



Plataforma Regional
América Latina y el Caribe
Apoyo, Coordinación y Comunicación



FIRST REGIONAL MEETING OF THE PLATFORM FOR COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION AND SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background:

The CRAT, Centro Regional de Asistencia Técnica para Latinoamérica y el Caribe (Regional Technical Assistance Center for Latin America and the Caribbean), is a program from the Peruvian NGO VÍA LIBRE in partnership with International HIV/AIDS Alliance (UK) providing technical assistance in the region since 2008 aiming to strengthening community participation and civil society in response to HIV.

The CRAT Via Libre has won the Global Fund's request for proposals number TGF-15-030 for the implementation of a Regional Platform for Communication, Coordination and Support to Civil Society and Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean (Plataforma LAC). The initiative will run for 12 months as from January 2016. This is part of a series of interventions from the Global Fund to support and strengthen the participation of the community and civil society at all levels of their processes. Its core objectives are:

1. Improve community groups' and civil society's knowledge about the Global Fund and their access to technical assistance.
2. Coordination with other technical assistance initiatives.
3. Strategic capacity building initiatives.

The first regional meeting of the Platform for Communication, Coordination and Support to Civil Society and Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean took place from 4 to 5 of May, 2016, at the Hotel Sol de Oro, with the participation of 61 people, including members of MCPs, regional networks, technical partners, representatives of the Global Fund and technical assistance providers from the Community, Rights and Gender initiative.

Objectives of the Meeting:

1. Build a dialogue with the civil society and the communities on the role of the Platform for Communication, Coordination and Support to Civil Society and Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Global Fund's Special Initiative on Communities, Rights and Gender.
2. Exchange information and experiences on key processes in connection with communities, human rights and gender in order to articulate the development of Concept Notes and the Grants Making related to the Global Fund's new funding model.
3. Reflect on the implications that the Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing Policy will have on civil society and the communities.
4. Identify the priorities of civil society and communities' accessibility to technical assistance in the region in order to make progress in key issues related to sustainability.

Main Conclusions and Recommendations:

The meeting was organized in 5 Blocks. The topics, main conclusions and recommendations of each one of them are the following:

Block 1: Introduction to Plataforma LAC and the CRG Initiative

- The resources of the CRG initiative have not been adequately used by the civil society and the communities due to bureaucratic processes, the lack of timely information and its own understaffed internal structure.
- The quality and suitability of technical assistance providers must be ensured, and their capacity increased in order to be more effective.

- As TA providers, it is important to involve community organizations with successful experiences in the field by way of horizontal cooperation.
- The Platforms' functions and scope could be evaluated so they may also integrate a component of advocacy and political impact.
- The gender and human rights approach must be transversal within the governance and strategic monitoring function of Global Fund's grants, by the MCP, by means of the implementation of programmatic indicators.
- Part of the induction process of the MCP's members and the evaluation of the MCP's eligibility criteria should include a critical reading of the Global Fund's gender policy and strategy.
- It is important to include gender specialists within the country dialogue teams.
- The gender approach should not be limited to girls and women; a masculinities approach should be incorporated.

Block 2: Technical assistance from the Global Fund and community participation

- Technical assistance for capacity development is central in improving the participation of key and vulnerable populations to various diseases.
- The communication component is particularly important to promote the participation of populations from geographical areas of difficult access or indigenous peoples or migrants; for example, this communication should be culturally sensitive to be well received by the communities.

Block 3: Identification of sustainability challenges from civil society and the communities

- Preparing for the transition should no longer be relegated to the last minute: it is important to start planning with a multisectoral approach based on a very clear vision and political leadership.
- Sustainability should not be analyzed solely from the health systems, but also community systems should be incorporated in the analysis and concrete actions should be steered into that direction, including the strengthening of technical and managerial capacities.
- It is important to start exploring non-traditional funding mechanisms in our countries in order to leverage the existing programs, particularly the political impact actions.
- Work on a national sustainability plan involving every sector of society and the programs for the three diseases.

Block 4: Sustainability: Experiences and needs of the civil society and the communities

- In this new context, civil society and community's organizations have to seriously think about diversifying their activities, keeping in mind the "social enterprise" model, and seek for technical assistance in this regard. This adaptation should not walk independently of its institutional vision and mission, but rather be at its service.
- The "business model" needs not to be feared as a possibility to make our work sustainable.
- Community work networks should potentiate their ability to mobilize their bases, the ability to "make a difference"; legitimacy and good work are intangible assets to be integrated to promote our organizations.

Block 5: Perspective of civil society and the communities

- Accountability and transfer of information are essential processes to strengthen the participation and greater involvement of key communities within the Global Fund's architecture.
- Human Rights are the real challenge for the Caribbean given that key populations will not have access to services during the transition period.
- To include a comprehensive approach to youths, it is necessary to resume an honest discussion and debate on poverty, inequality (legal, social, structure) and violence. The believe that people under 30 are vulnerable only because of this is an illusion. They are vulnerable because they are gay and young, they are trans and young.

Summary of the exercise on sustainability and transition

	WHAT WE NEED TO DO IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO PREPARE SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSITION?	WHAT KIND OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TOOLS, ETC.) WILL BE REQUIRED?
GOVERNANCE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Articulation of the civil society of the three diseases to a common transition and sustainability agenda. 2. Do not retreat from the grounds won in terms of participation at horizontal dialogue tables with decision makers, regardless if the Global Fund has withdrawn. 3. Institutionalizing and strengthening multisectoral spaces at all governmental levels (MCPs, CONASIDA, etc.) for the fight against TB, HIV and Malaria, ensuring equal power (balance) between the civil society and the government. 4. Improve coordination between health systems and community systems. 5. Countries should retain and absorb MPCs within the National Programs. 6. Develop the civil society's capacity to observe governments and hold them accountable. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate meetings to promote the continuous dialogue among the civil society during transition and sustainability processes. 2. Provide training in the use of communication strategies in digital media (social networks) to generate social pressure on the Estates to make them fulfill their investment obligations in health. 3. Legal Advice to generate mechanisms for the institutionalization of multisectoral response. 4. Development of reference and counter-reference procedures among health systems and community systems. 5. Develop tools and technical assistance to build and / or strengthen civil society to exert pressure, lobbying and oversight.
FUNDING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exert pressure for the enactment of rules to enable states to contract community services in health. 2. Analyze how much do states invest in the response to the three diseases, how much does the Global Fund invest, and what is the gap to be met once the transition and sustainability start. Monitor the efficiency and quality of local budget spending for the three diseases. 3. Mapping of domestic donors (private institutions, government subsidies, local governments and other local actors). 4. Ensure resources for regional initiatives in which Regional Organizations of key populations and people with HIV are working on, which strengthens the actions taken in countries. 5. Strengthen political impact towards governments to ensure that the co-financing obligations and commitments are met. 6. Generate agreements between governments and civil society to fund the key work, given that civil society is thus better equipped to reach key populations. 7. It is necessary to improve mobilization to ensure the sustainability of programs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advisory to explore the legal mechanisms and resources that enable the state to contract community services. 2. Training and Development of tools to monitor national budgets. 3. Technical assistance for the implementation of donor mapping. 4. Training through internships or tutorials for capacity building in the resource mobilization area at local level. 5. Support the establishment of social enterprises in coordination with local actors. 6. Develop activities to train leaders in resource search in the region through social <i>marketing</i> in order to increase funding. 7. Capacity building of monitoring groups to oversee the processes and ensure transparency and accountability from the relevant Agencies and governmental institutions.
PROGRAMS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replicate experiences and lessons learned from the provision of health services derived from the implementation of Global Fund projects. 2. Keep record of the contribution made by the civil society and the communities in the provision of health services. 3. Yield value to the community work in the design of public policies and the provision of health services. 4. Strengthen partnerships to provide our linkages / representatives of the SC before the GF with elements for negotiation in decision-making spaces. 5. Strengthen institutional capacity building development to meet the needs of key populations and ensure that the civil society becomes a co-provider. 6. Strengthening systems of the community's response related to the health sector. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct studies to record the lessons learned from the successful experiences of the contribution made by the civil society and the communities in their responses. 2. Conduct studies to record the contribution made by the civil society and the communities in health services. 3. Make information available and ensure civil society's access to information. 4. Ensure that information is clearly identifiable and easy to understand by the key communities. 5. Develop individual capacity so that the processes and data available is understandable, as well as the way to apply them in monitoring, implementation and development of programs.