



Independent observer of the
Global Fund

2019
ANNUAL
REPORT

www.aidspace.org



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AIDSPAN OVERVIEW

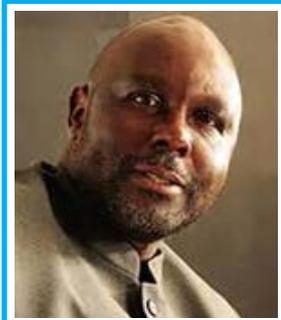
Aidspan is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) created in 2002 as an independent observer of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (the “Global Fund”). Aidspan provides all Global Fund stakeholders with regular information and analysis to explain and evaluate the Global Fund’s progress. Aidspan aims to influence the transparency and effectiveness of the Global Fund at the global and country levels.

Aidspan makes information available through its flagship publication, the bi-monthly newsletter the

Global Fund Observer (GFO), which is produced in English and in French as the *Observateur du Fonds Mondial (OFM)*. Aidspan also publishes *in-depth reports* on its website (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.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Isaac Awuondo,
Chairman of Aidspan's Board



Ida Hakizinka,
Executive Director of Aidspan

Aidspan stays the course while innovating

In the course of 2019, at Aidspan, we have moved on two paths to advance the transparency and effectiveness of the Global Fund. Through our biweekly online newsletter, the Global Fund Observer in English and French, we have provided information and in-depth analyses on the Global Fund's policies, processes, and grant implementation. Our 18-year old newsletter is alive and well, publishing relevant articles that help enhance the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of the Global Fund. This year, thanks to French government support through its '5% Initiative', we have been able to improve our coverage of Francophone Africa by strengthening the Observateur du Fonds Mondial (OFM). Francophone Africa receives 22% of the Global Fund's financing; making the regions's success an important piece of the overall success of the Global Fund. We also spent substantial time and energy on our Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) project, conducting training and capacity strengthening of African countries' SAIs to help improve their preparedness to audit Global Fund grants.

Keep on informing and analyzing the Global Fund policies, processes and implementation

We have endeavored to fulfill our mission of being an effective watchdog - highlighting, analyzing, and influencing the transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria at the global and country levels. Our main instruments to carry out these watchdog activities are our regular online newsletters, the Global Fund Observer (GFO) and the Observateur du Fonds Mondial (OFM), which this year for the first time has its own Francophone-focused editor.

We have published 23 issues of the Global Fund Observer in English and 16 of the Observateur du Fonds Mondial, in French. We have reached approximately 15,000 subscribers in both languages. Our articles in both languages cover a wide range of issues, spanning all the areas of the Global Fund operations and influence, with a stronger focus for the OFM over this past year on Global Fund-related issues in the French-speaking countries of Western and Central Africa.

Capable Supreme Audit Institutions are the best watchdogs for the Global Fund

In sub-Saharan Africa, [*governments manage, on average, 66% of the Global Fund grants*](#) in the region. The institutions in charge of watching over the public purse in these countries are the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), which go by

different names depending on the country: In Kenya, the SAI is called the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), while in Ghana, it is called the Ghana Audit Service (GAS).

When those institutions work well, they are the best accountability and oversight mechanism for Global Fund grant- and activities' implementation because of their constitutional mandate to audit all public funds, unlimited access to all state books and accounts, and publication of reports that are discussed at the highest levels, in Parliament or the within the Office of the President. In contrast, private audit firms do not have as much access and their reports are not discussed in the parliament. With the support of the GIZ BACKUP Health, an agency of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs which supports the health sector in different countries, we set out to support the SAIs. This support is especially timely as the Global Fund now recommends that the SAIs be the auditors of the Global Fund grants whenever possible. We worked with eight countries' SAIs, some that audit their country's Global Fund grants, and others that do not audit the Global Fund grants but audit other donor-funded projects or programs. We offered hands-on training on financial, procurement, programmatic, and compliance audits, including field visits to health facilities for the auditors to experience first-hand how malaria grants are implemented for the benefit of citizens and how they can apply their new audit tools.

We await the 2019 audits to see the effects of the training on the quality of the annual audits as perceived by the Global Fund stakeholders.

The way forward in 2020

In this year, 2020, we aim to continue following our successful path in delivering relevant information and in-depth analyses on issues about and relating to the Global Fund. We also aim to continue supporting the readiness

and capacity of Supreme Audit Institutions, so they are better able to discharge their duties of safeguarding Global Fund funds, and in so doing, help improve the lives of all citizens of countries in which the Global Fund has invested.

Aidspan thanks its supporters

We would like to thank the donor Governments and private foundations that have made Aidspan's work possible. They are, in alphabetical order: the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the French Government (through the 5% Initiative), the German Government (through the GIZ BACKUP Health initiative), the Government of Ireland (through the Irish Aid), the Netherlands Government, the Norwegian Government (NORAD), and the Open Society Foundation (OSF).

We would also like to thank the Civil Society Organizations partners, all the Supreme Audit Institutions as well as their umbrella organizations, African Organization of English-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI-E) and Conseil Régional de Formation des Institutions Supérieures de Contrôle des Finances Publiques d'Afrique Francophone Subsaharienne (CREFIAP), which agreed to work with us in order to better support their members.

In addition, we would like to thank all Global Fund personnel with whom we maintain professional relationships for their responsiveness. We also thank all Global Fund- and SAI-related experts who agreed to work with us.

And of course, finally, we thank all other readers, stakeholders, and people who live with or are affected by HIV, TB or malaria.

Thank you all.

Isaac Awuondo

Ida Hakizinka

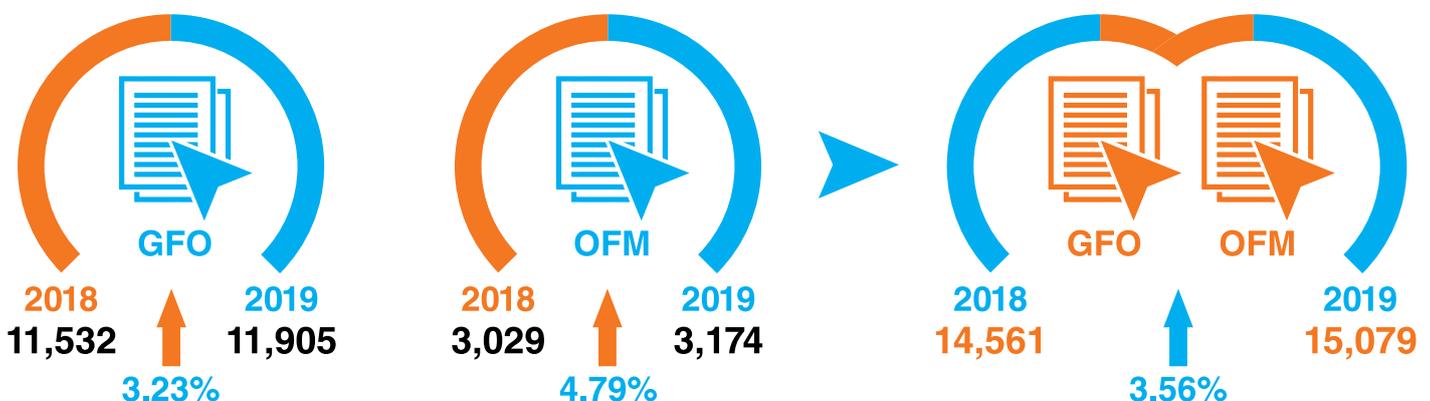
2019 IN BRIEF

Aidspan's goal is to be a leading source of reporting and analysis of the Global Fund's strategies, policies, processes, and investments to all stakeholders. In 2019, Aidspan kept its stakeholders informed through the regular publication of the Global Fund Observer (GFO), the Observateur du Fonds Mondial (OFM), and two in-depth reports. We surpassed our set target for 2019 of publishing 20 issues of the GFO and 12 issues of the OFM; by December 2019, Aidspan had published 23 issues of the GFO, with 170 articles, and 16 issues of the OFM, with 88 articles. Together these reached more than 15,000 subscribers and non-subscribers at no

cost. In addition, Aidspan published two in-depth reports, on domestic health financing and on Global Fund grant implementation in challenging operating environments.

The growth in subscriptions to our GFO and OFM newsletters remained stable in 2019 compared to 2018, at around 3% for the GFO and almost 5% for the OFM (see chart below). Our GFO subscribers increased from 11,532 in 2018 to 11,905 in 2019. Similarly, OFM subscribers increased from 3,029 in 2018 to 3,174. We continued to reach out to more audiences by making our content available through the [GFO Newsletter mobile application](#) and [Twitter](#).

GROWTH IN GFO AND OFM SUBSCRIBERS





Aidspan strives to strengthen the transparency and effectiveness of Global Fund grants. In line with its mission, Aidspan made strides in 2019 towards increasing the readiness of some Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) from sub-Saharan African countries to audit Global Fund grants. SAIs audit government revenue and expenditure, report audit findings to parliament and follow-up on progress made by audited entities in implementing audit recommendations.

Thus, the use of SAIs to audit Global Fund grants enhances country accountability, transparency and ownership in the use of these grants. In 2019, we trained 143 auditors from eight supreme audit institutions in sub-Saharan Africa to conduct financial, procurement, compliance, and programmatic audits of Global Fund grants. Moreover, Aidspan developed an audit toolkit that contains audit procedures for HIV,

TB, malaria, and health system strengthening programs, thus providing SAIs with resources and information when auditing Global Fund grants. The toolkit is open access, available to all on the Aidspan website. Aidspan hosted two roundtables, in Kigali, Rwanda, on April 24-26, and in Accra, Ghana, on December 11-13, where representatives from countries across sub-Saharan Africa shared their experiences and learned from each other about Global Fund audit-related topics.

Aidspan documented countries' experiences in the implementation of grants through the publication of 45 articles in the GFO related to specific countries. We expanded our coverage of Francophone Africa by recruiting an additional editor to focus specifically on Francophone Africa and publish original content relating to countries in that region.

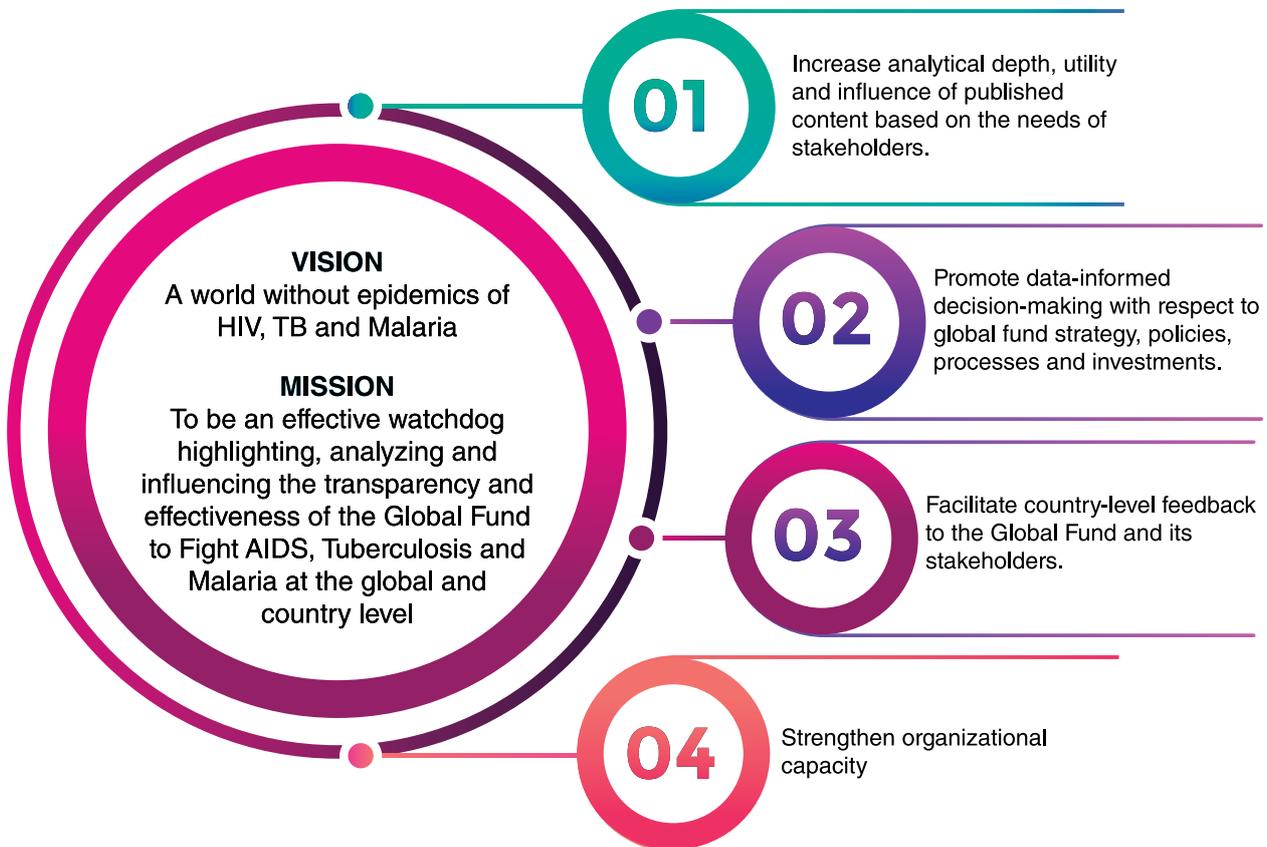
PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AIDSPAN'S 2018-2022 STRATEGY

2019 was the first full year of implementation of Aidsplan's 2018-2022 strategy. The 2019

activities were aligned to Aidsplan's four strategic objectives, as shown below:

AIDSPAN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



AIDSPAN RESEARCHED AND EXPLAINED ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE GLOBAL FUND AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

In 2019, Aidsplan continued to publish news, analysis, and commentary articles, via its flagship publication, the Global Fund Observer (GFO), in English and French, related to Global Fund processes and policies at the global level to increase awareness of pertinent issues and over time influence views or actions.

Aidsplan published a total 170 articles in the GFO, of which 117 reported on Global Fund policies and processes at the global level, and 45 focused on country-specific issues (see section titled 'Aidsplan researched and explained on Global Fund-related issues at country level' on page 12).

Throughout 2019, which was the year of the

Global Fund’s Sixth Replenishment, Aidspace published content in the GFO relating to recurring themes such as the Sixth Replenishment campaign (20 articles), discussions and decisions made by the Global Fund Board during its biannual meetings held in May and October (23 articles), and grant approvals by the Global Fund Board (12 articles).

Aidspace also published content on prioritized thematic areas to enable Global Fund stakeholders to better understand these issues, their context, and their implications. Aidspace considers several factors in choosing its priorities: the Global Fund’s strategic and

operational objectives; the Global Fund and Board committees’ priorities; insights obtained from access to Global Fund Board and other related meetings; insights from implementers, Country Coordinating Mechanisms, civil society, communities, and other in-country stakeholders; and the current global health agenda, news, and related topics.

The prioritized areas included health systems strengthening, the CCM Evolution initiative, grant oversight, domestic financing, catalytic investments, and the Global Fund’s sustainability, transition and co-financing policy (STC).

THEMATIC AREAS COVERED IN THE GFO, WITH CORRESPONDING NUMBERS OF ARTICLES IN 2019



Recurring themes in 2019

Coverage of the Global Fund's Board meetings

Aidspan attends the Global Fund Board meetings as an observer. Consequently, Aidspan publishes a special GFO issue immediately after each Global Fund Board meeting, highlighting discussions and decision points. In 2019, for the first time, Aidspan published articles prior to the Board meeting that unpacked key issues that were expected to be tabled for discussion and decisions.

In addition, Aidspan published a [commentary](#), prior to the November Board meeting, calling on the Board to take a closer look at the outcomes in countries that have transitioned from Global Fund support, and why some of them have come back to request for more funding. Moving forward, Aidspan will continue publishing analyses that delve deeper than publicly available information on Board-related topics.

In total, Aidspan published 23 articles on discussions and decisions related to the two 2019 Board meetings.

Replenishment

In 2019, the Global Fund successfully raised \$14.02 billion in the Sixth Replenishment for the period 2020-2022, after [16 months of campaigning](#). Aidspan covered the Replenishment campaign extensively by providing news, updates, and analysis in the GFO and the OFM. Aidspan analyzed [trends in contributions by the G7 countries, the world's most advanced economies](#), to the Global Fund; the G7 countries' contributions account for nearly 80% of all funds raised by the Global Fund so far. Aidspan also highlighted the [private sector's unprecedented contribution](#) of more than \$1 billion.

Post-Replenishment, Aidspan also highlighted [reflections by the Chair and Vice-chair of the Global Fund's Board](#) on how to translate the pledges into results.

This article was one of the suggested readings for a session on the role of the Global Fund in relation to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 during the November Board meeting.

In total, Aidspan published 20 GFO articles on the Sixth Replenishment.

CCM Function and Evolution

Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) are the "[cornerstones of the Global Fund architecture](#)" in-country. However, previous work by Aidspan and that of the OIG has highlighted weaknesses in the CCM model that threaten its effectiveness, including limited integration into national health systems and weak governance structure.

Cognizant of these weaknesses in the CCM model, the Global Fund piloted the CCM Evolution initiative, which started in May 2018 and ran through to December 2019, to increase CCMs' effectiveness. Aidspan monitored the implementation of the CCM Evolution pilot and published related articles, notably a [mid-term analysis of the pilot](#), which showed some early signs of success in some countries, and significant delays initiating project activities in others.

Other CCM-related articles published in 2019 included analyses and commentaries highlighting CCMs' weaknesses and calling for reforms to the CCM model, including strengthened [CCM leadership](#), [adequate funding](#) and staffing, and [integration into the national system](#).

Aidspan published a total of 5 articles relating to CCM function and the CCM Evolution initiative.

GFO (IN ENGLISH) MOST READ ARTICLES IN 2019

GFO Issue (Date of publication)	Title of the article	Type of article
GFO-Issue-356 (17 May)	Global Fund has achieved generally positive results against its performance targets, report to 41st Board says	NEWS
GFO-Issue-353 (03 April)	Other news of interest to the Global Fund partnership	OF INTEREST
GFO-Issue-349 (30 January)	New implementation arrangements for the Global Fund's TB grants to Nigeria	NEWS
GFO-Issue-362 (11 September)	The Global Fund Board seeks new members for the Technical Review Panel	ANNOUNCEMENT
GFO-Issue-349 (30 January)	Step up or slip back? The case for investing \$14 billion for the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment	NEWS
GFO-Issue-348 (16 January)	OIG audit praises Kenya's procurement and supply chain processes, identifies implementation challenges	NEWS
GFO-Issue-359 (26 June)	Global Fund invests \$40 million to facilitate \$400-million World Bank loan to India	NEWS
GFO-Issue-350 (13 February)	Civil society organizations push for a target of \$18 billion for the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment	NEWS
GFO-Issue-355 (02 May)	Global Fund's new results reporting methodology critiqued as being "insufficiently rigorous"	NEWS
GFO-Issue-364 (25 September)	Loyce Maturu takes message of support for Global Fund Replenishment around the world	REPLENISHMENT

AIDSPAN MAKES ITS CONTENT AVAILABLE ON DIVERSE PLATFORMS

The Global Fund Observer (GFO) is Aidsan's flagship publication, available in English and French. We publish the English version biweekly (every two weeks, for most months of the year) and the French version monthly (sometimes more frequently if events require it) on the Aidsan website. GFO content is also available via the

[GFO Newsletter mobile application](#) in both languages.

Aidsan also publishes in-depth reports on its website. We also share our content through meetings and roundtables convened by Aidsan or its partners, and through social media, particularly Twitter.



AIDSPAN PROMOTES THE USE OF DATA TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING

Aidspan promotes the use of data to inform decision-making within the Global Fund processes by presenting analysis using available data, and strengthening the capacity of various Global Fund stakeholders to access and utilize data relating to Global Fund grants. We also highlight where there are gaps in the availability and format of Global Fund documents and data.

Highlight: the Global Fund's Data Service and Data Explorer

In supporting the principle of transparency, Aidspan has, over the years, advocated for the Global Fund to make all critical documents and information publicly available. The Global Fund has recently made more grant-related data available: In 2019, the Global Fund introduced a new element on its website, called the [Data Service](#), which presents reports, data sets, and archived information in accessible formats.

Aidspan provided our audiences with a description of which reports and data sets are available for download from these Data Services in a [GFO article in May](#). When the Global Fund created a new portal on its website called the [Data Explorer](#), featuring major enhancements to grant-related data, Aidspan explained the Data Explorer in a [June GFO article](#). Through direct email correspondence to the Global Fund, Aidspan continued to point out where data is not available or easily accessible.

Aidspan enhances the capacity of oversight institutions to use Global Fund-related data

Aidspan also trained public auditors on how best to use data during financial, compliance and programmatic audits of Global Fund grants. In particular, we trained auditors on how to retrieve information from five key Global

Fund grant documents when conducting audits: the performance framework, detailed budget, list of health products, assessment of key implementers, and the implementation arrangement map (which shows how funds are flowing in the country). Further detail on these capacity-building efforts is in the section titled 'Aidspan strengthened the capacity of supreme audit institutions (SAIs) to audit Global Fund grants' page 19.

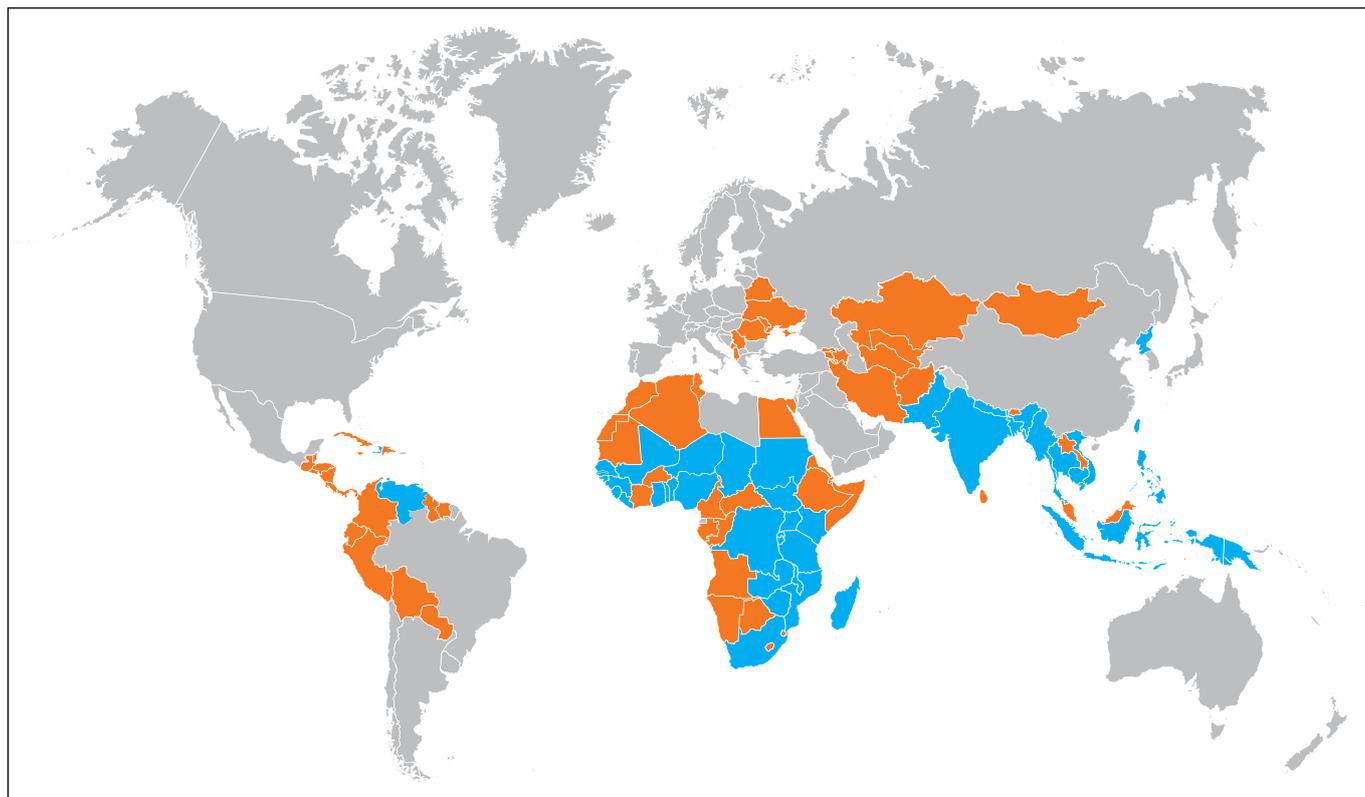
Aidspan revamped its website

In 2019, Aidspan revamped its website to adapt to the latest technology that allows data encryption to guarantee data security. The revamped website is designed appropriately for mobile devices and is scaled to fit the screen size of any mobile device. Importantly, the website synchronizes with the Global Fund's data sets making the data accessible in a simplified version to a wider audience. Also, the revamped website is linked to Aidspan's [GFO Newsletter](#) mobile application, diversifying newsletter delivery. Despite some interruptions to reader access during the website redesign process, we had 19 million visits to our website during the year. In the coming years, we look forward to even more web traffic.

AIDSPAN RESEARCHED AND EXPLAINED ON GLOBAL FUND-RELATED ISSUES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

In 2019, Aidspan remained informative on Global Fund grant implementation-related activities and processes at the country-level. Aidspan published 45 articles in the GFO and two in-depth reports with information on Global Fund grant implementation and processes in more than 40 Global Fund-recipient countries. We analyzed the alignment of grant implementation and the impact of the socio-economic, environmental, or political context of countries to the Global Fund's strategy and policies.

AIDSPAN’S COUNTRY-LEVEL FOCUS INVOLVED MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES



Colored in orange and blue are Global Fund-supported countries. Aidspan’s 2019 work focused in the countries marked in blue

Given Aidspan’s commitment to influencing the transparency and effectiveness of the Global Fund at the global and country levels, it is not surprising that grant oversight was the most frequently recurring thematic area for our in-country-related work in 2019. In the ‘grant oversight’ category, Aidspan reported on Global Fund grant-related audits and investigations at the country level by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). These included OIG investigations into collusion and fraud in warehousing contracting in [Haiti](#), and the embezzlement of funds in [Mozambique](#). In addition, Aidspan’s GFO comprehensively covered the OIG’s routine country audits of Global Fund grants to Benin, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana,

Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Uganda.

Grant implementation was another popular country-level topic in 2019. Aidspan highlighted the changes in implementation arrangements for the Global Fund’s TB grants to [Nigeria](#), and Global Fund [grant-implementation challenges in Malawi](#). Additionally, we focused on [Nigeria’s revised funding request](#) to the Global Fund with significant improved value for money, the [Global Fund’s emergency donation to Venezuela](#), and the relative success of faith-based organizations (FBOs) as PRs, particularly the [Churches Health Association of Zambia](#), in implementing Global Fund grants in that country.

COUNTRY-LEVEL THEMATIC AREAS COVERED IN GFO CORRESPONDING NUMBERS OF ARTICLES IN 2019



OUR IN-DEPTH REPORTS IN 2019

Aidspan conducted two in-depth analyses of domestic health financing in high impact Asian countries, and on Global Fund grant implementation in challenging monetary environments.

Domestic health financing in high-impact Asian countries

In 2019, Aidspan assessed the domestic financial contributions to the health sector, with a focus on HIV, TB, and malaria, in high-impact Asian countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Aidspan found that domestic contributions to HIV, TB, and malaria programs remain low in these countries. Comparing these countries' domestic-health financing for the 2015-2017 and 2018-2020 periods indicated increases from 65% to 81% for HIV, 55% to 63% for TB, and 46% to 65% for malaria. Despite these increased levels of domestic-health financing, these countries had a collective funding gap of 23% for HIV, 49% for TB, and 61% for malaria in the 2018-2020 period.

From the analysis, Aidsplan concluded that there is still a need for increased domestic-health financing across these countries' health sectors, particularly for HIV, TB, and malaria; otherwise, the citizens of these countries may need to pay more at point of care to bridge the financial gaps.

Alternatively, these countries could leverage existing innovative health-financing mechanisms such as impact bonds and debt swaps, which are facilitated by international health financing bodies such as the Global Fund.

[Detailed information on this analysis can be obtained from the [July Report](#) and the [GFO Summary Article](#).]

Global Fund grant implementation in a challenging monetary environment

In 2018, Zimbabwe changed its monetary and fiscal policies in order to reduce its reliance on the use of foreign currencies and adopted the use of its own currency, the bond note, as the main means of exchange and legal tender.

Aidsplan explored the effect of these changes in monetary and fiscal policies on Global Fund grant implementation in Zimbabwe, finding that the changes negatively affected grant implementation. Specifically, there was a delay in implementation because grant implementers faced challenges in paying for goods and services.

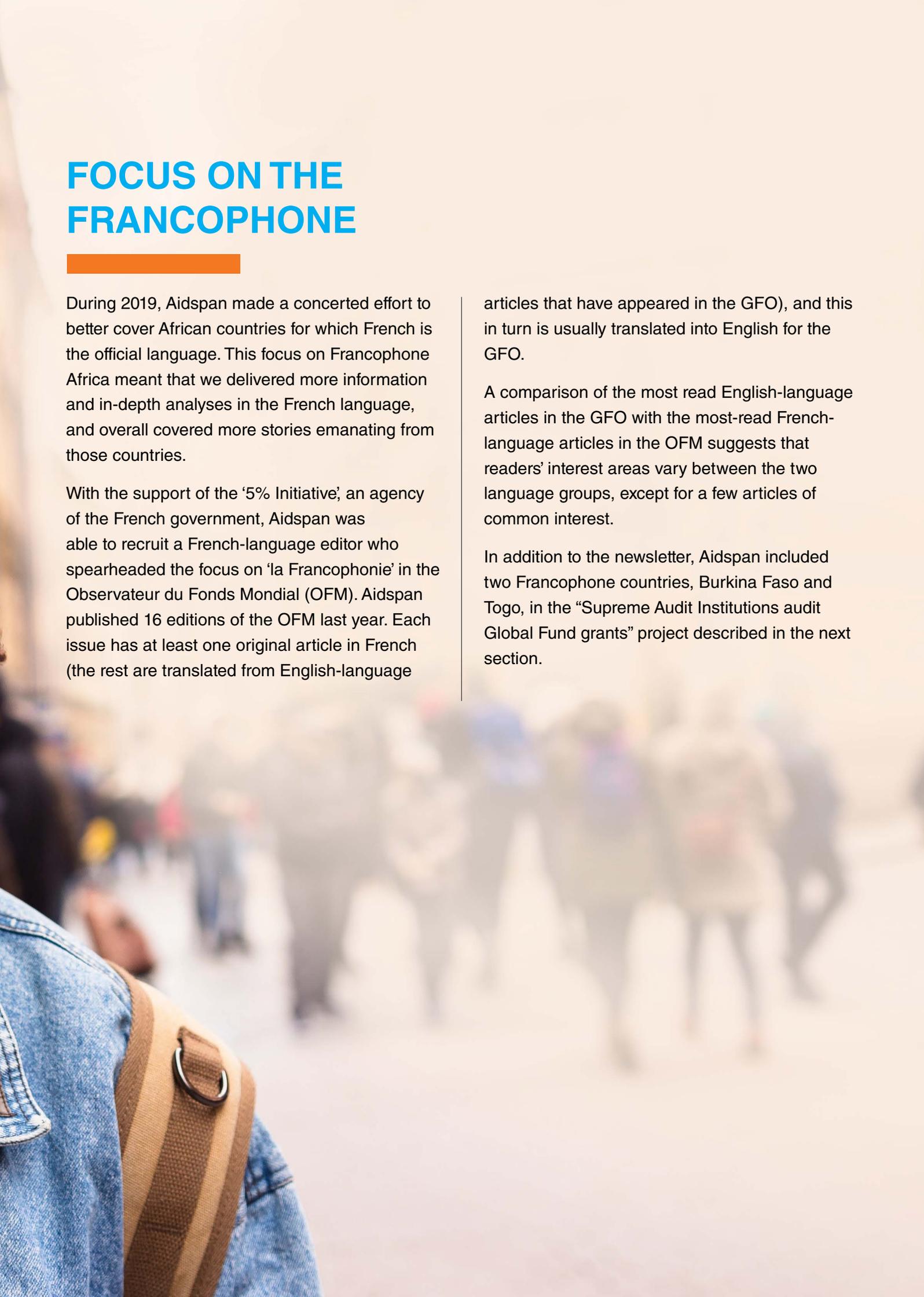
In addition, the change in monetary policy delayed the payment of healthcare workers' top-up allowances, lowering their morale and thus negatively affecting the delivery of health services. Aidsplan concluded that Global Fund grants to Zimbabwe were at risk of further delayed implementation unless plans were put in place to accelerate the implementation of HIV, TB, and malaria programs.

[Detailed information on the in-depth analysis can be obtained from [The Report](#) and the [GFO Summary Article](#).]





FOCUS ON THE FRANCOPHONE



During 2019, Aidspan made a concerted effort to better cover African countries for which French is the official language. This focus on Francophone Africa meant that we delivered more information and in-depth analyses in the French language, and overall covered more stories emanating from those countries.

With the support of the '5% Initiative', an agency of the French government, Aidspan was able to recruit a French-language editor who spearheaded the focus on 'la Francophonie' in the Observateur du Fonds Mondial (OFM). Aidspan published 16 editions of the OFM last year. Each issue has at least one original article in French (the rest are translated from English-language

articles that have appeared in the GFO), and this in turn is usually translated into English for the GFO.

A comparison of the most read English-language articles in the GFO with the most-read French-language articles in the OFM suggests that readers' interest areas vary between the two language groups, except for a few articles of common interest.

In addition to the newsletter, Aidspan included two Francophone countries, Burkina Faso and Togo, in the "Supreme Audit Institutions audit Global Fund grants" project described in the next section.

Below are the 10 articles with the most hits in our newsletter published in French.

The 10 Observateur du Fonds Mondial articles with the highest number of hits and corresponding translated version in GFO

OFM Issue (Date of publication)	Article Title
OFM 83 (09 April)	Des audits des subventions du Fonds mondial au Rwanda et au Bénin signalent des problèmes liés à la disponibilité et à la qualité des données (<i>OIG audits of Global Fund grants to Rwanda and Benin raise issues related to data availability and quality, GFO 352</i>)
OFM 85 (09 May)	Le Fonds mondial adopte une approche innovante pour le processus itératif des demandes de financement du Nigeria (<i>Global Fund uses innovative approach for iteration of funding requests from Nigeria, GFO 355</i>)
OFM 88 (03 July)	Construire et renforcer un système de santé en s'appuyant sur le Fonds mondial : l'exemple du Rwanda (<i>Global Fund impact on building and strengthening a health system: The example of Rwanda, GFO 362</i>)
OFM 83 (09 April)	L'examen stratégique 2017 du Fonds mondial identifie des déficiences dans plusieurs domaines programmatiques, notamment les démarches différenciées, la capacité d'absorption et les transitions (<i>Global Fund's Strategic Review 2017 identifies gaps in several program areas, including differentiated approaches, absorptive capacity and transition, GFO 353</i>)
OFM 88 (03 July)	L'Observatoire régional de traitement communautaire catalyse les investissements du Fonds mondial en Afrique occidentale (<i>Regional Community Treatment Observatory catalyzes Global Fund investments in West Africa, GFO 359</i>)
OFM 83 (09 April)	Débat sur le transfert de la responsabilité des achats vers les pays bénéficiaires du Fonds mondial et l'accélération du financement national (<i>The debate over shifting procurement responsibility for Global Fund countries ramping up domestic financing, GFO 353</i>)
OFM 79 (22 January)	Le Directeur exécutif du Fonds mondial évoque les priorités exposées dans son premier rapport au Conseil d'administration (<i>Global Fund Executive Director discusses priorities laid out in his first Report to the Board, GFO 348</i>)
OFM 84 (23 April)	L'utilisation des données sur les indicateurs clés de résultats par le Conseil d'administration et le Secrétariat du Fonds mondial est « partiellement efficace », estime le Bureau de l'Inspecteur général (<i>Global Fund Board and Secretariat use of KPI data is 'partially effective', OIG says, GFO 354</i>)
OFM 80 (05 February)	Accélération ou retour en arrière ? L'argumentaire en faveur de la mobilisation de 14 milliards de dollars pour la sixième reconstitution des ressources du Fonds mondial (<i>Step up or slip back? The case for investing \$14 billion for the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment, GFO 349</i>)
OFM 82 (05 March)	L'Afrique du Sud relève le défi de la prévention du VIH chez les adolescentes et les jeunes femmes avec une nouvelle subvention du Fonds mondial (<i>South Africa confronts HIV prevention challenge for adolescent girls and young women with new Global Fund grant, GFO 351</i>)

AIDSPAN STRENGTHENED THE CAPACITY OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS (SAIS) TO AUDIT GLOBAL FUND GRANTS

In 2019, Aidspan, with the support of GIZ BACKUP Health, successfully implemented a project entitled “Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) audit Global Fund grants in sub-Saharan Africa.” The project aimed to increase the number of supreme audit institutions from sub-Saharan African countries involved in Global Fund grants audits. The project also aimed to increase the scope of audits conducted on Global Fund grants, from financial and compliance to include also programmatic audits.

Supreme Audit Institution project activities

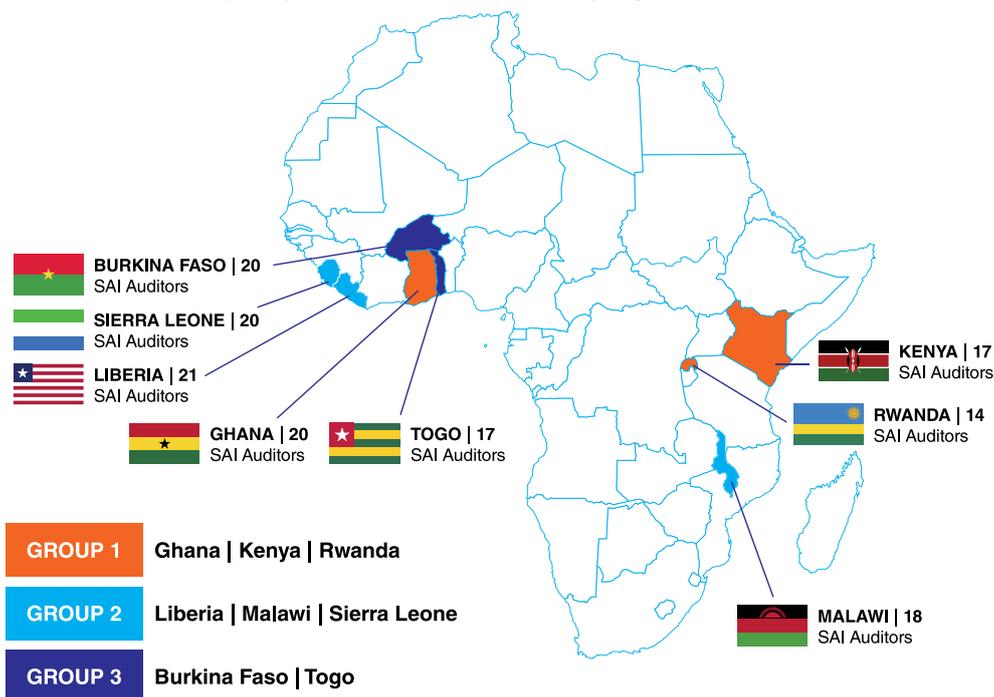
Aidspan implemented three major activities in the SAI project:

1. Aidspan mapped the institutional audit arrangement in Burkina Faso and Togo, an exercise that helped to demystify the audit arrangements in Francophone Africa.
2. Aidspan documented the best practices and

lessons learned from the SAIs of Ghana, Kenya, and Rwanda, which already audit Global Fund grants, thus providing useful information to SAIs that intend to start auditing Global Fund grants.

3. Aidspan successfully developed an audit toolkit on the audit procedures and requirements for Global Fund grants, laying the foundation for strengthening the capacity of the eight supreme audit institutions (SAIs) in the project to audit Global Fund grants. The eight SAIs were from Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Togo. In total, Aidspan trained 143 auditors from the eight supreme audit institutions on how to plan and execute financial and programmatic audits of Global Fund grants.
4. Aidspan organized two regional roundtables, the first in April and the second in December, which brought together the key project stakeholders to interact, plan on project implementation, agree on tasks and timelines, and chart a way forward.

Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) trained on financial and programmatic audits of Global Fund grants





Participants in Aidspace's second roundtable of the project entitled **"Supreme Audit Institutions audit Global Fund grants in sub-Saharan Africa"** held from **11 to 1 December, 2019, in Accra, Ghana**. The heads of delegation from the eight supreme audit institutions participating in the project are seated, from **left to right**: The Deputy Auditor-General of Sierra Leone, Selvin Winston Eldred Bell; the outgoing Auditor-General of Kenya, Edward Ouko; the Master counselor at the Court of Auditors of Togo, Amoussou-Guenou Assiba, the Auditor-General of Ghana, Daniel Yaw Domelevo; the Auditor-General of Liberia, Yusador Saadatu Gaye; the Auditor-General of Rwanda, Obadiah R. Biraro, the First President of the Court of Accounts of Burkina Faso, Jean Emille Somda; and the Acting Auditor-General of Malawi, Thomas Makiwa.

Supreme Audit Institution project successes

Several successes can be attributed to the project. The three SAIs that already conduct financial audits of Global Fund grants have committed to increase the scope of their audits.

For instance, Ghana's SAI is planning for a five-year special audit, covering the period 2014-2019, to shed light on Global Fund grants' performance, Kenya's SAI conducted a system audit alongside the Global Fund-required financial audit in 2019, and Rwanda's SAI plans to conduct a program

audit (to assess the achievement of a program) of Global Fund grants as part of its annual audit in 2020.

Moreover, the SAIs of Togo and Burkina Faso have liaised with their respective CCMs to be part of the country dialogue.

As a result of this Aidspace project, SAIs better appreciate that it is their constitutional mandate to audit all public funds, including those dedicated to Global Fund grants. It is clear now to the SAIs that they don't require Global Fund's permission to audit grants but rather should consult and partner with the Global Fund when auditing.



QUOTES FROM TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

Several training participants commented on the usefulness of Aidsplan's training:

*"How can we ask Aidsplan to train the other countries? This was the best training session I have seen in a long time." - **Global Fund Secretariat's representative to Aidsplan's training for Malawi's SAI.***

*"As a financial auditor I have always been focused on the financial area of the audit, but this training has made me realize that it's not just the financials – it's about the end results, how people benefit from what they have received." - **Auditor, Audit Service Sierra Leone***

*"At the end of this training all of us [attending it] have acquired so many skills on how to conduct a programmatic audit and especially [how to] focus on the key risk areas of the grant implementation." - **Acting Permanent Secretary, Rwanda Country Coordinating Mechanism***

AIDSPAN STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL PARTNERSHIPS WIDENED

Strong partnerships are a key driver for achieving Aidspace's mission. We strive to maintain our existing partnerships while working to bring more partners on board to increase our effectiveness as a watchdog. In 2019, Aidspace signed collaboration agreements with three new partners:

- The Africa Constituency Bureau (ACB) for the Global Fund - our partner in the 5% Initiative-supported project
- The African Organization of English-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI-E)
- Le Conseil Régional de Formation des Institutions Supérieures de Contrôle des Finances Publiques

d'Afrique Francophone Subsaharienne (CREFIAF)

For the 'Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) audit Global Fund grants in sub-Saharan Africa' project, Aidspace collaborated with six civil-society organizations from the countries participating in the project:

- Rural Watch Ghana (RWG) - Ghana
- Rwanda Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (R.R.P+) - Rwanda
- Réseau d'Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels (RAME) - Burkina Faso
- Health and Rights Education Programme (HREP) – Malawi
- Focus 1000 – Sierra Leone
- Union des ONG du Togo (UONGTO) – Togo





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Strong partnerships are a key driver for achieving Aidspace's mission.

AIDSPAN FINANCIALS

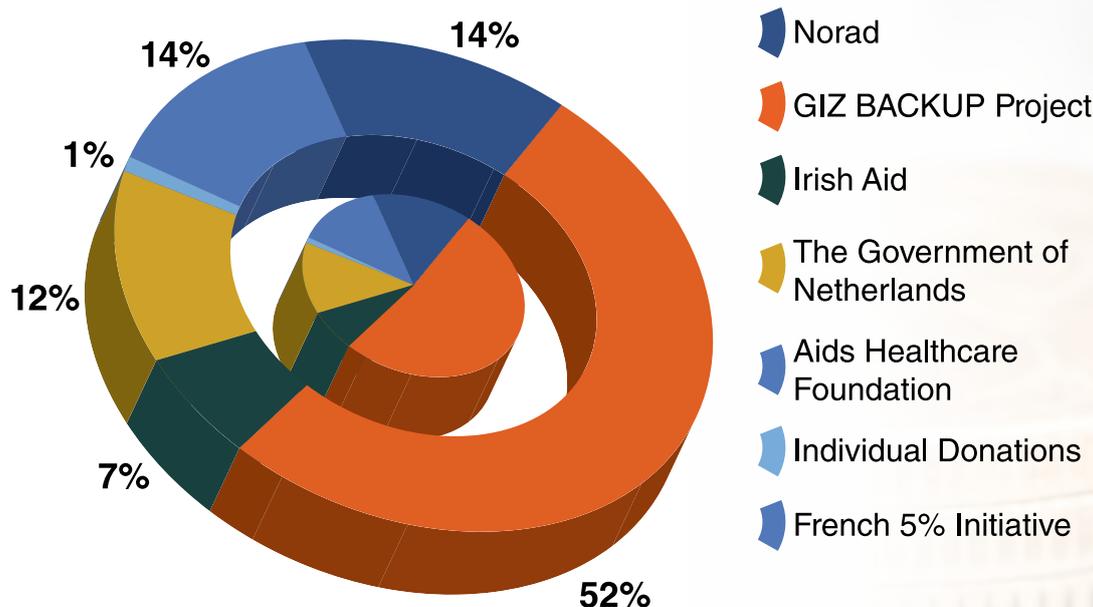
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

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 2019, we received funding from our traditional donors (Irish Aid, the Netherlands government,

the Norwegian government (NORAD), and the Open Society Foundation (OSF), the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) and GIZ BACKUP Health.

We also secured additional funding from the French government (through the 5% Initiative). Grant income increased by 87% in 2019.



Income and Expenditure (USD)	2019	2018
Grant income	1,621,827	866,067
Other income	13,455	26,677
Programme expenditure	(1,398,878)	(641,526)
Administrative expenses	(179,372)	(116,052)
Establishment expenses	(108, 145)	(90,703)
(Deficit) / Surplus	(51,113)	44,463
Tax expense	(4,113)	(4,631)
Deficit/surplus for the year	(55,226)	39,832

Audited income and expenditure



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WHAT TO EXPECT FROM AIDSPAN IN 2020

2020 will be the second full year of implementation of Aidspace's 2018-2022 strategy. We plan to build on the work and successes of 2019. Aidspace will continue to increase the analytical depth, the utility and influence of publications among our stakeholders by:

- Prioritizing pertinent issues that stakeholders need to understand and critically assess. For instance, in 2020 Aidspace will cover the grant application process extensively as countries submit funding requests and proceed to grant-making for the 2020-2022 Global Fund funding cycle.
- Assessing the linkages between the Global Fund and other actors within the HIV, TB and malaria responses (such as PEPFAR, the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), etc.), as well as those in health systems strengthening (such as the Gavi Alliance), and also the role of the Global Fund in promoting universal health coverage (UHC) and fighting the new pandemic COVID-19.
- Continuing to use different delivery mechanisms that meet the need of our diverse stakeholders. These include the Aidspace website, the GFO/OFM newsletters

and their mobile application, Twitter, and in-person at meetings or conferences;

- Continuing to pay special attention to the West and Central Africa region, through the French-language OFM and expanded in-depth analysis focussing on the region.

Aidspace will use the data available on the Global Fund website to carry out ongoing in-depth analyses of corresponding topics, such as grant performance and grant absorption. Aidspace will also highlight areas to improve the availability and format of data to support analysis.

Aidspace will continue creating platforms for countries to share experiences and learn from each other, such as round tables and publication of best practices.

Aidspace will also continue to promote accountability and sustainability of Global Fund grants by continuing to strengthen the capacity of Supreme Audit Institutions to perform annual audits of Global Fund grants within their countries. Finally, in 2020, Aidspace will seek to increase and strengthen existing partnerships by pursuing joint fundraising and implementation of jointly-funded activities.



HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AIDSPAN

To ensure Aidspace's continuity and strength as a watchdog, please consider these actions:

- Write to the Executive Director for information on how you can donate to Aidspace (see contacts on the last page)
- Sign up for the [Global Fund Observer](#) e-newsletter
- Propose specific story ideas and write for the [Global Fund Observer](#) e-newsletter by sending an email explaining your article idea(s) to gfo-editor@aidspace.org
- Visit our [website](#)
- Download our [publications](#)
- Use our [data platform](#)
- Give us feedback about our services; help us serve you better!





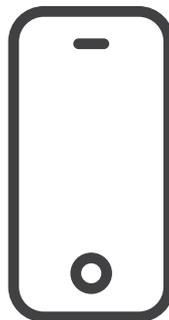
LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACB	Africa Constituency Bureau
AFROSAI-E	African Organization of English-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions
AHF	AIDS Healthcare Foundation
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
CREFIAF	Le Conseil Régional de Formation des Institutions Supérieures de Contrôle des Finances Publiques d'Afrique Francophone Subsaharienne
EANNASO	East Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organisations
GAS	Ghana Audit Service
GFO	Global Fund Observer
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LFA	Local Fund Agent
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
OFM	Observateur du Fonds Mondial
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
PR	Principal Recipient
SAIs	Supreme Audit Institutions
SR	Sub-recipient
SSR	Sub-sub-recipient
STC	Sustainability, Transition and Co-financing
TB	Tuberculosis
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
WHO	World Health Organization



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