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Strengthening community engagement through Short-Term Technical Assistance (TA) and In-country engagement support.

- A snapshot of community experience

APRLH functions as the Global Fund Regional Learning Hub for Asia Pacific, convening learning platforms for communities, facilitating access Short-Term TA, supporting the alignment of Global Fund priorities with community needs, and promoting cross-country learning and sharing. APRLH supports communities to engage meaningfully in Global Fund and related processes at country level,

translating lived experience into impactful funding requests, policy advocacy, and stronger health programs. The in-country support and Short-Term Technical Assistance support provided by APRLH in the past 18 months include:

- Translation: In many Asia and the Pacific countries, they have their own unique languages, and English isn't always the primary language used by communities. Therefore, APRLH provides essential support in converting raw community input and local knowledge into clear reports in English that can be accessible, readable and understandable to those who may read it so people can grasp it easily. For example; Report of the Papua was in [Bahasa](#) but it was translated to [English](#) by APRLH
- Documentation Assistance: APRLH also offers crucial documentation support, focusing on two key areas: Short Term Technical Assistance and In-country support.
 - For Short-Term TA, APRLH supports countries to identify objectives, align them with [Community Engagement Strategic Initiative \(CESI\)](#) and country priorities and develop the TA application.
 - Through the In-country level engagement support, APRLH provides small grants to enable community engagement in key Global Fund and country level processes, their country priorities and craft applications that perfectly align with those goals.
- Convening learning platforms: APRLH is all about building bridges. It connects communities to regional learning platforms, like Newsletters and Webinars etc. These networks bring together diverse groups facing similar challenges, creating a space where people can learn from each other, share what works best, and solve problems together. This collective effort ultimately magnifies the positive impact of local initiatives.

In-Country Engagement Support

Pakistan: The reprioritization process of the Global Fund's 7th grant cycle, partly brought about by the global health financing crisis and a US funding freeze significantly impacted many countries around the world supported by the Global Fund. Pakistan's HIV, TB, and malaria programs also engaged in the GC7 reprioritization process. In response, the Khawaja Sira Society (KSS) Pakistan utilized a small grant through the in-country engagement support of the APRLH to mobilize communities to actively participate in this process, organizing Focus Group Discussions and consultations to gather direct input from those living and affected by the three diseases. This crucial information was then shared with the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and other stakeholders, ensuring that community priorities and challenges

were understood and integrated into discussions, ultimately influencing the reprioritization to reflect and address the real needs of the community.



Papua, Indonesia: Papua contributed to 15% of cumulative HIV cases in Indonesia, and key populations have long been facing many challenges including stigma and discrimination that limited their access to HIV services. However, due to its epidemiological classification as a general epidemic, it was excluded from national key population surveys which decrease the focus for targeted KP intervention programs. With in-country engagement support provided through the AP RLH, Rombongan Jayapura Peduli (Rojali) organized FGD and in-depth interviews to document their experiences with HIV care, revealing critical service gaps. This input was compiled into a comprehensive report with concrete recommendations to inform Papua's HIV Response Intensification Strategy, ensuring that key population needs are reflected in program development including capacity building for healthcare workers on gender diversity, establishing community-led complaint mechanisms, providing legal assistance, and meaningfully involving communities in strategic decision-making processes.

Short-Term Technical Assistant

Thailand: On the Thailand-Myanmar border, ethnic minorities and migrant workers face difficulties accessing malaria services due to location and social barriers especially related to gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI). APRLH supported the CSO platform to access TA from Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE SI) of the Global Fund to identify these gaps and develop recommendations. The TA supported the CSO platform to implement KIIs and FGDs, bring together national stakeholders and develop an action plan to incorporate GEDSI related recommendations into interventions. The results and proposed solutions were shared with national and local health authorities, community-based

solutions were shared with national and local health authorities, community-based organizations, Civil Society organization partners, and community representatives to help improve malaria outreach and services. This collaboration aimed to make malaria programs more accessible and better suited to community realities.



Sri Lanka: In Sri Lanka, many civil society groups and advocates lacked a clear understanding of the Global Fund processes, restricting their ability to contribute effectively. APRLH facilitated DAST to apply for a Short-Term Technical Assistance through CE SI, bringing together communities and Global Fund stakeholders at the country level to raise awareness on the Global Fund process and to identify strategies for communities to engage meaningfully. APRLH also guided them through the entire TA application process, from submission to approval by the Global Fund. The results and proposed solutions included a comprehensive workshop on Global Fund processes and a community engagement action plan which has been supported community engagement in GC7 implementation and GC8 preparations as well.

Links for the related documents and reports:

- [Information on Short Term Technical Assistance](#)
- [Indonesia \(Papua Region\) : Final Report Community Consultation for the Development of HIV Response Intensification Strategy in Tanah Papua \(English\).— \(Also Available in Bahasa\)](#)
- [Pakistan: Comprehensive Contextual Analysis Report \(Pakistan's HIV, TB and Malaria Response under Global Fund Reprioritization and Funding Cuts, 2025\)](#)

- [Pakistan: Reprioritization of Global Fund GC7 Investments in Pakistan: Community Voices, Systemic Gaps, and the Path Forward](#)
- [Sri Lanka: Community Engagement Plan for the Global Fund and the CCM Process in Sri Lanka](#)
- [Thailand: Access Barriers to Malaria Services for Migrant and Indigenous population- A GEDSI review in Tak province](#)

Testimonials

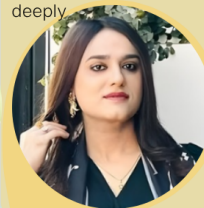
"The small grant initiative is key in supporting strategic work for PLHIV and KP communities. Its flexibility allows the community to obtain financial support to conduct crucial work on priority issues and fill programmatic gaps from main fundings for AIDS response. In Indonesia the initiative supported evidence gathering initiatives led by the community to inform national program development such as KP targeted program in Papua and integrated AHD services in the HIV cascade. The small grant will advance community engagement and leadership for the HIV intensification plan in Papua and GF GC8 country proposal in Indonesia."

-Omar, Papua, Indonesia



"The Small Grant significantly strengthened community engagement by enabling the implementation of community-led initiatives that prioritized dignity, inclusivity, and equity in service delivery. It ensured that the voices of communities living with and affected by HIV, TB, and Malaria were meaningfully included in the GC7 reprioritization process. The collaboration with APRLH was deeply supportive and their guidance, flexibility, and understanding of community dynamics helped co-create strategies that enhanced both accountability and impact. This Small Grant filled a crucial gap by highlighting and centering community voices in national-level dialogues and strengthening advocacy linkages to ensure that community needs remain central in future programming."

- Moon, Pakistan



"The TA provided through CE SI played a crucial role in refreshing the knowledge of communities in Sri Lanka about the various functions of the Global Fund. It helped ignite renewed energy and commitment among communities to engage more meaningfully. A key outcome of this TA is the development of a comprehensive community engagement plan, with a strong focus on participation in GC7 implementation preparation for GC8 which we look forward to implementing in close collaboration with our CCM. Most importantly, this TA model stands out for its responsiveness to community needs and its ability to foster true community ownership."

- Roshan, Sri Lanka



"The short-term technical assistant enables the Platform to work closely with communities and local stakeholders to identify GEDSI-related barriers in accessing malaria services among migrants and the indigenous population along the cross-border. The collaboration with APRLH was highly supportive and flexible, providing technical guidance while valuing the local perspective, which is crucial for addressing those barriers to deliver more innovative and inclusive interventions. The key findings are now driving advocacy, which has integrated the GEDSI perspectives into the malaria programme and capacity building for community-led elimination initiatives."

-Shreehari, CSO Platform



Importance of Short-Term Technical Assistance (TA) and In-Country Engagement Support

Short-Term Technical Assistance (TA) and In-country engagement support are important to empower communities to engage effectively in Global Fund processes. They build skills, foster advocacy, and strengthen community systems, enabling marginalized groups to participate meaningfully in grant planning, implementation, and oversight. These supports help ensure that community insights shape national HIV, TB, and malaria programs.

Looking ahead to future grants like GC8, continuous TA and in-country support will be key to sustaining community leadership, improving health equity, and enhancing

accountability mechanisms.

(For more Information on Short Term TA: <https://sevenallianceap.com/learning-hub/understanding-technical-assistance/>)

Reach Out to APRLH for Support!

APRLH encourages all the interested Asia Pacific countries to apply Short- Term Technical assistance to strengthen community engagement with the Global Fund.

For In-country engagement support, APRLH will announce the In-country engagement support through a website and social media account. Keep following APRLH website and social media. And for more information, email to chinmykumar@sevenallianceap.com or karunlama@sevenallianceap.com

Visit our website

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