



YOUNG KEY POPULATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE GLOBAL FUND 7TH GRANT CYCLE

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The “Young Key Population and Youths Engagement in the Global Fund 7th Grant Cycle” is an engagement tool for youth-led organizations and Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) across Asia-Pacific countries in supporting their process of submitting Global Fund funding requests.

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CONTENTS

Glossary of Terms	1
Background	3
Methodology	5
Grant Cycle 7 : Preparation	6
(I) Country Coordinating Mechanism	6
(II) Eligibility	8
(III) Allocation Letter	8
(IV) Submission Window	8
(V) Situational Analysis	10
Grant Cycle 7: Plan of Action	12
Step 1: Gather information about Grant Cycle	12
Step 2: Develop Engagement and Communication Plan	13
Step 3: Call for Dialogue and Consultation	14
Step 4: Participate in Funding Request Drafting Committee	16
Step 5: Review of Funding Request draft and Grant Making	17
Step 6: Monitoring, Evaluation (Oversight), and Advocacy	18
Grant Cycle 7: Support and Resources	19
Stage 1: Before Applying	19
Stage 2: Applying for Funding and grant-making	20
Stage 3: Grant implementation and oversight	24
ANNEX A	26
ANNEX B	27
ANNEX C	31
ANNEX D	32

Abbreviation	Terminology	Definition
ACT-A	ACT-Accelerator	ACT-A is a global collaboration of leading public health agencies working with governments, civil society and industry to accelerate the development and equitable distribution of tests, treatments and vaccines – and the strengthening of health systems – that the world needs to fight COVID-19.
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism	CCMs are mechanisms for public-private partnership in the coordination of national disease programs at the country level. CCM members represent the interests of country-level stakeholders in the fight against HIV, TB, and malaria.
CLM	Community-Led Monitoring	HIV community-led monitoring (CLM) is an accountability mechanism for HIV responses at different levels, led and implemented by local community-led organizations of people living with HIV, networks of key populations, other affected groups or other community entities.
FR	Funding Request	A transparent and inclusive consultation process with populations most impacted by HTM (across gender and age) during funding request development resulting in an “Annex of Funding Priorities of Civil Society and Communities Most Affected by HTM”.
HTM	HIV, Tuberculosis, Malaria	Acronyms of the 3 diseases used in Global Fund Strategy Framework 2023-2028.
KP; YKP	Key Population/ Young Key Population	Refers to populations who are socially marginalized, often criminalized and face a range of human rights abuses that increase their vulnerability to HIV.
KP Rep	Key Population Representative	Community representatives appointed or elected to CCM with the role of engaging in the process at every stage of the funding cycle, including governance, design, implementation, and monitoring.
LFAs	Local Funding Agents	The Local Fund Agent works closely with the Country Team at the Global Fund Secretariat to evaluate and monitor activities before, during and after the implementation of a grant.

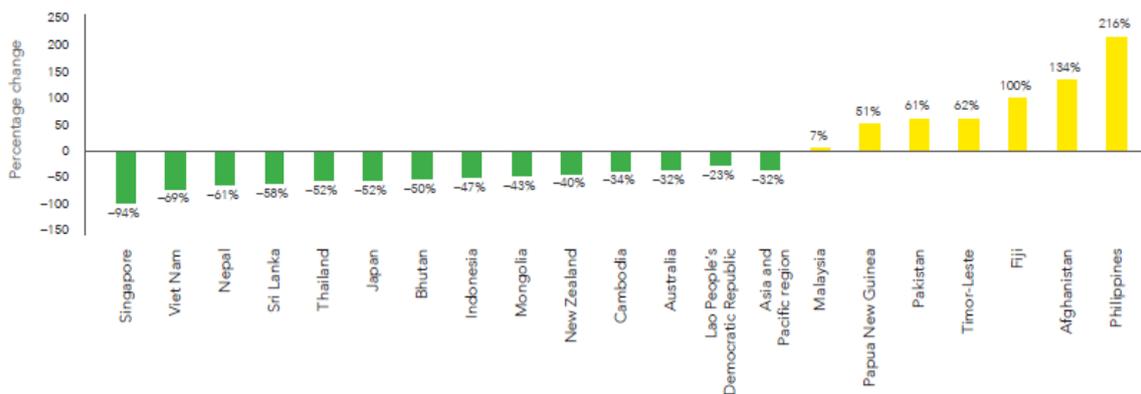
NSPs	National Strategic Plans	Frameworks that present ways to operationalise existing knowledge and current scientific evidence in reducing the burden of diseases, while taking into account the national, social, cultural and economic context of a country. It integrates the various frameworks, strategies and action plans addressing specific risk factors and particular diseases into a holistic and definitive approach to disease prevention and control.
PR	Principal Recipient	Principal Recipients are responsible for implementing grants, including coordination of other, smaller organizations, known as sub-recipients. Principal Recipients take on the financial as well as the programmatic responsibilities of the grant.
SKPA	Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in Asia Programme	SKPA is a Global Fund funded Multi Country Grant program being implemented in eight countries in Asia to promote sustainable services for key populations at scale to stop HIV transmissions and AIDS related deaths by 2030.
TRP	Technical Review Panel	An independent body of health, development and finance experts, the Technical Review Panel evaluates the technical merit of all requests for funding.
TSM	Technical Support Mechanism	The TSM is a centrally managed, country-driven mechanism that provides high-quality technical support to countries. The TSM's work is funded through an agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with resources from the Government of the United States of America targeting technical support to address policy and programmatic challenges in priority countries.
YLO	Youth-led organisation	Youth-led organizations are groups and networks in the HIV response, whether formally or informally organized, that are led, informed, and organized by young people (under 30 years old) living with and affected by HIV, for young people living with and affected by HIV, and address young people's issues, and which at least 80% of the governance, leadership, staff, spokespeople, membership and volunteers are made up of young people under 30 years old, and represent the perspectives and voices of their constituents, and that have transparent mechanisms of accountability. Youth-led organizations are characterised by horizontal decision-making processes that engage young people in all their diversity in the decisions being made. Youth-led organisations are led by representatives of the youth communities that they serve.

BACKGROUND

UNAIDS’s “[Putting Key Population First Report 2022](#)” disclosed that young people aged 15–24 years in Asia-Pacific account for a substantial proportion of the 260 000 new infections in the region (26% in 2020), with young men almost twice as likely as young women to acquire HIV. An estimated 63 000 [41 000–86 000] young people in the region acquired HIV in 2020, bringing the number of young people living with HIV in the region to 370 000 [230 000–520 000].

Across the region, new HIV infections among young people declined by 32% between 2010 and 2020. This trend is encouraging, but it is not strong enough to end the region’s AIDS epidemic by 2030, and it is offset by steep rises in new infections in several countries. New HIV infections among young people increased in seven countries in the region between 2010 and 2020: Afghanistan, Fiji, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste. (Figure 1). Robust programming is still needed in closing the gaps which are further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 1. Percentage change in numbers of new HIV infections among young people aged 15-24 years, selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region and regional average, 2010-2020



COVID-19 devastated health systems and crippled the global response to health challenges and with the shrinking of funding resources, countries need to be strategic in developing funding requests to support each nation’s preparedness and response to HTM. As pandemic preparedness remains an evolving objective for the Global Fund, its priorities of putting diverse communities at the center of the disease response have never derailed. Over the years, the Global Fund has played an active role in HIV, Malaria, and Tuberculosis (TB) and the COVID-19 pandemic response, through country grants, SKPA, C19RM, ACT-A, etc. It has also integrated pandemic preparedness into its new 2023-2028 Strategy. This is also supported by [Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026](#)-Result Area 7 to ensure young people are fully empowered and resourced to set new directions for the HIV response and unlock the progress needed to end inequalities and end AIDS.

In a time of constrained resources, we must ensure that community engagement and leadership are not only valued at their worth but appropriately reflect meaningful engagement with communities. According to The Pact’s initiated youth-led

political agenda, commonly known as [UPROOT](#), highlighted that young people’s participation in the HIV response is a key determinant to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability. Youth participation in key decision-making spaces is still a barrier. Furthermore, another UNAIDS report, [Youth and HIV: mainstreaming a three-lens approach to youth participation](#), proposes that “while young people participate in the development, consultation, validation or review of strategic documents that guide the HIV response at the country level, they participate much less frequently in spaces where decisions are made about the policy framework or resources invested in the HIV response.” We need to make sure that the funding requests address the challenges of the young key population who need investment in accessing HIV treatment and care but also create an enabling environment that empowers them to participate in decision-making, programming design, and evidence-based monitoring mechanisms.

To support youth-led organizations in the coordination and alignment of funding applications, this engagement guide is intended to support youth-led organizations on Meaningful Youth and Adolescent Engagement (MAYE) in the Grant Cycle-7. Under the CRG-Strategic Initiative grant, the Youth Consortium led by Youth LEAD has been awarded funding to ensure the meaningful engagement of young key populations in the 7th Grant Cycle and sufficient focus on gender-based violence and human rights programs. To strengthen the engagement of the young key and vulnerable population in GC7 we are planning to support country partners, the YKVP group, and YKP-led organizations in 8 countries.

One of the most important activities under this grant would be the development of the guide “Young Key Population and Youths Engagement in the Global Fund 7th Grant Cycle”. The main purpose of the guideline is to play the role of detailed-guide /step by step/ to youth-led organizations across the Asia Pacific and African region on how to bring YKPs and YPLHIVs together and meaningfully engage and involve in the funding request development process, including the community priorities in the funding request.

METHODOLOGY

The development of this engagement tool employed a desk review approach on existing reports, manuals, and guidelines that illustrate good practices, the experience of youth with Global Fund's Country Coordinating Mechanism, and meaningful youth engagement in proposal writing and funding requests.

The list of materials used as a reference to develop the youth-centred recommendations for this grant cycle engagement tool is as below:

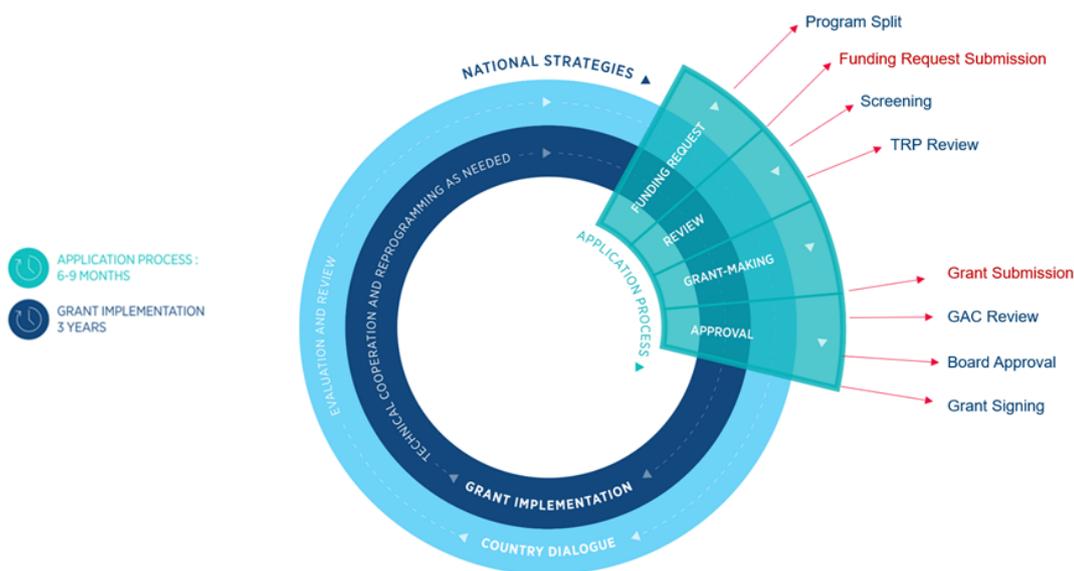
- [Young People and Global Fund in Mongolia](#)
- [Case Study on Voices of YKP/YPLHIV For COVID-19 Response Mechanism in Burundi](#)
- [Community Engagement: A Guide to Opportunities Throughout the Grant Life Cycle](#)
- [A Situational Analysis of Challenges and Facilitating Factors For Meaningful Engagement of Youth In CCM](#)

After the review of these materials, the information was used as references to develop the framework of this engagement guide which is divided into 3 sections: (1) Understanding the GC-7 core requirements, (2) a framework for a plan of action, (3) identify support and tips needed to enable the engagement process with stakeholders in process of the grant cycle. This guide will also explain the role of multi-stakeholders such as Country Coordinating Mechanism, Key Population Representative (KP Rep), United Nations agencies (UN Agencies), bilateral/technical partners, and youth advocates. Samples of tools are included in Annex to facilitate users of this engagement guide.

GRANT CYCLE 7 : PREPARATION

In each [funding period](#), the Global Fund allocates donor funds to eligible countries. Countries then apply for their funding after engaging in an inclusive consultation at the country level. After technical review and approval, countries implement their grants. Evaluation and oversight continue throughout implementation to monitor progress and performance.

Figure 2. Global Fund Funding Cycle



However, before starting to contribute and engage with stakeholder on the new grant cycle it is important to keep note on the below components:

(I) Country Coordinating Mechanism

Country Coordinating Mechanisms – often called a “CCM” are national committees which have two primary responsibilities:

- It submits funding requests to the Global Fund on behalf of the country.
- It oversees the implementation of the grants

CCM includes representatives of all sectors involved in the response to the diseases including academic institutions, civil society, faith-based organizations, government, multilateral and bilateral agencies, nongovernmental organizations, people living with the diseases, community representatives, the private sector, and technical agencies. Understanding the CCM structures and identifying members within the committee help youth-led organizations to develop their own strategic roadmap for engagement. Youth-led Organizations can refer to [Country Coordinating Mechanism Policy Including Principles and Requirements](#) which provides guidelines on the CCM’s role in Global Fund processes.

However, take note that there are countries where it is led by other networks of CSOs in terms of the Global Fund processes.

For YLOs, it is important to distinguish the presence of youth representative in each country CCM as they play a significant role in involving youth community during GF-related processes. Experience of engaging with CCM might change depending on the composition of the members and having a CCM youth representative will make a difference in terms of how much youth voices and communities will be represented throughout the processes.

It is important to engage with CCM Youth Representative as they are required to perform their core responsibility towards the youth constituents as below:

- Submitting funding requests that are designed to propose the most effective mix of interventions, including most effectively targeting young key and vulnerable populations, as aligned with the National Strategic Plan
- Ensuring that implementers and systems are capable of implementing the grant effectively without neglecting the youth communities' issues and priorities
- Share received information with youth constituents early enough and with enough detail to enable constructive feedback in time to influence a decision
- Collect and reflect youth constituents' views and concerns at CCM meetings, while retaining the duty of care to the broader public health interest
- Update youth constituents on CCM decisions, in particular when constituents provided input

What should you do when your country CCM **does not have** youth representative in the CCM? You might want to consider the below as recommended actions to involve other CCM representative to forward youth agenda:

- A. Find out from the CCM representatives who is coordinating the roadmap and engagement plan by ask them how YLOs can engage and contribute ideas to ensure that the community or constituency groups issues and priorities are not left out in the funding request;
- B. Working together with other CCM community representatives to facilitate the involvement of youth in the development of guidance notes, orientation, meeting agenda, community consultations, oversight checklist, and consolidation of input from youth constituents during funding request and grant implementation;
- C. Utilizing CCM funding or external technical support throughout the grant cycle to develop, disseminate, and collect feedback and ensure the language is key-population and youth-friendly;
- D. Conduct frequent communication with youth networks/groups/constituents through mix method of physical dialogue or consultation and digital approaches such as Zoom, WhatsApp groups, email thread, newsletter, and infographics to develop youth information and sharing platform;
- E. Lobbying with CCM members to get youth representatives to participate in

community consultation for funding request development and drafting as well as oversight for grant implementation and advocacy.

(II) Eligibility

The Global Fund Strategy 2023-2028 prioritises investment in countries with the highest levels of disease burden and lowest economic capacity, scale up of responses for adolescent girls and young women who faces extreme and disproportionate burden of HIV and a high burden of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, scale up of evidence-informed programs for key and vulnerable populations that are disproportionately impacted by the three diseases, and scale up of programs that remove human rights related barriers in access to services. All low and lower-middle income countries are eligible, regardless of disease burden. Upper-middle income countries must have at least a 'high' burden of disease to be eligible for Global Fund financing. Checking and ensuring your [country's eligibility](#) for the grant application will save your time and resources.

(III) Allocation Letter

At the beginning of every three-year funding cycle, the Global Fund communicates to an eligible country its allocation through an allocation letter which contains key information to guide the country's funding request. It includes information on their eligibility, allocation amount, co-financing requirements, focus of the application, and recommended application approach. The arrival of the document will help the country to develop the action plan to review its progress of national strategy plan on HTM and identify the gaps which can be addressed through global fund investment. The letter will also inform the country about the model of the funding, whether on sustainability, transition, or strategic initiative. Applicants can refer to Global Fund [Allocation Fundin](#) reports for a deeper understanding of allocation methodology which considers key epidemiological, programmatic, and other country contextual factors that are important to determine country allocations.

(IV) Submission Window

Applicants, together with implementers and Country Portfolio Teams, plan the funding request and grant-making stages and deliverables in an integrated manner to ensure grants are "implementation-ready" before the new grant starts. Engaging early will help you to be more prepared for the process. Take note of the submission window for your country below and find out more about the funding process by accessing Technical Provider, [APCASO's resources](#).

Figure 3. Submission Windows in Grant Cycle 7 Processes (as of January 2023)

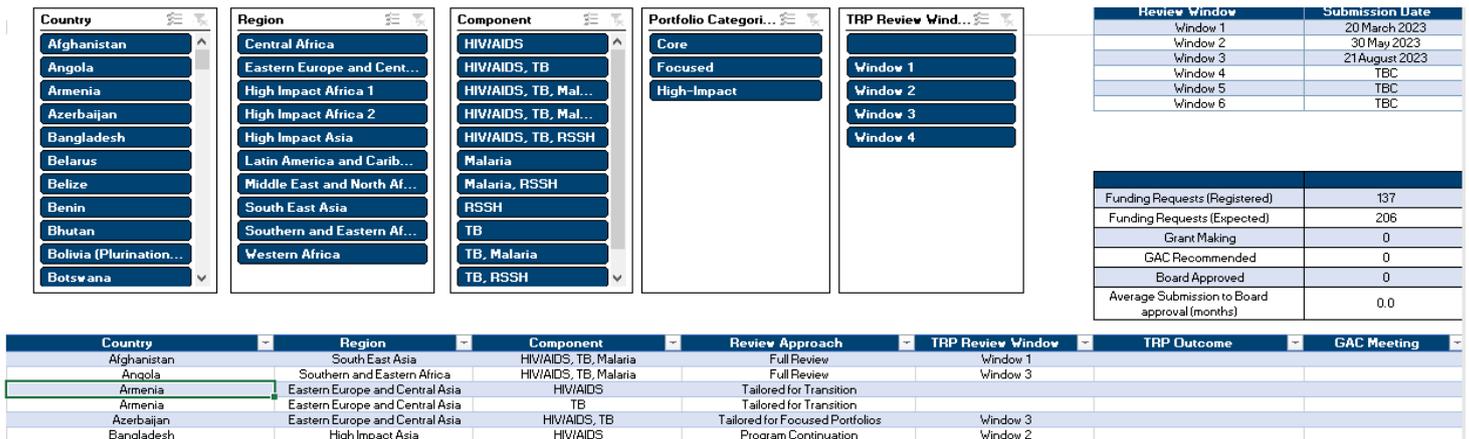
Submission Windows (as of 27 January 2023)

Window	Date	TA request deadline
1	20 March 2023	September 2022
2	21 May 2023	November 2022
3	21 August 2023	February 2023
4	February 2024	August 2023
5	April 2024	October 2023
6	September 2024	March 2024

Being alert of the timeline helps the country in developing engagement roadmap in a timely manner. YLOs should plan ahead through liaising with the CCM community representatives on community engagement. This will help in ensuring that the Minimum Expectation 1 & 2 are met and prepare community consultations during the anticipated timelines.

Alternatively, Youth-Led Organizations can refer to monitoring tools such as [2023-2025 Funding Request Tracker](#) which consists of information such as country targeted disease components under the grant, portfolio categories, and the timeline for TRP Review Window.

Figure 4. Global Fund Funding Request Tracker 2023-2035



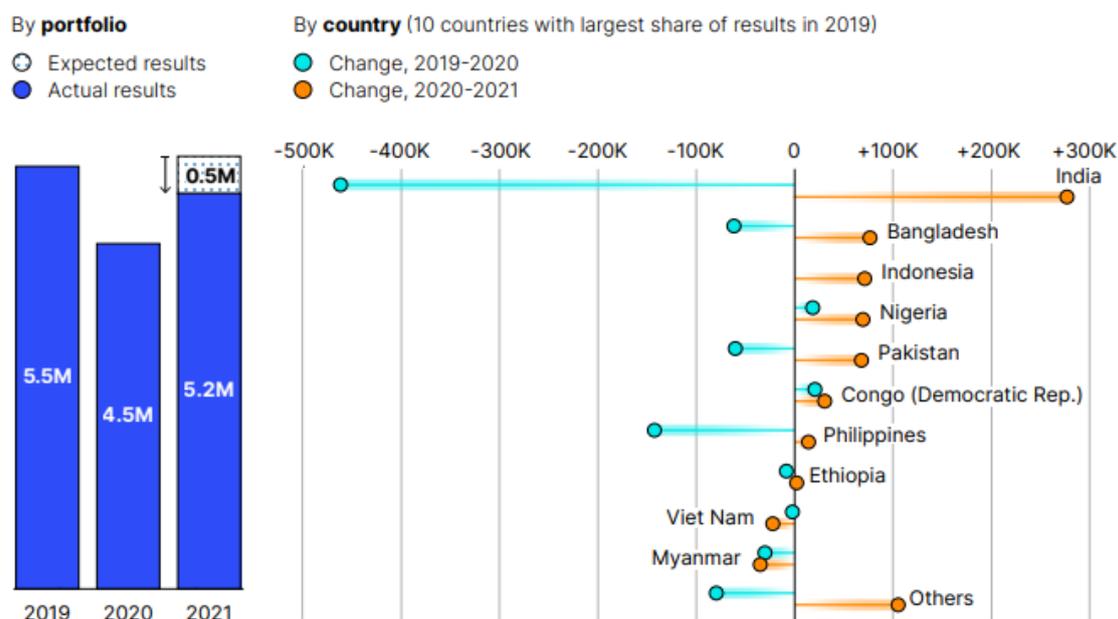
(V) Situational Analysis

You might want to consider doing your own simple situation analysis. This will help you to understand the current program implementation and issues, what is working well, what is not, what are the gaps and challenges. In particular, examines the Global Fund's current role in your country national disease response to HTM and sources of comparative advantage among the various actors, as well as areas of interface, dependency and complementarity between players (development partners/CSO/). Asking the question "What is required to increase and accelerate the impact of the current fund?" as a lens, identifies the principal issue areas and bottlenecks as well as the big areas of opportunity in the fight.

At this time, you might want to review your own countries epidemiological status on HTM and how your countries National Strategic Plan (NSP) illustrated ways to address different priorities. For those who are in Asia-Pacific region, you can refer to the data set from a [regional situational analysis](#) report published in late 2022 which collected the list of countries receiving GF funding, the incident rate

of HTM in these countries, youth intervention in NSP, and whether these are the focuses within your current country GF grant. You can also find this information from other national data as certain countries practice quarterly data monitoring of program implementation for specific diseases, the CCM program performance and monitoring reviews, your own data from community led monitoring, key annual global and national reports which include key data. For instance, UNAIDS Annual Report and Data, WHO Global TB Report.

Figure 5. People treated for TB (Change, 2019-2020 vs. 2020-2021)



The "expected" results are based on grant targets adjusted by grant performance prior to COVID-19. The country graphs include countries with comparable results in all three years, therefore, the total results in 2019-2021 might be lower than the total number of services seen in the other parts of this report and in the online platform.

The situational analysis will involve community focused group discussions and consultations and use these gaps identified by Communities and CSOs to begin to consolidate the priorities that will be fed into the national dialogues. The outputs provide perspective of priorities and advocacy strategy of how you will get those indicator and targets in the NSP and Funding request.

Alternatively, if you do not know how to do a situational analysis, you can request for technical assistance from different TA Partners via the CRG regional Platforms and also reach out to organizations who are familiar with the process of requesting for Technical Assistance. You can refer to more information on TA under the section of [“GF 7 : Support and Resource -Stage 2 Item 3”](#).

Grant Cycle 7: Plan of Action



Step 1: Gather information about Grant Cycle

In order to advocate for youth investment and intervention effectively, the youth-led organization needs to be alerted about the priorities of the grant cycle. Often stakeholders do not take into consideration youth-led organizations' recommendations in the funding request processes as it is not a priority in the grant cycle. Understanding the process of the grant cycle and its priority will allow the youth-led organization to develop their own advocacy strategies better which are aligned with the grant cycle's priorities as well as the country's national strategic plan. The youth-led organizations are recommended to review previous funding requests, current programme performance, and budget utilization to understand the national context, interventions applied, the focus of investment, gaps of programming, budget, etc to provide practical feedback when they engage with the CCM and relevant stakeholders. Youth-led organizations are able to use this opportunity to stress the lack of youth-centred activities, the importance of youth involvement, and the gaps that hinder young people from benefiting from the grant. Attending meetings and webinars launched by the Global Fund and Technical Assistance providers regarding grant cycle applications will help youth-led organizations to understand the application process and how they can contribute to the funding request.

Ideally before initiating your engagement and community plan, YLOs should already gather information as mentioned in the previous section "GF-7 : Preparation" to make sure the input from young people are part of the priorities and target setting of the NSP. You are encouraged to gather local data and evidence to support your roadmap plan and strengthen advocacy during the engagement process afterwards. This will help the drafting team in acquiring data which will increase the endorsement from the stakeholders in including youth intervention in the funding request. You can do this by taking actions such as organizing consultations with young people/key population, and develop priorities. You can also refer to the NSP as this will tell you where the country is at, essential program data, gaps and issues that the country is facing as well as what's going well and resources and funding needed to close these gaps Basically, before you embark on the process of developing engagement/advocacy plan, you should have a good understanding of the situation within your country (NSP, situational analysis, or global reports) and use the data gathered to set priorities and advocate for the inclusion of those core targets and youth interventions in funding request development as well grant implementation.

Step 2: Develop Engagement and Communication Plan

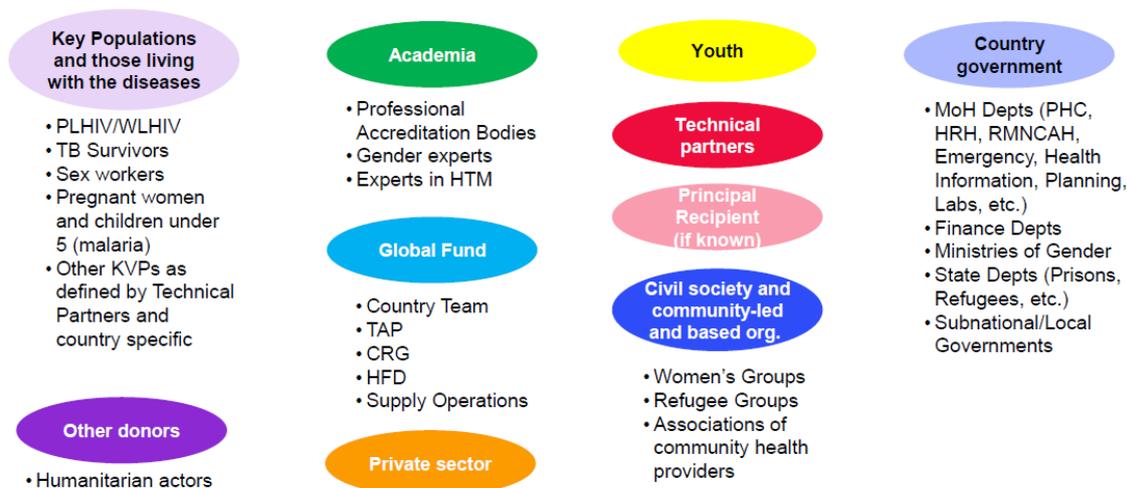
It is vital to identify the key decision makers when it comes to developing an engagement plan and those who are involved in the process who support youth agenda and investment. Under the Global Fund requirement, the decision of applying for a Global Fund grant relies on the power of the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM). In most countries, CCM representatives are constituted by government officials, civil society organizations, UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, and representatives from key population communities, such as MSM, TG, PWID, and PLHIV.

While developing your engagement plan, you might want to ask below questions:

- Who will lead the coordination of the community consultation?
- Who is the focal point of communication and engagement with other CSOs and Communities? Who will communicate to whom and get feedback? Who is responsible for what and who needs to be kept in the loop?
- Who to engage with when there is no youth representative in CCM? Who is youth allies?
- What communication channels and platforms are there for youth, e.g. emails and or WhatsApp groups?
- What will be the feedback loops and mechanisms and what is satisfactory or not?

Do take note that although youth representatives are present in some countries' CCM structure, it is not the same across the region. Identifying the stakeholders who are supportive of youth and involved in the decision-making body, funding request drafting committee, consultation, and feedback committee will help the youth-led organization in building communication channels, advancing the youth agenda, and calling for investments in youth intervention from the grant cycle. You can utilize Stakeholder Analysis Matrix (indicated in [Annex A](#) to help youth-led organizations to determine the allies and key stakeholders as well as planning communication strategies.

Figure 6. Potential Pool of Stakeholders



THE GLOBAL FUND

This is an illustrative list. Necessary participants will always depend on country context.

3

Step 3: Call for Dialogue and Consultation

Including young people in decision-making about issues that affect their lives, or simply interest them, is a vital ingredient in the creation of a responsive health system and also a resilient community. This is according to the GC7 technical brief of stressing the value for money which embodies the principle of Equity to eliminate unnecessary, avoidable, unfair, and unjust differences in health between individuals and groups. When people are consulted and included in dialogue/consultations, it allows the funding request process to be more efficient and engaging as the youth are able to express their ideas, exercise their advocacy, and highlight the gaps in the existing programming. In addition to consultations being used to find the gaps in youth engagement and to strategize potential implementers (PRs, SRs), the priority issues faced by YKP can be identified, and interventions can be designed accordingly to address the unique needs of youth communities.

There are multiple ways for youth-led organizations to engage in the funding requests processes such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, national dialogue with youth networks, and consultation with youth implementers or Community Health Workers (CHW). These consultations should reflect the experience of youth regarding the intervention in the previous grant cycle and how youth are excluded from those activities and interventions. The sharing of gaps in reaching the youth community will help the TWG and drafting committee to be more inclusive in strategizing the potential implementers of the Principal Recipient and Sub-Recipient.

Innovative methods of country consultations have demonstrated successful engagement with the community beyond the mainstream stakeholder and beneficiary. It enables the country's consultation process to gather diverse feedback and explore feedback mechanisms which are beyond the routine stakeholder discussion but allow those marginalized voices to have a chance to express their opinion and priority.

Figure 7. Innovations in Country Consultation¹

	<p>Indonesia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing existing Twitter account to inform on Funding Request development in bilingual (English and Indonesian language) • Innovative video on how to get involved in country dialogue
	<p>Ecuador:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Snow-balling” invitation to country dialogues, with each participant encourage to invite others from their networks
	<p>Kenya:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased data bundles to support constituencies to participate in online meetings
	<p>Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (Regional FR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey and consultations with invite shared via Facebook and other online communities • Diverse working groups communicating via email and virtual meetings
	<p>Malawi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with recognized CBO with experience in LGBTIQ+ advocacy to reach out to established network

¹ Ibid. 2022. External Webinar for Country Dialogue Expectation. <https://www.theglobal-fund.org/en/applying-for-funding/understand-and-prepare/webinars/>

Great Practices During Funding Request Development:

- 1) Step up and participate in country dialogue. Using the data and analyses you've prepared, share your story and the stories of your community. Share how the diseases affect you, share how prevention, treatment, care and support services can be improved, and share how these services can be made easier to access.
- 2) Collaboration with CCM to develop and share an engagement road map for the country's dialogue. Data and evidence shall be used as the basis for discussion on prioritization. You should consider how areas highlighted in [Global Fund Strategy](#)² can drive a bigger impact towards national and global goals.
- 3) Connect with support organizations which can help prepare your organization for the country dialogue. The [Community, Rights and Gender Technical Assistance Program](#)³ can help connect you with organizations that will work with you to get involved with Global Fund related processes. For example, a CCM addressed feedback from the Technical Review Panel by having a provider of Global Fund technical assistance undertake a mapping exercise of civil society organizations, networks of key and vulnerable populations, and coalitions of people living with HIV, and then develop a strategic framework on community systems strengthening.
- 3) Actively seek input from Community and Civil Society groups by using new priorities annex when discussing Funding Request prioritization. We should ensure those who participated in dialogue/consultation are given sufficient time to respond with supporting documents such as situational analysis and country's national strategic plan.

Step 4: Participate in Funding Request Drafting Committee

The Global Fund-CCM structures allow youth or any KP representative to become a part of the technical working group (TWG) for the development of funding requests. This reflects a strategic move as it not only keeps a youth member at the forefront of the discussion but ensures that the voices and recommendations given by youth have been considered and taken into consideration during the writing of funding requests. It gives the platform for checks and balances to ensure the funding requests are aligned with the national strategic plan but also the needs of communities at risk, especially youth.

It is often misinformed that only youth representatives elected to the CCM are allowed to be a part of the TWG or drafting committee. The CCM can appoint external youth-led organizations or individuals who are not in the CCM to participate in the drafting committee in order to ensure the draft funding request captures the gaps in reaching out to young people. For example, through technical cooperation partners like UNAIDS, WHO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and the Stop TB Partnership who may provide support, by recommending you or your organization to be a part of the writing committee. However, if you experience difficulties connecting with CCM or support organizations, you can reach out to the Fund Portfolio Manager for your country. This member of the Global Fund Secretariat in Geneva may be able to help you get connected to the CCM, support organizations, or appropriate organizations in your country. Contact information for the Fund Portfolio Manager for your country can be found on the [Data Explorer](#)

2 Ibid, 2021. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/strategy/>

3 APCASO. <https://apcaso.org/support/>

er⁴ by selecting one of the grants your county has received. Being a member of TWG or drafting committee will provide the platform for youth representatives to communicate with their own constituents in a vigilant process to ensure information updates are consistent.

Step 5: Review of Funding Request draft and Grant Making

Receiving feedback from communities is a vital process to developing long-term and sustainable health programs. Constructive engagement with youth should not stop at the stage of funding request development but continuously in TRP review for grant making and grant implementation. This includes not just giving feedback regarding the proposed activities but also looking into how youth engagement can be strengthened in the process of data collection, monitoring Key Performance Indicators (KPI), youth participation in grant implementation, and evaluating the intervention proposed to implement the national strategic plan. In some country contexts, a consultant will be hired to write the funding request and assigned to the task of getting feedback from the various communities to verify the proposed interventions are effective in addressing the challenges faced in accessing the healthcare system. Hence, calling for a meeting with the consultant will help the youth-led organization to be alerted of proposed interventions and to present innovative ideas which can help the country to reach out to broader youth communities including those marginalized. Innovative approaches such as investing in digital methods for information dissemination, mobile health services for youth, expanding HIV self-testing, and youth community strengthening programme are some of the examples which depict youth-focused intervention in a country funding request. Youth should be involved beyond just identifying the problem within the communities, but also enablers who can provide solutions to address these challenges.

Once a funding request reviewed by the Technical Review Panel has been accepted, it will proceed into the Grant-Making process. The Grant Approvals Committee will then give the greenlight to proceed into a grant agreement, which will be used as the basis to release funding. The Global Fund Secretariat together with CCM will select the Principal Recipients, who will manage the grant, to develop a performance framework. This includes indicators and workplan tracking measures to track progress, a budget and a workplan. Youth-Led Organizations involvement in the grant making process is needed in verifying issues that may have been flagged by the Technical Review Panel (TRP) are resolved. This is to ensure that inputs are taken into account in the detailed program design and that the latest technical and operational guidance is used. This can be also done by calling for meetings which involve CCM, PR, and YLOs for a briefing on the process and outcome of grant-making and on program design.

This will help the youth communities to be updated about the status of the submitted community priorities and ensure that there are sufficient youth-centred interventions to improve the health and well-being of youth on HTML.

Step 6: Monitoring, Evaluation (Oversight), and Advocacy

When applying for Global Fund funding, grant implementers submit a performance framework that identifies the indicators and targets the program needs to achieve, together with a monitoring and evaluation plan that outlines how implementers will collect, collate and analyze data. Plans, targets and progress

4 Ibid. <https://apcaso.org/support/>

are then overseen by the Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), the Local Fund Agents (LFAs) and the Global Fund Secretariat to assess grant performance. Youth-Led organizations can volunteer themselves with the CCM Oversight committee to ensure there are youth-related indicators in the M&E framework and the grant implementations are showing the effects estimated in the performance framework. This will hold implementers more accountable on the implementation of such interventions. Another room of engagement lies in the interaction with the country portfolio manager, who is the focal point for the grant in the Global Fund Secretariat. Calling for meetings with the grant portfolio team will allow the youth-led organization to engage directly and to express their grassroots experience in terms of the gaps in project implementation and how those interventions can be leveraged for future advocacy.

Through the Community-led monitoring (CLM) and feedback from communities it helps in adapting implementation so that the grant meets its targets. Advocacy works better when it is documented and analyzed. YLOs are recommended to document the whole process, so at the end of the cycle, they can assess how much their engagements lead to increased investment in youth interventions, increased youth participation, increased youth interventions implemented, etc. These documentations can be a result of participating as observers in budgeting processes and planning reforms that promote domestic financing and sustainability. YLOs frequently follow up with the CCM oversight committee to provide insight and information to mitigate the risk of conflict of interest, inefficient PR-SR relationship, and ethics violations on human rights and confidentiality.

Always remember that engagement goes beyond monitoring and evaluation but it is also about taking proactive action to promote and create the environment for youth advocacy and leadership. A drafted action plan of youth intervention based on the framework of [Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health](#)⁵ (as indicated in [Annex B](#)) serves to help YLOs in identifying advocacy priorities and potential action for engagement to support the grant cycle.

5 Ibid, 2022. https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/4309/fundingmodel_modularframework_handbook_en.pdf

Grant Cycle 7: Support and Resources

Phases	Materials and Documents	Point of Engagement
Stage 1: Before Applying	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and read materials provided by Global Fund regarding the upcoming grant cycle and documentation on the country's achievement in the previous cycle. For Grant Cycle-7, youth-led organizations can further strengthen their knowledge and understanding through supporting documents released by Global Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Update for GC7, funding for systems for health and pandemic preparedness⁶ • Updated Resources for the Next Funding Grant Cycle GC7 (NFM4)⁷ • Funding Request Instructions : Full Review Allocation Period 2023-2025⁸ 2. Check the official websites and social media pages of the Global Fund and other organizations that can provide you with information about the Global Fund funding model, grant-making, and access to funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Fund iLearn Platform⁹ 3. Identify and understand the role of member of representative in country CCM Mechanism You can refer to GF CCM database¹⁰ to identify the country focal point of CCM to start planning on engagement road map. 	GF, CCM, PR, SR

6 Ibid, 2023. https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12770/operationalupdate_2023-02-10-gc7-systems-for-health-and-pandemic-preparedness_update_en.pdf

7 Ibid, 2022. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/updates/2022/2022-12-08-updated-resources-for-the-next-funding-cycle/>

8 Ibid, 2022. https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/5743/fundingrequest_fullreview_instructions_en.pdf

9 Ibid. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/ilearn/>

10 Ibid. https://data-service.theglobalfund.org/viewer/cm_contacts

<p>Stage 2: Applying for Funding and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in the process of developing a Country Dialogue Narrative <p>You can call for dialogue between the youth community to create engagement platforms for youth to express their ideas and highlight the priorities of youth. Besides, demonstrate evidence of members of affected communities in the consultation and dialogue which highlights their priorities with successful youth-led organization initiatives during the process of funding request development.</p> <p>Guidelines and manuals of meaningful youth engagement will help you develop constructive engagement and provide you with the tool you might need to facilitate those processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking Young People Seriously – Consulting Young People About Their Ideas and Opinion¹¹ <p>A sample of the agenda of consultation with youth groups is attached under Annex C as a reference for youth-led organizations to utilize in calling for dialogue or consultation in the development of funding requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participate in formal positions and informal discussions about youth programming <p>Building up your organization’s reputation on youth projects and advocacy helps you to impress stakeholders and opens the opportunity for you to be included as consultative parties or implementers of programme. This can be through webinars, panel discussions, Focus-Group Discussions, advocacy campaigns, video promotions, etc. Speaking to other organizations would strengthen the network of your organization and portfolio as an active and emerging youth-led organization that is passionate about health advocacy and youth programming.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Request technical support from Global Fund partners about the funding request process <p>Countries can request technical assistance to help design, implement and evaluate programs to fight HIV, TB and malaria, as well as to build resilient and sustainable systems for health.</p>	<p>Consultant, TWG, Drafting Committee, CCM</p>
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11 Council of Victoria – Youth Affair, 2004. <https://www.yacvic.org.au/assets/Documents/1.-Consulting-Young-People-About-Their-Ideas-and-Opinions.pdf>

This is called technical cooperation and it is used to strengthen the capacity of and support individuals, country, or institutions in the different process of grant cycle.

Global Fund has released the [“Funding Request Support and Upcoming Events: GC7 Partner Details”](#)¹³ to help countries to get technical support from various bilateral partners. Youth-Led organizations can exercise their leadership by engaging with these partners and calling for meetings with respective country CCM to support them during the process of developing the funding request. Besides, TA provides support to communities and civil society groups to engage in national processes linked to Global Fund investments and reinforce regional Civil Society Platforms for Communication and Coordination in supporting countries to ensure that key communities are meaningful engaged in the grant cycles.

There are different types of CRG Technical Assistance Available for NFM 4:

Proposed Prioritized TA Tracks and Sub-Activities for NFM4		
<p>TA Track A: Situational analysis and needs assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.1 CRG-related assessment (desk review and/or KIIs/FGDs) to generate strategic information for decision-making to inform NFM4 funding request development. • A.2 NFM4 program review to ensure community perspectives inform service delivery improvements under NFM4. 	<p>TA Track B: Engagement in NFM4 country dialogue processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.1 Virtual or face-to-face community consultation(s) to inform priorities for NFM4 funding requests. • B.2 Coordinating input into NFM4 funding requests and grant-making (e.g. review of draft funding requests or grant-making documents). 	<p>TA Track C: Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.1 Costing support (e.g. virtual mentoring or in-country costing support).

To receive the required TA the next steps should be taken:

- **When exactly your country is planning to submit the request for the new funding** (and if in 2023 – within which particular submission window)
- **Reach out to CRG Regional Platform in your region** for assistance with developing of the TA request
- **Select TA track(s) and sub-activities** most relevant for your NFM4 planning needs

13 Ibid, 2023. https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12772/fundingrequest_technical-assistance-resources_guidance_en.pdf

- **Provide details information** on the TA application (Listing organizations/networks involved, providing detailed costing of workshops and data collection related costs)
- Submit your TA request at **least six months before** your country's NFM4 window

Tentative NFM4 FR submission windows (projection based on NFM3 dates – TBC by Access to Funding by end of 2022)	CRG TA request submission deadline (6 months before NFM4 window)
W1 - 31 March 2023	30 September 2022
W2a - 30 April 2023 W2b - 31 May 2023 W2c - 30 June 2023	31 October 2022 30 November 2022 31 December 2022
W3 - 31 August 2023	28 February 2023
W4 - 28 February 2024	31 July 2023
W5 - 30 April 2024	31 October 2023

It is important to start the TA application as soon as possible as it will take time for the process to roll-out before the submission of funding request:



If your country is interested to request the CRG TA, you can download the [updated TA Request Form](#)¹⁴ here. There are different technical assistance providers across different regions such as APCASO in Asia-Pacific, through the support of the Global Fund [Community Engagement Strategic Initiative \(CE SI\)](#)¹⁵, has a technical assistance programme to enable greater access to technical support for community groups, key population networks, and civil society. You can find the details of [GF CRG regional platform](#)¹⁶ partners and their contacts as illustrated:



On the other hand, UNAIDS Technical Assistance Fund under their [Technical Support Mechanism \(TSM\)](#)¹⁷ is also an alternate resource which deliver country and regional support with a primary focus on ensuring effective and efficient implementation of Global Fund grants. Countries in Africa and Asia and the Pacific that benefit from Global Fund grants are eligible to request this support via their respective UNAIDS Country Offices.

14 Regional Platform EECA, 2022. https://eecaplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/crg-technical-assistance-request-form-en_nfm4-adaptation-1.docx

15 APCASO. <https://apcaso.org/support/>

16 Ibid, 2022. https://eecaplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/crg-technical-assistance-request-form-en_nfm4-adaptation-1.docx

17 UNAIDS, 2018. <https://www.unaids.org/en/topic/TSM#:~:text=The%20Technical%20Assistance%20Fund%20is,Goals%20target%20of%20ending%20AIDS.>

<p>Stage 3: Grant implementation and oversight</p>	<p>Youth-led Organizations can reach out to the CCM oversight committee to provide volunteers for oversight process which will enable them the chance to review the strategies implemented in achieving the performance indicator.</p> <p>Main components of the oversight process</p>  <pre> graph LR A((COLLECT INFORMATION)) --> B((ANALYZE INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY: Problems, Bottlenecks / Risk Best Practices)) B --> C((RECOMMENDED ACTION)) C --> D((FOLLOW-UP AND REPORT ON RESULTS)) D --> A </pre> <p>Examples of Information Collection activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings/ teleconferences with PRs (quarterly). • Dialogue or engagement with Global Fund Country Teams and/or functional teams [Risk, Community, Rights and Gender (CRG), and others] • Participation in key activities like disease program reviews, partner (bilateral or multilateral) meetings and coordination forums. • Site visits (semi-annual) in-person or via remote data collection • Consultations with young key populations and young people living with diseases. <p>The “Key Overarching Question for Measuring Performance of the Strategy” (as indicated in Annex D) serves as a guiding tool for youth representative and youth-led organization to monitor and oversight the impact of the grant and provide recommendation to PR and CCM to make amendment in terms of their strategies in certain intervention.</p>	<p>CCM Oversight Committee, CCM Secretariat, PR, Global Fund Country Team, CCM Member</p>
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	<p>Another tool which the communities can utilize in providing feedback on the availability and quality of health service provision is Community-Led Monitoring (CLM). It allows us to leverage the experiences of people living with and affected by HIV to inform the quality of care, systematic barrier in accessing services and information which can affect community health and well-being, particularly of marginalized and underserved people. The data collected complement local and national monitoring and provide key information to fill critical gaps in the decision-making process that leads to evidence-informed action to improve services. CLM provides a platform from which to strengthen relationships with other partners in the HIV and AIDS response around a shared understanding and response to service enablers and barriers.</p>	
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ANNEX A

Stakeholder Analysis Matrix¹⁸

Stakeholder Name	Contact Person (Name, Address, Position...)	Power The ability to stop or change the process	Interest The size and location of overlap between their interest and grant goals	Engagement Strategy The type and frequency of communication
Stakeholder 1 Example	MSM Representative of CCM	Voting, speaking on behalf of MSM community	Getting more funding or his/her organization	Inviting to the main event
Stakeholder 2 Example				
Stakeholder 3 Example				
Stakeholder 4 Example				
Stakeholder 5 Example				

18 Youth LEAD, 2020. https://www.youthleadap.org/application/files/7615/9159/0072/YOUNG_PEOPLE_AND_THE_GLOBAL_FUND_IN_MONGOLIA_-_case_study_.pdf

ANNEX B

Modules, interventions and illustrative list of activities under RSSH

Modules	Interventions	List of Activities
<p>RSSH: Health Sector Planning and Governance for Integrated People-centered Services</p>	<p>National health sector strategy, policy & regulations</p>	<p>Activities related to planning, developing, implementing and reviewing health sector strategies, policies, regulations, guidelines, protocols with linkages to policies and strategies for the three diseases and broader reach to other health outcomes.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments and development of national legislation, strategies, policies, regulations, protocols and guidelines. <p>Suggestion: Youth centred issues such as age of HIV testing, licensing for community health tester, and HIV self-testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for YLOs at the national and sub-national levels for developing, implementing, supervising and reporting on health sector strategies, policies and regulations, including through digital technologies. <p>Suggestion: Forming a national youth network, physical or online, to coordinate feedback mechanisms and advocacy initiatives.</p>
<p>RSSH: Health Sector Planning and Governance for Integrated People-centered Services</p>	<p>Integration/co-ordination across disease programs and at the service delivery level</p>	<p>Activities related to eliminating fragmentation of the health sector by improving more integrated implementation of disease programs.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening data management systems, service delivery mechanisms for integrated service delivery in health clinics and networks of care. <p>Suggestion: YLOs calling for meetings with healthcare facilities to review the procedure and sensitivity when collecting data from children and young people.</p> <p>Suggestion: YLOs advocating for integration of HIV services in other adolescent health services</p>

<p>RSSH: Health Sector Planning and Governance for Integrated People-centered Services</p>	<p>Supporting private sector engagement</p>	<p>Activities related to engaging private sector entities in service provision and other health sector functions, through applying market approaches and innovations.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating an enabling environment to encourage the private sector to engage with young people for demand generation projects to promote use of health products and services. <p>Suggestion: Collaboration with YLOs in digital marketing and health promotion on condom usage, HIV testing, PrEP & PEP.</p>
<p>RSSH: Community Systems Strengthening</p>	<p>Community-led research and advocacy</p>	<p>Activities to support local-, provincial-, national- and/or regional-level advocacy led by community organizations, networks and civil society actors, particularly those representing marginalized, under-served and key and vulnerable populations. Advocacy activities can relate to health services, disease-specific programs, human rights violations, including stigma and discrimination and confidentiality. age and gender inequities. sustainable financing. and legal and policy reform.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-led situational analyses or participatory needs assessments. <p>Suggestion: YLOs can request technical support and training to equip them with programmatic and analytical skills to provide assessment reports on performance which can support CCM in decision making.</p>

<p>RSSH: Community Systems Strengthening</p>	<p>Community engagement, linkages and coordination</p>	<p>Activities to mobilize communities, particularly of marginalized, under-served and key and vulnerable populations, in responses to the three diseases, barriers to accessing health and other social services, social determinants of health and progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of community-led and community-based organizations and networks and their service packages. • Suggestion: Conducting a national consultation including all the youth groups and YLOs to identify the focus of their advocacy, targeted communities, and scope of service. • Representation, participation and engagement of community actors in high-level health advisory or governing bodies, oversight committees (including clinic health committees), disease councils and other decision-making fora. <p>Suggestion: Appointment or inclusion of YLOs representatives to CCM bodies will help YLOs in communication, dissemination of information, and advocacy efforts.</p>
<p>RSSH: Community Systems Strengthening</p>	<p>Capacity building and leadership development</p>	<p>Activities related to the establishment, strengthening and sustainability of civil society organizations, especially those that are community-led (informal and formal), key population-led, women-led, led by people living with or affected by the three diseases, community networks and associations.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small grants to community-led organizations to increase their capacity in health service delivery, social mobilization, community-led monitoring, community-led research and advocacy, understanding labor rights and social dialogue, etc. • Suggestion: Provide seed grant for YLOs to implement small scale projects such as empowering youth focal person and Community Health Worker about outreach and case management skills, research, advocacy, and leadership, etc.

<p>RSSH/PP: Human Resources for Health (HRH) and Quality of Care</p>	<p>RSSH/PP: Education and production of new health workers (excluding community health workers)</p>	<p>Activities related to primary health and care workers who are responsible for delivering integrated, people-centered health services, including for one or more than one disease (HIV, TB and malaria).</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of health training institutions. <p>Suggestion: YLOs to conduct sensitization workshops for health facilities and healthcare providers on SOGIES, sexuality, youth challenges in health seeking behaviour, etc.</p>
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ANNEX C

Sample of Agenda for Youth Consultation on Funding Priority

Duration (1-2 hours)

If time is limited, and a one-day consultation workshop is not possible, another alternative is to run a facilitated group discussion with a youth-led organization for a period of 2-3 hours.

Suggested agenda:

Duration	Section	Topic to be addressed	Format
15 minutes	Opening and Introduction	<p>Welcome and introductions to everyone in the room – facilitators and youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Overview of the GC 7 Youth Consultations · Overview of the purpose of this group discussion and its contribution to the grant cycle · Explain what a consultation is - highlighting that there are no right or wrong answers during the discussions, that their thoughts are their own and no one can take them away from them or question them, and that each contribution is valuable · Share the agenda for the session 	Whole Group
10 minutes	Icebreaker game	Getting to know each other and creating a positive atmosphere in the room	Whole group – interactive
10 minutes	Consultant Presentation	Provide background about Global Fund funding mechanism, status of previous grant implementation, and the priorities in upcoming grant cycle	Small group discussions
60 - 90 minutes (with a break if longer than 60 minutes)	Small Group Discussion	<p>Challenges/issues faced by young key population (YKP), youth-led organizations, and the impacts on them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of youth - Role of stakeholders - Solutions and recommendations (e.g. what kind of intervention is youth friendly and centred?) 	Whole group
10 minutes	Break and/or Energiser game	Time for relaxation and fun	Whole group – interactive

ANNEX D

Key Overarching Questions for Measuring Performance of the Strategy¹⁹

A Is HTM incidence and mortality rate reducing?

C Are effective and quality TB prevention, treatment, care, and support programs being delivered and achieving equity in access?

D Are effective and quality Malaria prevention, treatment, care, and support programs being delivered and achieving equity in access?

F Are communities able to engage and influence the full grant life cycle and national processes prioritized by the Global Fund?

G

- Are HTM inequities being reduced?
- Are human rights related barriers to access and use of HTM interventions being reduced?
- Is gender equality in HTM being advanced?

B Are effective and quality HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support programs being delivered and achieving equity in access?

E

- Are services integrated, people-centered, and of high quality?
- Are community systems (including service delivery platforms) reinforced?
- Is equitable access to quality assured health products being achieved?
- Are innovations being equitably introduced and taken up?
- Is decision-making based on quality and timely data and evidence?

H Are domestic financial and program resources mobilized to achieve and sustain results?

I Are pandemic preparedness capabilities being strengthened?

19 Ibid, 2022. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/monitoring-evaluation/>