

The 6th International Scientific Conference

SEEKING

MINIMIZE TB IN ASIA"

Korean National Tuberculosis As



THE STATE GREAT HURAL/PARLIAMENTS OF MONGOLIA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Status and challenges of TB management in the post-pandemic era
Session II
Special Session
of political will and action
Session II
of political will and action
(Session continuation)

APCASO
BIG BANGKOK MEETING
Post-3 HLMs 2023:
Asia-Pacific Civil Society Convening
6 December 2023 15:00-17:00 Bangkok Time
6th floor, Ballroom, The City View Hotel, Bangkok

APCASO ANNUAL REPORT

2023

2

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PRODUCTION TEAM

The 2023 APCASO Annual Report is a product of collaborative efforts by the APCASO team with report writing by RD Marte, Mangala Namasivayam, Jeff Acaba, Aom Maleehom, and Mook Auesirtrakul

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Abbreviations

ACTIAP	Activists Coalition on TB Asia-Pacific	KPAC	Key Population Advocacy Consortium
AJF	African Japan Forum	MTC	Mongolian Anti-TB Coalition
APCRG	Asia-Pacific Community, Rights, and Gender	NCPI+	National Coalition of People living with HIV in India
APLHIV	Association of People Living With HIV-Pakistan	NTP	National TB program
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations	PLWH	People Living with HIV
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism	PPPR	Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response
CE	Community Engagement	PT Foundation	
CESI	Community Engagement Strategic Initiative	PVA Asia	Peoples Vaccine Alliance Asia
CHIAs	Community Health and Inclusion Association	SCDI	Centre for Supporting Community
CLM	Community-Led Monitoring	STPI	Development Initiatives - Vietnam
CLOs	Community-Led Organisations	STP	Stop TB Partnership Indonesia
CoR	Council of Representatives	SWING	Stop TB Partnership
CPRH	Coalition for People's Right to Health	TA	Service Workers in Group Foundation
CRG	Community, Rights, and Gender	TB	Technical Assistant
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations	TODA	Tuberculosis
CS	Civil Society	Trisuli Plus	Tricycle Operators and Drivers' Association
CSS	Community Systems Strengthening	UHC	Community Action Group in Nepal
FOC	Focus of Change	WHO	Universal Health Coverage
GLOBAL FUND	Global Fund to Fight TB, AIDS, and Malaria		World Health Organisation
JIP	Jaringan Indonesia Positif		
KHANA	Khmer HIV-AIDS NGO Alliance - Cambodia		



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Acknowledgements

We wish to extend our deepest appreciations to the following CoR, focal points, country partners, donors, vendors, consultants and supporters for their relentless support in making the 2023 a memorable and productive year.

Council of Representatives

Mara Quesada (Chair)
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Cambodia
Masaki Inaba
Japan
Puan Meirinda Sebayang
Indonesia
Asghar Satti
Pakistan

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Focal Points

ACHIEVE (Philippines)
AJF (Japan)
Alliance Myanmar (Myanmar)
APLHIV (Pakistan)
CHIAs (Laos)
JIP (Indonesia)
KHANA (Cambodia)
KPAC (PNG)
Lhak-Sam (Bhutan)
MTC (Mongolia)
NCPI+ (India)
PT Foundation (Malaysia)
SCDI (Vietnam)
Spiritia Foundation (Indonesia)
SWING (Thailand)
Trisuli Plus (Nepal)

Funders and Donors

- The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Stop TB Partnership Hosted by UNOPS
- Open Society
- USAID via Treatment Action Group (TAG)
- L'Initiative/ Expertise France
- French Embassy in Jakarta
- Friends of the Global Fight via SCDI
- Frontline AIDS via Action Aid
- SWING

And most importantly, we extend our humble and heartfelt appreciations to communities from all over the region, without whom, our work would not have been possible. We are committed to continue working as a team to achieve our collective vision and mission.



Executive Director's Foreword: Looking back at 2023



Rodelyn Marte

2023 saw APCASO significantly leap forward on work towards our 2021-2030 Strategic Plan Focus of Change areas: Improving Health Outcomes; Community, Rights and Gender (CRG); Strategic and Sustainable Health and Rights Financing; Community Systems Strengthening (CSS); and Movement-Building – all while the world continued to grapple with how to make sense of and operate in a post-pandemic world.

In 2023, our work spanned from country-level implementation to regional coordination and leadership on a broad range of issues. We continued and built upon APCASO partnership's work and efforts from the previous years on: TB community and civil society mobilisation, advocacy and strengthening; supporting stronger and more effective community and civil society engagement in Global Fund country coordinating mechanisms (CCMs); community-led monitoring (CLM); as well as broader advocacy on and resource for community systems strengthening. Worth to note though, are newly-emerged projects and programmes that have enabled APCASO to work with country partners in responding to the changing global socio-political contexts and issues: we have started work to support effective community engagement in: pandemic governance, influencing the outcomes of the three health U.N. high-level meetings (HLMs), and ensuring community participation and voice in TB drug protocol reviews.

2023 was a year of stepping up on our hosting duties to key regional networks that advance human rights and community engagement work in Asia-Pacific: Activists' Coalition on TB Asia-Pacific (ACTIAP) and People's Vaccine Alliance Asia (PVA Asia). While we ended our hosting of the Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific and the Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender Platform, we have also taken on new commitments to support, host, and grow the Global Fund-supported Knowledge Hub for Community Engagement and Leadership in Pandemic Governance (CELG) and the Asia-Pacific Community Advisory Board (CAB) of the USAID-supported Supporting, Mobilising, and Accelerating Research for Tuberculosis Elimination (SMART4TB) consortium.

Foreword (cont.)

“

2024 will not be any less demanding, ambitious, or complex of a work year relative to 2023. In fact, I anticipate it as a year for further pushing of boundaries in terms of the breadth and depth of advocacies, programmes and projects that we will lead and support in the region.

”

We are so excited to be embarking on work on climate justice, with the agenda of protecting the rights and interests of marginalised and vulnerable communities in climate change discussions and decision-making. We are likewise very much looking forward to breaking new ground in the region, via a new gender justice and sexual rights advocacy initiative we are launching!

We face 2024 with a lot of excitement and positive energy, knowing that same as in 2023 and the years before, we always have the strongest pillars to lean onto: the mutual trust and respect we have with our focal points and other country, regional and global stakeholder partners and our demonstrated ability to work effectively with them; the support of an expanded base of donors; a powerful and empowering as well as committed staff team, Council of Representatives (CoR), and Board of Directors (BoD). We will remain guided by our Strategic Plan and continue to be inspired by our country community and civil society partners as we remain steadfast in keeping the advancement of the rights of region's most vulnerable and marginalised at the heart of all our work.





Mara Quesada

We continued 2023, guided by our ten-year strategic plan and the post-pandemic era, APCASO was able to define the scope of our work while taking into consideration the diversity of our focal points that contribute to our work, as well as the evolving environment of health advocacy in the region. Our 2022-2032 strategic plan gave us room for the organisation to continue to grow and evolve.

Now that developments are happening in both the financing landscape and donor funding in relation to support being given to community organisations, we were able to focus on community systems strengthening, on campaigns and movement building, beyond the technical assistance that we have been doing.

If there is something I would like to see APCASO do in the next few years, it would be to influence more donors to support the kind of work that it does at the country level through our focal points, to be able to contribute to the strengthening of our focal points not just by providing the technical assistance that we've been doing in the past, but to also open doors for them to access and mobilise more resources to pursue what they are doing.

APCASO's growth as an organisation and the secretariat in particular is also important for me and the rest of us in the CoR. We are committed to strengthening the secretariat as a unit, as an organisation, in order for it to better support its focal points and to be able to implement the strategic plan holistically. We are also looking to maximise the potential of the ASEAN, SAARC and other regional intergovernmental platforms to engage civil society – while in the past our engagement has been intermittent, as an advocate I am always looking for platforms where we can engage and affect the decisions in the region.

“ It starts with how we have situated ourselves as a regional organisation. We have had a good experience in mobilising and convening an Asia Pacific civil society bloc to come together and define the priorities of civil society organisations in the region, towards the three United Nations High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on Health in 2023. ”

To our stakeholders, I would like to say that being just one of many regional organisations in the region that's also working many spheres of health that other regional networks are also working with, we welcome constructive, productive, open and candid partnerships always. It benefits us to have open communication and feedback from all of you, anything that helps the organisation become stronger, help us reflect on what we're doing, strengthen our engagements, and improve our relationships.

Being a network, part of our identity really is partnership building, so I hope for APCASO to continue to expand its networks, not just its focal points but also, external networks that are willing to work with us. For an organisation that works on wide-ranging issues, social justice, for example, we're always looking to enrich the work of APCASO and hopefully enrich others as well through cross movement building. I am so excited for us to continue leading the way around the different spaces and to continue the cross movement building that we started in the HLMs spaces and that's something I think would be exciting to see in the coming years as APCASO continues to pursue its work through its strategies.



APCASO Staff Team



Ratta
Operations Officer



Rose
Finance Manager



Aom
Programme Officer



Jeff
Sr. Programme Officer



Mangala
Sr. Programme Officer



RD
Executive Director



Kris
Operations Manager



Maew
Office Assistant



Som
Accountant



Mook
Programme Assistant

Our Vision

We envision just, equitable and inclusive societies that respect, fulfil, and advance the rights of key, vulnerable and marginalised communities, thereby enabling their equitable access to health, development, and social justice

Our Mission

We bring together and support community and civil society organisations to improve advocacy and community systems in order to secure health, human rights and social justice for key, vulnerable and marginalised communities

Our Five Areas of Change



Social Justice: Respect and consideration for social justice, community empowerment, human rights, and gender transformation become the normative approach in health and development responses in the Asia Pacific region



Improved Health Outcomes: Health-related policy and programme frameworks are equitable, people-centered, and right based; inclusive of mental health and well-being; and are prepared to effectively respond to emerging pandemics and other threats and challenges



Grow and Sustain Health and Rights Financing: People-centered, rights-based, and equitable investments for health, social justice, and development, are strengthened, diversified, scaled up and sustained to meet the needs of key, vulnerable and marginalised communities.



Community System Strengthening: Civil society in the Asia Pacific region lead by example to establish and model best practices and standard on community systems strengthening that achieve health social justice and development goals.



Strengthen the Movement: A strong APCASO convenes, supports, strengthens, grows, inspires and sustains civil society to champion social justice improved health outcomes, sustained equitable financing for health, and sets best practices and standards on community systems strengthening

2023 Programmes & Key Achievements

Note: This Annual Report provides highlights of our programmes and projects in 2023, organised by its intended objectives, key deliverables and achievements for the year, and indicating through the introductory icons which Focus of Change areas in APCASO's 2021-2030 Strategic Plan that the programmes and projects are contributing to. With most of our projects involving in-country implementation, we have also included information on the geographic coverage and the APCASO country focal point partners we work with per programme. Information on the fuller breadth and depth of our work in 2023 are available in individual project reports, learning documents and other outputs, hyperlinked as clickable thumbnails per programme or project presented.





APCRG Platform Phase III



Funder: Global Fund
Period: 2021-2023

Background

APCASO has been hosting the Asia-Pacific Community, Rights, and Gender (APCRG) Platform since 2015. In this 3rd phase of hosting, we continued to serve as an interface between the Global Fund Secretariat, the global and regional technical partners, and the regional and national level key populations networks, community networks and civil society organisations.

Objectives

- 1 To enhance community knowledge of the Global Fund and its processes, through the regular bi-directional sharing of tailored and targeted information to a diverse audience
- 2 To strengthen the capacity and coordination of communities to engage in national and regional Global Fund grants and related processes
- 3 To improve community access to technical assistance (TA) through information-sharing, linkage to appropriate providers, support developing requests, and strengthening TA provider capacity and coordination

Key Deliverables

- Newsletter subscribers: 1,317
- Facebook followers: 4,952
- Website visitors: 3,324
- CRG materials in different languages : 6
- CRG material downloaded: 3,330
- Countries supported: 12
- Total TA requests generated: 12
- Total TA requests submitted: 70%

Key Achievements

APCASO has established the APCRG Platform as a reliable communication and coordination platform for the Asia-Pacific region, strategically responding to various CRG issues in the region particularly in the area of addressing lack of information and capacity to participate in the Global Fund processes, especially during the country funding request process.



Click on the image to learn more about our APCRG work and outputs for 2023

Programme sites and partners



We appreciate the support we received from the APCRG Platform. It was a significant learning experience not only for our secretariat but also for the regional coordinators and health counsellors. Our participants never had the opportunity to be oriented on the CCM and Global Fund grantmaking.

APCRG stakeholder survey respondent





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP IN PANDEMIC GOVERNANCE (CELG)



Funder: Global Fund
Period: June 2023 – March 2024

Background

APCASO, as host of ACTIAP, supports community engagement assessments and plan development in Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines to enhance involvement in TB and PPPR responses. Regionally, APCASO is developing a common engagement tool for use in these three countries and five countries in Africa. Additionally, APCASO maintains a CELG Community of Practice and compiles lessons learned from eight countries.

Objectives

To support the last-mile populations (LMPs) and TB key and vulnerable populations (KVPs) in engaging in the national pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR) at country level. This will be achieved by developing and testing community engagement strategies, approaches that enable LMPs as part of the TB networks to influence COVID-19 and PPPR decisions.

Key Deliverables

- Community engagement assessment report : 1
- Community engagement assessment reports from Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines : 3
- Community engagement plans from the same three countries : 3
- Lessons webinars : 4

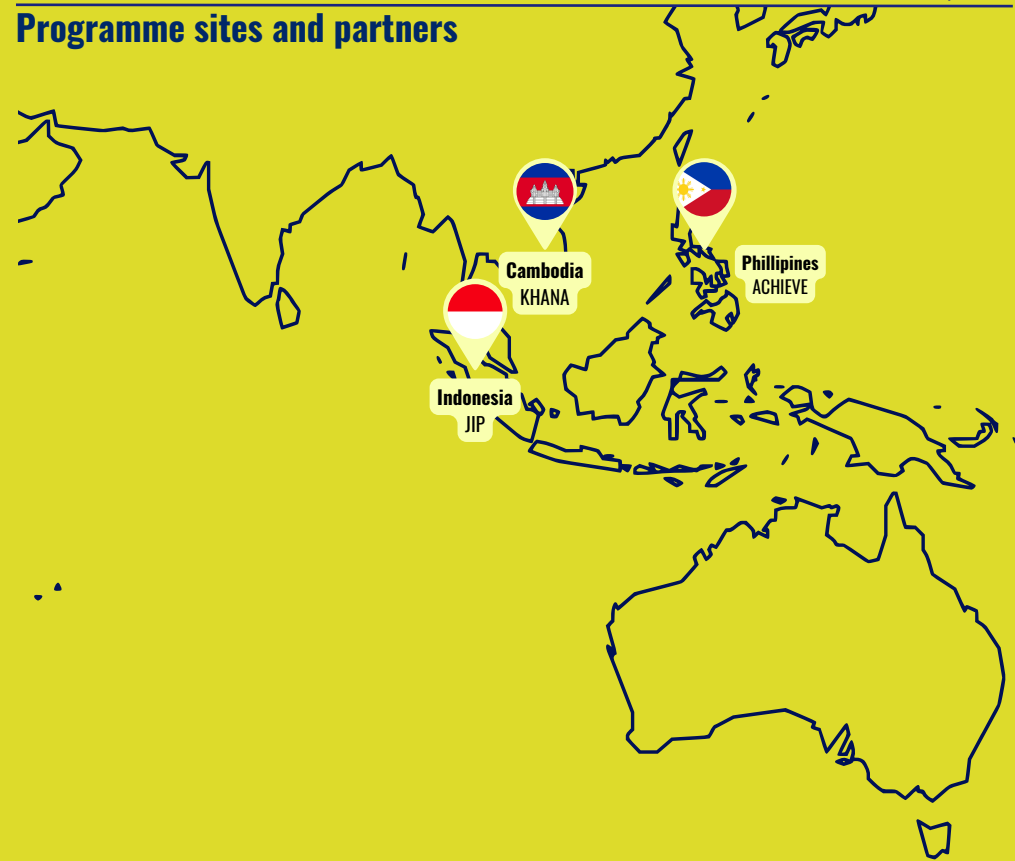
Key Achievements

APCASO, through our country partners, have enabled the participation of TB key and vulnerable populations that we have never worked with before. The project has provided them with a platform to engage in health issues, more so TB and pandemic-related issues. These platforms include Griya Abhipraya, the platform for engagement among ex-prisoner groups, correctional facility, and government agencies in Indonesia; the TODA in the Philippines, and TB People Cambodia.



Click on the image to learn more about our CELG work and outputs for 2023

Programme sites and partners



Under the project covered by NGOs, the knowledge of community members has greatly improved compared to other provinces, and some health service providers are still using inappropriate words in most of the areas where there are no NGOs working.
Country Vulnerable TB representative for GF-CCC in Siem Reap





COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING (CLM) STRATEGIC INITIATIVE (SI)

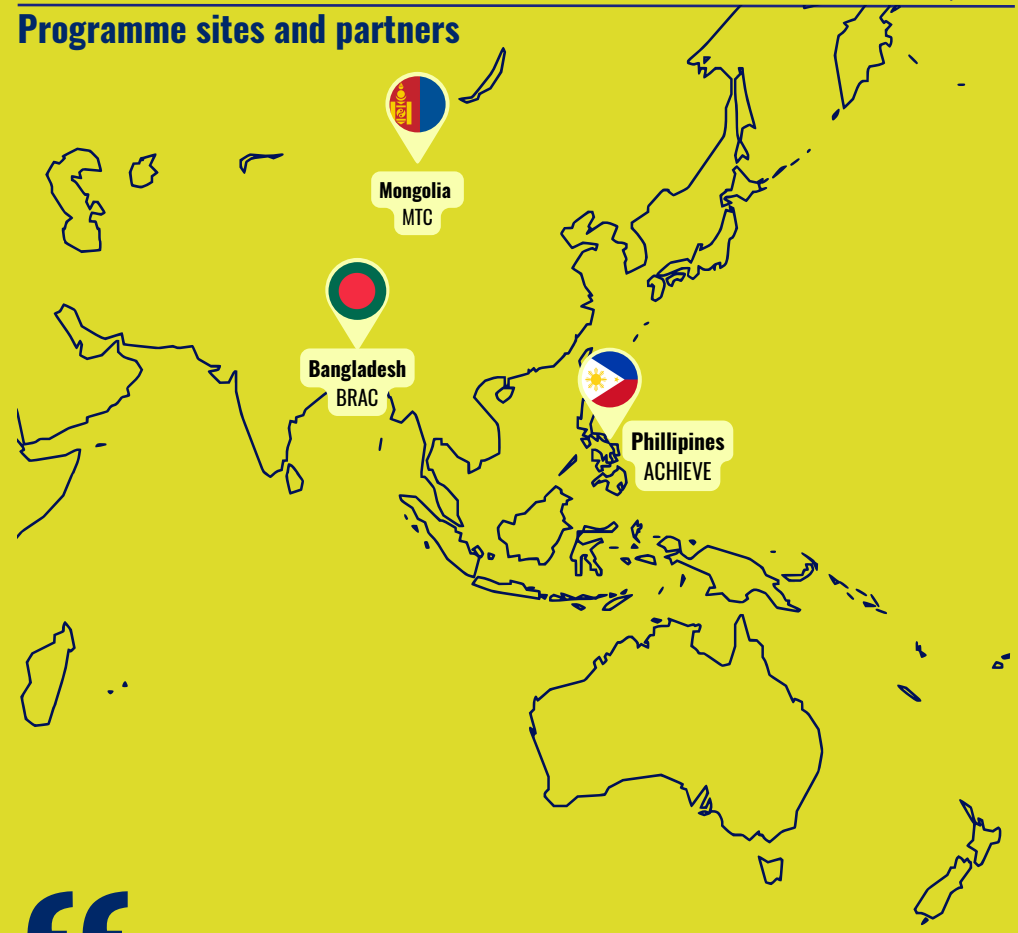


Funder: Global Fund
Period: May 2021 – Dec 2023

Background

APCASO is part of the EANNASO/APCASO/ATAC consortium, a team of pre-qualified community and civil society-led technical assistance providers on CLM to support long-term technical assistance activities in Bangladesh (TB) and the Philippines (TB) as well as short-term technical assistance in Mongolia.

Programme sites and partners



Objectives

- 1** Improve uptake and use of CLM in select Global Fund country grants
- 2** Strengthen integration of CLM into disease responses through improved linkages to national strategies
- 3** Generate evidence on the impact of CLM on service delivery and service access, collaborating with different stakeholders including communities.

Key Deliverables

- CRG 101 conducted among key CLM stakeholders (Bangladesh)
- Pilot sites in the Philippines prepared and supported for CLM implementation : 6
- CLM guidelines finalised (Philippines) : 1
- Redress mechanism finalised (Philippines) : 1
- National CLM strategy developed (Mongolia) : 1
- Committees established – the community-led CLM Task Force and the CLM Coordinating Committee (Mongolia) : 2
- Terms of Reference for the CCC Mongolia developed : 1

Key Achievements

Two (Mongolia and the Philippines) of the 3 countries that APCASO supported have an active CLM for TB structure and are currently in the state of piloting using the guidelines that APCASO developed



We're not just data collectors, we have a responsibility to respond to the needs of our communities. CallKaLungs should be present in the planning and review of these programs so we can ensure that our feedback is included.
CLM responder, Mindanao assessment





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC INITIATIVE (CE SI) FOR TB-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES FOR GRANT CYCLE 7 (GC7)



Funder: Global Fund
Period: 2023

Background

Under the Global Fund's Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE SI), ACTIAP/APCASO, was provided with a top-up grant to support meaningful engagement of people affected by TB in the country level GC7 processes. This support included regional technical assistance to TB affected communities, co-development and dissemination of GC7 resources, sub-grants to TB survivor or key populations (KP) networks, organisations or groups at country level to support pre-consultations and identification of priorities, as well as engagement and follow ups with writing teams, KPs and Civil Society Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) representatives and CCM secretariat.

Objectives

To provide support to TB survivor or KP networks, organisations or groups at country level for GC7 TB affected community engagement and consultations on TB affected community networks/associations.

Key Deliverables

- Sub-granting and technical assistance provided to 8 country partners
- TB-affected communities consultations carried out in 8 countries
- TB affected community highest priorities have been identified, articulated, costed and proposed for inclusion in Annex of Funding Priorities of Civil Society and Communities for GC7.
- Publication of 'The Power of Community, Engaging the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7' - case studies of 8 countries

Key Achievements

The project was instrumental in supporting, in many countries, the first ever community level consultation for TB-affected communities to actively engage in the funding request development for GC7. Communities were also actively involved in national processes and institutions such as being part of developing national strategic plans, supporting civil society participation in their country coordinating mechanisms (CCM), as well as standing as experts in their fields of advocacy on which the national mechanisms could rely upon for knowledge. The inclusion of community priorities in the Annex of Funding Priorities of Civil Society and Communities for GC7 was an important milestone.



Click on the image to learn more about our CE SI work and outputs for 2023

Programme sites and partners



By engaging in the GC7 process such as country dialogue and proposal writing-up phase, I feel confident enough to raise key priorities from communities affected by TB to put in the Module 7—Removing Human Rights Barriers related to TB service
Vat Lyda, Chair of the TB people Cambodia.





CHALLENGE FACILITY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ROUND 11 (REGIONAL)



Funder: Stop TB Partnership
Period: 2023-2024

Background

The activities carried out under this project ensured greater awareness and understanding of community-led and civil society organisations working on TB as well as key populations to TB civil society about the UN HLM on TB and the processes around it. It also ensured stronger and explicit commitments from governments in the region to people-centred, equitable, gender transformative, and rights-affirmative TB approaches and responses, and reflected in the outcome documents of the TB HLM.

Objectives

- 1 To build the understanding and awareness of TB-affected communities and civil society on the importance of UN processes such as the 2023 HLM on TB and the need to engage and advocate effectively in these spaces
- 2 To intensify regional and in-country social action in the lead up to and around the 2023 HLM on TB through coordinated support and strategic advocacy

Key Deliverables

- AP civil society engagement roadmap for UNHLM : 1
- AP civil society preparatory meeting on 3 HLMs in Jakarta – Mar 2023 : 1
- AP community and CS statement on the 3 HLMs : 1
- Roundtable decision to mobilise AP civil society for HLMs in Bangkok – July 2023 : 1
- AP civil society participation at the UNHLM – New York – Sep 2023

Key Achievements

This project increased awareness and understanding among community-led and civil society organizations regarding TB, as well as key populations affected by it. It led to stronger commitments from regional governments towards people-centered, equitable, gender-transformative, and rights-affirmative TB approaches, reflected in the outcome documents of the TB HLM. Additionally, there was enhanced capacity for Asia-Pacific community and civil society networks to engage in and influence TB HLMs, resulting in a robust model for meaningful collaboration with governments, development partners, and technical agencies in the region.

Programme sites and partners



The HLM convenings are crucial to bring the voices of Asia-Pacific CSOs together and show that communities are important and should be at the centre in developing good systems of health

Dr. Yupadee Sirisinsok
Deputy Sec.Gen. National Health Security Office, Thailand





CCM EVOLUTION



Funder: Global Fund
Period: 2022-2023

Background

The CCM Evolution was a TA provided by APCASO through the Global Fund's CCM Evolution Strategic Initiative. While the initiative had several interventions, APCASO focused on CCM election process support to enhance KP, PLWD, CS, and/or community's CCM election/selection process(es) for meaningful representation and engagement. The CCM Evolution Strategic Initiative was a catalytic opportunity to enhance the way partnership works in countries and regions.

Objectives

- 1 Identify challenges related to representation and engagement of KP and/or PLWDs, CS and communities
- 2 To enhance CS elections/selections through ethical, well-documented and widely published and transparent processes,
- 3 To improve bi-directional feedback mechanisms between the representatives and their constituencies
- 4 To build the capacity of existing KP and/or PLWDs, CS and/or community representatives.

Key Deliverables

- Mapping of groups, organisations and networks of key and vulnerable populations and people living with and/or affected by the three diseases in 8 countries
- Supported the election of key population, PLWD and civil society in the CCMs
- Capacity building of key population, PLWD and civil society on GF and CCM processes
- Bi-directional feedback mechanisms between CCM members and respective constituencies

Key Achievements

Our technical assistance to 8 CCMs in the region through the election process ensured a transparent, inclusive and independent process that allowed for wider and more representation as well as engagement of key population, PLWD and civil society in the CCMs. This in turn ensured that CCMs are adequately equipped to facilitate inclusive oversight and meaningful engagement of communities in the country grants of their countries.

Programme sites and partners



I am grateful to Global Fund and APCASO for facilitating and supporting these processes and for making sure these information is shared and heard, and improve communication with CCM and the communities.

Janet Sangopa, IGAT Hope, Papua New Guinea.





LONG-TERM CAPACITY STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS AND ORGANISATIONS OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY TB



Funder: Global Fund
Period : 2022-2023

Background

From 2021-2023, AGTIAP & APCASO, with funding support from the Global Fund, Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE SI), Component 2 have been implementing the Long-term capacity strengthening of Community Networks and Organisations of People Affected by Tuberculosis (TB).

Programme sites and partners



Objectives

- 1 Amplify the voices and participation of TB-affected communities in policy and decision-making fora and in the governance and stewardship of the TB response.
- 2 Strengthen the influence of TB-affected communities on the design and implementation of national strategies and costed implementation plans, to reflect and respond to the realities and needs of these groups as they relate to human rights, gender, community responses and community systems strengthening.
- 3 Empower tuberculosis-affected communities to monitor national program coverage and quality, and commitments to end tuberculosis and to utilize the information generated for advocacy and programmatic action.

Key Deliverables

- Establishment and mobilising community TB survivor groups in 5 countries
- Publication and roll-out of a toolkit, 'People Affected by TB Matter, A Playbook on Community Engagement'
- Convening of a regional reflection and learning meeting to share, reflect and learn on best practices, lessons learned and challenges

Key Achievements

The long-term capacity building efforts saw increased engagement of TB-affected communities in GF CCM, active participation in the GC7 processes, involvement in the GC7 grant negotiation-making process, integration of community-centred interventions in NSP and integration of CLM in NSP and GC7 funding request. There was also a substantial increase in capacities of TB-affected communities on GF processes and CRG in TB programming and development of CRG costed action plan.



Click on the image to learn more about our work and outputs for 2023



We identified potential leaders from PLHIV community who are also TB survivors. They were motivated and trained through the Positive Speakers Bureau of Trishuli Plus, where story-telling is an important tool for sharing the lived experience of people affected by TB. The preparations paid off because now we have a CCM member from TB affected communities.

Achut Sitaula, Trisuli Plus, Nepal





PROMOTE AND SUPPORT EVIDENCE AND RIGHTS-BASED ADVOCACY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ON HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMME



Funder : N/A
Period : Sep 2022- Aug 2024

Background

The project aimed to safeguard the rights of vulnerable communities impacted by harsh drug policies in Asia, ensuring that Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) can operate effectively. It prioritized evidence-based and human rights-focused responses to the drug issue, emphasizing community involvement. Core funding supported civil society and CBOs, enabling advocacy, legal aid, community dialogues, COVID-19 support, and more.

Photo Source: Es. Catherine, "Communication Workshop." Canva

Programme sites and partners



Philippines



First of all let me say Thank You APCASO for the many years they have been consistent in supporting our mission and vision as community led organisation have been our backbone towards our growth from capacity building, system strengthening and SEC registration during COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Through this support we were able to provide around 260 community members a good for 2-weeks care package and food packs We love you APCASO family
Country partner



Objectives

The policy advocacy activities were done across the project period including the successful meeting with law and justice institutions. The community mobilisation activities were conducted with national and regional stakeholder which also include the National Conference with Lawyers on Harm reduction and human rights.

Key Deliverables

- Improvement of online engagement on migrant health advocacy
- National and regional level meetings with key stakeholders on harm reduction related issues
- Online trainings on harm reduction and mental health with key stakeholders

Key Achievements

The policy advocacy activities in Philippines were done across the project period including successful meeting with law and justice institutions. The community mobilisation activities were conducted with national and regional stakeholder which also include the National Conference with Lawyers on Harm reduction and human rights.



SUPPORTING, MOBILISING, AND ACCELERATING RESEARCH FOR TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION (SMART4TB)



Funder : Treatment Action Group (TAG)
Period : Jun 2023- Sep 2024

Background

This project is a USAID cooperative agreement to accelerate process to achieve the End TB goals in high burden countries. SMART4TB implements research studies with local partners including Community Advisory Boards (CABs) to identify effective people-centered methods for finding, treating, and preventing TB through the strengthening local capacity to conduct high-quality research.

Objectives

Engaging TB-affected community and civil society working on TB in TB research process to ensure alignment with community needs and priorities.

Key Deliverables

- 13 members of Asia Pacific CABs completed pilot online training curriculum
- CABs member engaged in two protocols review related to shortened regimen drug-susceptible TB and program for Rifampicin-resistant disease with stratified medicine TB
- CAB Members participated and presented at the Union Lung Conference in November 2023 at Paris, France.

Key Achievements

APCASO on behalf of the regional CAB leadership for Asia Pacific representatives were part of the SMART4TB CAB training curriculum (CAB LAB). The total of 13 members of Asia Pacific CAB have completed and gained more knowledge on TB, project related as well as information on protocol review which enable all the member to concretely participated in the 2-protocol review by the end of 2023.

Programme sites and partners



The SMART4TB project allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of not only TB knowledge, but also the importance of advocacy and community engagement. I am grateful to have been given this opportunity by APCASO, and I look forward to future collaborations.
Mikaela Montevirgen, ACHIEVE, Philippines





Activists Coalition on TB-Asia-Pacific (ACT!AP)



Background

This 2023, ACT! AP has facilitated internal mobilisation of its members around the 2023 High-Level Meeting on TB. In partnership with APCASO, ACT! AP has also continued to implement some of its activities through Global Fund and Stop TB Partnership grants.

Objectives

- To give TB the political attention it deserves.
- To present an alternative model to the pervading biomedical approach to TB.
- To overcome barriers to TB treatment and diagnostics access.
- Towards securing adequate and strategic investments for TB, making sure that these investments go to the right interventions, including communities.
- To support a coordinated and capacitated TB community and activist movement.

We Will ACT

Key Deliverables

- Deadly Divide Asia Pacific launch conducted.
- Asia-Pacific (AP) Rising side event during the 2023 High-Level Meeting on TB conducted in New York, USA
- ACT! AP General Assembly conducted on 6th December 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand

Key Achievements

ACT!AP's key achievement this year is its initiation of the ACT!AP Steering Committee transition process. This will be the first time since its establishment that ACT!AP will be transitioning to a new set of Steering Committee members. This will revitalise ACT!AP's commitment to its 5 Commitments to Action, and move the regional coalition to respond to more pressing needs in the TB response in the Asia-Pacific region.

Programme sites and partners



ACT!AP fulfills its commitments in Asia through volunteerism. The collaborative efforts, supported by ACT!AP and hosted by APCASO, have resulted in successful initiatives, contributing to organisational reputation. Proud of the achievements in the past 7 years, this is an ongoing progress and the potential for further success through collective strength and collaboration.

Choub Sok Chamreun, ACT!AP Co-Chair





PEOPLE'S VACCINE ALLIANCE ASIA (PVA ASIA)

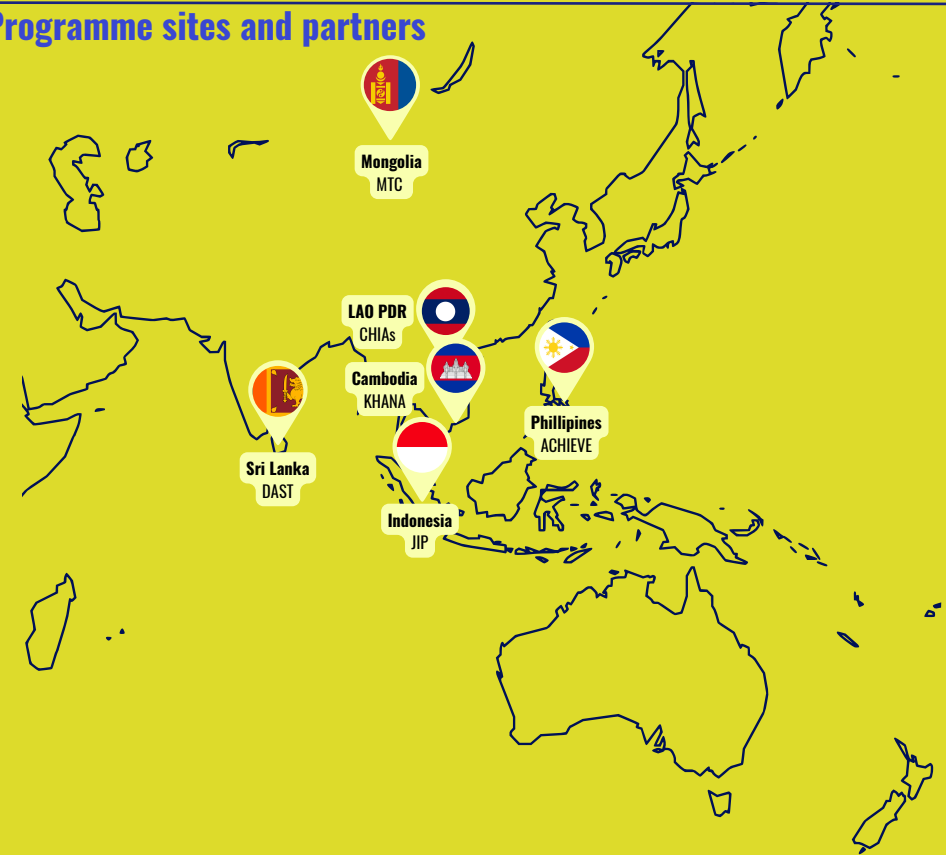


Funder: Frontline AIDS through ActionAid
Period : 1 Sep 2022 – 30 Sep 2023

Background

This is the second year that APCASO has been implementing the project under People's Vaccine Alliance – Asia. As a key partner and a Steering Committee member in the region, APCASO has not only be developed and rolled out the Community Toolkit that it has developed, but have also hosted the Secretariat from June 2023 until the present.

Programme sites and partners



Objectives

APCASO aimed to develop a High-Level Meeting “Community Toolkit” to support civil society and community partners during the High-Level Meeting on PPPR, the Pandemic Treaty, and the International Health Regulations (IHR). This Toolkit included a “how-to” guide in facilitating consultations at the country level, setting agenda and facilitating advocacy priorities based on the outcomes of the Regional Strategizing Meeting held in March 2023. This also included a number of advocacy briefs that will support the understanding of issues and of the processes such as that of the UN HLM on PPPR.

Key Deliverables

- Regional civil society and community strategising meeting co-hosted in March 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia : 1
- Community Toolkit on PPPR developed : 1
- Country rollouts conducted using the Community Toolkit Active PVA Asia Secretariat hosting : 5
- Regional Strategy 2024-2026 for PVA Asia developed during the PVA Asia Partners’ Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal in October 2023

Key Achievements

One key achievement this year was taking on the responsibility of hosting of People's Vaccine Alliance – Asia (PVA Asia). This is a challenging undertaking given the changing priorities and the shift away from COVID-19 in the region. As its new Secretariat, APCASO continued to mainstream PVA Asia as part of its core work, aligned with its 2021-2023 Strategy and the new 2024-2026 Regional Strategy that APCASO facilitated among PVA Asia Steering Committee members and partners.



Click on the image to learn more about our PVA Asia work and outputs for 2023



PPPR is relatively new, especially in Asia and Southeast Asia, where responses typically emerged from central government emergency frameworks. In countries like the Philippines, the COVID-19 response structure followed a disaster risk reduction model but lacked civil society engagement. As countries transition from emergency to normalcy, each is figuring out its mechanisms. Civil organisations need to assert their presence and ensure civil society consultation becomes an integral part of pandemic response, not just limited to national governments.

Josh San Pedro, CPRH Philippines



COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT

TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE CLM STRATEGY FOR TB IN MONGOLIA

In late 2022, APCASO undertook a community-led monitoring (CLM) short-term TA assignment in Mongolia under the Global Fund CLM SI. This short-term TA aimed to

- (1) Develop an initial CLM strategy to guide CLM implementation;
- (2) Increase knowledge and understanding among the CCM and MTC about CLM; and
- (3) Support the identification of CLM interventions to be included in Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) Funding Request (FR).



Given that this was an initial engagement and a short-term TA, we took the opportunity to approach this from a broader, more long-term perspective with longer-term impact to the country, especially in the context of setting up the CLM mechanism in Mongolia.

This TA was coursed through the Mongolian Tuberculosis Coalition (MTC), where APCASO visited Ulaanbaatar from 25 February to 03 March 2023. This first visit included courtesy visits CCM coordinating office; and the conduct of a 3-days workshop that achieved the following outcomes:

1. Proposed interventions for inclusion in the Global Fund Funding Request for GC7 were identified, including specific activities, budget line items and schedule of implementation. The key interventions included:
 - i) Establishment and operationalization of CLM Working Group;
 - ii) Establishment and strengthening TB network of TB survivors and affected community;
 - iii) Data collection and analysis;
 - iv) Advocacy; and
 - v) Monitoring, evaluation and documentation; and

2. A Proposed CLM Strategy for TB in Mongolia, proposed CLM interventions, TB epidemiology and preliminary findings of the desk review

These outcomes set the ground for the extent of additional work that needed to be implemented in the country, and enabled the need to implement succeeding short-term TA. Following up our first phase, we requested and, upon the agreement with the Global Fund, provided support through a second phase to finalise the CLM Strategy and to take initial steps to support the establishment of the CLM Coordinating Committee (CCC). The establishment of the CCC would be initiated by the CLM Task Force (TF) that was established through the workshop that APCASO facilitated during the second visit. This TF was community-led and included seven TB survivor individuals and members of TB civil society.

Apart from the formation of the TF, two other major progresses were:

- (1) Agreed in-principle steps to support the adoption of the CLM Strategy
- (2) Reached in-principle agreement on initial steps to support establishment of the CLM Coordinating Committee



TB-affected community and survivors who participated in the 2nd workshop also agreed to compose a Mongolian translation of the terminology, 'community-led monitoring', which is now ONUKh or OHYX, which is a literal translation of CLM.

Additional support for the proper implementation and operationalization of the CLM Task Force was necessary for the TF to continue, given how CLM as a mechanism in TB is new in the country. Thus, APCASO and MTC committed to provide financial and logistic support to make sure that the CLM TF will be able to operate effectively based on their workplan.

MTC and APCASO felt the need to sustain the momentum and fully support the establishment of the CCC by agreeing on its structure and terms of reference (ToR), as well as finalising the CLM Strategy and the CLM Indicator Framework. Together with the request from MTC, APCASO proposed for a third short-term TA in Mongolia.



APCASO visited the country again in September 2023 wherein we took the opportunity to align with one of our ongoing capacity-building activities under the Global Fund TB Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE SI). This 3rd short-term TA strengthened the awareness of the initial CCC members on CLM; informed CCC members of the CLM Strategy and CLM Indicator Framework; and agreed on the structure and terms of the CCC.

Towards the end of this meeting, MTC was appointed as the Secretariat of the CCC and to reach out individually to prospective CCC members and formally confirm their membership. As the Secretariat, MTC also confirmed to steer the CCC and ensure the adoption of the CLM Strategy on TB.

It may seem as small contributions to Mongolia and to the TB-affected communities and civil society working in TB in the country, but this series of short-term TA was received with much appreciation from our country partners considering the high TB burden and the lack of a coordinated TB community-led response and CLM in the country.

Two key outcomes transpired during this series of support: internally, Mongolia now has a functional, coordinated network of TB community of survivors and affected individuals, as well as civil society working on TB that can implement national-level interventions such as CLM. Externally, this series of support has increased the attention and focus of technical partners and funders, such as the Global Fund, towards Mongolia as a high TB-burden country, and facilitated the inclusion of Mongolia as one of the country partners under the CE SI TB grant for the period of 2024-2026 to establish and capacitate a TB network in the country.

“ I am a part of a small TB community, but I realized that this work with APCASO that I can lead and help a bigger community. ”

CLM Task Force member, Mongolia



Key APCASO & Partner Convenings in 2023

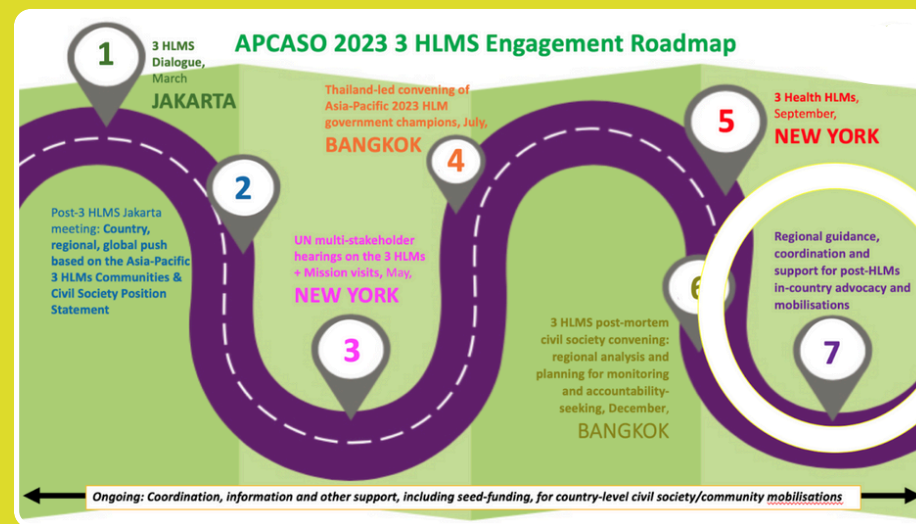


27th-30th MARCH
3 HLMs 1 Region.
A Unified Vision Meeting
Jakarta, Indonesia

The meeting aimed to disseminate crucial information, highlight developments, address concerns, and identify opportunities for innovation regarding TB, the development of a regional position statement, and other pertinent topics. Furthermore, during the event, we engaged in discussions about country-level plans for mobilisation and advocacy, as well as identified areas requiring support. This convening attracted over 80 representatives from regional and national civil society organisations, as well as community-led organisations focused on TB, UHC, and PPPR. Additionally, government representatives from the region were also in attendance.

[Watch now! for 3 HLMs 1 Region Vision Meeting Video](#)

All of the health HLMs reported in this section were undertaken to operationalise APCASO's 2023 Health HLMs Engagement Roadmap, developed in late 2022

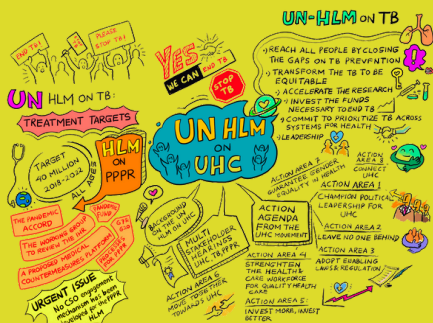


As set out by APCASO from the start of the HLMs engagement it facilitated in the region, all of our HLMs-related activities in 2023 – beyond the individual objectives achieved, all contributed towards our vision of:

- stronger and explicit commitments from governments in the region to people-centred, equitable, gender transformative, and rights-affirmative UHC, pandemic, and TB approaches and responses, and reflected in the outcome documents of the three HLMs;
- stronger capacity of Asia-Pacific community and civil society networks to engage in and influence HLMs; and
- a model from the region of meaningful community- and civil society engagement and collaboration with governments, development partners and technical agencies.

The highest expectation is to encourage this region to come with this common narrative that will demonstrate the interlinkages and the dependency between the three health agendas-TB, UHC and PPPR

Clarisse Veylon-Hervet
Regional Counselor in Global Health, SEA and French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



APCASO convened a roundtable dialogue to call for leadership toward people-centered, equitable, gender-just and rights-affirmative 2023 HLMs on UHC, PPPR, and TB. It was participated by key organisations from Thailand, both from NGO and government sides and APCASO focal point countries, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR., Mongolia, Pakistan, Nepal, Philippines, and Vietnam along with their government representatives. The participants showed a strong commitment together as a region to engage and collaborate towards better engagement in the HLM both regional and the global levels.



3th-4th JULY
Bangkok Roundtable
Thailand

APCASO and partners took part in the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR) and Tuberculosis (TB) held in New York. Our mobilisation and participation ensured stronger and explicit commitments from governments in the region to people-centred, equitable, gender transformative, and rights-affirmative UHC, pandemic, and TB approaches and responses, and reflected in the outcome documents of the three HLMs and more importantly showed the capacity of Asia-Pacific community and civil society networks to convene, engage in and influence the HLMs. We also convened a side-event: The Asia-Pacific (AP)Rising : A Region Reaffirming and Standing Together for People-centred, Equitable, Gender-just, and Rights-affirmative 2023 High-level Meetings (HLMs).



20th-22nd SEPTEMBER
UNHLM
New York, USA

APCASO co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Community-led Monitoring (CLM) TB meeting to take stock of lessons from experiences of TB CLM and CLM-link implementation in the Asia-Pacific region to support country-owned TB CLM agendas and work plans. Co-organised together with the Global Fund and Stop TB Partnership, more than 50 participants that included civil society and TB-affected community representatives from 9 countries attended the three-day event. The meeting aimed to take-stock of the learnings from implementing CLM on TB in the region, and plan on how CLM can be integrated into the GC7 grant as well as the overall national TB strategy of the countries that participated in the event.



18th-20th OCTOBER
CLM TB AP
Manila, Philippines



13th-14th OCTOBER
PVA Asia SC Meeting,
Kathmandu, Nepal

PVA Asia members and project partners gathered to review the alliance's achievements in 2023, discuss strategies for the same year, and plan revisions for the period of 2024-2026. ActionAid Nepal organised this event, facilitated by the PVA Asia secretariat from APCASO. Attendees included GCAP, Oxfam India, IAC, CPRH, ActionAid India, SAAPE, and APN Plus. Additionally, on the second day, gap analysis and problem-setting sessions were conducted to develop medium-term and long-term goals spanning 2024-2026.

APCASO representatives and partners from various projects and countries from Asia and the Pacific participated at the World Conference on Lung Health in Paris, France. The conference focused on the presentation of the latest information and research on lung health, transforming evidence into practice. The conference also provided space for community organisation to promote and present their work to a wider stakeholders including participants from research institutes and pharmaceutical sectors who participated in the event. APCASO also had an opportunity to share the community issues in the fight against TB at the roundtable side-event discussion.



**15th-18th
NOVEMBER**
Union Conference
Paris, France

As APCASO concludes its nine-year hosting of the Asia-Pacific Community, Rights, and Gender (APCRG) Platform, it held its final gathering of country partners, technical assistance providers, and technical partners in December as part of the BIG BANGkok Meeting 2023. Titled "Transitions", the meeting aimed to share insights on how the APCRG Platform, and as it transitions to the Asia-Pacific Learning Hub under a new host, support civil society and community partners in Grant Cycle (GC7) grant implementation and oversight. Almost 60 participants from 14 countries as well as regional participated in one meeting.



**4th-5th
DECEMBER**
APCRG
Bangkok, Thailand

Post-HLMs meeting was held during the Big BANGkok meeting week in December 2023. APCASO and its stakeholders have been engaging with the High-Level meeting (HLM) processes prior to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) week and during the HLMs on TB, UHC and PPPR. The meeting was held to share, discuss and establish the regional engagement plan and action to support effective community and civil society advocacy and mobilisation beyond the 2023 HLMs. All country partners have successfully identified the country engagement plans and the possibility of collaboration with APCASO and other partners at the regional levels at the same time keeping an eye out for the accountability mechanism from the government towards their commitment to the political declarations.



**6th
DECEMBER**
POST-HLM



**7th
DECEMBER**
ACTIAP

The Activists' Coalition on TB – Asia-Pacific (ACTIAP) held its one-day annual general assembly as part of APCASO's BIG BANGkok Meeting in December 2023. This assembly was crucial as ACTIAP transitions into a new set of Steering Committee members who will steer and supervise the workings of the regional coalition. The meeting discussed and agreed the process for the selection of the new set of Steering Committee members through the Selection Committee that was formed during the meeting; and shared successes in 2023 as well as prospects for 2024. Around 25 ACTIAP members from 9 countries attended the general assembly.

APCASO and ACTIAP convened a regional reflection and learning meeting for CE SI TB partners to share, reflect and learn best practices, faced in strengthening capacities of TB-affected communities to be able to engage effectively in the national TB response decision-making spaces and Global Fund related processes. Project partners from Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, PNG and Vietnam took part in the meeting. We also had the opportunity to launch two new publications during the meeting: 'The Power of Community, Engaging the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7', to capture the case studies of the 8 countries that received sub-grant and technical assistance for effective engagement of TB-affected communities in the GC7 processes and a toolkit, 'People Affected by TB Matter, A Playbook on Community Engagement' for country partners to utilize to further strengthen and mobilise the TB movement in countries.



**8th
DECEMBER**
CE SI TB

Internal Events and Meetings in 2023



31st MARCH

CoR Meeting, Jakarta, Indonesia

APCASO took the opportunity of the majority of its Council of Representatives (CoR) members being in an organisational convening in Jakarta, to hold a check-in meeting with programme staff. The staff team, led by the Executive Director, shared key programmatic and financial organisational updates with the CoR for their information and advice. The staff team also reported on progress on APCASO organisational effectiveness workstreams: monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL); communications; focal point (FP) engagement; and resource mobilisation including on emerging new thematic areas of work.

22nd SEPTEMBER

ED and CoR Special Meeting, New York, USA

APCASO took the opportunity of the E.D. and majority of the CoR members being together in New York for the UN High-level meetings on UHC, TB and PPPR to hold a special meeting particularly to discuss urgent issues, related to: plans for APCASO organisational assessment, plans for changes in staffing line-up, annual reflection and planning retreat, and the dates for staff and CoR and Board meetings.

3rd AUGUST

Board Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand

In this year's meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director provided key updates about progress of APCASO work as well as an overview of our financial status and staffing situation, for the Board's information. Key agenda items deliberated and approved via Board resolutions at this year's meeting are:

- The Y2022 Audit Financial report
- The re-confirmation of the Y2023 Annual Operating Budget (AOB) and approval of the indicative Y2024 AOB
- Board membership changes
- Policy setting of organisational external consultant rate and revision of APCASO per diem rate for incorporation/amendment in APCASO's Operations Manual





**26th-29th
MAY**
La Isla
Prachuab Khiri Hhan,
Thailand

The APCASO staff team had its 2023 staff retreat at the Prachuab Khiri Khan, called La Isla. This retreat was not just a space for staff to enjoy the scenery of mountains and beaches but it also strengthened the relationship among the team. During the retreat, staff got to learn, understand and listen more to each other. The personal strengths and capacities of each staff were identified for everyone's appreciation and improvement. Staff also had a chance to talk about the expectation from the organisation as well as what they can contribute to make the APCASO team better as we move forward. The staff team came back from the retreat in high spirits and gearing for the year ahead.



**11th-15th
DECEMBER**
La Paradiso
Trat, Thailand

The La Paradiso retreat was a great space for the APCASO team to strengthen the work environment, relationships and communication amongst us. The team reflected on the year that was and looked ahead to develop an effective and strategic work plan for 2024, which built on 2023's individual and team achievements and learnings. An external consultant joined the team to conduct a review of internal processes as a basis for forward policy development and planning. The retreat wasn't just all work, the team also had the chance to engage in team building activities and bond with nature and the beautiful Koh Kood Island after a long and productive 2023. La Paradiso replenished the energy of the team and everyone left, looking forward to an amazing 2024!

Moving Forward : 2024 and Beyond

We remain grateful to all our partners and supporters for making all the achievements of 2023 possible – these are our collective achievements; these are the region's achievements.

While we celebrate our accomplishments, we remain mindfully aware of the huge work that still needs to be done, and challenges that still need to be overcome, to fulfil our vision of just, equitable and inclusive societies that respect, fulfil, and advance the rights of key, vulnerable and marginalised communities, and enable their equitable access to health, development, and social justice.

And challenges are abound. Conservative, anti-rights movements and governments continue to take root in a lot of countries in our region and in donor countries. Resources for social justice, advocacy, movement building and for our region continue to be challenged and may see shrinkage in the next years. Calls for whole-of-society and intersectional responses to health and rights gain in popularity but these calls are still not translating into country, regional approaches to health and development. The climate crisis and changing world and regional demographics if not managed will spring new and emerging health issues and exacerbate existing access to health challenges. And these are to name a few. The question is how ready will countries be to overcome these challenges? For APCASO, moving forward, we will focus our energies to enable Asia-Pacific civil society to mitigate, and respond to these challenges and build community resilience.

We have 7 years before the end of our current Strategic Plan. APCASO will continue to support regional civil society capacity building, strategising and advocacy. We will step up our efforts to facilitate cross-movement and sector dialogues and solidarity-building. And we will continue to strengthen internal capacities, systems, and processes to increase our effectiveness and make us even better positioned to respond to challenges ahead and achieve our goals set for 2030.



