

INTEGRATION OF THE TRANS COMMUNITY IN OVERSIGHT OF GLOBAL FUND PROCESSES

A guide for the Community,
Principal Recipients and Country
Coordinating Mechanisms



This Integration of the Trans Community in Oversight of Global Fund Processes Guide has been developed in partnership with local, regional, global trans organizations and MC Consultancy with the leadership of GATE as part of its CRG Strategic Initiative grant.

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Through the support of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and its Community, Rights and Gender Special Initiative, Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE) has successfully produced these Guidelines for the Integration of the Transgender Community in Processes of the Global Fund.

This guide, which is a compilation and adaptation of various resources available to civil society and developed by key agencies providing support to communities, civil society organizations, Global Fund principal recipients and Country Coordinating Mechanisms aims to build the oversight capacity of the transgender communities engaged in the 8 steps of the Global Fund processes.

An important part of developing these guidelines was consultation with key stakeholders such as the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTAN), the Regional Network of Transgender Persons of Latin America (REDLATRANS), United Caribbean Trans Network (UC TRANS) as well as members of Country Coordinating Mechanisms in the Asia Pacific and the Latin American and Caribbean Regions. Special acknowledgement is due to the Communities and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG-SI) and the Global Fund Secretariat for use of their resources that have served to bring together important information to intensify the participation of the transgender communities in Global Fund processes that impact their lives.

The task of adapting and revising these important guidelines was led by Consultant, Kennedy Carrillo, Lead Consultant of KC Consultancy: Sexual Health and Development.



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ACRONYMS

- CCM - Country Coordinating Mechanism
- CRG SI - Community, Rights, and Gender – Strategic Initiative
- CSO - Civil Society Organization
- DB - Disease Burden
- EPA - Eligibility and Performance Assessment
- ER - Eligibility Requirement
- FPM - Fund Portfolio Manager
- GATE - Global Action for Trans Equality
- GF - Global Fund
- GFAN - Global Fund Advocacy Network
- GFATM - Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- HSS - Health Systems Strengthening
- KP - Key Populations
- LAC - Latin America and the Caribbean
- LFA - Local Fund Agent
- LGBTI - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
- LMI - Lower Middle Income
- M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation
- MSM - Men who have Sex with Men
- NFM - New Funding Model
- NSP - National Strategic Plan
- OIG - Office of the Inspector General
- PF - Performance Framework
- PLHIV - Persons Living with HIV
- PLWD - People Living with the Diseases
- PR - Principal Recipient
- PWUD - People Who Use Drugs
- SR - Sub Recipient
- STCP - Sustainability, Transition, Co-Financing Policy
- TA - Technical assistance
- TRP - Technical Review Panel
- UMI - Upper Middle Income

BACKGROUND

Globally, there are still concerns that the response to HIV, TB and Malaria are not reaching the populations that need it the most. In July 2018 UNAIDS launched its report “Miles to Go – Closing the gaps, Breaking Barriers and Righting Justices.” The report indicates that global new HIV infections have declined by 18% in the past seven years; the decline is not quick enough to reach the target of fewer than 500,000 new infections by 2020. The report warns that the pace of progress is not matching global ambition. The report also shows that key populations including transgender people and their partners are the most affected by HIV but are still being left out of HIV programmes. Human rights violations, stigma and discrimination and laws that criminalize key populations continue to pose barriers to access to essential services. Thus, there is a call for more investments in reaching these key populations (KAP) but there is also call for more efficacy and accountability in the management of grants and programmes to ensure that funds allocated for these populations are having the impact needed. This means more meaningful involvement and engagement of key populations in Global Fund processes throughout the grant cycle.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS

Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE)

GATE’s mission is to work internationally on gender identity, gender expression, and bodily issues by defending human rights, making available critical knowledge, and supporting political organizing worldwide. GATE envisions a world free of human rights violations based on gender identity, gender expression and bodily diversity, and transformed by the critical inclusion of those historically marginalized on those grounds. We will contribute to building powerful, expert and well-resourced political movements, able to have meaningful participation in global processes and to transform the landscape of socioeconomic justice worldwide.

Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE) is leading a global project on strengthening peer-based and community led networks of Trans 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 and programs. Under these areas, the project is also intended to focus on strengthening local capacity; especially in support of Trans 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.

Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN)

APTN was launched in 2009, when a group of transgender women from various Asia and Pacific countries came together to champion the health, legal and social rights of trans women. In 2011, a trans man drew attention to the need to advocate for trans men and joined the APTN board.

APTN engages with a range of partners, globally and across Asia and the Pacific, to support, organize, and advocate for comprehensive healthcare and the protection of legal, social and human rights for trans and gender diverse people.

APTN works in the development of the following areas:

- Building capacity of leaders - Building a robust, resilient, representative and self-reliant trans movement through national partners by building their skills and capacity as leaders, increasing their access to funding, facilitating diverse representation of the community, organizing south-to-south learning and exchanges, and promoting a culture of well-being and self-care for trans advocates
- Advocacy - Advocating on human rights and equal rights for transgender communities by advancing their access to justice, legal gender recognition, healthcare, and ensuring freedom of movement
- Strengthening the APTN Secretariat as a well-recognized, respected, robust and sustainable network through transparent and participatory governance, effective mechanisms of communications, establishment of knowledge/data hub on transgender issues, and engagement and expansion of partnership

Areas of work also include: Increase funding for Trans-led initiatives/groups/ improve well-being, decrease burn-out, increase trans leadership representation and capacity, advancing access to health, access to recognition before the law, right to freedom of movement, advancing fulfilment of human rights and access to justice and redress of trans people, and generating strategic information; research monitoring and dissemination.



GATE and APTN have collaborated to produce these important guidelines for the transgender community.

ABOUT THIS TOOL

This guide was made possible through the efforts of GATE and APTN who undertook the challenge of bringing together 3 regions: Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. This initiative engaged members of the transgender community, GF Principal Recipients and CCMs in a highly participatory and consultative process.



Participants included:

Region	Country	Organization
Asia	Thailand	Sisters Foundation, Mplus Foundation/ Thailand CCM
	India	India HIV/AIDS Alliance
	Vietnam	It's T Time
	Philippines	LakanBini Advocates Pilipinas
	Regional	APTN
	Regional	APASCO
Latin America	Peru	Casa Trans
	Nicaragua	Asociación Nicaragüense de Transgéneras (ANIT)
Caribbean	Haiti	Action Communautaire pour l'integration des Femmes Vulnérable en Haiti (ACIFVH)
	Dominican Republic	La Comunidad de Trans-Travesti Trabajadoras sexuales Dominicana (COTRAVETD)
	Guyana	Guyana Trans United
	Bahamas	United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTRANS)
	Belize	Trans In Action (TIA) Belize / National AIDS Commission – CCM

PURPOSE

This Guideline is to facilitate and accompany the Transgender communities in the Integration of Transgender Persons in the Global Fund Processes, this guide has been developed to facilitate the process where the trans community plays a pivotal and meaningful role in the Global Fund processes especially for the inclusion of the trans community, by equipping the community with the necessary information and guidance, trans communities should be able to keep national mechanisms accountable to ensure that the populations that need the most support are not drastically affected by being marginalized and not meaningfully involved in the process.

AUDIENCE

The primary targets for this guide are the trans community, with a special focus on key populations. “Civil society” is the term used to designate all those stakeholders who are neither government bodies nor private sector enterprises: groups such as nongovernmental organizations, advocacy groups, faith-based organizations, and other populations trans community groups.

This guide along with the checklists included will serve to inform Principal Recipients, country coordinating mechanisms, stakeholders and other key decision-makers on how to engage trans community partners in all global fund processes throughout the grant cycle but most importantly those unique challenges for the more meaningful involvement of the trans community.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

This guide seeks to increase awareness and knowledge on the Global Fund process including the important role that communities should play throughout all its processes in particular the process of the HIV, TB and Malaria responses. It also seeks to provide guidance to PRs and CCMs.

The guide comprises of the 7 important steps in the Global Fund Process:

- 1) Country Dialogue
- 2) Developing /Reviewing National Strategic Plan
- 3) Developing the Funding Request
- 4) Incorporation of Feedback from the technical Review Panel
- 5) Decision from Grant Approval Committee
- 6) Process of Grant Making and
- 7) Board Approval

Each step has a checklist to work with to ensure that the steps are conducted with the inclusion of the trans community and it compliments it with recommendations to ensure that there is meaningful involvement from the trans community with the support of Principal Recipients and CCMs.

IMPORTANT GLOBAL FUND ACRONYMS

Very often CSO representatives including members of the trans community will find themselves in meetings and discussions where there is the frequent use of certain acronyms¹. It is important that they are familiar with as many of the Global Fund acronyms and lingo as possible so that they fully comprehend the discussions and can participate effectively in decision-making.

PR – Principal Recipient

Country-based agencies or organizations that are financially and legally responsible for program results. They are selected by the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) to manage the implementation of one or more Global Fund Grant(s). The PR signs the grant contract with the Global Fund. They are usually Government bodies or civil society organizations but are sometimes multi-sectoral agencies such as the UN. Within the context of sustainability, national entities with the necessary capacity are strategic.



SR – Sub-Recipient

These are agencies that are contracted to implement programs by PRs to deliver services under their leadership. These can be governmental as well as civil society organizations that have the programmatic and financial management capacity.

LFA – Local Fund Agents

These are entities that work closely with the Global Fund country teams at the Secretariat to evaluate and monitor activities before, during and after the implementation of a grant. They are independent organizations that are granted an LFA contract for a 4-year period for a country.

They are usually accountancy and management firms often linked to international companies. They check the financial management of grant recipients and also verify what activities have taken place as described in the grant to provide an independent view of how the program is performing. To avoid a conflict of interest, LFAs cannot provide capacity building or technical assistance to PRs or CCMs.

¹An acronym is a word or name formed as an abbreviation from the initial components in a phrase or a word, usually individual letters and sometimes syllables.

FPM – Fund Portfolio Managers

Global Fund staff assigned for each grant. The FPM leads and manages the grant negotiation processes at various stages of the grant cycle and manages input from other Global Fund Secretariat staff. FPMs also work with the LFAs, reviews and analyses requests for disbursement, and decide on grant amounts to be disbursed.

CT – Country Teams

Global Fund staff members that include operations-focused staff (fund portfolio managers and program officers) and monitoring and compliance staff (legal, procurement, finance and M&E), who take shared responsibility for grants throughout the entire grant cycle.

OIG – The Office of the Inspector General²

The Office of the Inspector General is an independent yet integral part of the Global Fund that undertakes audits, investigations and oversight to make objective and transparent recommendations to promote good practice, reduce risk and condemn abuse of Global Fund finances. It is accountable to the Board through its Audit and Ethics Committee.

NFM – New Funding Model

As part of its 2012-2016 strategy, the Global Fund developed a New Funding Model (NFM) to replace the rounds-based funding system. The NFM aims to provide implementers of grants with more flexible timing, better alignment with national strategies and greater predictability. It also promotes more active engagement with implementers and partners throughout the application and grant implementation.

KP – Key Populations

Key populations experience both increased impact from one of the diseases and decreased access to services. Widespread stigma and discrimination, violence and harassment and restrictive laws and policies put key populations at heightened risks and undermine their access to services.

Key populations include:

- ◇ Men who have sex with men
- ◇ Transgender people, especially transgender women
- ◇ Sex workers
- ◇ People who inject drugs
- ◇ People living with the diseases
- ◇ People in prison and detention



²<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/oig/>

THE GLOBAL FUND BASICS

Very often CSO representatives and members of the trans community will find themselves in meetings and discussions. In order to ensure that CSOs and communities can meaningful engage in these discussions it is essential that they have adequate information about the Global Fund overall.

THE GLOBAL FUND

The History

The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, often called the Global Fund was created in 2002. It was launched at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session by Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan, as an innovative financing mechanism that seeks to rapidly raise and disburse funding for programs that reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in low- and middle-income countries.

What is it?

It is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases. The Global Fund raises and invests approximately US\$4 billion a year, channelling it to programs run by local experts in countries and implementers via Global Fund grants. Currently, more than 129 countries across all continents benefit from Global Fund support.

How does it work?

The Global Fund has three core principles: Partnership, Involvement of all stakeholders in decision-making and Country Ownership. As a financing institution, the Global Fund's primary purpose is to channel funds to program implementers.

The following steps must be taken before countries can receive funding:

- 1) Decide country fund allocation (decision made at the GF Secretariat level)
- 2) Development/review of the National Strategic Plan Development of the Funding Request
- 3) Incorporation of feedback from the Technical Review Panel
- 4) Decision from Grant Approval Committee
- 5) Undertaking of grant-making process Board approval
- 6) Incorporation of feedback from the Technical Review Panel
- 7) Board approval.

Countries take the lead in determining where and how-to best fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and how to respond to diseases and build resilient and sustainable systems for health.

7 STEPS TO COUNTRY FUNDING

Each of the 7 steps is important and representatives of the trans community should be directly or indirectly involved in Steps 2 to 7 to ensure that the needs of their constituency are met. Each of these steps is described below.

STEP 1

Country Dialogue

This is where countries are expected to put into practice the second core principle of the Global Fund, namely partnership. In the context of the Global Fund, “partnership” has a specific meaning. Everyone involved in the response to the diseases needs to be involved in the decision-making process. While the CCM itself includes representatives of all sectors, the purpose of the country dialogue is to go beyond its membership. Therefore, the CCM should actively reach out to and engage with representatives of all sectors, particularly key populations such as representatives of the trans community. The purpose of country dialogue is to identify needs, work on national strategies, build resource mobilization efforts and prioritize intervention areas and actions that will make the most impact. The country dialogue should be an on-going process throughout the grant cycle which seeks input from key populations such as representatives of the trans community to identify their needs and concerns and engage them in decision-making.

STEP 2

Develop / Review National Strategic Plan

The National Strategic Plan (NSP) is a multi-year plans that details principles, priorities, and actions to guide the national response to the epidemic. A National Strategic Plan should be fully “costed” and developed in consultation with all stakeholders. It should form the basis of the Funding Request to promote better program coordination and reduce administrative burden on the country. A country should periodically update and review its National Strategic Plan. If a country does not yet have a national strategic plan for a disease, or if the plan is no longer current, countries can base their requests on an established Investment Case. However, requests to the Global Fund should be based on an analysis of the country situation, needs and gaps.



Countries in transition should have a sustainability component in their national plans. This process should include consultation with the trans community and other key populations to ensure that their concerns and needs are included.

STEP 3

Develop the Funding Request

This is where countries are expected to put into practice the second core principle. Using the relevant national strategic plan and country dialogue as the basis, a Country Coordinating Mechanism will develop a prioritized funding request, which is the plan for how the country would use the allocated funds if approved. A funding request may be for HIV, TB, malaria and/or resilient and sustainable systems for health, and can also be combined. Only one funding request may be submitted per eligible component. A request can be submitted during any review “window” during the cycle. This process that is normally guided by a consultant and includes a technical working group should ensure participation of the trans community in the development of this funding request especially if it includes the community as a target or beneficiary.



STEP 4

Incorporate the Feedback from the Technical Review Panel Evaluation (TRP)

After submission, the Technical Review Panel evaluates the Funding Request. The TRP is designed to work to get to an outcome of “yes”, which is the recommendation that the Funding Request is ready to proceed to grant-making, bearing in mind that their goal is to support programs that will have the highest impact in the context of the country. If they feel that a funding request is not of sufficient quality, they will ask the country to revise and re-submit their funding request. During this step of the process, the TRP will work with the CCM and the country team of the Global Fund to ensure that the funding request is as robust as possible. Throughout this process, the trans community should be fully informed of the proceedings and consulted on matters affecting the community.

STEP 5

Grant Approvals Committee (GAC)

The Grant Approvals Committee is a committee of senior management staff of the Global Fund, and technical and bilateral partners. Their responsibility is to set the upper funding ceiling for the grant(s) based on the TRP's recommendations, as well as a number of qualitative factors. The budget for grants includes funding available from a country's allocation amount, and if applicable, any available "incentive funding." The trans community should be informed of the recommendations and be provided with an opportunity to provide input.



STEP 6

Grant Making

After submission, the Technical Review Panel evaluates the Funding Request. At this stage of the process, the CCM and the Global Fund work with the Principal Recipient (PR). The Global Fund assesses the PR; then the PR and the Global Fund work together to develop the performance framework, detailed budget, work plan, procurement and supply management plan, and implementation map. Once this work is completed, the grant documentation undergoes a final review by the Grant Approvals Committee before being sent to the Board for approval. Throughout this process, the trans representative should be involved and informed of any major changes that will affect the community and the overall grant.

STEP 7

Board Approval

After the Grant Approvals Committee's review, grants are considered to be "disbursement-ready." These are then sent to the Board of the Global Fund for final approval and, once approved, the grant is then signed, and the first disbursement is made to the PR. All members of the CCM should be informed of this announcement including members of the key population community such as transgender persons.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHECKLIST FOR THE 7 STEPS

The following outlines recommendations for the greater involvement of Trans persons in Global Fund processes based on consultations with the community. The recommendations in each step also include a checklist that persons can use to follow the process to ensure that the community is being involved in all steps of the GF process.

STEP 1 - COUNTRY DIALOGUE

Recommendations	Checklist
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CCMs should plan the consultations with enough time to ensure the community's involvement. 2) Ensure that the transgender community is well-represented in the dialogue. 3) CCMs should organize consultations separate for each key population such as the trans community. 4) Reach to regional platforms and networks for financial support for the trans organization to ensure that they have the capacity to participate in the dialogue in a significant manner. 5) Transparency ahead of the dialogue from the government on the way the dialogue will be organized (step by step plan for the organization, with dates) to ensure that the trans community is significantly engaged and not just as a "token" participation. 6) CCM budget should include funding for the dialogue to provide transportation and other logistical support to the trans community, if needed. 7) PRs and CCMs should provide an opportunity for the trans community to review grant before submission so that they can provide feedback on the needs of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Was there opportunity for pre-meetings and consultations with the trans community? ✓ Was there budget for transportation? ✓ Was the documentation of the meeting made public? ✓ Were inputs from the community represented in the documentation? Were trans persons involved in the process throughout ✓ Was it documented and was input in the grant making? ✓ Clarity in regards to the process or methods provided to the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we understand the process? • Do I have/need a technical advisor to assist with pre-meetings?

STEP 2 - DEVELOP / REVIEW NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

Recommendations	Checklist
1) CCMs should systematize the needs of the different key populations.	✓ Were trans representatives part of the process?
2) Identify the needs by topics by population.	✓ Were their inputs documented?
3) Specifically spell out that Trans community is separate from MSM.	✓ Data disaggregation to reflect Trans in the NSP.
4) Develop trans specific minimal service package and budget allocation.	✓ As a method of M&E, more validation may be necessary to ensure targets are more realistic.





STEP 3 - DEVELOP THE FUNDING REQUEST

Recommendations	Checklist
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In consultation with the community, CCMs should use the topics by population to develop indicators and objectives. 2) Guarantee that there are updated and trusted PSE of the populations included, if not request for technical assistance to get the PSE. 3) In consultation with the community, CCMs should develop minimum health packages for the populations (condoms, testing, education). 4) Ensure that there are representatives of each key population in the work group developing the request. 5) Create alliances with all key population groups to ensure inclusion of their needs especially that of the trans community. 6) Hold forums for discussion of the needs of the populations with decision making strategies to be included in the request. 7) Include private sector buy in on the importance of including the trans community in (which will help in sustainability, e.g. Red Cross, Hospitals, phone companies). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community consultation with the consultant? ✓ Specific trans community consultations? ✓ Was there adequate funding for consultations with the trans community? ✓ Was their participation of the trans community involved in the development of the funding request? ✓ Are trans community members receiving enough feedback and opportunities to contribute?

STEP 4 - INCORPORATE FEEDBACK FROM TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

Recommendations	Checklist
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The CCM and PR should ensure that all the trans community representatives know the recommendations from the TRP. 2) The CCM and PR should create spaces for dialogue with trans representatives to explain the changes in the concept note/request. 3) The CCM and PR should document the recommendations from the trans community and ensure that these are included in the PR's response. 4) They should ensure that the trans community knows the PR's response. 5) The PR and CCM should share the budget cut between government and CSO's with the trans representative and community. 6) Feedback from specific communities should be prioritized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TRP comments publicly available? ✓ TRP comments sent to community? ✓ Response available? ✓ Translated in local languages (for all)? ✓ Was a summary of the implication of the TRP comments for the trans community prepared and shared with them? ✓ Were meetings to explain the meaning of the TRP comments to the trans community? ✓ Was budget properly allocated to ensure that the needs of the trans community are being adequately responded to? ✓ Communicate feedback in regards to changes to CSO's in order to fill gaps.



STEP 5 - DECISION FROM GRANT APPROVAL COMMITTEE

Recommendations	Checklist
<p>1) The PR and CCM should create spaces with the key populations ,especially the trans community, to discuss the decision of the grant approval committee to ensure that they understand the implications for the trans community, especially in the implementation of the grant.</p> <p>2) They include representatives of the trans community in the review of the approval.</p>	<p>✓ Were all members of the CCM informed of Grant approval? Does this include the trans community?</p> <p>✓ Date of implementation of activities have been shared with the trans community?</p> <p>✓ Do decisions made hinder/limit progress within the trans community?</p> <p>✓ Are there opportunities for the trans community to communicate concerns back to the CCM / GF?</p>



STEP 6 - UNDERTAKE PROCESS OF GRANT MAKING

Recommendations	Checklist
1) The CCM and PR should organize training/ capacity building for key populations about the assignment of the funds.	√ Was there regular communication between CCM members and the trans community throughout the process?
2) The CCM and PR should create national communication channels to discuss the topics of the subvention and its execution among key populations especially the trans community.	√ Were the key population especially the trans representative adequately trained ahead of grant making to ensure that they can more significantly participate in the discussions and decision-making processes?
3) Country Portfolio Managers should be trained to understand the issues of the trans community in their respective countries.	
4) Include Trans organizations at the very start of the process and throughout until the end and not just when their signature or endorsement is needed.	
5) Monitoring and evaluation from a trans community perspective should take place.	

STEP 7 - BOARD APPROVAL

Recommendations	Checklist
1) The PR and CCM should guarantee that key population members in particular representatives of the transgender community are aware of the process.	√ Trans community is aware that the grant is awaiting board approval?
2) Create social media page (Facebook) for communities to reach out and learn about the approved Global Fund and how it impacts the community.	√ Trans community is informed of when the board announces the approval to the CCM?
3) Receive and send information from CCM to trans community representative to update on board approval and the way forward.	√ Social media page available for sharing of information to the community?
	√ Open communication is established from the CCM to the trans representative and from the representative to the community?

THE GLOBAL FUND AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

“Civil society” is the term used to designate all those stakeholders who are neither government bodies nor private sector enterprises: groups such as nongovernmental organizations, advocacy groups, faith-based organizations, networks of people living with the diseases, and so on.

Civil society organizations have been at the heart of everything the Global Fund does from the very beginning. Indeed, it was the grass-roots efforts of thousands of civil society groups around the world advocating for increased resources for the response to HIV and AIDS that led to the creation of the Global Fund in 2002.

Since that time, civil society has played an active role at every level of Global Fund operations, from policy development to implementation.



MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF THE TRANS COMMUNITY IN THE CCM

Global Fund grants are applied for and overseen at the country-level by CCMs, which are a multi-sectoral committee comprised of members of the private and public sector, including government, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, academic institutions, private businesses, and people living with the diseases (PLWD). CCMs may include representatives of key populations including trans community representatives.

The Core Functions are to:

- ◇ Coordinate the development and submission of national request for funding (funding request).
- ◇ Nominate the principal recipient.
- ◇ Oversee the implementation of the approved grant.
- ◇ Approve any reprogramming requests.
- ◇ Ensure linkages and consistency between Global Fund grants and other national health and development programs.

MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

For the purposes of Global Fund decision-making, meaningful involvement is a process of providing valuable and relevant input into processes, being recognized for this contribution, for the input to be judged on its merits, and included in the output as appropriate. If meaningful involvement is seen in this linear way, then it can be measured throughout the grant cycle. Meaningful involvement is about much more than community groups being invited to or included in a meeting. It has very specific characteristics. Examples of these for a national forum or process related to HIV, such as a CCM, are outlined in the checklist below.

Checklist for Good Practice for Meaningful involvement of the community sector:

- ✓ Can the community sector participate legally in the forum/process?
- ✓ Can the community sector participate safely in the forum/process (for example, without fear of arrest or violence)?
- ✓ Can the community sector select its own representatives for the forum/process?
- ✓ Does the community sector have enough representatives?
- ✓ Is the community sector respected and listened to within the forum/process?
- ✓ Can the community sector influence decision-making in the forum/process?
- ✓ Can the community sector play a leadership role in the forum/process?
- ✓ Can the community sector access necessary support, such as induction, information, funding and training to participate fully in the forum/process?
- ✓ Can the community sector maintain its independence and perform a watchdog role in the forum/process?
- ✓ Are there structures or mechanisms in place within civil society to coordinate and monitor the forum/process?



The CCM must ensure that the CCM membership meets the requirements, which means the membership should specifically include:

- ◇ Key populations as a CCM requirement, considering the socio-epidemiological context.
- ◇ Increasing representation of persons that are both living with and representing people living with HIV on CCMs.
- ◇ Linking the need for representatives for tuberculosis and malaria in contexts where those diseases are a public health issue, regardless of whether Global Fund funding has been requested or not.

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