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Ensuring Trans and Gender Diverse Community Engagement in Grant Cycle 8

What Trans & Gender Diverse Communities Need to Know

This newsletter is aimed at equipping trans and gender diverse communities with the technical information they need to engage with GC8 related processes. Information for the newsletter has been derived from direct interviews with trans-led organisations engaged in HIV-AIDS work in Malaysia, and trans and gender diverse representatives of CCMs in Nepal and Papua New Guinea.

Supplementing information has been borrowed from Global Fund's Grant Cycle 8 for the Trans and Gender Diverse Community Toolkit by GATE.

Grant Cycle 8 (2026–2028) is the Global Fund's most resource-constrained cycle yet. The global health financing landscape remains increasingly complex with shrinking resources

and growing demands. In this context, partnerships must collaborate more effectively than ever before. The Global Fund’s Grant Cycle 8 (GC8) (2026–2028) introduces significant strategic shifts designed to improve health outcomes and accelerate the path to self-reliance.

Key shifts that affect trans and gender diverse communities:

- Reduced allocations require proposals to prove measurable HIV, TB, and malaria impact, meaning the community must demonstrate how peer outreach directly hits national health goals to protect trans programs from budget cuts.
- Community Priorities Annex (a formal, reviewable mechanism to document the identified priorities) is **mandatory** for High Impact and Core portfolios so writing teams cannot erase them
- Accelerated transition to domestic financing, highest risk for trans-led services in criminalizing contexts.
- Community systems strengthening is a **core** now, it is not optional meaning trans-led groups can secure steady funding to become permanent, official parts of the local healthcare system.

GC8 ENTRY POINTS FOR TRANS COMMUNITIES

Priority	Where It Fits in GC8	Key Indicator
Trans-specific HIV prevention (condoms, PrEP, PEP)	HIV Prevention Module	KP-6b: Trans people receiving PrEP
Discrimination-free care; legal literacy; policy reform	RSSH: Human Rights-Related Barriers Module	RSSH O-7: % health staff with negative attitudes toward KPs
Peer outreach; community-led monitoring; org capacity	RSSH: Community Systems Strengthening Module	CSS-2.1: Community orgs receiving capacity support
GBV training; safe spaces; psychosocial support	RSSH: Gender-Related Barriers Module	GBV-1: Survivors receiving minimum HIV/PEP package
Gender-affirming care (WHO guidelines expected 2026)	HIV Prevention + RSSH (where national policy allows)	No indicator

Landscape in Asia and the Pacific

Malaysia :

The Non-Negotiable Priority: Prioritizing face to face community outreach over the online 'Jom Test' kits. *"Don't treat us as 'specimens' to satisfy financial indicators; our primary healthcare priority is holistic well-being and Gender-Affirming Care."*

The Strategy: As Malaysia prepares for the transition process. SEED Malaysia secures space by embedding services directly where communities gather. They drive HIV/STI screenings through their Drop-In Centre, mobile outreach, hotels, client spaces, community events, and local places of worship.

Nepal:

The Non-Negotiable Priority: Establishing and institutionalizing community led space and services to reduce the deep-rooted social stigma.

The Strategy: The community successfully fought for and secured direct Main and Alternate seats on the national CCM. These representatives conduct monthly check-ins with 22 to 24 local trans groups. After direct lobbying with the Ministry of Health and the National Center for AIDS Control (NCASC), leaders are traveling to all seven provinces (May–June 2026) to collect raw grassroots evidence for a single national action plan. *"When you show up with hard facts about high HIV rates and violence against trans people, they stop looking like you are asking for a favor, you show them that funding our lives is the only way to stop a national health crisis".*

PNG:

The Non-Negotiable Priority: Dedicated spaces and provincial representation (NCD, Morobe, Western Highlands) for trans, gender-diverse, and MSM communities to prevent from being overlooked.

The Strategy: Community leveraged real-time WhatsApp groups also held monthly outreach meetings, and they successfully have involved two community members directly onto the proposal writing team. By demanding draft document access and deploying localized "loss to follow-up" data, they expanded their CCM representation from 3 seats to 8. *"Our biggest win came when we stopped waiting for an invitation and instead demanded data access and writing-team seats."*

STAGE 1 – Country Dialogue (Now)

- Find out your country's CCM timeline and submission window immediately.
- Attend all consultations organised for the country dialogue in your country every country's dialogue. If trans communities are not invited separately; demand it.
- Bring community-generated data: community led research and surveys done by these groups, human rights violations recorded, outreach records, loss-to-follow-up rates, service gap etc documentation.
- Use National Health and National Strategy Plan (NSP) language: Show how trans and gender diverse groups' priorities are part of NSPs and frame trans priorities as solutions to national HIV, TB, malaria targets rather than separate demands.

STAGE 5 – Monitoring and Review

- Feed CLM data into Progress Update and Disbursement Request (PU/DR) processes.
- Report gaps directly to CCM representatives and the Global Fund Country Team.
- Use data to advocate for course corrections mid-grant – you have the right to do this.

STAGE 2 – Proposal Writing

- Collaborate with other community partners to integrate your priorities into the mandatory Community Priorities Annex (High Impact and Core portfolios).
- Push to have community members on the national writing team (PNG model).
- Demand access to draft documents. Review them. Flag what is missing
- Frame every question around: impact, equity, value for money, and sustainability.

GUIDE:
Meaningful Engagement Trans Gender Diverse groups on GC8 - from Identifying Priorities to Monitoring

STAGE 4 – Implementation

- Ensure trans-led organizations are listed as sub-recipients or implementing partners – not just consultees.
- Track whether funded activities match what was in the approved proposal.
- Use Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) frameworks – document barriers, service quality, discrimination incidents.

STAGE 3 – Grant-Making (Negotiation)

- Stay at the table during negotiations; this is where cuts happen.
- Coordinate with other key population networks (MSM, sex workers, PWUD) for joint positions.
- Link trans-specific priorities to existing Global Fund modules and national health objectives. The GATE GC8 Guide encourages communities to position trans priorities within funding request structures and investment priorities to strengthen their inclusion in the grant.

RISKS TO WATCH

- **Transition ≠ safety net.** For trans and gender diverse communities, this creates risks, as community-led and rights-based services are often vulnerable when funding shifts to domestic sources, especially in contexts of criminalization. Advocate NOW for social contracting and government accountability mechanism.
- **Integration ≠ inclusion.** PHC integration without trans-competent training means communities face the same discrimination in new settings. Training health workers must be a funded line item.
- **CCM representation.** A seat without document access, budget visibility, or decision-making power is not participation. Demand all three (Best Practices from PNG)



“As we witness a rollback on rights of trans and gender diverse people in several countries in our region mirroring similar attacks happening globally, it is important to ensure that proposed integration of community-led services into public healthcare systems does not end up alienating communities who are already increasingly criminalised by hostile governments.”

-Aвали Khare, APTN, Seven Alliance Member

Related Links:

- [Modular Framework for GC8](#)
- [Guide to the Global Fund’s Grant Cycle 8 for the Trans and Gender Diverse Community](#)
- [The Global Fund GC8 Essentials](#)
- [The Global Fund: Information Sessions](#)

Community AI Survey by ITPC

Got 7 minutes to help shape the future of AI? 🤖

The **International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)** wants to hear from you! We’re launching our **Community Artificial Intelligence (AI) Survey** to better understand how our community perceives, uses, and feels about AI tools.

Here is what you need to know:

- 🕒 **Fast:** Takes less than 7 minutes.
- 🔒 **Anonymous:** No names or personal details collected.
- 💡 **Impactful:** Your insights will directly guide our future community-led AI programs.

Ready to make your voice heard?

👉 **Take the brief survey here:**

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8802502/Community-AI-Survey>

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