

**Building the capacity of trans communities  
to provide monitoring and oversight of Global Fund  
processes in Thailand**



**Dates/Location:** February 15-16, 2019, Aetas Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

**Activity:** Workshop to provide monitoring and oversight at all levels of Global Fund process in Thailand

**Facilitator:** Ms. Raine Cortes

**Participants:** 15 participants

## **ACRONYMS**

AFAO – Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations  
APNSW – Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers  
APN+ - Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV  
ANPUD – Asia Pacific Network of People Who Use Drugs  
APTN – Asia Pacific Transgender Network  
BKK – Bangkok, Thailand  
CCM – Country Coordinating Meeting  
CRG – Community, Rights, and Gender  
CT – Country Teams  
FSW – Female Sex Worker  
GATE – Global Action on Trans Equality  
GF – The Global Fund  
IHBSS – Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance  
KP – Key Population  
LFA – Local Fund Agents  
LGBT – Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender  
LGU – Local Government Units  
MoPH – Thailand’s Ministry of Public Health  
MSM – Men who have sex with men  
MSW – Male Sex Worker  
NFM – New Funding Model  
NSP – National Strategic Plan (for HIV/AIDS Policy)  
OIG – Office of the Inspector General  
PR – Principal Recipient  
SR – Sub-Recipient  
TGW – Transgender Women  
TGM – Transgender Men  
UNAIDS – Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to UNAIDS Thailand, the rate of new HIV infection in Thailand is declining in general. The rate of new HIV infection had declined by 50% from 2010 until 2016 which was lower than the national average. Youth from the age of 15-24 are the most vulnerable age group for exposure to HIV/AIDS. In 2016, 47% of the new HIV infection was diagnosed among this age group of population (age 15-24). Alarming, the age of HIV prevalence in this country is getting younger. There has been a report of a child at the age of 12 or 13 was tested as HIV positive.

In terms of risky sexual behaviors among the TG populations, only 50% of TG reported consistent use of condoms in Bangkok and even lower in Chiangmai (only 26%). This could be because of lack of awareness and fear of a potential stigma. Moreover, it is estimated that 20% of TG populations engage in sex work due to facing discrimination and poverty. Due to social discriminations, these prevent TG sex workers to access to HIV/AIDS health care services.

Despite HIV epidemic in Thailand is declining, transgender (TG) individuals are considered to be the key population at risk of HIV. It is estimated that 9% - 11% or approximately 25,000 of TG populations are living with HIV in Thailand. Given that there are limited funding resources for transgender-specific HIV/AIDS programs in Thailand and the country is now transitioning from depending on external sources of funding to more domestic sources, ensuring that there are budget allocations and sustainable financial sources for trans people is a concern for many trans initiatives in the country.

The Global Fund is the largest grant giving body in the world that provides funding for projects on HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Under The Global Fund's Communities, Rights and Gender (CRG) Technical Assistance Program, the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) and the Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE) jointly submitted a proposal to implement monitoring and evaluation capacity building workshops around the world. Through the APTN-GATE Communities, Rights and Gender (CRG) Strategic Initiative (SI) Project, APTN and GATE focus on the overall goal of developing skills and capacities of transgender communities to meaningfully engage in Global Fund processes on HIV. In addition, the networks will strengthen the involvement of transgender communities in the area of tuberculosis and malaria in addition to HIV. Under this project, APTN leads workshop implementation across three Asia-Pacific countries namely India, Philippines, and Thailand.

In order to build the capacity of trans-specific and trans-led organizations in Thailand to implement programs to Thai trans community, APTN collaborated with Sister Foundation, a trans-led organization in Pattaya, Thailand, to organize "Building the Capacity of Trans Communities: Workshop to provide monitoring and oversight at all levels of Global Fund process in Thailand". This workshop aims to enhance the monitoring and evaluation capacity of trans-specific and trans-led initiatives in Thailand and empower them to engage with international grant processes, particularly with The Global Fund.

## INTRODUCTION

### a) HIV in Thailand

According to UNAIDS Thailand, the rate of new HIV infection in Thailand is declining in general. The rate of new HIV infection had declined by 50% from 2010 until 2016 which was lower than the national average. Youth from the age of 15-24 are the most vulnerable age group for exposure to HIV/AIDS. In 2016, 47% of the new HIV infection was diagnosed among this age group of population (age 15-24). Alarming, the age of HIV prevalence in this country is getting younger. There has been a report of a child at the age of 12 or 13 was tested as HIV positive.

In terms of risky sexual behaviors among the TG populations, only 50% of TG reported consistent use of condoms in Bangkok and even lower in Chiangmai (only 26%). This could be because of lack of awareness and fear of a potential stigma. Moreover, it is estimated that 20% of TG populations engage in sex work due to facing discrimination and poverty. Due to social discriminations, these prevent TG sex workers to access to HIV/AIDS health care services.

For AIDS budgeting allocation, Thailand is now less depending on international donors. The country is relying more on domestic sources of funding for HIV/AIDS causes from the state and CSOs. Hence, 89% of the HIV funding comes from the domestic sources. However, only 0.3% of the funding goes to TG. This is because of lack of data collection for TG populations in the past. The data of TG was combined with MSM. It has just been separated from MSM very recently.

- **The National Global Fund Project in Thailand: Stop TB and AIDS through RTR2**

The goals of Thailand's national plan is to end AIDS/ HIV in this country by reducing estimated 6,176 new infections in 2016 to below 1000 cases by 2030. For TB, Thailand's goal is to reduce TB incidence from 172 per 100,000 to 88 per 100,000, between 2017 and 2021. The objectives of the national plan are:

1. To prevent the transmission of HIV and TB by sustaining intensive behavior change activities, appropriate use of prophylaxis and strategic use of antiretroviral drugs;
2. To actively find HIV and TB cases in the community and health care settings by recruiting 'at risk' and vulnerable populations into HIV testing and TB screening;
3. To ensure early and accurate diagnosis of both diseases by improving diagnostic capability, and reducing turn-around time (by using rapid HIV testing and molecular diagnostic techniques for TB); and
4. To provide early treatment and ensure retention in care for all those diagnosed with HIV and/or TB.

The activities that are being implemented reduce HIV/AIDS such as distributing Prep and condoms, improving HIV/AIDS community-based programs conducting research outreaching communities, developing technologies, HIV testing and focusing on self-HIV testing with in a provincial level. MoPH also focuses on reducing stigmatization toward people living HIV/AIDS.

- **The Situation of Trans Persons in Thailand**

Finally, the data for TGW is now available. TGM has just become the concern now. It's NGOs' responsibilities to do more advocacy work on this issue. TGW could now finally be separated from the MSM due to long-term advocacy. However, there is still a lack of data gathering for TGM.

Currently, it is estimated that Thailand's TG population is around 230,000 to 250,000. Of which, about 25,000 TG are at risk for HIV/AIDS .

- 9%/10% of TG are at risk to HIV/AIDS
- Data available for TGW would be much better this year as the databases started to be separated from the MSM (only for transwomen)
- But there is still a lack of demographics of transgendermen (TGM) in Thailand.

Clearly, a lot of work still needs to be done in terms of the HIV and AIDS response among trans persons in Thailand. Fortunately, advocacy activities conducted in the previous years are starting to show some results. Some more needs to be done such as:

- Size estimation for TGM
- A separate analysis for TGW and MSM at the MoPH
- Include TGM as one of the KPs for the Global Fund project
- Advocate for the governments and stakeholders to study about TGM as well.

- **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 Thailand to implement programs to Thai trans community, APTN collaborated with Sister Foundation, a trans-led organization in Pattaya, Thailand, to organize *“Building the Capacity of Trans Communities: Workshop to provide monitoring and oversight at all levels of Global Fund process in Thailand”*. This workshop aims to enhance the monitoring and evaluation capacity of trans-specific and trans-led initiatives in Thailand 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 15 participants attended from various CBOs.



### Activities

The 2-day training mainly 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

By Raine Cortes, project manager from APTN (Initially, an officer from UNAIDS Thailand was supposed to present this workshop. But due to their commitment, they provided the power point presentation instead. )

For Day 1, introductions and overview of the GATE project was done which includes sharing of each participant’s expectations for the training. After which, a presentation on the HIV and AIDS situation in Thailand was delivered by Ms. Raine Cortes. It was supposed to be presented by an officer from UNAIDS Thailand but due to urgent tasks, a presentation was provided for APTN to present.

A presentation about the National Global Fund project in Thailand followed which was done by Bussabha Tantisak, a policy analyst from the Department of Diseases Control under the Ministry of Public Health (MPH). Then the facilitator/resource person through a lecture discussion then delivered Module 1.

On Day 2, a recapitulation of Day 1's topics was done. A video clip of Global Fund 101 or Basics was also presented. Thereafter, Ms. Raine introduced the toolkits, which would be used all throughout the workshop. Module 2 was also presented and discussed, followed by a role-playing activity about the CCM.

In the afternoon, a discussion on the Global Fund Thematic Guidance, which includes the CRG Platform FAQs and Application process, was also done.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Modules 3 and 4 were also presented and discussed, followed by a discussion for the development of a proposal for submission to the CRG platform.

## 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 very 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.
- 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

- Ensure and support the participation and meaningful involvement of the trans communities in Thailand to the national dialogue
- Advocate for data gathering of TGM in order to address HIV issues among TGM communities
- If a transition will happen soon, NGO players on the ground, as well as other key stakeholders need to work together.
- 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
- Thailand HIV and AIDS Situation (Presentation by DOH Epidemiology Bureau)
- UNAIDS 2018 Country Progress Report
- UNAIDS Data Hub for the Asia Pacific
- 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 Thailand**

*February 15 – 16, 2019  
AETAS Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand*

#### WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Time	Activity/Program	Person-in-Charge
<b>Day 0 – February 14, 2018 (Thursday)</b>		
	<i>Arrival and Check-in of Participants from outside Bangkok</i>	APTN Secretariat
<b>Day 1 – February 15, 2018 (Friday)</b>		
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Registration, Sign-in and Check-in of Participants	APTN Secretariat
8:30 – 9:00 AM	<b>Opening Session:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Welcome Remarks</li> <li>· Introduction of Participants</li> <li>· Overview of Agenda, Goals and Objectives of the CRG GATE-APTN Project and the M&amp;E Tool</li> </ul>	Ms. Raine Cortes, Project Manager, APTN
9:00 – 10:30 AM	<b>The National Situation and Response to HIV and AIDS and Trans Persons and involvement in Global Fund Processes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Overview of the National HIV and AIDS Situation in Thailand</li> <li>· National Global Fund Project in Thailand (STAR 2, NFR 2018-2020)</li> </ul>	Facilitator PR-DDC Office, MoPH
10:30 – 10:45 AM	<b>-Coffee/Tea Break-</b>	
10:45 – 11:00 AM	<b>Regional and National Global Fund projects which include trans communities</b>	Ms. Raine Cortes, Project Manager, APTN
11:00 – 12:00 PM	<b>Module 1: Global Fund 101:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· What is the Global Fund?</li> <li>· Understanding Important Acronyms</li> <li>· Introduction to the Global Fund and CCM – Video Presentation</li> </ul>	Facilitator
12:00 – 12:30 PM	<b>Module 1: Global Fund 101:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· What is a Country Coordinating Mechanism?</li> <li>· What are CCM eligibility requirements and minimum standards?</li> <li>· What is the role of CCM representatives?</li> <li>· Who are civil society CCM</li> </ul>	Facilitator



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

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



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12:30 – 1:30 PM	<b>-LUNCH-</b>	
1:30 – 2:45 PM	<b>Global Fund Thematic Guidelines:</b> Community, Rights and Gender	Facilitator
2:45 – 4:45 PM	<b>Using the Thematic Guidelines</b> for monitoring and advocacy <b>-Working Coffee/Tea Break-</b>	Facilitator Participants
4:45 – 5:15 PM	<b>Summary and Closing:</b> Participants Reflections Administer Evaluation Forms Distribution of Certificates	Ms. Raine Cortes, Project Manager, APTN

**-END OF WORKSHOP-**

