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# Asia-Pacific Learning Hub Monthly Newsletter - June



**Understanding Technical Assistance for Community Strengthening in**

## HIV, TB and Malaria

### What is Technical Assistance?

[Technical Assistance](#) is the engagement of individuals with specific and relevant technical expertise to support inclusive country-level dialogue, preparatory activities, grant-making procedures, or the implementation of the programs it supports. Countries can request assistance to help design, implement and evaluate programs, as well as to build resilient and sustainable systems for health. Technical Assistance is used to strengthen the capacity of and support individuals or institutions in planning and implementing their programs.

### The Global Fund Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE SI) Short-Term Technical Assistance

Who can apply for CE SI technical assistance?

- Countries eligible for Global Fund funding and countries included in multi-country grants
- Networks and organizations led by key and vulnerable populations (HIV or TB)
- Youth-led networks and organizations
- Women-led networks and organizations
- Networks and organizations led by people living with HIV, TB survivors, or communities most affected by malaria
- Civil society and organizations closely working with one or several of the groups mentioned above

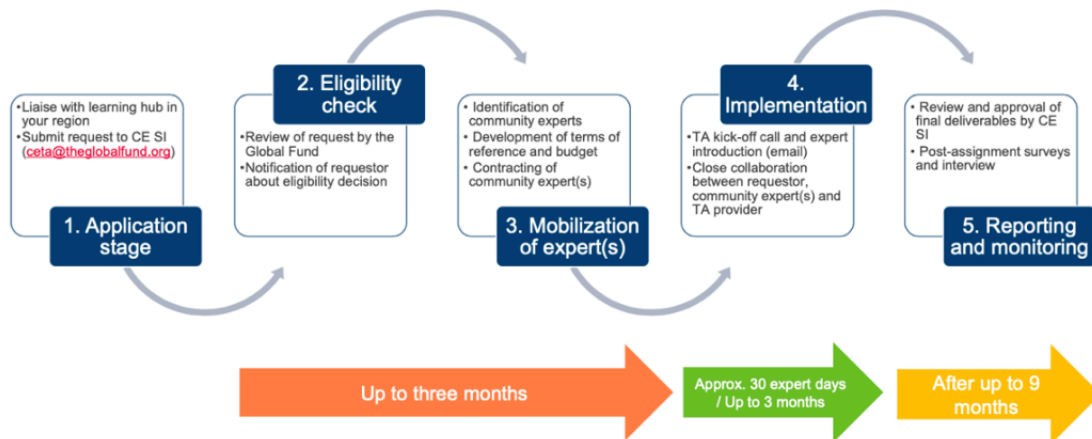
What type of technical assistance can be requested?

- Technical assistance can be requested at any stage of the Global Fund funding cycle.
- CE SI technical assistance requests should focus on issues related to human rights, gender, equity, key populations, community responses, systems strengthening and related areas.
- The community experts can be deployed for approximately 30 days over a period of up to three months.

What are the main areas of work for Technical Assistance:

- Situational analysis and the needs assessment
- Engagement in country dialogue processes
- Supporting design and implementation arrangements
- Engagement in the NSP review and development

## TA Process



THE GLOBAL FUND



There is a huge opportunity for civil society and communities in the Asia Pacific region to apply for short term Technical Assistance with the support of Asia Pacific Learning Hub. Only five Technical Assistance assignments were delivered for the High Impact Asia region during the GC6 CE SI cycle”.

— Annabelle Metzner, Technical Advisor, Community Engagement, Community Rights and Gender Department, Global Fund



Asia Pacific Learning Hub, Seven Alliance



There are no specific criteria/guidelines to request for the Technical Support. The major focus is to fight major pandemics, system strengthening and the Global Fund approach and strategy based on the specific needs”.

— Maxime Desmaris, Portfolio Manager for Myanmar and Vietnam, Expertise France.



Asia Pacific Learning Hub, Seven Alliance

The [Asia Pacific Regional Learning Hub](#) plays a vital role in facilitating the exchange of information and best practices at local, national, regional, and global levels related to community engagement in Global Fund processes. It also focuses on enhancing access to technical assistance (TA). The Hub serves as a regional resource center that communities, country stakeholders, and partners can approach for support, knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening related to the three diseases and Global Fund processes.

## Who else is providing Technical Assistance?

Technical Assistance (TA) is provided by a number of TA providers including the [United States Government](#), [Expertise France](#), [BACKUP Health](#), [Japanese Government World Health Organizations](#), [UNAIDS](#), [Stop TB Partnership](#), [RBM Partnership to End Malaria](#), and [Community Engagement Strategic Initiative of the Global Fund](#). These TA providers offer essential expertise, resources, and support in the provision of technical assistance, contributing significantly to various global health initiatives and programs.

[Expertise France L'Initiative](#) is a French program that aims to combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and to strengthen healthcare systems. Expertise France provides technical assistance and additional funding to Global Fund recipient countries to improve the effectiveness of their grants and strengthen the health impact of funded programs, ultimately contributing to more effective pandemic responses and stronger health systems. L'Initiative is a key partner of Global Fund's impact, conducting technical assistance missions upon the request from partners in eligible countries. Any stakeholders involved in the Global Fund programs in countries eligible for L'Initiative support may apply for technical assistance.

Regional applications may be submitted by one applicant organization, such as a regional coordination body. For national applications:

- Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs);
- Principal recipients, Sub-recipients, and Sub-sub-recipients of Global Fund grants;
- National pandemic control programs;
- Government agencies;
- Civil society organizations.

[L'Initiative](#) operates in 40 countries that are eligible for support from the Global Fund. This includes countries facing implementation challenges and those identified as high-impact countries by the Global Fund in their efforts to combat pandemics.

[UNAIDS Technical Support Mechanism \(UNAIDS TSM\)](#) serves as a core platform to provide technical support to Global Fund grantees in the Asia-Pacific region. The UNAIDS TSM is a trusted mechanism to engage with governments, communities and other technical partners equipped with a robust accountability system that includes an integrated risk management framework.

- The fundamental of technical support delivery is demand driven country focused technical support
  - Provision of TA to government, CSO and other stakeholders
  - Leverage UNAIDS and TSM's resources for focused-interventions on key priority areas: Prevention & Treatment, Community-Led Response, Human Rights, Gender, and Equitable Financing
  - Optimizes the Global Fund and government investment including PEPFAR, DFAT and other at country level
  - Provide quality assured technical support for impactful program
  - Leverages UNAIDS resources for country level impact
  - Eligible countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam
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Hosted by Seven Alliance Consortium, the Asia Pacific Learning hub, a dynamic platform aims to nurturing knowledge and leadership skills of communities and country partner organizations in the region. Additionally, it will empower communities providing them with necessary skills and resources to effectively engage in the GF processes and to apply for short term technical assistance, with the overarching goal of contributing to strengthening health systems to combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. It' all about making a positive impact and working together to make a difference."

Selvan Anthony,  
APCOM

Asia Pacific Learning Hub,  
Seven Alliance



## What do communities think of TA?

Communities think that TA is:

- Researching and leading the process of addressing community needs/issues/gaps by community engagement.
- Expertise and resources bring specialized skills and knowledge to community, helping to address complex technical challenges (management, financing, reporting, self-assessment, technical proficiency, etc)
- Can increase the organizational capabilities and leadership for reaching out to more donors and opportunities
- Enhancing community empowerment and capacity by providing training, support, and knowledge transfer, policy advocacy to enable communities to become more self-sufficient.

The Asia-Pacific Learning Hub has gathered experiences of successful technical assistance requesters from [Cambodia - KHANA](#) and [Laos - CHIAs](#) who have shared their learning experiences to encourage other countries from the Asia Pacific region to seek support through Short-Term Technical Assistance. They emphasized the important priorities for countries to consider during the application process. The key points to prioritize during proposal writing include clearly describing background and issue statement, proper justification on objectives, clearly defining the scope of work, setting appropriate timelines and methodology, forecasting expectations and outcomes, as well as emphasizing the importance of monitoring, evaluation, learning (MEL) and sustainability of the project



## Dos and Don'ts of Requesting Technical Assistance

Dos	Don'ts
Clearly understand the specific technical need	Not setting up clear objectives, outcomes and Technical Assistance needs
Research and know the nature of donor	Lack of alignment with strategic goals of the country and the program
Keep regularly communication with donor and stakeholder	Lack of community engagement (Needs diverse engagement)
Clearly define the issue, impact, expect outcome and community benefits	Long term planning and sustainability of the project is missing
Detail on budgeting and scope of work	Don't forget to follow up and report back to donors and disseminate to community
Emphasize long-term impact and maximize community engagement and align with the country and global strategy	
Transparency process	

You can access the full recording and powerpoint presentations from Seven Alliance's Virtual Learning Session about Technical Assistance through these links:

- [Full Webinar Recording](#)
- [Powerpoint Presentations](#)

You can also explore these resources from The Global Fund, Expertise France, and UNAIDS for the latest information, criteria, guidelines, and application forms:

- [The Global Fund - Strengthening Community Engagement](#)
- [L'Initiative France - How to Request Technical Assistance](#)
- [UNAIDS - Technical Support Mechanism](#)



Many countries are in actual need of Technical Assistance Support but they do not have adequate knowledge about the TA guidelines, criteria and the TA process. Countries fail to get TA support because they are not clear of their TA needs and Outcomes”.

— Mr. Viengkhone Souriyo  
Executive Director,  
Community Health and  
Inclusion Association  
(CHIA), Laos.



Asia Pacific Learning Hub,  
Seven Alliance



The Asia Pacific Learning Hub is dedicated to supporting community partners with the technical assistance they need to thrive. Reach out and apply for TA and let's work together for a sustainable future!"

— Ikka Noviyanti,  
Regional Coordinator,  
Youth LEAD



Asia Pacific Learning Hub,  
Seven Alliance

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## Not from the Asia-Pacific region?

Discover the Regional Learning Hubs in your region here:

- [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/10393/crg\\_regionalplatforms\\_contactdetails\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/10393/crg_regionalplatforms_contactdetails_en.pdf)

## Do you want to know more about community engagement at the Global Fund?

Explore these resources from the Global Fund:

- [Strengthening Community Engagement Throughout the Cycle](#)
  - [Community Engagement: A Guide to Opportunities Throughout the Grant Life Cycle](#)
  - [Community Engagement Toolbox: Resources from Partners of the Global Fund's Community Engagement Strategic Initiative](#)
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- **DO YOU WANT TO ORGANIZE A CONSULTATION TO STRATEGIZE FOR GLOBAL FUND PROCESSES?**
  - **DO YOU NEED THE SUPPORT OF A CONSULTANT TO SUPPORT ENGAGING IN THE GLOBAL FUND PROCESS BUT DON'T HAVE RESOURCES?**
  - **ARE YOU STILL THINKING WHERE TO REACHOUT FOR GETTING SUPPORT ON SHORT TERM TA?**

Reach out to Asia Pacific Regional Learning Hub for all your queries related to the Global Fund Processes

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Want to connect? Visit our website and follow us on our social media accounts below, or reach us at [communications@sevenallianceap.com](mailto:communications@sevenallianceap.com)







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