

# Meaningful Community Participation on Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanisms: Lessons from the RISE Study

[Kuraish Mubiru](#)\*<sup>1</sup>, [Fogué Foguito](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Mohammed El Khammas](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Thitiyanun Nakpor](#)<sup>4</sup>, [Sibongile Tshabalala](#)<sup>5</sup>, [Leo Deniau](#)<sup>6</sup>, [Jennifer Sherwood](#)<sup>7</sup>, [Alana Sharp](#)<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Uganda Young Positives, Kampala, Uganda, <sup>2</sup> Positive Generation, Yaoundé, Cameroun, <sup>3</sup> Association de Lutte Contre le Sida, Casablanca, Morocco, <sup>4</sup> Sisters Foundation, Pattaya, Thailand, <sup>5</sup> Treatment Action Campaign, Johannesburg, South Africa, <sup>6</sup> AIDES, Paris, France, <sup>7</sup> Andelson Office of Public Policy, amfAR, Washington DC, <sup>8</sup> O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University, Washington DC

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Presenting Author Name: Kuraish Mubiru, [kuraishmm@gmail.com](mailto:kuraishmm@gmail.com)

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## Background

One of the Global Fund's key players at country level is the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), a national multi-stakeholder body responsible for soliciting funding and overseeing grants. Ensuring meaningful participation and leadership of communities and people impacted by the three diseases is critical for ensuring responsive and impactful health programming.

## Methods

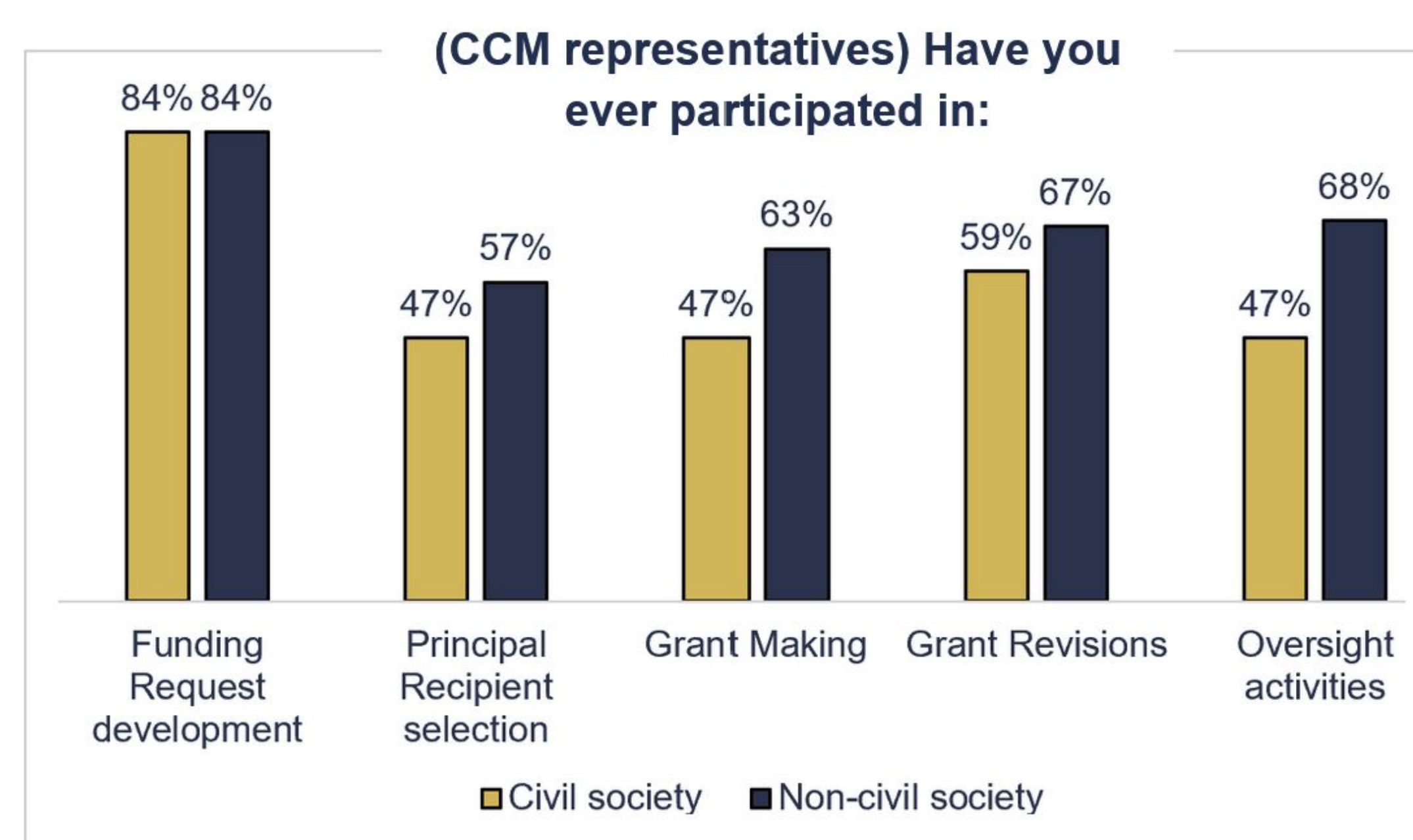
A quantitative survey instrument was developed by a steering committee of community CCM representatives, advocates, and researchers. The survey was administered electronically in seven languages, with respondents recruited either directly through CCM focal points or through networks and regional platforms. Inclusion criteria included involvement in national HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, COVID-19, and/or human rights response and awareness of the Global Fund and CCM.

## Results

A total of 627 eligible respondents completed the survey, representing 79 countries. Respondents included community advocates (35%), CCM community representatives (43%), and non-community CCM members (17%).

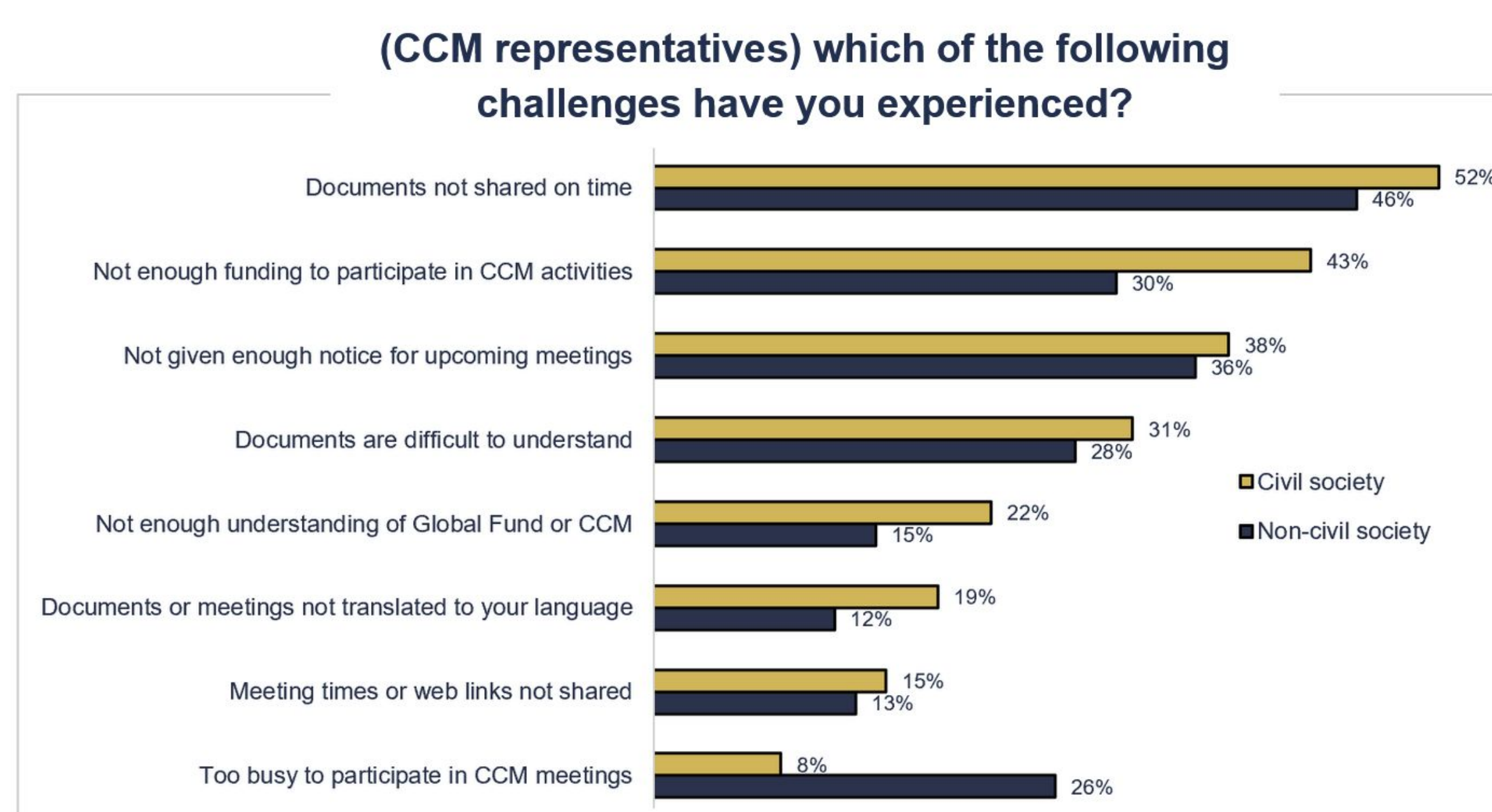
### Community engagement in CCM drops off throughout cycle

Community CCM members are commonly involved in Funding Request (84%), but just 47% have been involved in oversight activities. Community representatives were significantly less involved in grant oversight than non-community representatives (p = 0.04).



### Funding and information sharing are barriers to CCM engagement

A key barrier to participation in CCM activities was funding, which emerged as a challenge for 43% of community representatives, as well as documents not being shared on time (52%).

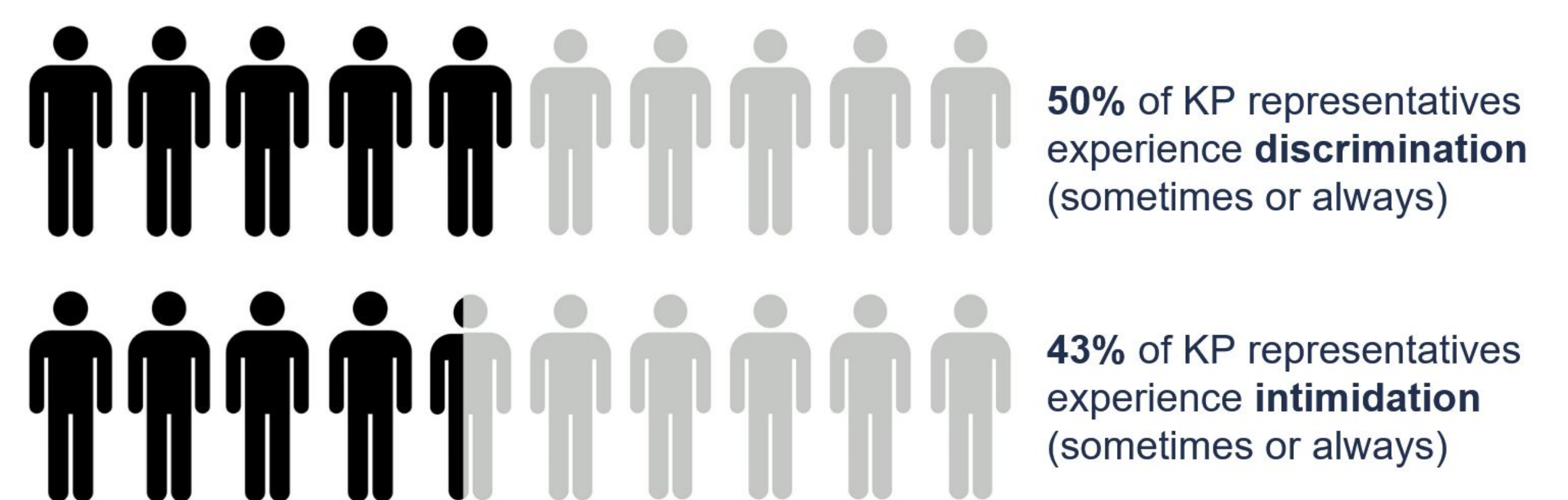


### Community representatives report needing better facilitation and support

Among community representatives, 63% experienced at least some form of financial barrier to participating on CCM, most commonly taking time off of work.



Community representatives report experiencing discrimination and intimidation on the CCM. Among key population representatives, 50% always or sometimes experience discrimination and 43% experience intimidation.



## Conclusions

These results highlight the crucial need to improve community involvement and leadership within CCMs by building the capacity of community representatives, to ensure efficient and effective community participation. These data reveal disparities in participation between community and noncommunity representatives, particularly in budget preparation and grant monitoring, underlining the need for mechanisms to support, accompany and involve communities in financial issues in the funding application process. To fully exploit the potential of the Global Fund model, it will be essential to actively empower communities to participate fully in programming and monitoring, by promoting the collection, documentation and dissemination of community experience and data in the preparation of funding applications, and by making the most of community skills.

