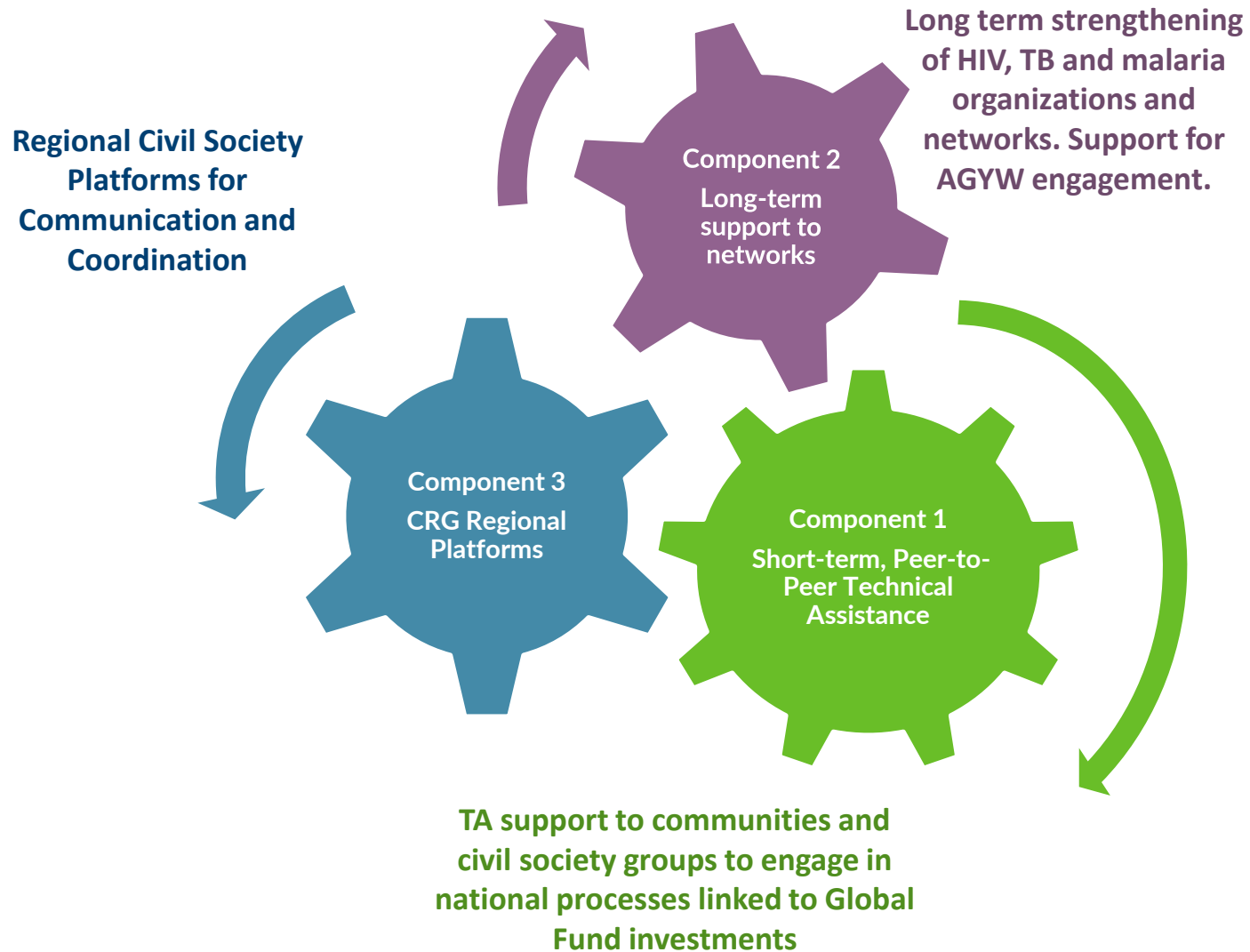


The Community, Rights and Gender Strategic initiative (CRG SI) – Technical Assistance

Annabelle Metzner | 06 April 2022

Three mutually reinforcing components for engaging communities in Global Fund-related processes



Operational Model



1. TA

Sub-objective 1: To provide **short-term peer-to-peer technical assistance** on human rights, gender, community responses, community systems strengthening and other related areas to strengthen the engagement of civil society and communities across the grant cycle and priorities in Global Fund-related processes



2. KVP Networks

Sub-objective 1: Amplify the **participation and voice** of key and vulnerable population communities in policy and decision-making fora and in governance and stewardship of the response to the three diseases

Sub-objective 2: To strengthen the **influence** of populations most vulnerable to and affected by HIV/TB/malaria on the design and implementation of national strategies and costed plans, so that they adequately reflect and respond to realities and needs associated with human rights, gender, community responses and community systems strengthening

Sub-objective 3: To empower populations most vulnerable to and affected by HIV/TB/malaria to **generate and use data** to monitor program coverage and quality and national commitments to end the three epidemics and to utilize the evidence generated for advocacy and programmatic action



3. CRG Regional Platforms

Sub-objective 1: To **enhance community knowledge** of the Global Fund and its processes, through the regular bi-directional sharing of tailored and targeted information to a diverse audience

Sub-objective 2: To **strengthen the capacity and coordination of communities to engage** in national and regional Global Fund grants and related processes

Sub-objective 3: To **improve community access to technical assistance** through information-sharing, linkage to appropriate providers, support developing requests, and strengthening TA provider capacity and coordination



Watch the video here:

<https://youtu.be/WOK2kPzjA3A>

Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative - Technical Assistance

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Technical Assistance on Community, Rights and Gender

General overview and guidelines for application

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is committed to supporting the meaningful engagement of civil society and communities, in particular key and vulnerable populations, in Global Fund-related processes throughout the funding cycle. Inclusive and meaningful engagement of those most affected by the three diseases is crucial to ensuring that Global Fund investments are evidence- and rights-based, and gender and age responsive, in order to maximize impact of Global Fund grants and strengthen local accountability.

In order to ensure that civil society and communities meaningfully engage in Global Fund-related processes, the Global Fund Board has approved the Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG SI) for implementation from January 2021 to December 2023. These guidelines outline the technical assistance available as part of the CRG SI.

Who can apply for CRG technical assistance?

The following stakeholders from countries eligible for Global Fund funding as well as from countries included in regional grants can apply for CRG technical assistance:

1. Key population networks and organizations
2. Youth-led networks and organizations
3. Women's networks and organizations
4. Networks or organizations of people living with HIV or affected by tuberculosis or malaria
5. Civil society networks and organizations led by or working with other affected communities (e.g. migrants, refugees, miners)

Applications from Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) and Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCMs) will be considered only if they are developed and submitted in collaboration with one of the above stakeholders. Priority will be given to requests from groups, organizations or consortia residing in the country where technical assistance will be deployed.

What type of CRG technical assistance can be requested?

Technical assistance can be requested throughout the Global Fund funding cycle and in relation to HIV, tuberculosis, malaria as well as resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH). Furthermore, support can be requested for sustainability and transition planning and in-country processes linked to the Global Fund model of work (e.g. National Strategic Plan review and development). Within this broader framework, CRG technical assistance requests should be

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Who provides CRG technical assistance?

- 26 civil society and key population networks and organizations (13 from the CRG SI 2017-2019 and 13 new providers) selected through an open and competitive tender process
- Strong track-record in human rights, gender, community responses and CSS
- NEW: focus on harm reduction, additional providers from Francophone Africa
- Wherever possible, mobilization of experts from the country or region of assignment to ensure peer-to-peer character of TA

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What type of CRG technical assistance can be requested?

A) Situational analysis and needs assessment

- CRG-related assessments to generate strategic information for better decision-making
- Program reviews to ensure community perspectives inform service delivery improvements

B) Engagement in country dialogue processes

- Community consultation to inform priorities for national policies, guidelines, plans and programs
- Coordinating input into key Global Fund-related processes (e.g. NSP or funding request)
- Engagement planning to strengthen participation of communities in Global Fund processes
- Caucusing and collective strategizing for coordinated community-led advocacy

C) Supporting design and implementation arrangements

- Mapping of civil society and community organizations and activities to strengthen community systems
- Refining or validating tools that support community engagement in Global Fund-related processes
- Workshop(s) to strengthen knowledge of civil society and communities on the Global Fund

CRG Technical Assistance does **NOT** support:

CCM strengthening (e.g. training of CCM members in their roles and responsibilities); Long-term capacity development of civil society networks and organizations (e.g. organizational development, support to become a Global Fund recipient); Development of stand-alone tools that lack a focus on community engagement; Funding request writing.

Component 1: Menu of Common TA Assignments



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1) Situational analysis and needs assessments

- **CRG-related assessments to generate strategic information for better decision-making**

Example Assignment: A youth organization received technical assistance to conduct a HIV gender assessment specific to adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), after their CCM representative told them that the Global Fund Principal Recipients (PRs) were failing to meet their targets on HIV prevention among AGYW. The assessment generated critical insights into the gender- and age-related barriers AGYW were facing, including cultural perceptions of HIV and gender norms that increased stigma and young women's vulnerability. The youth organization and their CCM representative were supported to use the assessment results to advocate for Global Fund grant reprogramming towards gender- and culture-transformative approaches in order to improve uptake of services by AGYW.

- **Program reviews to ensure community perspectives inform service delivery improvements**

Example Assignment: Following an audit by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), there was an agreed management action for the Global Fund Secretariat to work with the Ministry of Health and civil society partners to develop an updated Operational Plan, with measures to improve effectiveness of the next long-lasting insecticide net (LLIN) mass campaign distribution through increasing the LLIN utilization rate. Civil society organizations working on malaria were supported to do interviews with program beneficiaries in the villages to understand their barriers to net use and make recommendations for the next campaign.



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2) Engagement in country dialogue processes

- **Community consultations to inform priorities for inclusion in national policies, guidelines, plans and programs**

Example Assignment: The National network of people living with HIV received technical assistance to develop a consultative framework and convene consultative meetings with its members as part of the mid-term review of the National HIV Strategic Plan. They were supported to identify issues and gaps with implementation to date, in order to inform the review process. They were also supported to develop a 'Priorities Charter' containing the interventions and activities they wanted to see included in the next National Strategic Plan and Global Fund funding request.

- **Coordinating input into key Global Fund-related documents**

Example Assignment: During development of the HIV funding request, a national network of sex workers received support to conduct a meeting with female, male and transgender sex workers to review the draft HIV funding request. This activity is sometimes called "Mock TRP". The facilitator consolidated the sex workers' proposed changes to the funding request in a brief report. The report was used by the network to brief the key populations representatives in the Country Coordinating Mechanism as well as the funding request writing team on how to advocate for activities more relevant to sex workers' needs.

- **Engagement planning to strengthen participation of communities in Global Fund processes**

Example Assignment: Comments from the Global Fund's Technical Review Panel (TRP) flagged a critical gap in the lack of a finalized community engagement strategy for transgender people, with no road map for grant implementation. As part of the TRP responses, technical assistance was provided to a joint request of local transgender organizations to develop an outline of how community members can be capacitated to take on important functions that support programming including a number of community-led service delivery interventions.

- **Caucusing and collective strategizing for coordinated community-led advocacy**

Example Assignment: A network of TB activists was supported to hold a social dialogue on the sustainability of TB services, after the country's transition readiness assessment highlighted limited domestic funding for community-based TB screening activities. Members of the Country Coordinating Mechanisms who represent TB communities were invited. The aim was to develop a shared vision among civil society groups on how the Global Fund transition is developing in their country, what the challenges and opportunities are. The dialogue resulted in an 'Advocacy Agenda' outlining concrete budget advocacy and budget monitoring activities



Component 1: Menu of Common TA Assignments



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3) Supporting design and implementation arrangements

- **Mapping of civil society and community organizations and activities to strengthen community systems**

Example Assignment: As part of the country's transition grant, a social contracting mechanism was being set up by the Government to ensure they could continue funding HIV and TB services through civil society and community organizations using public funds, once the country is no longer eligible for Global Fund grants. A national umbrella civil society organization received technical assistance to conduct a mapping of all the civil society and community organizations in the country. They were supported to create a database and directory of all the organizations, the populations they serve, and the types of health services they provide. The mapping will be used by the civil society network to circulate calls for proposals from the Government's new financing mechanism.

- **Refining or validating tools that support community engagement in Global Fund-related processes**

Example Assignment: Technical assistance was provided to a regional migrant association to adapt an existing community-led monitoring scorecard for HIV, to make it suitable for TB and malaria as well. The association planned to use the updated scorecard tool to monitor the accessibility of TB and malaria medicines for internally displaced people and refugees who receive services through a multi-country Global Fund grant.

- **Workshop to strengthen knowledge of civil society and community groups on the Global Fund**

Example Assignment: After many years of being ineligible for Global Fund funding, the country became eligible for a malaria allocation again due to a spike in its epidemic. While there were many civil society and community organizations in the country working on malaria, they were not familiar with the Global Fund and its processes. Technical support was provided to a national civil society organization to hold a workshop for other organizations working on malaria at community-level, to build their knowledge on the Global Fund so they could engage in the funding request development and in the implementation of the forthcoming malaria grant.



Component 1: Guidelines for Application



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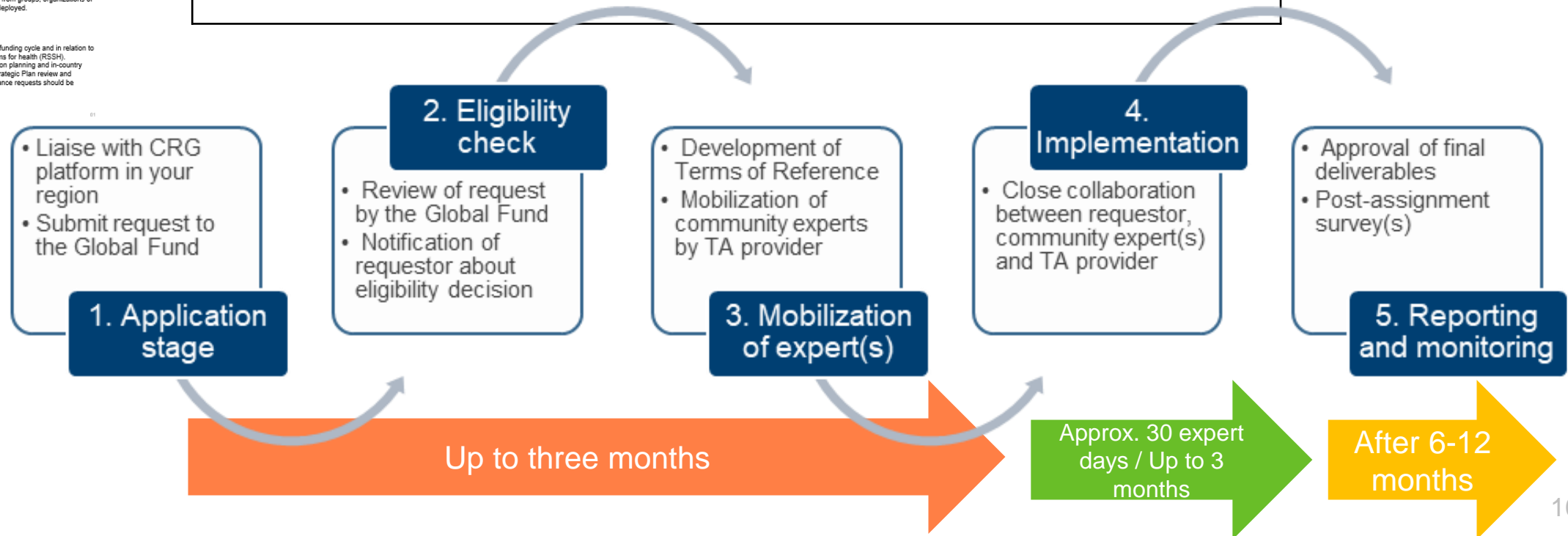
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How to apply for CRG technical assistance?

Criteria considered by the Global Fund during the **eligibility check**:

- Eligibility of requesting organization;
- Involvement of the CRG Regional Platform in developing the request;
- Link to Global Fund-related processes;
- Clearly articulated anticipated outcome;
- Opportunity for strengthening engagement of civil society and communities;
- Strategic fit with one of three CRG SI areas for technical assistance;
- Appropriate partnerships with civil society and communities;
- Language requirements for the assignment.





Link to 'Community engagement' page
<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/throughout-the-cycle/community-engagement/>



Animated video on the CRG SI (EN with subtitles in ES/FR):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJdK3qOVJuY&t=2s>

Technical assistance

— How to apply

CRG Technical Assistance Guidance Note

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CRG Technical Assistance Request Form

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Example: High-quality TA Request

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CRG Technical Assistance Provider List

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KVP networks and organizations

— How to contact organizations and networks

Contact Details

download in [English](#)

CRG regional platforms

— How to contact CRG regional platforms

Contact Details

download in [English](#)



Animated video on how to apply for TA (EN with subtitles in ES/FR):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOK2kPzjA3A&t=22s>

Component 1: TA support in the context of the war in Ukraine

- Civil society and communities from **Ukraine** as well as from **neighboring countries receiving Global Fund funding** (e.g. Belarus, Moldova, Romania) can request short-term TA.
- Short-term TA can be provided **virtually, hybrid or face-to-face**. In the COE context of Ukraine, virtual TA provision modalities are encouraged.
- The standard process for TA is followed with **urgent requests being prioritized** for review.
- Alignment of TA with **support under GF country grants, UNAIDS TSM, other donors** is highly recommended. Existing coordination mechanisms should be prioritized for such alignment.

TA tracks that could be of particular relevance:

- Rapid assessments (e.g. of newly-emerged human rights barriers, of HIV/TB service needs among refugees and internally displaced people, of barriers experienced by KPs in accessing essential HIV/TB services, of impact of sanctions on HIV and TB services)
- Rapid mapping (e.g. of CSOs continuing to deliver HIV/TB services for KPs, of CSO partners in refugee receiving countries)

Contact: crgta@theglobalfund.org