

## 2-DAY WORKSHOP

### **“Transition from the Global Fund support of TB program to national funding: understanding the role, opportunities and priorities for civil society in Romania”**

13 - 14 June 2019  
Bucharest, Romania

#### **Background**

In recent years, there has been a notable decrease in availability of funds from international and bilateral donors, including the Global Fund, to support HIV and TB responses in middle income countries (MICs) across Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA). There is a widespread concern about how to ensure the successful transition from the Global Fund and other donor support to reliance on national funding in these countries. The sustainability of programs in post-Global Fund settings, especially those targeted at key populations and delivered by civil society actors, is of particular concern, as well as the continuation of opportunities for civil society actors to participate in health governance platforms. As a result, it is very important that the relevant transition planning processes start in the country as early as possible, so that stakeholders can become prepared in advance. The meaningful involvement and input of representatives of key populations into these processes and plans should be ensured from the beginning but be maintained at all stages of transition.

Based on the Global Fund Board’s decision in November 2016 on the allocation of resources for the 2017-2019 allocation period, Romania has been allocated € 4,052,972 for tuberculosis and building resilient and sustainable systems for health. The implementation of this new TB grant in Romania started in March 2019 and is planned to finish its implementation in March 2021. This grant is being considered as the last TB grant for the country to support the transition processes. Although the new Global Fund 2019 Eligibility List<sup>1</sup> does mention Romania as being eligible for TB funding again, yet, the eligibility does not guarantee an allocation, and it is not clear if Romania is allocated any further funding to support the TB response in 2020 – 2022.

Although Romania is ineligible to receive the Global Fund funding for HIV response since 2010 when its last Global Fund HIV grant came to an end, the current “transition grant”, as well as all previous TB grants to Romania, includes a significant component on HIV prevention among key affected populations (KPs). Therefore, civil society mobilization for joint advocacy to ensure the domestic funding of HIV prevention activities among KPs is essential.

At the same time, according to the Global Fund’s Eligibility List 2019 Romania may be eligible for an allocation for HIV/AIDS for non-governmental or civil society organizations if the country demonstrates the barriers to providing funding for interventions for key populations, as supported by the country’s epidemiology. The Global Fund Secretariat will assess whether the criteria have been met at the time of determining allocations for the 2020-2022 allocation period. The decision on the countries’ allocations within the next 2020-2022 allocation period will be made by the Global Fund Board in November 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8340/core\\_eligiblecountries2019\\_list\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8340/core_eligiblecountries2019_list_en.pdf)

Taking this context into account, the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), host of the EECA Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination<sup>2</sup>, is planning to organize a workshop for civil society and community representatives in Romania. The workshop aims to help improve the understanding of local civil society representatives involved in the country's TB response, with a specific focus on the Global Fund transition-related processes currently taking place in country. The workshop aims to stimulate ideas, plans and opportunities for civil society's engagement in transition process going forward, towards a sustainable TB and HIV / AIDS response in Romania.

### **Objectives of the workshop**

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To update the civil society representatives involved into the Global Fund related processes in Romania on the sustainability and transition related processes taking place globally and in the country in particular;
- To discuss and identify the possible risks of a major concern for the civil society for the sustainability of TB and HIV services in Romania within the transition from the Global Fund support to national funding;
- To discuss the possible measures and plan some exact steps needed to be taken by the civil society and community representatives in Romania to ensure the sustainability of services for KPs within the period of the implementation of the new Transition Grant;
- To discuss, based on the CCM retreat and decision, the role of the civil society in the CCM transition plan;
- To help civil society to learn from the relevant transition and sustainability related experiences and good practices from neighboring countries;
- To help civil society and community representatives to identify technical assistance needs with regard to the relevant Global Fund related national processes taking place in the country and help them to develop content of request(s) for technical assistance (TA) available through the Global Fund's CRG TA Program.<sup>3</sup>

*Note: Flexibility and sensitivity to country processes will be a principle of this workshop. As such, some of the objectives may be revised and adjusted within the process of development of the workshop agenda.*

### **Workshop Convener**

The Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination for the EECA Region, hosted by Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), in partnership with the Global Fund Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Romanian CCM and the Ministry of Health of Romania as the PR of the current Global Fund's "transition" grant (TBC).

### **Experts to facilitate the event**

- A national level expert with a good understanding of the transition-related processes ongoing in the country, preferably having first-hand experience, will be identified to facilitate the workshop.
- A regional level expert would be involved as a co-facilitator of the event.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eecaplatform.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/technical-cooperation/community-rights-gender-technical-assistance-program/>

Both experts will be selected through an open call process to develop the content of the workshop and help with the organization and facilitation of the event.

### **Language**

English with simultaneous translation into Romanian

### **Participants**

The workshop will host up to 25 participants which will be selected by the Regional Platform in consultation with the Global Fund Secretariat and key national partners.

Participants will include:

- Civil society and community representatives – country coordinating mechanism (CCM) members\alternates and members of the relevant CCM Committees and working groups;
- Representatives (directors, project managers or advocacy specialists) of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in the implementation of the new as well as just recently ended Global Fund TB grant in Romania;
- Representatives of the NGOs providing HIV services for KPs;
- Experts from other different sectors involved in transition related processes taking place in Romania;
- Representative(s) of the Global Fund Secretariat;
- Expert(s) from neighboring countries to share their transition related experiences and lessons learnt from them as well as the best practices in those areas of a most interest for Romanian civil society involved in TB/HIV responses (social contracting, communities systems strengthening, etc.).

### **Specific topics to be discussed within the workshop**

- Contextualizing transition from the Global Fund support of HIV\TB responses to national funding in MICs – an overview of the Global Fund’s Sustainability, Transition and Co-financing (STC) policy and the transition processes taking place globally and in EECA region in particularly with some examples and lessons learnt from other transitioning EECA countries;
- Global Fund’s financial support of TB (and to some extent – HIV) response within the 2017–2019 funding cycle for Romania – overview of the achieved results and major risks for their sustainability;
- New Global Fund Transition Grant – overview of its content and how it should ensure the sustainability of TB and HIV services in Romania within the transition. What is missed in the opinion of the civil society representatives and how the risk mitigation measures could be strengthened (discussion);
- Overview of the situation with CCM sustainability – update on the results of the CCM Evolution pilot project in Romania, key findings, recommendations and discussion of the baseline assessment and linkages assignment results and the next steps;
- How to ensure a meaningful participation of civil society representatives in CCM committees and activities, particularly those linked to the oversight of the Transition grant (including engagement in the TB Law Secondary Legislation process);

- Learning from the useful experiences of the neighboring countries (as options - social contracting in public health – Croatia; example of strong civil society involvement into the HIV\TB related governance processes - civil society platform within the CCM in Moldova; working with the government to ensure the sustainability of funding for HR services in Czech Republic);
- EU funding within the EU: overview of funding streams for health and social issues: what's out there? Understanding EU structural funding and how it could be used to support activities in health and social sectors (to involve TB Europe Coalition for that session and/or an expert on EU structural funding);
- Update the civil society representatives on the situation with the Romanian eligibility for the HIV funding within the next allocation period and discuss the possible advocacy measures needed to be taken to try to ensure the allocation of funding (optional);
- Action planning for the exact steps for civil society representatives to ensure the sustainability of TB and HIV responses within the transition and for strengthening their role in the transition related processes (including planning the content of the potential requests for Technical Assistance within the Global Fund's CRG TA Program).