

**Building the capacity of trans communities to provide
monitoring and oversight of global fund processes in the
Philippines**



DATE: 6-7 February 2019

Location: Makati City, Philippines

Activity: 2-day training/workshop

Facilitators: Maria Cristina Ignacio & Raine Cortes

Participants: 21 local trans participants

ACRONYMS

GF – The Global Fund

APTN – Asia Pacific Transgender Network

GATE – Global Action for Trans* Equality

AFAO – Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations

APNSW – Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers

ANPUD – Asia Pacific Network of People Who Use Drugs

APN+ - Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV

CRG – Community, Rights, and Gender

HARP – HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines

IHBSS – Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance

MSM – Men who have Sex with Men

TGW – Transgender Women

TGM – Transgender Men

LGU – Local Government Units

CBO – Community-Based Organizations

ACER – Accelerating Community Engagement and Response on HIV-AIDS Prevention

SC – Save the Children

TLY – The Love Yourself

PNGOC – Philippine NGO Council on Health, Population and Development Inc.

PR – Principal Recipient

SR – Sub-Recipient

LFA – Local Fund Agents

CT – Country Teams

CCM – Country Coordinating Meeting

OIG – Office of the Inspector General

NFM – New Funding Model

KP – Key Population

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to UNAIDS 2018 Country Report, the Philippines is one of the few countries in Asia whose HIV epidemic is rapidly changing and expanding in the past five years. As of 2017, the HIV prevalence among adult aged 15-49 years old in the Philippines is estimated at 0.1%. From a low and slow to fast and furious epidemic, the number of diagnosed HIV infections has increased dramatically to 32 cases per day as of November 2018. Currently, there are a total of 61,152 diagnosed HIV cases from January 1984 to November 2018 reported in the HIV/AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP). Of these, 94% were males.

It is estimated that there are about 68,000 Filipinos who are living with HIV. According to the 2015 Integrated HIV and AIDS Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) 2015 conducted by the Department of Health-Epidemiology Bureau, while the national prevalence remains below one percent of the adult population, a higher prevalence was observed among males who have sex with males at 4.9% , people who inject drugs at 29%, and transgender people at 1.7%. About 29% of those infected are young people aged 15-24 years old. From 1984 to 2009, the predominant mode of transmission is male-to-female sex. However, beginning 2010, the trend shifted to male-to-male sex and has continually increased since then.

The Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) is the central advisory, planning, and policy-making body on HIV/AIDS in the country while the Department of Health is the lead agency that oversees and coordinates the implementation of HIV and AIDS programs in terms of direct health services and surveillance. For the past decade, local government units (LGUs) played a significant role in the overall HIV response. DOH regional offices also provide support and monitoring of HIV and AIDS programs at the regional and local levels. Likewise, NGOs and CBOs also contributed to the government's efforts in terms of advocacy, social mobilization, networking, and partnership building.

The Global Fund is also the largest grant giving body in the Philippines that provides funding for projects on HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Currently, Save The Children, Inc. (SCI) is implementing the project "Accelerating Community Engagement and Response on HIV-AIDS Prevention (ACER)" which started on January 2018 and will run until December 2020. The project targets MSM, TG, YKP, and PWID with a total budget of USD8.483 million which is to be implemented in 38 cities all over the Philippines.

In order to build the capacity of trans-specific and trans-led organizations in the Philippines to implement programmes to the Filipino trans community, APTN facilitated collaboration on behalf of GATE with LakanBini Pilipinas, a trans-led network of trans initiatives in the Philippines, to organize "*Building the Capacity of Trans Communities: Workshop to provide monitoring and oversight at all levels of Global Fund process in the Philippines*". This workshop aims to enhance the monitoring and evaluation capacity of trans-specific and trans-led initiatives in the Philippines and empower them to engage with international grant processes, particularly with The Global Fund.

INTRODUCTION

a) HIV in the Philippines

According to UNAIDS 2018 Country Report, the Philippines is one of the few countries in Asia whose HIV epidemic is rapidly changing and expanding in the past five years. As of 2017, the HIV prevalence among adult aged 15-49 years old in the Philippines is estimated at 0.1%. From a low and slow to fast and furious epidemic, the number of diagnosed HIV infections has increased dramatically to 32 cases per day as of November 2018. Currently, there are a total of 61,152 diagnosed HIV cases from January 1984 to November 2018 reported in the HIV/AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP). Of these, 94% were males.

It is estimated that there are about 68,000 Filipinos who are living with HIV. According to the 2015 Integrated HIV and AIDS Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) 2015 conducted by the Department of Health-Epidemiology Bureau, while the national prevalence remains below one percent of the adult population, a higher prevalence was observed among males who have sex with males at 4.9% , people who inject drugs at 29%, and transgender people at 1.7%. About 29% of those infected are young people aged 15-24 years old. From 1984 to 2009, the predominant mode of transmission is male-to-female sex. However, beginning 2010, the trend shifted to male-to-male sex and has continually increased since then.

Results of the 2015 IHBSS generally showed increasing HIV prevalence and low improvement in protective behavior among key populations. Among MSM and TGW who have anal sex, HIV prevalence in 10 sentinel sites was at 7.9%. Further, there are 11 cities with more than 5% HIV prevalence: Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Puerto Princesa, Mandaue, Davao, Quezon City, Paranaque, Makati, Antipolo, Batangas, and Iloilo. On average, initiation to protective behaviors such as condom use starts two years after sexual debut among MSM and TGW. Condom use rate among them is below the national target of 80% at 42% in 2015, while only 14% got themselves tested for HIV in the past 12 months and know their status. HIV prevalence among PWID in Cebu City saw a dramatic increase from 1% in 2009 to 54% in 2010. Though there was a slight decrease in 2015, HIV and hepatitis C prevalence still remain high.

The Philippines AIDS Prevention and Control Act (R.A. 8504) draws the landscape of the response to HIV and AIDS at the national and sub-national or local levels as well as the public and private sectors. Various government agencies as well as non- government organizations, private sectors and civil society organizations are working towards the fight against HIV and AIDS in the Philippines.

As the HIV epidemic continues to rise in the Philippines, there is an increasing need for Filipino trans-specific and trans-led initiatives to advocate for the needs of trans people as a key population at risk of HIV. Given that there are limited information and funding resources for HIV/AIDS programmes in the Philippines, ensuring that there are specific data collected about transgender people as well as budget allocations for them is a concern for many trans initiatives in the country.

- **The Funding Landscape in the Philippines**

The Department of Health (DOH) is the lead agency that oversees and coordinates the implementation of HIV and AIDS programs in the country in terms of direct health services and surveillance. These programs include those that were either internationally funded (i.e. Global Fund, USAID, ADB and WB) or those that were integrated with reproductive health programs. The regional health offices of the DOH also provide support and monitoring of HIV and AIDS programs at the regional and local levels.

The Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) is the central advisory, planning and policy-making body on HIV/AIDS in the country. It is composed of representatives from government agencies, non-government organizations involved in HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, and organization of persons dealing with HIV and AIDS. Being multi-sectoral and well represented by key stakeholders in HIV response, information sharing and coordinating across agencies has been made possible through the council. Its core functions include the development of a comprehensive national AIDS strategic plan and evaluation of the adequacy of national resources for the prevention and control of HIV.

The Global Fund is by far the largest grant giving body in the world that provides funding for projects on HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in the Philippines. Currently for HIV, Save The Children, Inc. (SCI) is implementing the project “Accelerating Community Engagement and Response on HIV-AIDS Prevention (ACER)” which started on January 2018 and will run until December 2020. The project targets MSM, TG, YKP, and PWID with a total budget of USD8.483 million which is to be implemented in 38 cities all over the Philippines.

While PNAC is the national central advisory, planning, and policy-making body on HIV and AIDS in the Philippines, ownership of the response has been largely decentralized, some government agencies of the Republic of the Philippines such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) are implementing various HIV and AIDS programs. Local government units (LGUs) have also been tasked to implement RA 8504.

Non-government Organizations (NGOs) and Community-based Organizations (CBOs) also contributed and to the government’s efforts in terms of advocacy, social mobilization, networking and partnership building. A number of NGOs and CBOs in the country are also involved in the implementation of various HIV prevention programs. In addition, a functional referral/networking system with treatment hubs and care and support groups was also established to ensure the continuum of care.

- **The Situation of Trans Persons in the Philippines**

According to the 2015 IHBSS conducted by the DOH, the national prevalence among transgender people is at 1.7%. Condom use among female identifying M/TSM is below the national target with an average of only 37%. Moreover, of the 287 TG women diagnosed with HIV and alive, only 57% (164) initiated treatment, and only 54% (155) are currently on ART.

Clearly, a lot of work still needs to be done in terms of the HIV and AIDS response among trans persons in the Philippines. Fortunately, funding through the current Global Fund ACER is available and trans persons are included as one of the target population groups.

The objectives of the project are:

- Improved coverage and linkage of services from prevention and diagnosis among KP to treatment and care for PLHIV through intensified delivery of quality and evidence-based services;
- Increased in demand and access of KP and public on HIV and STI prevention and care services;
- A functioning information system is established to aid in planning, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of HIV and STI program;
- Strengthened support system is in place to intensify delivery of quality STI and HIV and aid in addressing barriers on access to services.

In order to realize these objectives, most especially the one for service delivery, SCI works with local CBOs and LGUs. To date, M&E data from the SCI TGW cascade of care for January to December 2018 shows that about 86% of the targeted TGW have already been reached. The cascade challenge remains though, and that is to make sure those who have been reached are tested, linked to care, and enrolled for treatment.

- **Project Background**

Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE) is an international organization working on gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity issues. It was founded and registered in 2009 in New York, USA. GATE's programmatic work is organized around four areas: Depathologization and legal reforms, transgender issues in the international HIV response, Movement building and Development and United Nations. Through the support of a Communities, Rights and Gender grant GATE is leading a global project on strengthen peer-based and community led networks of transgender populations. The aim is to build capacity and support regional and country-based constituencies to more effectively engage in and contribute to the development, implementation and oversight of Global Fund grants. As a part of this initiative, GATE contracted MC Consultancy: Sexual Health and Development to develop a methodology to be implemented in Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Guyana, facilitated by different consultants. In Guyana, GATE was supported by the Guyana Trans United.

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to improve understanding and ensure meaningful engagement of transgender persons in Global Fund activities at the national level; strengthen capacity of national transgender organizations and build peer-to-peer knowledge sharing; encourage evidence-based programmatic interventions and policies based on needs of the transgender community; and inform funding transition preserving investments made in strengthening transgender communities.

The project is also intended to focus on strengthening local capacity; especially in support of transgender people in their regional and country-based constituencies to more effectively engage in, and contribute to, the development, implementation and oversight of Global Fund supported programs.

OBJECTIVES

In order to build the capacity of trans-specific and trans-led organizations in the Philippines to implement programmes to the Filipino trans community, facilitated collaboration on behalf of GATE with LakanBini Pilipinas, a trans-led network of trans initiatives in the Philippines, to organize *“Building the Capacity of Trans Communities: Workshop to provide monitoring and oversight at all levels of Global Fund process in the Philippines”*. This workshop aims to enhance the monitoring and evaluation capacity of trans-specific and trans-led initiatives in the Philippines and empower them to engage with international grant processes, particularly with The Global Fund.

Specific Objectives:

1. Increased awareness of transgender persons and HIV/TB, the Global Fund and in-country and regional processes which should include transgender persons;
2. Increased knowledge of the transgender persons on the key elements of meaningful involvement in the CCM and other Global Fund processes throughout the grant cycle so to effectively carry out the role of monitoring and oversight;
3. Greater understanding of the concept of monitoring and evaluation including the Global Fund’s approach to monitoring and evaluation and steps in monitoring meaningful involvement of trans communities;
4. Increased knowledge of key thematic guidelines to address gender, community and human rights in the planning and implementation of Global Fund grants according to the principles of the New Funding Model to ensure greater and more meaningful involvement of transgender persons and other key populations;
5. Identification of key interventions to develop a technical assistance request to support effective implementation of plan of action

METHODOLOGY

The training was based on the principles of adult learning. Several models of training methodologies used include lectures, discussion, brainstorming, role-playing, games, and presentation. From the toolkits and additional reference materials from the Global Fund, the consultant developed the power point slides and designed activities for each of the session.

Overview of the Monitoring and Oversight Tool Applied

Purpose:

This Monitoring Tool and accompanying Training Guide has been created to facilitate the process in which transgender communities and organizations play a pivotal role in the monitoring and oversight of Global Fund processes throughout the grant cycle. By equipping the community with the necessary knowledge and skills, transgender people are able to keep national, regional and global mechanisms accountable to ensure that the populations that need most are benefitting from this financial mechanism.

Audience:

The primary targets for this tool are transgender people including organizations that work with and for transgender communities. Trained facilitators within the transgender community can also use it. This tool and the lessons learnt through this process will serve to inform regional and national coordinating mechanisms, stakeholders and other key decision-makers on how to engage transgender communities and other key populations in all global fund processes throughout the grant cycle to ensure that their unique challenges and needs are being addressed.

Application of the Tool and Training Guide:

The Monitoring and Oversight tool seeks to increase awareness and knowledge on the Global Fund including the important role that communities should play throughout all its processes. The tool comprises of 4 modules: 1.) Global Fund 101; 2.) Meaningful Involvement; 3.) Monitoring and Evaluation and 4.) Global Fund Thematic Guidance. Each module complements the other to ensure that persons learning about the tool and applying it have the knowledge and the skills necessary to carry out the important role.

The objective of the training guide is to prepare participants for the application of the tool. Guided by the activities outlined in the agenda, the facilitator makes presentations, describes the objectives of each small group discussion and guides the participants in the application of the lessons learnt. The methodology will include important information via power point, small and large group discussions based on experiences providing an opportunity for participants to practice through role-play and mock sessions.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PROCESS & FINDINGS

Participants

A total of 14 participants attended from various CBOs and partners of LakanBini Advocates Pilipinas attended the training. Participants include representatives from LakanBini, LoveYourself, Pinoy FTM, Pinoy Plus, TransPlus, Lilly by LoveYourself, DIOSSA, Victoria by LoveYourself, FPOP, ACT, and Y-Peer Pilipinas. Additionally, representatives from the current Principle Recipient for HIV in the Philippines, Save the Children, Inc. and Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau also attended the training and presented strategic information relevant to transgender people.

Activities

The 2-day training covered the following topics:

Module 1 – Global Fund 101

Module 2 – Meaningful involvement of TG persons throughout the grant life cycle

Module 3 – Monitoring and Oversight

Module 4 – Global Fund Thematic Guidance

For Day 1, introductions and overview of the GATE project was done which includes sharing of each participant's expectations for the training. After this, a presentation on the HIV and AIDS situation among transgender persons was delivered by a representative from the DOH Epidemiology Bureau. Another presentation was also made by Save the Children's MEAL Manager regarding the current Global Fund HIV and AIDS Project in the Philippines. Then the facilitator delivered Module 1 through a lecture discussion. In the afternoon, games and energizers were also conducted followed by Module 2 presentations and a role-playing exercise.

On Day 2, a recap of Day 1's topics and key learning was done and was immediately followed by the M&E Module. In the afternoon, a discussion on the Global Fund Thematic Guidance, which includes the CRG Platform FAQs and Application process, was also done.

The 2nd day of the workshop ended with the participants sharing their valuable learnings and insights from the training, each one thanking the organizers and funders for the wonderful opportunity.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Issues and Challenges

- Training participants have diverse levels of knowledge in M&E and the Global Fund processes. But generally, only a few of the participants are aware of the Global Fund processes.
- Most participants are not really familiar about the country dialogue process by which key populations and/or its constituencies could participate and be represented.
- While there is a seat allocated for KAP, it was apparent that not much feedback is being provided to the transgender community as a constituency of the Global Fund project.
- The training toolkit is very informative but at the same time could be very technical most especially for those who are not very familiar with the Global Fund processes most especially the country dialogue processes and CCM eligibility requirements and minimum standard of the Global Fund.

Recommendations

- Given the diverse knowledge levels of the participants and the complexities and technical details of the Global Fund processes, 2 days may not be enough to cover all the topics as planned. It is therefore suggested to reconsider the training design and probably add an extra half-day or one full day for a larger group of participants, to facilitate more discussions and allow the participants to be more engaged throughout the training.
- Create an electronic group for the training participants to allow information sharing, including updates in each one's involvement in the Global Fund processes, stories of utilization of strategic information, and feedback from the CCM KAP representation.
- Ensure that technical support could be provided to the partner organization, for the development of a proposal to the CRG platform.

REFERENCES

- Introduction to the Global Fund and CCM video
- Philippine HIV and AIDS Situation (Presentation by DOH Epidemiology Bureau)
- UNAIDS 2018 Country Progress Report
- DOH 2015 Integrated HIV and AIDS Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance
- Global Fund CCM Country Coordinating Mechanism Policy
- Global Fund 2017-2022 Strategy
- Global Fund New Funding Model Country Dialogue Guidance
- Global Fund CCM Evolution Project
- M&E Tool Interactive
- M&E Tool Training Guide

ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Timetable



**BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF TRANS COMMUNITIES:
Workshop to provide monitoring and oversight at all levels
of Global Fund process in the Philippines**

*February 6– 7, 2019
St. Giles Makati Hotel, Philippines*

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Time	Activity/Program	Person-in-Charge
Day 0 – February 5, 2018 (Tuesday)		
	<i>Arrival and Check-in of Participants from outside Manila</i>	APTN Secretariat
Day 1 – February 6, 2018 (Wednesday)		
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Registration, Sign-in and Check-in of Participants	APTN Secretariat
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Opening Session: <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Remarks <input type="checkbox"/> Overview of Agenda, Goals and Objectives of the CRG GATE-APTN Project and the M&E Tool	Ms. Raine Cortes, Project Manager, APTN
9:00 – 10:30 AM	The National Situation and Response to HIV and AIDS and Trans Persons and involvement in Global Fund Processes <input type="checkbox"/> Overview of the National HIV and AIDS Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Current Responses to HIV and AIDS Situation and Involvement of Trans Persons <input type="checkbox"/> ACER – Global Fund Project in the Philippines	DOH – Epidemiology Bureau Save the Children Philippines
10:30 – 10:45 AM	-Coffee/Tea Break-	
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Regional and National Global Fund projects which include trans communities	Ms. Raine Cortes, Project Manager, APTN
11:00 – 12:00 PM	Module 1: Global Fund 101: <input type="checkbox"/> What is the Global Fund? <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding Important Acronyms <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to the Global Fund and CCM – Video Presentation	Facilitator
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Module 1: Global Fund 101: <input type="checkbox"/> What is a Country Coordinating Mechanism? <input type="checkbox"/> What are CCM eligibility requirements and minimum standards? <input type="checkbox"/> What is the role of CCM representatives?	Facilitator



Time	Activity/Program	Person-in-Charge
	<input type="checkbox"/> Who are civil society CCM representatives?	
12:30 – 1:30 PM	-LUNCH-	
1:30 – 1:45 PM	Team-Building Activity / Energizer	APTN Secretariat
1:45 - 3:45 PM	Module 2: Meaningful Involvement of transgender persons throughout the Grant Cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding the Grant Cycle and being an important part of the Country Dialogue Process <input type="checkbox"/> Transparency and Accountability – Effectively representing your trans community and key populations' constituency <input type="checkbox"/> Active participation – Making sure that you are heard <input type="checkbox"/> Dealing with difficult situations and challenges 	Facilitator
3:45 - 4:00 PM	-Coffee/Tea Break-	
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Role-Playing (Mock CCM Session)	Participants
5:00 – 5:15 PM	Day Ender: Summary of Day 1 Admin and Logistical Announcements	APTN Secretariat

Time	Activity/Program	Person-in-Charge
Day 2 – February 7, 2018 (Thursday)		
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Registration and Sign-in of Participants	APTN Secretariat
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Recap of Day 1 Highlights	Participants
8:45 – 9:15 AM	Module 3: Monitoring and Oversight The Global Fund's approach to monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring meaningful involvement of transgender persons.	Facilitator
9:15 – 10:30 AM	Module 3: Key Steps in Monitoring Programs for transgender persons and other key populations	Facilitator
10:30 – 10:45 AM	-Coffee/Tea Break-	
10:45 – 11:30 Am	Module 3: Monitoring and Evaluation. The Global Fund's approach to monitoring and evaluation. How to monitor meaningful involvement	Facilitator
11:30 – 12:30 PM	How to use M&E Results for advocacy and changer for trans communities in and out of Global Fund processes. The Office of the Inspector General –	Facilitator Participants

