

WHAT IS CRG?



CRG, or “communities, rights, and gender,” refers to interventions that aim to ensure that country responses and programmes on HIV, TB, and malaria are community-focused, human rights-based, and gender transformative. The promotion of CRG is based on evidence that for HIV, TB, and/or malaria interventions to be effective, communities, human rights, and gender should be a central part of our response to these diseases.



CRG PLATFORM IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC

The Asia-Pacific Platform on Communities, Rights, and Gender (APCRG) is a communications and coordination platform for civil society groups, key population networks, non-governmental and community-based organisations that are involved in the response to fight HIV, TB, and malaria. It is one of the six regional platforms that were established with the support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (the Global Fund) under the Community, Rights, and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG SI).

As the host of the Global Fund CRG Regional Platform for Asia Pacific from November 2017 to April 2020, APCASO will aim to achieve the following objectives:

1. Further the meaningful engagement of civil society and community groups through regular bi-directional communication and provision of accurate information to enhance the knowledge and participation of these actors in Global Fund-related processes.
2. Improve the overall impact of Global Fund programs and interventions, and disease responses more globally through strengthened engagement of civil society and communities affected by HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.
3. Expand access to technical assistance for civil society and community groups through greater coordination with the CRG Strategic Initiative short-term TA component, as well as key national, regional, and global technical assistance partners.
4. Support strategic civil society and community capacity development initiatives through fostering spaces for engagement and collective participation in key decision-making processes, in particular as they relate to community, rights, and gender

THE WORK OF APCRG

Under these objectives, some activities planned in the next two years will include:

- Maintain online portals, such as the APCRG webpage and Facebook page, and list-serve
- Organize webinars in collaboration with key global and regional groups on critical Global Fund, CRG, and sustainability, transition, and co-financing (STC)-related issues
- Update of existing and develop tailored Global Fund, CRG, and STC-related information, tools, reports, and communities and civil society-friendly communication packages
- Continue ongoing communication and coordination among regional platforms, such as ACT AP and the GMS Malaria CS Platform
- Facilitate CRG-related discussions and capacity-building trainings to the GMS Malaria CS Platform

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- Communicate and coordinate with other technical assistance (TA) initiatives in the region to ensure alignment of TA support and coverage
- Country-level survey on community and civil society access to GF information, TA programs, and capacity-building needs to improve understanding of community and civil society capacity development gaps
- Convene catalytic thematic meetings on specific topics that impact across the three diseases, such as STC and Universal Health Coverage (UHC)



The Asia-Pacific Platform on
Communities, Rights & Gender

*for inquiries about apcrg, please contact us thru
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APCASO AS APCRG HOST

APCASO is a regional civil society network of community-based organizations and nongovernment organizations on health and social justice with focus on advocacy and community capacity development in Asia and the Pacific. Since APCASO overhauled its organizational mandate in 2015, APCASO has worked solidly on and across HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. In all its work, APCASO has highlighted gender equality; respect, promotion, and fulfillment of human rights of all; and critically putting communities in front and center of the responses to the three diseases.

As the Asia Pacific Regional Coordination (APCRG) Platform from 2015 to April 2017, APCASO has been positively reviewed for having facilitated solidarity-building, information exchange, and cross-learning among HIV, TB, and malaria community and civil society networks. Some of these successes are the following (to name a few):

1. Creation of APCRG website that contains all Global Fund and CRG-related information that civil society and communities can access anytime, anywhere.
2. Development of Global Fund and CRG Community Starter Kit, available in English, Khmer, Sinhala, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese.
3. Establishment and development of regional civil society platforms on TB, with the Activists' Coalition on TB Asia-Pacific (ACT AP), and malaria, through the GMS Malaria Civil Society Platform.
4. Publication of tools, as well as stories and perspectives from country community partners and implementers released through our regular updates via list-serve.



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