

The Governance and Transparency Fund - a new global programme for FAN

Fourteen FAN members from Africa, Asia and Central America have embarked on an exciting new multimillion pound five-year initiative – the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) – designed to improve the accountability and responsiveness of governments and service providers in the water and sanitation sectors.

Where did the GTF come from?

In 2006 the UK Department for International Development (DFID) published a ‘White Paper’¹ on International Development – ‘*Eliminating world poverty: making governance work for the poor*,’² which set out UK government plans on global poverty elimination through 2011. The report focused on what FAN members know from direct experience – that governance (the **C**apability, **A**ccountability and **R**esponsiveness of the state)* is a key component of (or obstacle to) poverty reduction. The report recognized that effective well governed states protect people’s rights and provide services and further articulated that such governance is not merely about the state alone, it includes the engagement between governments, civil society organizations and service providers. Building such governing relationships, the report concludes, takes time and has to come from within countries.

The report led DFID to make an innovative investment of £130 million over 5 years in a new Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF). Nearly 40 NGOs and networks (including FAN and WaterAid) working in various development and advocacy areas will share this funding. The most exciting innovation of GTF – 85% of funding is required to go directly to local partners in developing countries.

What does this mean for FAN?

FAN and WaterAid have partnered on a GTF portfolio in 16 countries with more than 25 partners (FAN members and WaterAid’s Southern partners). The portfolio is focused in particular on the *Accountability* and *Responsiveness* elements of the new CAR framework.

“Beyond drilling boreholes and constructing latrines, this is a way to really catalyse the sector!” explains Papa Diouf, the new GTF Manager responsible for leading and

¹ A "white paper" is an informal name for a parliamentary paper enunciating government policy; in the United Kingdom, white papers are issued by the government and lay out policy or proposed action.

² <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/>

supporting the GTF programme. “The partners are a really diverse bunch bringing their own strengths. The GTF programme will support them to develop their work more effectively, develop systems and make links.”

FAN’s global consortium members, ANEW, FANSA and FANCA have key roles to play in the management and coordination of the programme and building the regional dimension of the work. The programme will build their capacity to share relevant expertise and play an even stronger regional and global leadership role. The FAN Secretariat will also play an important supporting role in the implementation of the programme.

First steps for the GTF

The programme kicked off in essence at a ‘big meeting’ met in Accra, Ghana in February this year where regional coordinators and partners came together for the first time to develop a shared vision of the programme and to develop key indicators of success.

“The activities in this programme aren’t new. The organisations involved are all building on work they are already doing,” notes Diouf. In many ways, FAN is well prepared to be part of the GTF because the principles of GTF build on much of what, as a network, they have already been working for. What the GTF adds, notes Jorge Mora, FANCA Regional Coordinator, “is the first opportunity for FAN and its regional networks to work together beyond a specific action or international event.” Through this the GTF will enable FAN to strengthen existing network-wide efforts and add capacity to grow in ways that, without this funding, would not be possible in the short term. The GTF has also enabled FAN to recruit an Advocacy Action and Learning Officer to support all FAN members in their advocacy and to capture the learning across the network.

“So many successes and best practices are happening in the work of FAN members,” says Danielle Morley, FAN Executive Secretary, “but despite best efforts, lack of capacity at all levels means we are not always able to capture the lessons, share them and leverage them locally and across the network for use in evidence based dialogue and for influencing”

Measuring success

FAN hopes to prove that GTF efforts (capacity building and focused resources in the hands of Southern CSOs) when added to the ongoing work of all FAN members can lead to strengthened civil society with the ability to understand their rights (and obstacles to these rights), have more skills to communicate, advocate and organize to demand these rights, with greater power to hold their governments accountable – leading ultimately to more capable, accountable and responsive governments meeting the needs of all people.

The ability to develop monitoring and evaluation systems, that not only capture ‘end’ successes such as changes in legal structures and increased access, but also interim successes such as increased training of network members and better communication and sharing across networks will bring out synergies between local, national and regional networks and maximize the impact of all efforts.

In participating in the GTF, FAN’s broad goals are to not only strengthen the global vision, but to subsequently enable FAN to become a more influential network, ultimately accelerating the broad agenda of promoting water and sanitation as a human right at the local, regional and global levels.

*The CAR Framework	
Key Characteristics	
Capability	The extent to which leaders and governments are able to get things done, and to perform functions such as providing <i>stability, regulation, trade/growth, effectiveness and security.</i>
Accountability	The ability of citizens, civil society and the private sector to scrutinize public institutions and governments and hold them to account to ensure <i>transparency, free media, rule of law and elections.</i>
Responsiveness	Whether public policies and institutions respond to the needs of citizens and uphold their rights, including <i>human rights/liberties, access to basic public services, pro-poor policy, equality, regulation and corruption.</i>

Source: DFID (2006) White Paper: Making governance work for the poor

EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES THAT PARTNERS WILL UNDERTAKE

- Capacity building workshops for groups
- Developing and strengthening local and national networks
- Civil society meetings with parliamentarians and policy makers
- Media workshops
- Exchange visits between partners
- Water point mapping
- Training of women in NGO leadership
- Community engagement with local government
- Budget monitoring and tracking
- Research and analysis of government WatSan policies

- Lobbying and advocacy activities aimed at policymakers and governments
- Meetings and workshops between government/service providers and civil society



People of all ages and classes from a rural area in Bangladesh commit to maintaining good sanitation during National Sanitation Month