Global Health Advocacy Incubator

Health Security Budget Advocacy Academy for Civil Society Organizations

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) is inviting applications from civil society organizations (CSOs) from across Africa with a special emphasis on Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia to join the inaugural cohort of the Health Security Budget Advocacy Academy to strengthen civil society capacity for budget advocacy in the Africa region. Organizations with prior financing or policy advocacy experience at the national or subnational level are strongly encouraged to apply, previous experience working in health security is not required. This program will run for a period of 10 months.

1. Context and Justification

Historically, countries have struggled to fund National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) implementation. This is despite alarming reminders of why epidemic preparedness is needed as small outbreaks, localized epidemics and pandemic threats continue to emerge and remerge from a range of diseases beyond COVID-19, including cholera, diphtheria, ebola virus disease, lassa fever, marburg virus, mpox and yellow fever. To improve preparedness capacity, GHAi, in partnership with Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL), launched a Prevent Epidemics budget advocacy program to raise public demand and political will for increased and sustained domestic resource mobilization for epidemic preparedness in Senegal in 2018. The program has expanded to Nigeria (federal and state level), Ghana, Uganda, Zambia and Kenya. GHAi’s country-led advocacy approach brings together policy leaders, civil society organizations and media in support of epidemic preparedness as a national priority in need of adequate and reliable funding.

Drawing from the lessons learned since 2018, GHAi developed the Budget Advocacy Framework for Increased and Sustained Epidemic Preparedness Investment and the Budget Advocacy Toolkit for Epidemic Preparedness to illustrate the program’s advocacy approach and provide learning tools to bring Prevent Epidemics budget advocacy to scale in multiple countries. Additionally, the Budget Advocacy Toolkit for Epidemic Preparedness informed the development of the Budget Advocacy Toolkit for Epidemic Preparedness: Facilitator’s Guide, a step-by-step course for facilitators to organize an epidemic preparedness advocacy campaign with government and/or civil society. The facilitator’s guide describes how to bring stakeholders together to implement each step of the budget advocacy toolkit.

To share the learnings generated from the successes of our budget advocacy program, GHAi is establishing a Health Security Budget Advocacy Academy to strengthen civil society capacity for budget advocacy across the Africa region. This Academy will not only teach advocacy techniques but lay the foundation for understanding how to catalyze advocacy for increased epidemic preparedness funding and greater accountability in the budget process. The Health Security Budget Advocacy Academy is a comprehensive 10-month program which involves hands-on learning and peer exchange to build the capacity of civil society organizations for epidemic preparedness advocacy.

2. CSO Selection

The selected CSOs will have a well-developed understanding of their country’s government and advocacy landscape. The CSOs will have some experience in budget and national level advocacy,
especially as it relates to mobilizing domestic resources for health-related issues. Organizations with strong interest/experience in epidemic preparedness are strongly encouraged to apply. Other criteria for selection include:

1. Proof of Legal Existence
2. Ability to receive foreign funding
3. Ability to speak and write in English to participate in sessions and complete assignments
4. Access to high-speed internet
5. Up-to-date membership of a health sector NGO coalition
6. Two dedicated representatives from each organization who can attend all webinars/in-person sessions with written support from organization leadership
7. Organizational strategic plan

3. Curriculum

The Health Security Budget Advocacy Academy is a comprehensive program that involves hands-on learning and peer exchange. The curriculum is available in English and the format for learning is a combination of webinars and in-person workshops which will be conducted in English. The curriculum includes a total of 7-8 webinars and 1-2 in-person workshops. Assignments on the relevant topics are given prior to the webinar and in-person workshops.

The Health Security Budget Advocacy Academy curriculum will cover the following topics including:

2. Overview of health security financing mechanisms and domestic resource mobilization strategies.
3. Legal aspects of health security financing including the role of legislation in effecting budgetary changes.
4. Conducting a landscape assessment and developing policy objectives.
5. Leadership skills for impactful budget advocacy.
6. Communications and the role of media in creating a conducive advocacy environment.

4. Health Security Budget Advocacy Academy Faculty/Mentor

The Academy faculty and mentors will include current GHAI and Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL) Prevent Epidemics team specialists with background in global health, epidemic preparedness, public health law, media advocacy, financing and budget advocacy, In-country team members with track records in mobilizing domestic resources at national and subnational levels and existing GHAI budget advocacy partners. Each CSO will be paired with a mentor to support them throughout the program.

5. Capstone Project

The selected CSOs will develop a Capstone project leveraging knowledge acquired throughout the course. This project will involve the development of one or more aspects of a campaign for epidemic preparedness budget advocacy. It will include an outline of a comprehensive plan with a timeline, budget, key steps and measures of success. At the end of the program, participating CSOs will have an opportunity to present their Capstone project to the international donor community. Seed funding of up
to $10,000 will be provided to each selected CSO to develop the Capstone project during the 10-month course.

6. Health Security Budget Advocacy Academy Deliverables

- Written assignments prior to webinars and in-person sessions.
- The concept note for the Capstone project.
- The Capstone project itself which includes a comprehensive program and monitoring plan with a timeline, budget, key step, and measures of success.
- PowerPoint slides on the Capstone project to be presented to the international donor community with the support of GHAI/RTSL.

7. Application Process

- All applicants should fill out the application form located HERE. Please ensure that all fields are completed and submitted no later than 5pm EST/ 10pm UTC on March 18, 2024.
- Shortlisted CSOs will be invited for an interview the week of March 25, 2024.
- For general questions regarding the RFP, including the application process, please contact tajayi@advocacyincubator.org.

About GHAI
The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) supports civil society organizations and governments that advocate for public health policies that reduce death and disease. We use a proven advocacy approach built on a 25-year track record of success across multiple issues in more than 60 countries. GHAI is an initiative of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. For more information visit: https://www.advocacyincubator.org/.