

## Supplemental Work Plan & Budget Round 9



### CSS: Towards a more effective HIV/AIDS Response in Asia:

Asia's HIV epidemic varies from country to country but there are shared characteristics centered around unprotected paid sex, contaminated needles and syringes and unprotected sex between men.

HIV Prevalence in the Asia region is considered low but due to its dense population, the number of PLHIV is huge: nearly five million people are living with HIV in Asia, with 440,000 people acquiring the infection in 2007 and 300,000 dying from AIDS related illness in the same year. At this rate, the Independent Commission on AIDS in Asia's report contends, an additional eight million people will become newly infected by 2020. Asia's HIV epidemic is characterized as concentrated, meaning it is seen in key affected populations. To address concentrated epidemics requires leadership to overcome the social drivers behind the epidemic. The response must include structural and social factors, such as criminalization and marginalization of certain groups, human rights violations and discrimination. Failing to address these constitutes a major barrier to an effective national response.

Civil Society (CS) involvement in the AIDS response is essential especially in Asia where HIV is concentrated in key affected populations that are especially hard to reach. This is explicitly mentioned in the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on AIDS (2001), UNGASS Political Resolution (2006), the Commission on AIDS in Asia's report (2007) and other international documents, reports and or guidelines. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM) has made CS participation mandatory with provisions made for CS participation at every level. Yet, despite the crucial role designated to CS in the AIDS response, often CS participation is hindered by the lack of support and technical skills needed to meaningfully participate. Despite efforts to ensure its participation, challenges still remain. Accountability, technical capacity for service delivery and organizational management issues are 3 of the most common challenges identified with civil society organizations (CSOs) that become the principal recipient (PR), the sub-recipient (SR) or the sub-sub- recipient (SSR) of Global Fund monies.

GFTAM has identified these issues and considered the significant barriers this presents for countries to deliver what is required. Therefore, Round 8 presented an opportunity for countries to strengthen community organizations in terms of increasing their performance in the form of an endorsement to include a Community System Strengthening (CSS) component into the grant proposal submissions, however the initiative to include such

measures has been limited and few countries have used this opportunity to actually strengthen the capacity of community based organizations or national networks. The main reason for this is, as we have learned from some Asian countries, is the lack of CCM's understanding of this crucial component and also lack of technical skills in integrating this component into the grant proposals.

Effort must be made to ensure this component is integrated into grant proposals, as it would be crucial for community-based organizations/networks to enhance their capacity. Some countries, such as Indonesia, are currently developing their grant proposal for Round 9 and integrating the CSS component within that proposal. Consultations began mid September 2008.

### **Redefining AIDS in Asia Crafting an Effective Response - Report of the Commission on AIDS in Asia**

The Independent Commission on AIDS in Asia was created in June 2006. High-impact interventions, such as HIV prevention programmes focused on key populations and antiretroviral treatment, should constitute the core of the HIV response across Asia was recommended in their report, entitled "Redefining AIDS in Asia – Crafting an Effective Response".

The UN Secretary General commended the Commission on this unique achievement, and appealed to the Governments and civil societies of Asian countries to adopt the Report and implement its recommendations seriously. "Asia is home to some of the fastest-growing economies in the world, and holds the key to social and economic emancipation and development for millions of poor people," the Secretary-General said. "But we will never see equitable progress if some parts of the population are still denied basic health and human rights -- people living with HIV, sex workers, men who have sex with men, and young people who inject drugs. I look to Asian Governments to amend outdated laws criminalizing the most vulnerable sections of society, and take all the measures needed to ensure they live in dignity. By implementing the recommendations of the Commission, Asian countries can avert massive increases in infections and death, prevent economic losses, and save millions of people from poverty. Such leadership is critical in Asia today."

The ICAA presents another opportunity for CSS. The report incorporates comments and findings from over 600 CS representatives and makes very progressive recommendations for policy changes that hope to initiate a more effective response to the region's HIV epidemic with CS at the forefront.

The Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters) (regional host of CSAT in Asia Pacific), Civil Society Action Team (CSAT), Asia Pacific Network of PLHIV (APN+) and the team for Community Follow-up to the Independent Commission on AIDS in Asia's report - consider CS involvement in CCM as a significant opportunity to increase the quality of AIDS response which the CSS initiative further enhances, therefore it also essential to facilitate a learning process for these countries to maximize these opportunities. In order to strengthen & increase the quality of CS involvement, these organizations will initiate a forum to allow these CS representatives to share their experiences and challenges in the GF process to learn from each other. Furthermore, the forum would also present unique opportunities to endorse the development and integration of CSS components into round 9

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- country proposals, develop advocacy strategies and messages that integrate the recommendations made by the ICAA and begin the move to this more effective response.

### Main Objective

To endorse the integration of Community System Strengthening components to the Global Fund round 9-country proposal, in 6 Asian countries

### Expected Output

By the end of the forum, the participants are expected to:

- Comprehend in-depth understanding about the Community System Strengthening
- Understand the importance of Community System Strengthening component integration in the Global Fund country grant proposal
- Identify strategies (strategic plan, timeline, possible supporting partners, resources needed, etc) to integrate Community System Strengthening components into Global Fund round 9-country proposal
- Identify local consultants that would be able to assist in identifying & measuring needs of community-based organizations
- Understand the support regional partners are offering in assisting the integration of CSS component in to their country proposals

### Expected Outcomes

- Commitment from the Country Coordinating Mechanism in each countries in integrating CSS component into the country proposals
- Identification of community-based organizations needs in participating countries in terms of organizational management, service delivery, and participation in decision-making level
- Integration of CSS component reflected through country proposals
- Clear mechanism on how can the community-based organization access these resources

### Participating Countries (to be finalized)

- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- India
- China

### Criteria for Participants

Ideally, 2 (two) representatives from each country would be participating in the forum. 1 (one) participant is the civil society representative in the GF CCM to ensure direct influence in the CCM at the country level.

The other country representative should be the person who is providing intensive technical assistance to the CCM. Often, this person plays significant role in developing grant proposals, facilitating CCM related events and to some extent have influence in CCM's decisions.

**Time & Dates:** The workshop will be held on 28th – 30th of October in Bangkok , Thailand.