

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 special 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
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 health systems strengthening (HSS) concept notes.

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

Can it be used for grant implementation?

CRG technical assistance focuses on stages/processes up to concept note approval. Requests for technical assistance for grant implementation cannot be considered.

What type of CRG technical assistance can be requested?

Three 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 concept notes 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 populations. Examples of this work include:

- The translation of essential Global Fund documents into local languages.
- 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:

- Caucusing.
- Strengthening knowledge on the Global Fund new funding model.
- Training and mentoring for concept note 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 concept note preparation.
- Facilitation of concept note review.

3. Supporting program design

CRG technical assistance can be provided to support communities, organizations and networks to design, plan, and budget for programs or interventions for inclusion in concept notes, with a particular focus on community, human rights, gender and key population programming. Requests that include work outside of these three areas will be considered on a case by case basis.

Who will provide 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's new funding model and other areas of interest and relevance to this work.

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.

Requests will first be assessed for eligibility by the CRG department and if eligible, requests will then be prioritized using a range of criteria including:

1. Applicants have explored and exhausted all other avenues for accessing technical assistance.
2. Country dialogue and concept note development process timelines.

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. Roughly estimated it could take:

1. 15 to 30 days for a straightforward request which requires technical assistance but no other activities (e.g. analysis based on desk review)
2. 25 to 40 days for a more complex assignment but which includes only one major work stream (e.g. convening and facilitating key population consultations for concept note development)
3. 25 to 50 days for a complex set of activities including different work streams (e.g. several consultation meetings in addition to a situational analysis)

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 Concept Note 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, which will include 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 provider's work will be completed and lessons learned will be shared with partners.