

## An Overview

### Technical Assistance Program on Community, Rights and Gender

The Global Fund believes that a successful response to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria rests on the meaningful engagement of all actors, including civil society and particularly key populations. At the same time, it recognizes that communities often lack access to the knowledge and information necessary to play an active role in Global Fund processes. Moreover the impact of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programs is often limited because they pay insufficient attention to barriers related to human rights, gender and other inequalities and exclusions.

In order to ensure that all those who are affected by the three diseases play a meaningful role in Global Fund processes, and that these barriers are effectively addressed in grants, the Global Fund Board has approved a strategic initiative to provide technical assistance to communities and civil society.

#### **Who can access the Community, Rights and Gender Technical Assistance Program?**

The following types of organizations are eligible to receive support under the CRG technical assistance program:

1. Civil society networks and organizations
2. Key Population networks and organizations, including youth-led networks
3. Women's networks and organizations
4. Networks or organizations of people living with/or affected by the diseases (PLHIV, TB and/or malaria)
5. Applications from Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) will be considered if developed and submitted in collaboration with one of the above groups.

Applicants should be domestic organizations.

Because CRG technical assistance is designed to influence national strategies and decision making, priority will be given to national level requests; for instance from representative national organizations or from groups or consortia of local organizations or networks.

#### **Does the CRG technical assistance program cover all three diseases (HIV, TB and malaria)?**

CRG technical assistance is available for HIV, TB and malaria related work. CRG technical assistance can also be provided to support community engagement and the inclusion of CRG issues in cross-cutting Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) funding requests.

#### **What Global Fund stages/processes can CRG technical assistance support?**

CRG technical assistance is made available to foster meaningful community engagement in Global Fund related processes. It can be accessed throughout the whole grant life cycle Technical

assistance is also available for sustainability and transition planning and in-country processes linked to the Global Fund model of work (e.g. National Strategic Plan development (NSP)). .

## **What type of CRG technical assistance can be requested?**

Five main areas of technical assistance are covered by the CRG technical assistance program:

### *1. Situational analysis and needs assessments*

This area of work aims to ensure that civil society, key populations and communities more broadly have access to the evidence they need to ensure that Global Fund funding requests adequately reflect and respond to issues associated with community, rights and gender, and that they include an appropriate focus on responding to the needs of key and vulnerable populations. Examples of this work include:

- The assessment of gender issues and harmful gender and other social norms that affect vulnerability to the diseases and access to services in the country.
- The assessment of current local legal environment.
- The assessment of community sector involvement in HIV, TB and malaria programs and of community systems strengthening needs.
- Community validation of key population size estimations.

### *2. Engagement in the country dialogue*

This area of work aims to ensure that civil society, key populations and communities have the opportunity to effectively and meaningfully engage in country dialogue processes and to advocate for the inclusion of community, rights and gender related and based responses. Examples of this work include:

- Supporting community caucusing.
- Strengthening knowledge on the Global Fund model of work.
- Training and mentoring for funding request writing representatives.
- Translation and consolidation of community sector inputs for submission to CCMs and writing teams.
- Training on effective programming, advocacy and legal literacy for the purpose of funding request preparation.
- Facilitation of funding request review.

### *3. Supporting program design*

This work aims to support communities, organizations and networks in the following activities:

- Designing, planning and budgeting for programs or interventions for inclusion in the funding request, with a particular focus on community, human rights, gender and key populations programming.

### *4. Supporting oversight and monitoring of grant implementation and re-programming*

CRG technical assistance can be provided for the following activities:

- Training and empowerment of communities, organizations and networks on community monitoring and oversight of Global Fund processes.
- Support for communities, organizations and networks to engage in program review process during re-programming.

### *5. Engagement in sustainability and transition strategies:*

CRG technical assistance can be provided for the following activities:

- Development of strategies for community involvement in processes of transitioning out of Global Fund support;
- Provision of technical assistance to communities, organizations and networks on issues related to readiness assessment, social contracting and social dialogue.

### **Who provides the CRG technical assistance?**

A number of civil society and key population networks and organizations have been pre-qualified as CRG technical assistance providers. These organizations were selected through an open tender process and subject to lengthy capacity assessment processes to ensure that expertise in community, rights and gender and on the three diseases was covered. CRG technical assistance providers will continue to receive support and up to date information on the Global Fund model of work and other areas of interest and relevance to the support they will be providing.

### **How can CRG technical assistance be accessed?**

A CRG technical assistance request form should be filled in and submitted by the organization(s) requesting the support to [CRGTA@theglobalfund.org](mailto:CRGTA@theglobalfund.org).

Requests will first be assessed for eligibility by the Global Fund Secretariat and if eligible, will then be prioritized using a range of criteria including:

1. Applicants have explored and exhausted all other avenues for accessing technical assistance.
2. Different relevant processes timelines throughout the grant life-cycle

### **If the request is approved, how long will it take before technical assistance can commence?**

The time it takes for an approved request to be processed will vary depending on the complexity of the work and the availability of CRG technical assistance providers.

The Global Fund will keep close contact with requestors and technical assistance providers in order to keep them informed about the progress of the request, and will also endeavour to expedite requests that are particularly time sensitive (for instance those with approaching funding request submission deadlines).

### **How will CRG technical assistance requests be coordinated?**

Requests for technical assistance will be managed and coordinated by the Community, Rights, Gender department at the Global Fund Secretariat, with ongoing liaison with relevant partners and country teams.

### **What quality assurance mechanisms are in place?**

All technical assistance providers will be required to provide a detailed workplan and budget for each project, as well as a projected timeline. Once the assignment is finished, an evaluation of the technical assistance will be completed by both the requestors and the providers and lessons learned will be shared with partners.