The Global Fund

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

focused on human rights, gender, community responses, community systems strengthening and related areas.

The short-term nature of technical assistance foresees that community experts can be deployed for approximately 30 days over a period of up to three months.

CRG technical assistance is available in three main areas of work:

(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.

(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

(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.

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.

Who provides the CRG technical assistance?

Twenty-six (26) civil society and key population networks and organizations have been pre-qualified as CRG technical assistance providers for the 2021-2023 implementation period. These organizations were selected through an open and competitive tender process, to ensure providers have a strong track record and relevant expertise in relation to human rights, gender, community responses and community systems strengthening. Technical assistance providers will be selected in line with the specific requirements of each technical assistance request. Each provider is responsible for contracting qualified community experts and ensuring the highest quality of final deliverables.

How to apply for CRG technical assistance?

The first step of the **application** process is to fill in the CRG technical assistance request form. The form includes information about the requesting organization, the anticipated outcome and scope of work of the technical assistance. Applicants must contact the CRG Regional Platform in their region for assistance in shaping the request prior to submission to the Global Fund. Here you can find an example of a high-quality request.

The fully populated request form needs to be submitted to crgta@theglobalfund.org.

Requests will be assessed for eligibility by the Global Fund Secretariat. This assessment involves the CRG Department and Global Fund County Teams. The following criteria will be considered during the **eligibility check**:

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

Please note that the review of requests may take <u>several</u> weeks. Requesting organizations will be informed by email about the eligibility decision.
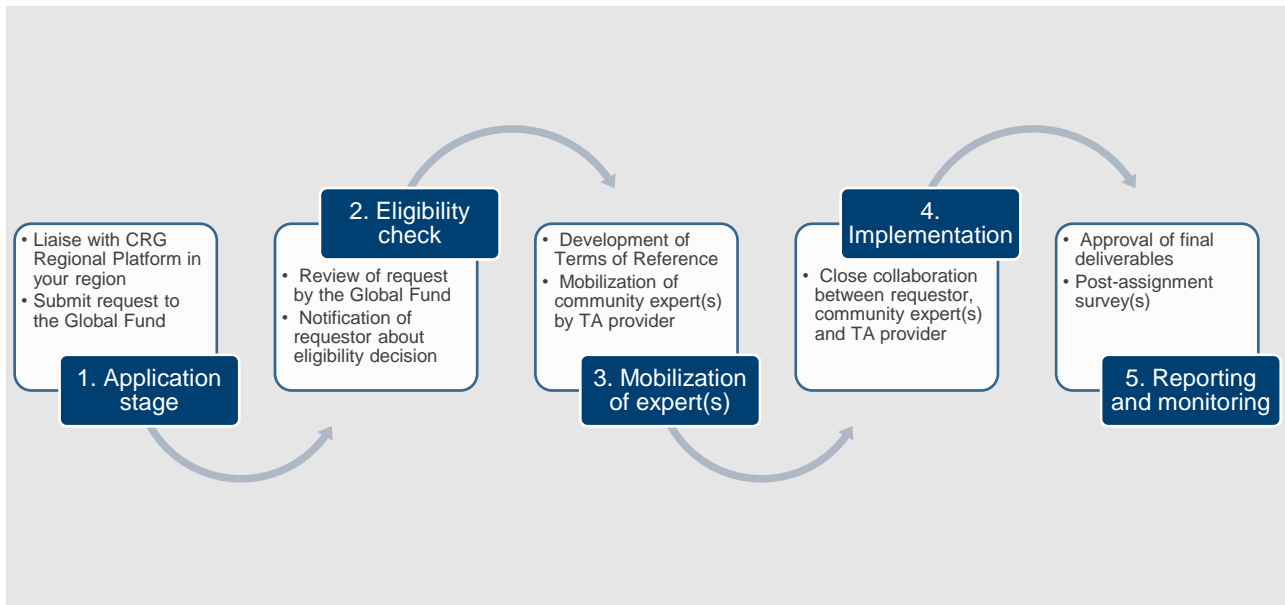
Figure 1: Overview of the technical assistance process.

Once a request has been approved, detailed terms of reference and a budget will be developed. This process may not only involve the requestor and the Global Fund but also the technical assistance provider or technical partners. In parallel, the Global Fund identifies a suitable technical assistance provider which is tasked with **mobilizing community experts**. The peer-to peer nature of technical assistance means that, wherever possible, community experts from the country or region of the assignment are engaged in a lead or supporting role.

The time it takes for an eligible request to proceed to implementation depends on the complexity of the work and the availability of CRG technical assistance providers and can take up to three months. The roles and responsibilities of the requestor, technical assistance provider and the Global Fund during **implementation** of technical assistance are outlined in more detail in the terms of reference. Upon completion of the assignment, the Global Fund reviews and approves the final deliverables.

The requesting organization plays an important role in **monitoring and evaluation** of CRG SI assignments. After completion of each assignment, the Global Fund requires requestors to complete a brief survey. Around 6-12 months after completion of the assignment, recipients of technical assistance are further required to complete a second brief survey to assess to what extent key deliverables of the assignment have been used by civil society and communities to apply influence.

Contact

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