

## 2-DAY WORKSHOP

**“Transition from Global Fund support of HIV/TB programs to national funding: understanding the role, opportunities and priorities for civil society in Albania”.**

03 - 04 July 2019  
Tirana, Albania

### 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 widespread concern about how to ensure the successful transition from Global Fund and other donor support to reliance on national funding in these countries. The sustainability of programs in a post-Global Fund setting, especially those targeted at key populations and delivered by civil society actors, is of particular concern. As a result, it is very important that the relevant transition planning processes start in 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.

Albania became ineligible for HIV and TB grants from the Global Fund in the 2014-2016 allocation period, and is receiving three-year transition funding in the 2017-2019 funding cycle. The country’s application for this transition grant is expected to be submitted to the Global fund by the end of April 2019. Importantly, Albania’s transition funding is expected to be a significantly lower level of investment—about one third the value of current Global Fund grants.

As the implementation of the current Global Fund HIV and TB grants is ending in December 2019, the national government needs to show how they are planning to ensure programmatic and financial sustainability of services that are currently being provided.

According to the estimated annual needs to sustain HIV and TB responses prior to submitting the transition grant request<sup>1</sup>, Albania’s needs approximately US \$3 million to address its epidemics effectively. This would indicate that US \$9 million is required over the three-year period of the transition grant. With an allocation of just under US \$6 million within the current HIV and TB grants, roughly 60% of the funding need is currently being met. Without significant increases in domestic funding, the funding gap is expected to grow in the coming years. Community advocacy is critical to ensure sustainability of the response.

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 Albania. The workshop aims to help improve the understanding of local civil society representatives involved in the country’s HIV and TB responses, with a specific focus on the Global Fund transition-related processes currently taking place in country. The workshop aims to

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<sup>1</sup> Draft report “Transition Readiness Assessment: Tuberculosis & HIV Supported Programs in Albania”, March 2019.

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

stimulate ideas, plans and opportunities for civil society's engagement in transition process going forward, towards a sustainable HIV and TB response in Albania.

### **Objectives of the workshop**

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To improve the understanding among the workshop participants of the transition-related processes taking place in Albania and the possible consequence of these processes for the sustainability of the HIV and TB response overall, and comprehensive services for key populations in particular;
- To identify and agree on the joint advocacy measures required to be taken by the civil society and community representatives in Albania to ensure the sustainability of services of for KAPs within the period of the implementation of the new transition grant to begin in 2020;
- To help civil society and community representatives to identify technical assistance (TA) needs related to transition processes and help them to develop content of requests for TA available through the Global Fund's Community, Rights and Gender TA Program<sup>3</sup> and other Global Fund-related TA providers<sup>4</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 Albanian CCM (TBC) and the MoHSP as the PR of the Global Fund HIV/TB grant (TBC).

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

A national level expert with a good understanding of the transition-related processes ongoing in 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. 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 Albanian

### **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:

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

<sup>4</sup> [https://eecaplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/hivtb\\_technical\\_support\\_en.pdf](https://eecaplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/hivtb_technical_support_en.pdf)

- Civil society and community representatives – country coordinating mechanism (CCM) members\alternates and members of the relevant CCM working groups;
- Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in the implementation of Global Fund HIV and TB grants in Albania
  - Leading role within their organizations: director, key populations project manager or advocacy specialist;
  - Preferably – representatives of communities of mostly affected by HIV and TB populations in Albania;
  - Experienced in advocacy (at least basic level) and committed for engaging in relevant national transition related processes.
- Experts from other different sectors involved in transition related processes taking place in Albania;
- Representative(s) of the Global Fund Secretariat
- Expert(s) from neighboring counties 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 Albanian civil society involved in HIV\TB responses (social contracting, involvement into the development of the transition plan, etc.).

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

- Contextualizing transition from 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 in various regions around the world;
- Sharing of experiences and lessons learned from Global Fund transitions in other countries in the EECA region and Balkan sub-region in particular (Romania, Serbia, Macedonia);
- Global Fund’s financial support of HIV and TB responses in the 2017–2019 funding cycle for Albania – overview of the achieved results and major risks for the sustainability of those components of a major priority for key affected populations in Albania;
- Transition related processes taking place in Albania – overview of the ongoing processes, timeline, next steps;
- Overview of the results of the Transition Readiness Assessment and of the content of the recently submitted application for the Global Fund’s Transition Grant for Albania;
- Overview of proposed options for CCM sustainability – update on the results of the CCM Evolution Pilot in Albania, key findings, recommendations and discussion of the baseline assessment and linkages mission results;
- Discussion of the opportunities for the meaningful engagement of the civil society and community representatives into the relevant transition related processes (including the development of the new HIV and TB National Strategies) and the role of civil society within national responses in the context of transition;
- Examples of effective measures taken in other transitioning neighboring countries (introduction of the social contracting mechanism in health care in Montenegro or Kosovo, how it works with regard to support of NGO based HIV services and the role of NGOs and community representatives in these processes);
- Action planning for the exact steps to ensure the meaningful involvement of civil society and community representatives in the transition and other Global Fund related processes in Albania (including planning the content and drafting requests for Technical Assistance within the Global Fund’s CRG TA Program)