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Asia-Pacific Learning Hub Monthly Newsletter - June, 2025



Unpacking Grant Adaptations Measures for the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7"-Joint webinar organized by Regional Learning Hubs

Introduction and Background

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Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 (GC7)” in collaboration with five other regional learning hubs. This webinar was organized in response to the Global Fund Secretariat’s guidance on reprioritizing GC7 grants, following the release of a “slow down” letter issued in April 2025 due to financial constraints and reduced donor commitments. These changes, which aim to protect essential services while cutting or deferring lower-priority expenditures, have serious implications for communities affected by HIV, TB, and malaria.

The webinar had three core objectives: to provide a detailed overview of the Global Fund’s orientation on programmatic reprioritization; to examine the real-world impact of these measures on civil society and community access to life-saving services; and to highlight effective advocacy strategies and success stories that have helped retain interventions or secure domestic funding. The speakers were Anna Maalsen - Manager, Thematic Cluster for Key Populations, Community Engagement and Responses, Community Rights and Gender Department, Global Fund (ii) Javier Hourcade Bellocq - Board Member, Communities Delegation (iii) Anuar Luna - Coordinator, LAC Learning Hub Via Libre (iv) Boye- Community Representative, Program Officer for the NGO AWA SR/ANCS/FM, sex workers module. Member of the Board of Directors of the ANCS. Country Focal Point for the HRF (v) Ganzorig Munkhjargal- Community Representative, Member of CCM Mongolia

Related link:

- [GC7 Grant Reprioritization: Updated Timelines, Global Fund](#)
- [Operational Update on Grant Reprioritization for Grant Cycle 7 and Updated Timelines](#)
- [Grant Adaptation PPT](#)
- [A Guide for communities: Grant Adaptation Measures for Global Fund Grant Cycle 7](#)
- [Developing Country NGO Delegation Key Takeaways](#)
- [Grant Cycle 7 Reprioritization : How can communities prepare?](#)
- [Global Fund Website for more information](#)

Key Points of Discussion

- **Protecting Essential Services and Enablers**

A core message throughout the webinar was the urgent need to **safeguard access to essential HIV, TB, and malaria services** amidst the ongoing funding crisis. Anna Maalsen, Manager, Thematic Cluster for Key Populations, Community Engagement and Responses at CRG from the Global Fund Secretariat emphasized that while financial constraints have necessitated reprioritization, investments in **Community-Led Monitoring (CLM), human rights, gender equity, and RSSH** must be protected. The guidance discourages standalone pilots or research projects that do not directly contribute to service improvement. Instead, countries should prioritize proven interventions and integrate all available funding sources—both domestic and external—to maintain continuity in service delivery.

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Global Fund and implementing countries. Javier Hourcade Bellocq - Board Member, Communities Delegation noted that although the recent **\$1.3 billion disbursement from the U.S.** provided some relief, the broader donor landscape remains volatile, with many contributors scaling back. He highlighted that this reprioritization is not about securing new grants but reallocating existing funds, making it crucial for communities to stay engaged and informed. Ganzorig Munkhjargal-Community Representative, Member of CCM Mongolia, echoed these concerns, sharing how **Mongolia's TB budget was cut by 90%**, leaving CSOs severely underfunded. The situation underscores the need for **clear communication, urgent advocacy, and strategic engagement with governments.**

- **Community Engagement and Advocacy**

Meaningful community participation emerged as a consistent theme. Anna Maalsen -Manager, Thematic Cluster for Key Populations, Community Engagement and Responses, Community Rights and Gender Department, Global Fund urged **stronger engagement between CCMs, PRs, and civil society** during the grant revision phase to ensure transparency and ownership. Javier Hourcade Bellocq - Board Member, Communities Delegation stressed the **urgency of mobilizing communities to influence decisions**, especially during the short two-week grant revision window. Both Boye- Community Representative ,Program Officer for the NGO AWA SR/ANCS/FM, sex workers module. Member of the Board of Directors of the ANCS. Country Focal Point for the HRF and Ganzorig Munkhjargal-Community Representative, Member of CCM Mongolia highlighted **limited civil society input and communication barriers** at country level, with inactive CCM websites and closed decision-making processes hampering effective advocacy. Their testimonies reinforced the need for **community-led responses to be treated as integral—not optional—elements of the Global Fund model.**

- **Tools for Civil Society Participation**

To support more effective community involvement, Anuar Luna - Coordinator, LAC Learning Hub Via Libre **launched the Community Guide on the Reprioritization Approach.** Designed in response to grassroots feedback, the guide provides step-by-step instructions, timelines, and advocacy tips to help civil society actors understand and engage with the GC7 reprioritization process. Initially released in English, the guide will soon be available in multiple languages to improve accessibility across regions. This tool was widely welcomed as a practical and timely resource.

- **Country-Level Realities and Case Studies**

The lived experiences shared by community representatives offered a

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SR/ANCS/FM, sex workers module. Member of the Board of Directors of the ANCS. Country Focal Point for the HRF described the **struggles in maintaining service quality** while making tough budgetary decisions. He noted concerns from civil society around weakened performance frameworks and reduced community prevention funding. In **Mongolia**, Ganzorig Munkhjargal- Community Representative, Member of CCM Mongolia painted a sobering picture of **limited transparency and declining support for CSOs**, calling for **direct advocacy with national decision-makers** to reverse the trend and safeguard TB services

Call to Action

As countries enter a condensed timeline for revising GC7 grants, community and civil society organizations are urged to act swiftly—leveraging tools like the new Community Guide, participating in CCM discussions, and advocating for the protection of core programs. With funding shortfalls ongoing and risks to community-led interventions mounting, this is a critical moment for unified, informed, and visible community engagement to safeguard the health and rights of the most affected populations.

You can access the Full Webinar on “Unpacking Grant Adaptations Measures for the Global Fund GC 7”

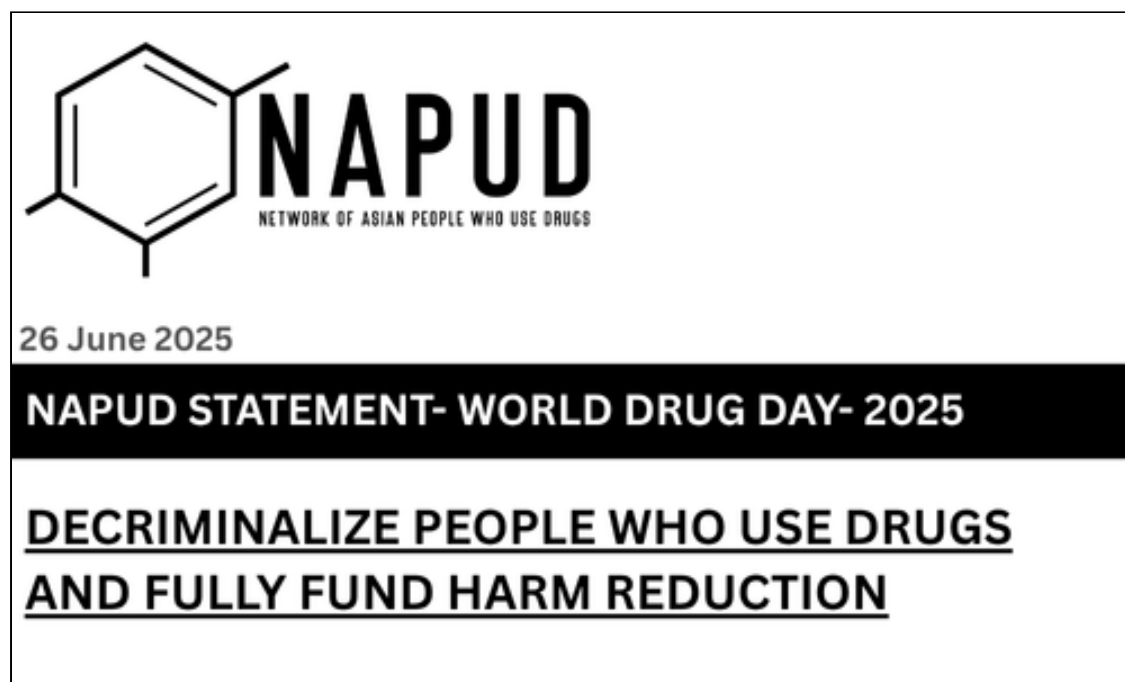
The banner features a background image of a webinar session with participants. At the top, there are six regional logos: Anglophone Africa (EANNASO), Asia-Pacific (Seven Alliance), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EHRA), Francophone Africa (RAME), Latin America and the Caribbean (Via Libre), and Middle East and North Africa (MENA/HRA). The word "WELCOME" is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, the title "Unpacking Grant Adaptations Measures for the Global Fund Cycle 7" is shown, with a large red play button icon in the middle. A subtitle reads: "(On newest GC7 Programmatic Reprioritisation Approach released on June 6, 2025)". The date "June 23, 2025" is at the bottom right, and the "SEVEN ALLIANCE" logo is at the bottom left.

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NAPUD STATEMENT - WORLD DRUG DAY 2025

Decriminalize people who use drugs and fully fund harm reduction

The Network of Asian People who Use Drugs (NAPUD) released a statement on **Thursday, June 26, 2025**, for World Drug Day. The statement urgently calls for **decriminalizing people who use drugs and fully funding harm reduction services** across Asia. The statement emphasizes that current criminalization practices deny basic human rights and create significant barriers to essential health and social services for people who use drugs, hindering progress against HIV, hepatitis, and tuberculosis.

[Read Full Statement](#)

Community Engagement Strategic Initiative Update - 2025 Update Publication

The **Community Engagement Strategic Initiative Update** (June 2025) is the fifth edition of an annual publication that the CE SI puts together to inform about the evolution of the SI and to spotlight partners' work at country and regional level. The 2025 Update outlines key achievements of the SI in 2024/2025 and includes brief case studies from Egypt, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia.



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