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PODCAST

FOR THE COMMUNITY

FIGHTING AGAINST HIV, TUBERCULOSIS & MALARIA



HOST

GC8 UNDER 8 MINUTES



GLOBAL FUND'S EXPERTS

The Asia Pacific Regional Learning Hub (APRLH), hosted by Seven Alliance, identified that communities need Global Fund-related information now more than ever due to

reduced resources and an increased emphasis on accelerating domestic funding.

To address ever increasing need for short and simplified information, with support from the Global Fund Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE SI), the Asia Pacific Regional Learning Hub (APRLH) developed a podcast series on Global Fund GC8 guidance. This series equips communities and civil society partners with brief, clear, and digestible information to support their meaningful engagement in the GC8 Funding Request development and grant-making process.

Produced under Seven Alliance's **"Extra Miles"** initiative, an effort dedicated to going above and beyond the standard project scope for community engagement at the national level. This podcast series breaks down Global GC8 priority guidance and delivers them as short interviews with Global Fund technical experts. The project was advised by Harry Prabowo, Program Manager, APN+ and Seven Alliance member alongside other Seven Alliance members, hosted by Chinmy Kumar (Program Coordinator, APRLH), and designed and edited by Karun Lama (Communication Coordinator, APRLH). The complete series was published between April and August 2026.

Episode 1: Tuberculosis Key Priorities Under Grant Cycle 8

Published: Apr 24, 2026

Speaker: Jamie Tonsing, Disease Advisor for TB, Global Fund

This episode highlights the changes in GC8 for Tuberculosis; moving money to lower-income settings, rigorous prioritization, innovation, integration, value for money, community systems, and sustainability. It also explains the core pillars of TB program essentials.

Lastly, it explains deeply on the strategies that country can undertake to prioritize TB intervention as value for money like Computer-Aided Detection for screening, BPaLM regimen for drug-resistant TB for treatment



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Episode 2: HIV Key Priorities Under Grant Cycle 8

Published: May 6, 2026

Speaker: Beatriz Thome, Senior Advisor, TAP-HIV, Global Fund



This episode gives community leaders easy-to-use tools to protect essential HIV services when money gets tighter. It highlights how to integrate HIV care into primary health settings without losing dignity, privacy and peer-led support.

Three primary discussion of this episode are : the changes and remain consistent in GC8 HIV technical guidance compared to GC7; the definition, purpose, and expansion of HIV Program Essentials (including STI management, TB diagnostics for people living with HIV, and gender-based violence integration); and practical strategies for adapting key population programs across varying epidemiologic and financial settings without diluting their impact.

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Episode 3: Removing Human Rights Related Barriers in HTM Under Grant Cycle 8

Published: May 14, 2026

Speaker: Alexandrina Iovita, Senior Technical Advisor for Human Rights, Global Fund

This episode highlights what's new in the human rights module under grant cycle 8 to reduce human rights barriers to HIV, TB, and Malaria. It also explains the ways to demand safety, digital privacy, and legal protection for frontline community workers.

It also deeply explains the three high levels of intervention: stopping stigma in clinics, changing harmful laws, and giving people access to legal help to have more integrated and systematic approaches for removing human rights-related barriers to services, and ways to choose the programs that are effective to reduce barriers. Lastly, the kind of data or arguments that communities can use to advocate for human rights integration in national HIV, TB, and malaria responses.

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Episode 4: Removing Gender Related Barriers in HTM Under Grant Cycle 8

Published: May 21, 2026

Speaker: Thea Willis, Senior Technical Advisor for Gender, Global Fund

Discussion on this episode is mainly focused on the four important changes in the GC8 related to the gender related barriers; mandatory assessment of barriers, gender module under Modular Framework, new program essential- intimate partner violence and the matching fund.

Impact of integration on criminalized, stigmatized populations, key population, women and girls. Persistent issues in men's healthcare around gender due to male stereotypes. Gender-related barriers to access antenatal care. Importance of evidence like women missing ANC malaria, identification of gender related barriers that are stopping communities from accessing and staying in ANC are the key highlights of this episodes

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Episode 5: New Enabling Guidance on Integration Under Grant Cycle 8

Published: May 28, 2026

Speaker: Estrella Lasry, Senior Integration Specialist, Global Fund

This episode helps the community to understand what integration actually means with a detailed explanation. This episode also warns about real-world risks like losing specialized care for key groups and also discusses the mitigation strategies to address the risk that comes with the integration from designing phase to monitoring phase to protect community needs during big health system changes.

It has stressed that community leaders on planning committees must advocate for overall health access and set clear boundaries on what essential services cannot be cut.

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Episode 6: CSS Key Priorities Under Grant Cycle 8

Published: June 17, 2026

Speaker: Olga Rychkova, Senior Technical Advisor, Global Fund

This episode explains the two critical areas to support transition within the communities system-strengthening module; community engagement not only global Fund-owned processes, but also engaging in the national or sub-national decision-making and Integration.

It highlights the requirements for domestic resource mobilization in GC8 like role community advocates, use of community led monitoring etc. This episode also captured the practical steps can communities take to advance social contracting



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Episode 7: Sustainability, Transition, and Co-financing Under Grant Cycle 8

Published: Apr 6, 2026

Speaker: Matthew Macgregor, Head of the Health Finance Department, Global Fund

This episode breaks down the three important pieces of the transition pathways; concept of transition pathways, transitioning specific costs and supporting reforms at the country level. Along with it, the specific requirements for domestic resource mobilization and co-financing that communities need to watch out for this cycle.

Lastly this episode also deeply explains practical steps can communities take to advance social contracting and ensure public funds are successfully channeled to community-led responses at the country level.

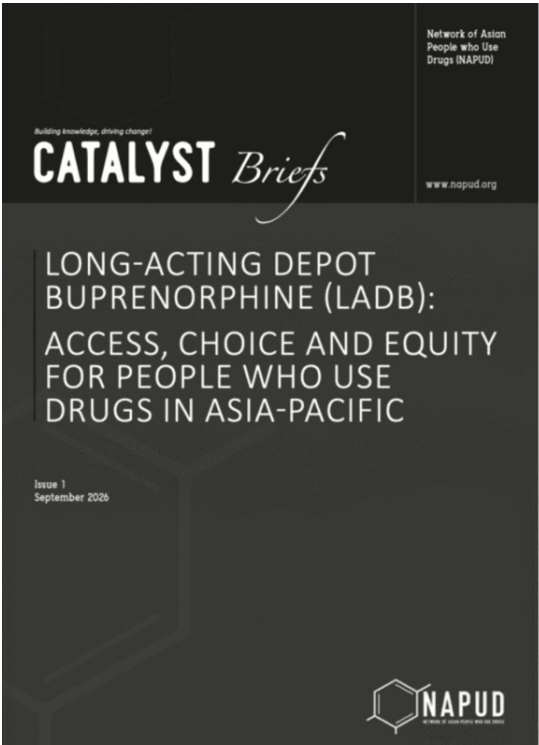
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To make the podcast series more accessible, APRLH has published the one page document including all the links of the podcast series from episode one to seven with different subtitles (English, Spanish, Arabic and French)

Click Here to Access all Podcast link in one place

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On 17 September 2026, NAPUD published the the first edition of Catalyst Briefs: Building knowledge, driving change! on **LONG-ACTING DEPOT BUPRENORPHINE (LADB): ACCESS, CHOICE AND EQUITY FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN ASIA-PACIFIC .**

Long-acting depot buprenorphine (LADB) is an emerging option for the treatment of opioid dependence that could transform access to opioid agonist therapy (OAT) for people who use drugs in Asia-Pacific. Unlike daily sublingual buprenorphine, LADB is administered weekly or monthly, providing sustained medication delivery while reducing the need for frequent clinic visits. The World Health Organization recommends LADB as an additional option for opioid dependence, and the Global Fund has encouraged countries to introduce and scale up this innovation.

The need is particularly significant in Asia-Pacific, where people who inject drugs experience a disproportionate burden of HIV and hepatitis C. Despite the availability of harm reduction services, OAT coverage remains very low, with regional coverage reported at only 5%. Stigma, discrimination, punitive drug policies, and limited service availability continue to create barriers to accessing care.

This brief highlights the need for stronger evidence, regulatory pathways, affordable pricing, sustainable financing, and meaningful involvement of people who use drugs and service providers. Expanding community engagement, supporting demand generation, and developing access and market-shaping strategies will be critical to ensuring that LADB becomes an accessible and equitable treatment option across Asia-Pacific.

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