

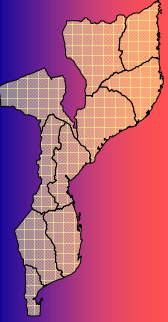


The Experience of Forum Mulher on Proposal Development Round 8 for the Global Fund Grants

AIDS CONFERENCE – MEXICO CITY 3-8 AUGUST 2008.

By: Carolina Pereira

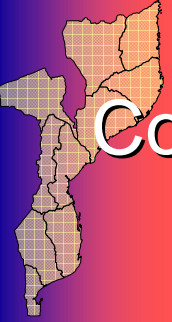




FÓRUM MULHER- Coordenacao Para Mulher no Desenvolvimento

- **What is the Forum Mulher (women's Forum)**
- Forum Mulher is a national network of NGOs established in 1993, that work on behalf of women;
- **Mission:** To Promote the active participation of women in development with a view to improve the quality of life for everyone: women and men of all ages, ethnic origins, races, etc. to the development process;
- **Main Objectives of Forum Mulher:**
 - - Protect women's rights as an assumption for the development;
 - Achieve gender equity;
 - Promote equity through campaigns for the revision of national policies;

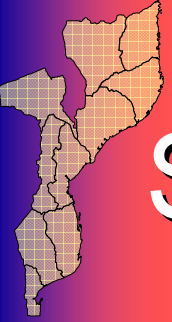




Composition of Forum Mulher coalition to fight HIV

- MULEIDE
- AMORA
- KUYAKANA
- MUGEDE
- AVIMAS
- ASSOMUDE
- AMUDEIA
- NAFEZA
- PROMUGE
- AMODEFA





Selection of Coalition members

- This was based on the core business of the Organizations and their involvement in addressing HIV & AIDS issues affecting Women and Girls
- Consideration was given to each organization's comparative advantage



Global Fund Round 8 Proposal Development Process

In December, Forum Mulher received from OSISA, OSI and OSIEA a request for proposals entitled « Strengthening the Engagement of Women and girls with the Global Fund in southern and East Africa to submit not later than 21 December 2007.

- Forum Mulher responded to OSISA and got selected;

In Response OSISA, OSIEA and OSI provided to forum mulher coalition funding and technical support to assist on the proposal development for Round 8 HIV component to integrate gender issues.



Proposal Development- The Experience

- - For Forum Mulher, Round 8 was the first attempt to gather grants from the Global Fund. It was a new and difficult approach due to lack of previous experiences;
- - In the middle of March the CCM advertised the call for proposals in the Noticias News paper dated 21st March.



■ **First Stage:**

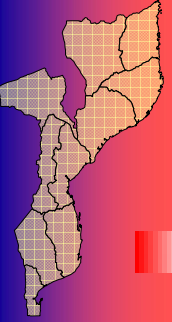
- **10th April Forum Mulher submitted the Expression of Interest to the CCM for the Global Fund Round 8 Proposals for the Mozambique Country Proposal**
- **Project Title**
- **Organisational and Institutional Capacity Development of Community Based Women's Organizations to provide an Engendered and Rights Based Approach to HIV and AIDS Responses in Mozambique**
- **22th April Forum Mulher received from the CCM Secretariat the «good news» We succeeded!**

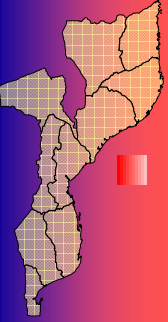


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■ **Second Stage**

- TORs were developed to hire the consultants team
- Several planning meetings NGOs/Coalition members/CCM
- Lobbying CCM members was an ongoing process
- Sourcing of additional funding from other partners were performed to meet costs of local consultant since the consultants fees were too high
- Repackaging of proposal for submission to the national consultant who integrated each NGO activities and merged to the national proposal

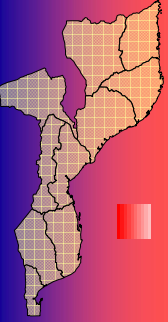




Relevant steps in the course of the Round 8 proposal development:

- The CSOs repeatedly asked for guidance about the level of their budget, and about how to address overhead and operational issues. The guidance given was to include the items into the activities, and to harmonize unit costs;
- The CSOs met in to harmonize the unity costs;
- On 19 June, the CSOs met with the international consultant and one MISAU representative to discuss the CSO budget;
- On 23 June, the CSOs were advised to develop a separate objective (objective 13) under which all operations costs would be incorporated. CSOs were asked to provide details about all activities;
- In the meeting on 23 June between representatives from MOH and from the CSOs it was agreed that the total CSO budget would be \$ 80 million, with the total for the entire proposal estimated to be about \$ 240 million;



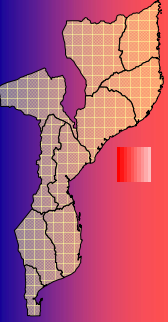


Changes in the absolute CSO budget and the proportion of the CSO budget of the total proposal:

- The total budget presented to and approved by the CCM on 27 June was \$ 203,306,463 of which 67,741,680 (33%) was for CSOs and \$135,564,783 was for MOH ;
- The total budget as submitted to the GF on 1 July was \$ 170,770,762, of which the CSOs had \$ 39,084,866 (23%) and MOH \$131,687,896 (77%)



Changes in the individual CSO's budget:



All vehicles, drivers' salaries and other costs that could be considered as operational costs have been taken out of the individual CSO's budget and moved to Objective 13 as a lump sum cost allocated to the CSO PR for distribution at a later stage.

The situation described under 1) above means a de facto reduction of the costs for most CSOs;

In addition, some of the activities have been deleted;

While some observations about the budgets have been made and the relevant changes made, and some CSOs had in depth discussions about specific issues that were resolved, the changes above were not communicated and it is not clear what they are based on.

The targets were developed based on the budgets submitted by the CSOs, and unaware of the cuts that had been made.



Main Observations of the R8 Process

- There has been very little guidance from the CCM or the national consultants, about the level of the budgets or specific elements of the budgets;
- Discussions and negotiations about the budget have been held with MOH and to some extent with the consultant.
- MOH requested the CSOs to include the "cesta básica",
- Major changes including cuts have been made to the operations costs as well as to the activity parts of the proposal.
- The reason given by the consultant for not discussing with the CSOs was lack of time.
- It is a serious lack of respect for the CSOs,
- It also shows a lack of respect for the approved process by the CCM, to reduce the absolute amount of the CSO component by half of \$35 million for 8 CSOs for 5 years (as opposed to the \$67 million)
- The reductions in the total amount, up to a final amount as approved by the CCM, as well as the reductions in the operations and activity costs of the individual CSOs undermine the proposal significantly;
- The narrative and Attachment A are no longer in line with the budget and workplan. The CSOs can not deliver the targets set in the proposal.



Achievements

- Ability to source for Extra funding with the support of Population Action International, **INTERACT WORLDWIDE** , **IPPF Africa Regional Office** in order to cover fully the Consultancy Fees and other related costs throughout the process of proposal development;
- Development of TORs for the consultants
- Successful lobbying of some CCM members
- Repackaging the proposal of CSOs taking into account gender issues, sexual and reproductive health and youth friendly services
- Unity and Team spirit exhibited by the civil society organizations « G8» and the consultants team of Forum Mulher coalition throughout the process
- The experience in the field of integration of sexual and reproductive health and the youth friendly services implemented by AMODEFA helped a lot to provide guidance to the consultants team during the proposal development



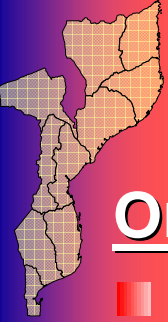
Challenges

Organizational

- Lack of previous experience;
- Availability in the country to find a «good» consultant with required skills;
- Budgetary constraints which limited the number of working days of the consultant,
- Clash of time allocation between organization and coalition tasks leading to some coalition members failing to attend meetings;

Technical

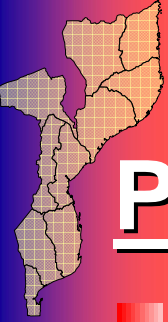
- Completing the Global Fund Proposal Template



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Political/External

- Timeframe for developing the proposal was too short
- Some key National Aids Council were difficult to access;
- Unavailability of up to date statistics on women and girls affected and infected by HIV/AIDS;
- Lack of an operational national policy regarding sexual and reproductive health in Mozambique



Lessons Learnt

Organisational

- Capacity building in project proposal and budgeting techniques is needed for coalition members;
- Consultation is healthy and helps to build consensus as it presents an opportunity to take every one on board;
- Effective communication is important to ensure that all coalition members are informed and kept abreast with the coalition's activities;
- There is need to have a permanent employee/consultant in the organization;

Technical

- Due to short period given, and the difficulty to find a consultant with all the requirements (all in one) for best results, is required to build a team of at least 4 consultants



Lessons Learnt Contd...

Political/External

- Time allocated for proposal development was too short.
- Lack of up to date statistics on women and girls affected and infected by HIV & AIDS distorts the true picture of the real situation on girls and women.
- Lack of a specific sexual and reproductive health policy operationalized and implemented by the ministry of health constrained the efforts to set up strategies according to the national priorities and strategies on RH/HIV;
- There is need to advocate for timely use of resources so that the opportunity to mobilise more resources in future is not missed.



Way Forward

- Continue holding regular meetings to share ideas on the process of submitting a proposal for round 9.
- The coalition recognizes that lobbying should be an ongoing activity to lay a foundation for the submission of the proposal for HIV & AIDS Round 9 and others .
- Identification of possible partners to provide technical assistance and hold the same consultants team for the next rounds
- Continue lobbying so that there is a «code of conduct» of the national consultants to avoid the situation happened in the last minute of round 8.



OBRIGADA , Gracias, Thank you, Merci!

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