I. Introduction and overview of respondents

In August 2012, the Steering Committee of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA) Steering Committee agreed to ascertain the views of the GCWA members on the impact and value of the GCWA’s work throughout 2011, as well as their vision and recommendations for the GCWA moving forward. This information would serve as input into the 2011 in-person meeting of the GCWA Steering Committee, in particular to assist with the 2012-2013 work planning exercise. A membership survey was developed accordingly and circulated among the members. This report presents a summary of the findings, organized in accordance with the survey questions.

The survey was available online for 10 days and was completed by 97 members, a much higher respondent’s rate in comparison with the January 2011 membership survey, where only eleven members responded. The chart below represents the regional breakdown of respondents. While the respondents represented each of the regions, the highest percentage of respondents came from the Asia Pacific region and the lowest from West-Central Africa, potentially due to language issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe and North America</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Southern Africa</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Caribbean</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Africa and the Middle East</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The GCWA brings together women and girls in all their diversity and greatly welcomes different points of view to enrich dialogue and collective approaches to better respond to the needs of women and girls in the HIV response. The key reflections included in this report in themselves attest to the GCWA’s inclusive approach.
II. Activities where members felt that the GCWA had most impact

Respondents were presented with a list of actions prioritized by the GCWA Steering committee for 2010 and asked which of these had most impact.¹

The majority of respondents found that the GCWA’s work around the UN High Level Meeting on AIDS (HLM) and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) had the most impact. Indeed, 53% (48 out of 91) of the respondents identified the HLM as a process where the GCWA achieved significant impact, while 47% (43 out of 91) highlighted the positive impact of the GCWA’s work around the review process of the GFATM Gender Equality Strategy.

The actions were the GCWA was least identified as having impact were the International Women’s Summit and the Commission on the Status of Women, as is noted below.

Key reflections in regards to impact included:

Reflections on the HLM

- “The work for the HLM was a lot and I really liked the strategy meetings and the calls because usually that sort of information is only shared with a few people, the typical activists or organizations, but GCWA shared it widely and was really inclusive and valued everyone's views no matter if you were very good at negotiations or it was your first time.”
- “We found the process to be exceptionally inclusive and empowering because it was really women’s experiences being valued and there was also room to recognize and value the regional diversity.”
- “The work on the negotiations I think was the most important because while other organizations were engaged, the GCWA gave us the possibility to all coordinate better share information and have common messaging and advocacy platforms. This helped because usually there is a lot of duplication and as civil society and women’s groups we are sometimes saying similar things but in a less coordinated way and that diminishes our impact.”

Reflections on the GFATM

- “This initiative was so important because it was a new platform for women to voice their opinions and what we need from the GFATM”
- “The Global fund Gender equality virtual consultation had the biggest impact especially at the grassroots Women level. It created an opportunity to for Women and girls to
participate in giving their opinions on the Gender equality strategy. As a person who supported in carrying out the consultation I observed how women were considering it as an opportunity to internalize and respond on the gaps existing in implementation of the Global fund Gender equality strategy. The provision of allowing women who could not access the survey online to be reached directly with questionnaire really added value on the survey and was received so positively.”

Additional reflections on impact

A total of 14% of respondents (13 out of 91) noted the work around the International AIDS Society (IAS) conference as having most impact, reflecting for example that it was:

- "a good learning opportunity”
- "has created networking and capacity building opportunities”, and that
- "GCWA works with women and girls, they don’t do things for women they do things with women and that is the most important things."

A total of 10% of respondents (9 out of 91), identified the work around the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) as having most impact, for example indicating that “it was good to have GCWA because there was strong conservative presence so we need more allies.”

3% respondents (3 out of 91) identified the work around the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as having most impact, reflecting that “there was a meaningful participation of women and girls. The Women and girls also had an opportunity to give their recommendations. The recommendations were really informative to development partners and governments most impact.”

Regarding the International Women’s Summit, four respondents noted that they did not see GCWA’s impact at it, reflecting that they “do not feel that it is the sort of conference where GCWA can have much impact because it is very big and not like UN processes which GCWA can influence and bring women together around.”

Only 6% (5 out of 91) respondents said they did not see or were unclear about the impact. One responded noted negative impact, stating that “the GCWA impact at the high level meeting left networks of women living with HIV used and disrespected.”

III. Development of Issue and Donor Briefs

GCWA members were subsequently asked about the donor and issue briefs, recognizing that some of the briefs were still under development. 64% of respondents (40 out of 63) said that they found the process to develop these briefs including open call for peer reviewers, and the resources positive contributions.
Key reflections included:

- “I am pleased to see that there are open calls as this keeps processes transparent and also helps ensure that GCWA products are what we actually can use in our work.”
- “I think the process is a very good example of how to include members and value our expertise.”
- “It is special for an organization to invite openly for peer reviewers and we appreciate the chance to show what we need from the resources. In the end we felt that our input to the draft was well received.”

Only 10% of respondents (6 out of 63) said they were not satisfied, with half of these clarifying their response as follows:

- “I don’t feel that this contribution added very much to discussions that were already happening”
- “The process did not really appeal to me because the approach was rather imposed instead of seeking the wider views of the network on the issues. With this, the general impression was that the issues that were prioritized did not really seem to be priorities in this part of the world” and
- “Unclear whether these briefs really added anything new to what was already available and whether this is the best use of the Coalition.”

46% of respondents (29 out of 63) explicitly expressed their satisfaction with the GCWA issue brief on DFID, noting for example that it is:

- “clear and informative”
- “a very useful advocacy tool for engagement with DFID”

**IV. Communication with Members**

GCWA strived to strengthen communication with its members during 2011 and requested feedback from members whether they had received regular communication and if it was helpful. A total of 87% of respondents (82 out of 94) confirmed that they received regular communication, highlighting that this communication was very helpful to their work. Key reflections included:

- “Communication is one of the best things of the GCWA because we have regular but also brief updates on the list serve and it is always very clear how to participate and follow up.”
- “It was helpful because the GCWA would ask for input, but then also always report back. Usually organizations ask for input but then you never hear back, I really appreciate that GCWA reports back and always follows up and we can see how the work continues to build.”
- “With the updates to the list serves but especially the reports after the meetings or initiatives, one can really engage with the GCWA and now finally it makes sense to be a member, because there is interaction and good communication.”
One respondent noted that "The communication is helpful at times, when it is sharing new content or is critical analysis."

A total of 12% of respondents (11 out of 94) indicated that the communication had not been helpful, for reasons such as:

- "Communication is primarily done in a passive way - and not to engage members in key issues"
- "No, the communication is based on show reports and no space for debate or building processes that include the meaningful participation of women, young women and women with HIV."

V. Reflections' on whether the GCWA provided added value to the work of respondents' organizations

When asked whether and how the GCWA provided added value to the work of respondents' organizations, 86% of survey participants (77 out of 90) responded positively. They underlined their response with the following comments and recommendations:

- "the added value is because GCWA has acted as a convener, facilitating the creation of platforms and new ways of acting together"
- "It has brought us information and possibility of contacts that otherwise we would not be able to reach"
- "Yes, particularly in terms of supporting women living with HIV. the GCWA really practices MIPA"
- "Before the GCWA was I think more quiet and I did not know for sure what it meant to be a member, but now it is clear to me because the GCWA has really focused on ensuring the meaningful participation of women and especially for positive women like me it is such a good example of what we need more organizations to do. GCWA can help lead the way on how more women and more networks can work together and have women’s rights in all our work.”
- "Yes because we were able to connect and work in a much more constructive way with many organizations and networks of women living with HIV. GCWA is valuable because it includes so many partners”
- "The value has been in the strategizing because before GCWA became active we did not have another organization bringing all the women together, so there was a lot of duplication and not enough coordination”

Only 7% of respondents (six out of 90) said that the GCWA had not added value to the work of their organizations, and an additional five said that it had not been ‘enough’, as illustrated by the following comment:

- "It is still not clear what value added the GCWA has, particularly given that there are several different advocacy networks and organizations that are also putting forward a
solid agenda to transform the way in which the HIV response is addressing women and gender equality.”

VI. Vision for the GCWA moving forward

The responses regarding the vision for the GCWA moving forward reveals significant consensus in seeing the GCWA serve as a convener, as well as lead the way in developing platforms for greater involvement of women in key processes and the coordination of strategies. Key reflections in this regard include:

- "That the GCWA will continue to work with a broad range of stakeholders and not only traditional partners.”
- "My vision is for the GCWA to continue to serve as a mechanism through which women can document their experiences and needs, as well as develop key recommendations and messaging on how to address these.”
- "that the GCWA continue to create new platforms for women to come together, voice our experiences and needs, and then support us to jointly advocate and develop messages and actions”
- "I would like to see the GCWA continue to engage with and support networks of women and young women living with HIV, and do more work with key populations, including sex workers and women who use injecting drugs in particular. I think the UNAIDS Accelerated Agenda on women, girls and gender equality remains an important guiding document for the work of the GCWA. I think the promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for women in all their diversity beyond vertical transmission continues to be a key area for the GCWA.”
- "That the GCWA continue to build connections between the HIV world, women’s rights organizations and SRHR organizations.”

VII. Areas for GCWA engagement in 2012 and beyond

The survey also requested members to recommend areas for GCWA engagement in 2012 and beyond, without providing examples of what such areas could be. The responses indicate a strong desire to see work from 2011 followed up on and carried through 2012. In this regard, 30% of respondents highlighted the need to follow up on the HLM outcomes, engagement in the International AIDS Conference (30%), while 28% of respondents called for greater engagement of the GCWA in Global Fund processes, particularly to ensure that the recommendations which emerged from the review of the Gender Equality Strategy are taken forward.

Additional processes which respondents highlighted for future GCWA engagement included: the Commission on Population and Development (15% of respondents), the Commission on the Status of Women (13% of respondents), and the Rio conference (4% of respondents). The following processes/meetings were mentioned only once by different respondents: G20, Human Rights Council, AWID, PCB, ICASA, ICAAP, and a regional conference on sexuality.

In addition to specific processes, the following key areas were mentioned for GCWA engagement: empowerment of women’s groups (7% of respondents), empowerment of networks of women living with HIV (7% of respondents), engagement of donors (3% of respondents) and engagement of men (3% of respondents).

VIII. Additional comments and recommendations

Members were also asked to share any other comment or recommendations for the GCWA. 38% of respondents (37 out of 97), provided additional comments and recommendations. The
responses were highly informative and emerged mainly around two key areas: strategy and governance.

On strategy

- "I think GCWA needs to be more strategic in providing better quality technical, content training and mentoring as well as having a clearer political agenda with engaging in these spaces, for this engagement to be effective. I know that the participation that they support builds experience and encourages collective sharing, but it needs to go beyond that and within the HIV epidemic, strategize on feminist leadership, a comprehensive health package for women and girls and identifying key political actors to work with. Without this, I feel the GCWA is effective at connecting women, but falls short of the mark in having a critical impact in the political arena of ensuring women and girl's health and rights."
- "I strongly suggest an in-depth review of the achievements of the GCWA in order to ensure it is still relevant. If it is shown to be replicating and not adding value, the GCWA should consider dismantling."
- "Maybe it will be important to strengthen linkages with some other global networks from the human rights, feminism, sexuality and development."
- "The GCWA needs to strengthen coalition partnerships with regional and international women’s networks and learn more about their prospective agenda for 2014."

On governance

The survey did not include any questions regarding the governance structure of the GCWA. As such, it is noteworthy that a number of recommendations have emerged in this regard. These recommendations centered on:

a) The composition of the SC

- "I do not understand why the steering committee has no woman from Asia who is part of positive women's network."
- "to include in the steering committee women who represent networks of WLHIV"
- "It is important for the governance of the GCWA to change and include more women living with HIV and also young women."
- "I hope it will be clearer how GCWA governance is selected and also why some members have been there so long."
- "I think it is important for GCWA members to have more information on the structure of the steering group because that seems less clear and some people have been there forever and do not seem to be involved in GCWA work. It is good though to see that some new members have joined this year."
- "The GCWA should have at least one seat on its Steering Committee for a positive woman/women connected to a women's HIV+ organization."

b) The engagement of the SC

- "I would hope that in the future the GCWA steering committee is more engaged, as this year only two seemed to be more active in the work GCWA does with partners and others do not seem to share as much information or even act as part of the GCWA."
- "greater transparency of steering committee members”
- "The governance of GCWA should be more engaged and also communicate with members. Typically we hear from the Secretariat but not the governance members and
even at meetings sometimes there are steering group members there and do not support GCWA work which seems strange.”

- “all SC members need to be fully committed to their role in timely decision-making regarding events-based work and mindful of the consequences of this commitment to the effectiveness of the GCWA.”

- “I would like the communication to include updates from the steering committee because we always hear from the staff but not from the governance and that is strange especially when it seems some have been there for a long time.”

- “The needs of HV+ women and women in general are best understood through putting those women and their organizations at the centre of the work GCWA does, including in the governance.”

- "I would recommend that the Steering Committee be more active because we never hear from them, only from the Secretariat.

IX. Recommendations and way forward

Based on the findings of the membership survey, it is evident that the GCWA’S work throughout the course of 2011 has been much appreciated by partners. There are also areas for further strengthening, as the recommendations indicate. The following key recommendations for the GCWA clearly emerge:

a) **Build on and expand current work:** the activities undertaken around the HLM and the GFATM are those that members found most valuable and there is a clear desire to see this work followed up on. As such, the GCWA should continue to build and expand on this work.

b) **Peer reviews:** in developing new issue and donor briefs, the GCWA should continue to invite diverse groups of members to input.

c) **Future activities:** the GCWA should continue to strategically position the agenda of women, girls, gender equality and HIV in major events and fora, such as the IAC 2012, CSW, and CPD, while fostering the empowerment of women and networks of women living with HIV.

d) **Added value:** the GCWA should continue to create platforms for women’s voices, to serve as a convener of a broad diversity of partners and to translate these experiences into strategic advocacy messages.

e) **Governance:** the GCWA should further engage steering committee members in its activities, as well as clarify roles and parameters for rotation, while strengthening the inclusion of women living with HIV in the governance.

The GCWA would like to express its sincere appreciation to all of those who took the time to provide their feedback and recommendations through the membership survey, as well as to all partners and stakeholders with whom we have engaged in carrying out this work. We look forward to continuing this dialogue and to continuing to work together to achieve and scale up HIV responses that truly meet the needs of women and girls in all of their diversity.

---

The list of actions mentioned in the survey was as follows:
- the 55th Commission on the Status of Women, in March, where a panel was organized on Investing in Women;
- the Commission on Population and Development, in April, where we worked with partners around the negotiations of the resolution to strengthen linkages to HIV and women’s rights issues;
- the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS (HLM) in June in New York. In preparation we convened two women’s strategy meetings, in partnership with Gestos mobilizing around 60 organizations worldwide and documenting them on video; providing support to women from the Global South to participate in the national delegations; working with partners around the negotiations of the outcome Declaration; organized, in partnership with the ATHENA Network and other partners, a virtual consultation to identify women’s priorities for the HLM that engaged over 700 women; prepared and disseminated three informational notes to members; and worked with ATHENA Network and Gestos to organize regular women’s teleconferences prior to and in follow up of the HLM;
- the 6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, where we worked with partners including the ATHENA Network, Salamander Trust, We Care+ and ICW to ensure the meaningful participation of young women; organize a satellite session on “Prevention technologies: Gender and GIPA. Complement or Collision?”; organize a town hall meeting and reception; and support a Women’s Networking Zone, where daily critical dialogues were held;
- the Global Fund gender strategy review, where we worked in partnership with FEIM to undertake a virtual consultation of women’s experiences around the implementation of the strategy, and engaged over 900 women. The report is currently being finalized and will feed into the official review process;
- the WorldYWCA International Women’s Summit, where we worked with the World YCWA to support 16 young women’s participation, as well as to organize a session on what the HLM actually meant for women and girls, and on advocating with the UNAIDS Agenda for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV.

1 The work around the GCWA was done in partnership with ATHENA Network, Gestos, and other partners. For a full list of partners, see the HLM reports at www.womenandaids.net
2 The work around the GFATM was done in partnership with FEIM/IAWC, and other partners. For a full list of partners, see the GFATM GES report at www.womenandaids.net
3 The work around IAS was done in partnership with ATHENA Network, Salamander Trust, ICW and WeCare+
4 The work around IWS was done in partnership with WorldYWCA.