence over Global Fund Concept Notes in Eight African Countries**

**Background:** One fifth of Global Fund grants are implemented by civil society organizations. However, the degree to which non-state actors are able to shape the content of those grants through the initial concept note is uncertain and hard to measure. As a result, it is not always clear if the Global Fund is investing appropriately in communities.

**Methods:** Global Fund concept notes from Kenya, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zanzibar, Zambia and Zimbabwe were systematically measured to assess the inclusion of civil society priorities. National Civil Society Priorities Charters were used as indicators for civil society priorities. Each priority in the country's Charter was assessed for its inclusion in the Global Fund concept notes using a three-point scale (2=included, 1=partially included and 0=not included).

**Results:** The percentage of civil society priorities that were included in Global Fund concept notes were as follows: Malawi (87%), Kenya (76%), Tanzania (67%), Zanzibar (67%), Uganda (64%), Swaziland (50%), Zimbabwe (40%) and Zambia (38%). Across the eight countries, civil society priorities on key populations were the most likely to get included in the concept notes (68%), while priorities on voluntary medical male circumcision were the least likely to get included (15%). Several contextual factors help explain these results. Using Afrobarometer survey data, civil society had greater influence over Global Fund concept notes in countries where people often attend community meetings (CI 95%, P=0.041), often join others to raise an issue (CI 95%, P=0.017) and feel completely free to say what they think (CI 95%, P=0.030). Using World Bank Governance Indicators, civil society had greater influence over Global Fund concept notes in countries where there is a greater degree of freedom of association and freedom of expression (CI 90%, P=0.083). In countries where civil society was more effective at influencing Global Fund concept notes, HIV prevalence was lower (CI 95%, P=0.021).

**Conclusions:** This is some of the only statistical evidence to demonstrate that open and inclusive dialogue spaces are linked to a more effective civil society in the HIV response. An empowered civil society is vital, as the inclusion of their priorities is related to lower HIV prevalence.

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view the PowerPoint presentation

*[Civil Society Access Initiative: Scholarship Application](#)*