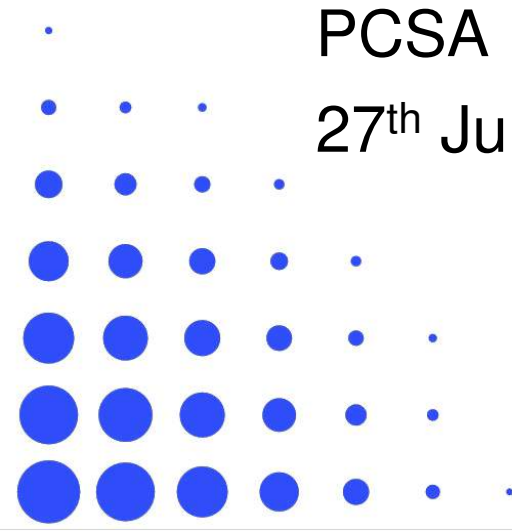
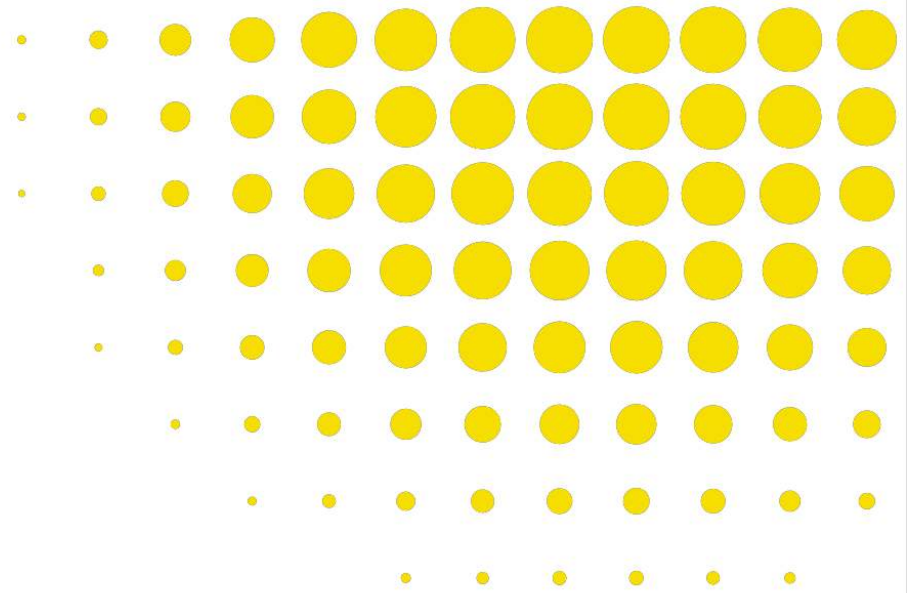




**The Evolving Advocacy Ecosystem**  
*and its implications for our  
partnerships with civil society and  
communities*

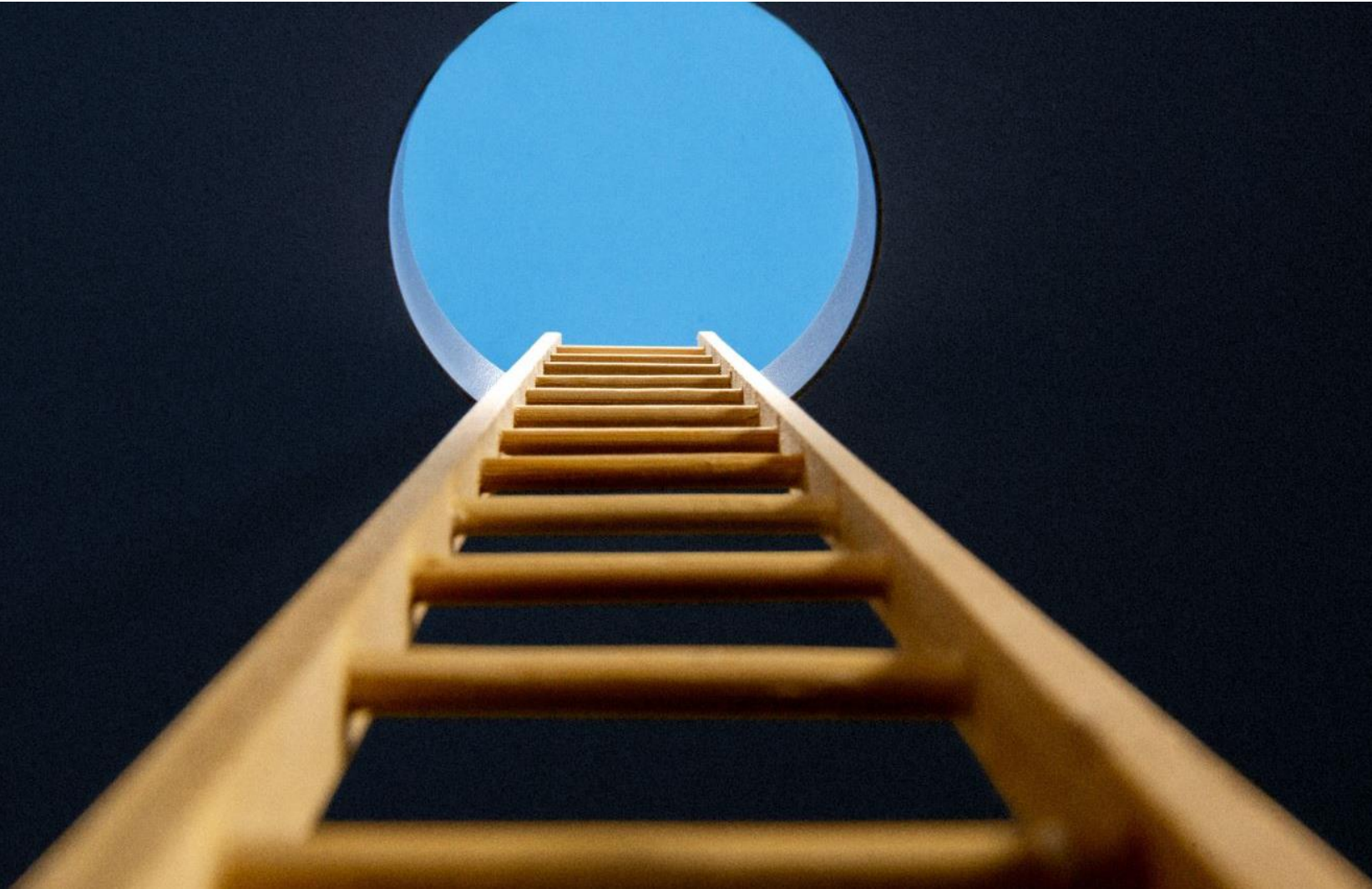
PCSA

27<sup>th</sup> July 2023





# **CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE IS SHRINKING... BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?**



# Challenges for civil society and community-led advocacy

Three major challenges identified:

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1. Attacks on civil society and community organizing at the country level

2. Threats to civil society and community-led organizing at the international level

3. Decreasing funding for civil society and community-led advocacy

# 1<sup>st</sup> Challenge:

## Attacks on civil society and community organizing at the country level

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### 1. The countries where the threats to civil society advocacy are greatest coincide with the countries where the Global Fund focuses its work (CIVICUS 2023, National Civic Space Ratings)

*“Of the countries where the Global Fund supports programs for one or more of the diseases, 22 are classified as closed, mostly in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central and South Asia, where repression is extreme and any criticism of the state is met with severe penalties. Another 42 are classified as repressed, mostly in Africa, Asia, and Central America, and 32 are classified as obstructed, mostly in Africa and Asia.”*

Between 2016 and 2021, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) documented more than 265 legal and administrative measures impacting civic space in **91 countries**.

**Women’s rights and LGBTQI organizations** and those working on other politically and socially sensitive issues, such as human rights, the environment, and youth are most targeted.

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# **1<sup>st</sup> Challenge:**

## **Attacks on civil society and community organizing at the country level**

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### **Some actions governments have taken to restrict civic space over the last decade governments have included:**

- repressing rights related to freedom of expression, assembly, and association;
  - using broader laws such as those against terrorism to stifle dissenting speech;
  - using digital technologies to increase surveillance of civil society and community-based organizations;
  - blocking the ability to challenge rights violations in national courts and access to other accountability mechanisms;
  - restricting organizations from receiving funding from foreign sources, requiring those that do to register as “foreign agents,” suggesting that their advocacy is driven by external interests, rather than local needs; and
  - establishing administrative measures to that act as barriers to the registration and functioning of civil society and community organizations.
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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Challenge: Threats to civil society and community-led organizing at the international level**

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- The challenges that organizations face at the national level are also being reflected in international, UN-led decision-making spaces.**
  - At the UN, participation is tightly controlled by governments. Organizations that work on LGBTQI rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and other politically sensitive issues often have their applications for UN accreditation deferred, sometimes for more than a decade.**
  - At the World Health Assembly, CS participation is highly restricted, with**
- limited opportunity for civil society organizations and communities to influence decisions that impact their lives.**
  - Civil society engagement in new bodies, such as the Pandemic Fund, is not guaranteed and often challenging to secure.**
  - At the same time, private sector/foundations, where basic accountabilities are absent, are playing an increasing role and have preferential access.**
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# **3<sup>rd</sup> Challenge: Decreasing funding for civil society and community-led advocacy**

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- 1. Funding for general operating support and advocacy is often hard for civil society and community-based organizations to mobilize and sustain, particularly in implementing countries.**
  - 2. Most organizations receive short-term project support, primarily from foreign donor governments, international non-governmental organizations, and private foundations. They need to constantly adapt their programs to respond to changing donor priorities, rather than implement their own strategic plans that respond to the needs of the communities they serve.**
  - 3. Most national governments prefer to fund civil society organizations to provide services, rather than advocacy.**
  - 4. Donor governments and foundations are more likely to fund organizations in donor countries for work in implementing countries, than they are organizations in those countries directly.**
  - 5. Funding for CS replenishment advocacy came from just two sources (not withstanding core funding): the Global Fund and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, either directly or through intermediaries, such as the New Ventures Fund.**
-

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Challenge: Decreasing funding for civil society and community-led advocacy

According to the OECD, support to civil society organizations from donor governments has remained relatively steady over the past decade, averaging about \$21 billion annually, about 10% of all ODA.

However, for the period 2019-2020, more than 85% of that funding was intended to implement donor-directed projects rather than to support civil society organizations' own priorities and **activities**. Less than 7% of all funding is directed to organizations in implementing countries.

**In 2020, about 9% of the total funding channeled through civil society for donor-directed projects was focused on health broadly, including HIV, TB and malaria, a 50% increase over 2019 levels due to the COVID response.**

Before that investments in health had been steadily decreasing, averaging about 6% of donor-directed funding in 2018 and 2019, down from a high of 9% in 2014.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Challenge: Decreasing funding for civil society and community-led advocacy

## 1. Private philanthropic funding for civil society and communities working on HIV, TB and malaria advocacy is concentrated among a few key donors.

**HIV:** in 2020 67% of all private funding for the HIV response globally (excluding donations directly to the Global Fund), came from the Gates Foundation (\$211 million) and Gilead (\$270 million), most of it for work in the US.

- If either of the top two donors stepped away or shifted priorities, the funding landscape for organizations working on HIV would be devastated.
- Approximately \$130 million was intended for advocacy, however, more than half of that funding was directed towards organizations working to address the HIV epidemic within the US.

➤ Less than \$35 million of philanthropic funding went to organizations in Eastern Europe, Asia Pacific, LAC, and MENA, combined, while \$160 million went to organizations in East and Southern Africa.

**TB:** The Stop TB Partnership and Global Fund's Challenge Facility Grants is one of the biggest sources of funding for TB organizations.

**Malaria:** The Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Skoll Foundation, and a few private sector companies provide support for malaria responses, however funding directed towards civil society advocacy is unclear.



**SO... SPACE, ACCESS AND FUNDING FOR CIVIL  
SOCIETY AND COMMUNITIES IS SHRINKING...  
AND AT THE SAME TIME THE GEOPOLITICAL  
CONTEXT IS SHIFTING, IN SOME CASES  
DRAMATICALLY**



# 5 key global challenges and trends that impact the advocacy ecosystem

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Shifting geopolitical alliances

Increasing inequalities and political polarization within countries

Economic turmoil and shifting development priorities

The evolving global health landscape

The increasing impact of climate change on health

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# WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?



The Global Fund to Fight  
AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

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

# **1. Develop a plan: an advocacy roadmap.**

Together with CS and communities, so we are proactive in how we contribute to sustaining and strengthening the advocacy ecosystem.

Timeline: to be available within September



## 2. Sustain and strengthen core Global Fund advocacy partners

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- Undertake a light mapping of partners, in order to identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in existing partnerships, accompanied by an internal risks analysis to assess the sustainability of core civil society partners—including the GFAN family.
- Explore and strengthen innovative sources of funding for civil society advocacy at all levels, such as catalytic funds, and social contracting, as well as private sector funding.
- Sustain, at a minimum, funding for civil society advocacy from the Global Fund Secretariat while these avenues are explored and actualized, as the very existence of the networks depends on it.



# 3. Strengthen existing partnerships

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- **Reinvigorate and strengthen relationships with organizations and networks led by people living with HIV and key populations, including sex workers, people who use drugs, men who have sex with men and transgender people, who are central to the Global Fund's work.**
- **Deepen relationships with organizations working on TB, malaria, universal health coverage, and other mission critical issues, where the Global Fund's existing partnerships are not as strong.**



## 4. Build new partnerships

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Climate justice,  
mental health,  
disabilities.

# Thank you

