

## 2-DAY REGIONAL WORKING FORUM

### “Provision of Global Fund-related Technical Assistance for CSOs and communities in the EECA region – how to make it work better?”

14 - 15 November 2019  
Chisinau, Moldova

In November 2016, the Global Fund Board reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening of the voices of communities in Global Fund processes by approving a **\$15 million** Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative (2017-2019). The CRG SI has three mutually reinforcing components:

- **Component 1:** Short-term technical assistance program
- **Component 2:** Longer-term capacity development of key and vulnerable populations
- **Component 3:** Regional Platforms for Communication and Coordination

Through Component 1, the Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) Technical Assistance Program provides support to civil society and community organizations to meaningfully engage in the Global Fund model, including during country dialogue, funding request development, grant-making and grant implementation.

Under this program, national civil society and community organizations can apply for short-term technical assistance in a range of areas, such as:

- Situational analysis and planning
- Participation in country dialogue
- Program design
- Oversight and monitoring of grant implementation
- Engagement in sustainability and transition strategy development

Technical assistance is provided by nongovernmental organizations – including key population networks, universities and civil society organizations – that were selected through an open tender process for their demonstrated skills and capacities on community, rights and gender competencies.

As part of Component 3, the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) is currently hosting the EECA Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination.<sup>1</sup>

One of the key strategic objectives of the Regional Platform is to improve community access to technical assistance (TA) opportunities through greater coordination and harmonization among CRG SI short-term TA providers, other TA providers, and donors. To do this, the Platform works to ensure communities able to identify regional and national TA and capacity strengthening opportunities and conceptualize a TA request. It also aims to work with TA providers to be able to improve their response to better support identified TA and capacity strengthening needs and gaps

Towards this objective, the Platform is planning to organize a Regional Forum for exchange, to discuss and learn from the results of the implementation of the Global Fund

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eecaplatform.org/>

CRG TA Program in EECA region in 2018 – 2019. In this Forum, communities will have the opportunity to engage with TA providers, and to discuss the vision and formulate the position of civil society representatives of what Global Fund-related TA is needed for them and how the effective mechanism of provision of such TA should look like going forward.

**Objectives of the meeting:**

1. To learn from the experiences of the Global Fund CRG TA providers and recipients of such TA in EECA.
2. To understand the challenges and barriers that CSOs and communities faced while requesting/receiving/providing the TA and to discuss how this TA mechanism could be improved in the future.
3. To get a better understanding of the other Global Fund-related TA opportunities that are available in the EECA region for civil society and communities.
4. To develop a position of the civil society participants on what Global Fund-related TA support they need, and how they want the mechanism for delivering this TA to be structured.

*Note: Some of the objectives may be revised and adjusted during the process of planning the meeting agenda.*

**Workshop Convener**

The Regional Platform for Communication and Coordination for the EECA Region, hosted by Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA). This workshop is being convened as part of the Global Fund's Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative.

**Expert to facilitate the event**

One regional-level expert will be selected through an open call process to conduct the survey (see below section on preparation for the meeting), to develop the content of the meeting, to help with its organization, to facilitate the event and to develop the report summarizing its main results. The selected expert will have a good understanding of the context of CSOs involvement into the implementation of Global Fund TB/HIV grants in EECA region, of the EECA transition context and of the HIV/TB related TA support/mechanisms being available for civil society in the region.

**Language**

Russian \ English (simultaneous translation)

**Preparation for the meeting**

Before the learning and sharing forum, EHRA will conduct an online survey among the CSOs and communities involved in Global Fund-related processes in EECA countries to get a better understanding of:

- Global Fund related TA needs they may have
- Modalities of TA support they may be interested in
- To what extent such needs are being addressed within the existing mechanisms of TA provision being available in the region
- Their experience with the existing mechanisms of provision of such TA

- Their vision of how the work of such mechanisms should be improved
- Their experience of getting support and information from the CRG SI Regional Platform and ways to improve

The results of this survey will be presented and discussed at the learning and sharing forum. The results will also be made available to Global Fund-related TA providers in the region. Also, the result of the survey could be used to shape the meeting agenda.

## **Participants**

The event will host up to 25 participants. Participants will be selected by the Regional Platform, in consultation with the colleagues from the Global Fund CRG Team.

Participants will include:

- NGO representatives from EECA countries (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) that submitted requests for CRG TA support in 2018 – 2019;
- Representatives from the 26 prequalified CRG TA providers<sup>2</sup> that were involved into the provision of CRG TA in EECA region in 2018 – 2019, or which are located in the EECA region;
- Representatives of the Global Fund Secretariat, including the CRG Department;
- Representatives of the KAP regional networks involved in implementation of the activities within the second component of the CRG SI.
- Representatives of other key stakeholders funding/providing Global Fund related TA to CSOs in the EECA region (optional);
- Representatives of the Secretariat of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA).

## **Possible topics to be addressed within the event**

- To present and discuss on the future of the Global Fund CRG TA Program;
- To provide an overview of which organizations have requested CRG TA in EECA in 2018 – 2019, when this support was requested, who was involved in TA provision and what results were achieved
- To present and discuss the experience of the recipients of the TA with regard to their involvement into CRG TA Program;
- To present and discuss the experience of providers of TA with regard to their involvement into CRG TA Program;
- To present the overview of the other Global Fund-related TA opportunities available for civil society in EECA region;
- To present on the results of the survey conducted by EHRA in advance of the workshop;
- To brainstorm with the participants the draft content of the Civil Society Position on the Global Fund-related TA needed and optimal mechanism of the provision of such TA.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/5623/fundingmodel\\_crgtechnicalassistanceproviders\\_list\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/5623/fundingmodel_crgtechnicalassistanceproviders_list_en.pdf)

**Expected outcomes of the event:**

- Common vision of the participants on how to optimize the particular CRG TA mechanism to be more demanded/effective in the EECA region to be developed
- Colleagues from Global Fund CRG Department get a better understanding of why, what and how could be/should be improved in the CRG TA mechanism
- Civil society representatives formulate their common position on what kind of Global Fund related TA they may need and how the mechanism of such TA provision should work in most effective and efficient way. This position to be finalized by EHRA based on the results of the event and communicated to other donors supporting the provision of the GF related TA in the region.
- Civil society representatives get a better understanding of other HIV/TB related TA opportunities being available for them in EECA region.