



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



Meeting Report

First Regional Meeting

Latin America and the Caribbean Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication of Civil Society and Communities (LAC Platform)

Lima, Peru – 4 and 5 of May, 2016

1. 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 of 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 of Via Libre has won the Global Fund's call for proposals number TGF-15-030 for the implementation of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication of Civil Society and Communities (LAC Platform). 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.

In this context, the first regional meeting of the Latin America and the Caribbean Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication of Civil Society and Communities took place from 4 to 5 of May, 2016, under the title **"Situation and Perspective of the Civil Society and Communities under the New Funding Model of the Global Fund"**.

2. Objectives of the Meeting

1. Build a dialogue with the civil society and the communities on the role of the LAC Regional Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication of Civil Society and Communities 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 Elaboration of Grants 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.

3. Participants

Participating at the meeting were 61 persons from 12 Latin American countries and 7 from the Caribbean (members of the CCMs and Civil Society and Communities organizations), 7 from regional networks and 7 from technical and key partners of the LAC Platform (list of participants attached).

4. Development of the Agenda

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Block 1: Introduction to the LAC Platform and the Special Initiative CRG.

Objective of the Block: Provide participants with an overview of the purpose, nature and objectives of the Special Initiative on Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) and the Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication of Civil Society and Communities.

Session 1 – Welcoming and expectations

Development:

1. Collection of participant's expectations: once participants were registered, they were requested to write down their main expectations of the meeting and place them in the "wall of expectations."

2. **Welcoming of participants and opening of the Meeting:** Dr. Robinson Cabello, Executive Director of VIA LIBRE, welcomed participants to the meeting, thanking them for their participation in the event. He mentioned that it is a source of pride and a challenge to participate in this meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, and made reference to the purpose thereof: share, learn and channel the participation of civil society and communities within the framework of a "new funding model", which is no longer so new. He highlighted the focus on sustainability as an important element of the meeting. Finally, he put emphasis on the innovative and creative responses that Latin America and the Caribbean has provided to these issues.

3. **Presentation of the agenda:** The Facilitator presented the objectives and methodology of the meeting based upon the question: What are we looking for?:

- Build dialogue and tend cooperation channels.
- Exchange information and experiences.
- Reflect on the present looking into the future.
- Identify needs, actions and specific responses that can help us in the sustainability and transition process.

4. **Introduction of participants:** (Group integration technique) Participants were requested to introduce themselves individually mentioning their name, organization and country of origin, and what their nickname was when they were young.

Session 2 - Presentations about the Initiative on CRG and the LAC Platform

Summary of the presentation made by Edwige Fortier, Coordinator of CRG/GF Platforms

Special Initiative on CRG: Communities, Rights and Gender, seeks to ensure that all people affected by the three diseases can play a significant role in the GF's processes, and ensure that grants reflect their needs. CRG has three components: short-term technical assistance for civil society and communities; Capacity Development in partnership with Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund (RCNF) and the Regional Platforms for Support, Coordination and Communication.

The short-term technical assistance for civil society and communities consists of support to country dialogue and to the concept notes development and grant-making processes. The application forms for technical assistance can be found on the GF website in English, Spanish, Russian and French. There are 34 technical assistance providers that are civil society organizations worldwide.

Capacity development in partnership with Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund (RCNF) promotes the development of long-term capacity of global and regional networks of key populations to strengthen their participation in Global Fund processes at country level. This has included sex workers, transgender people, people using drugs, men who have sex with men, young key populations, people living with HIV and women living with HIV. These long-term capacity building activities have been conducted in more than 40 countries.

Regional Platforms are designed to enhance the knowledge of civil society organizations and community groups of the Global Fund and how to access technical assistance; to coordinate with other technical assistance programs and initiatives in the region; to improve understanding of the shortcomings and needs in terms of technical assistance and capacity building for civil society and community groups, as well as strengthening and developing initiatives to create strategic capacity.

The initiative aims to strengthening involvement and participation of civil society and communities through technical assistance. The initiative has a 15 million dollars budget, and must be led by civil society and vulnerable populations.

Summary of the dialogue with the participants

- Currently there is a CRG evaluation underway and one of the elements that can be observed is the delay in GF processes that is not very efficient; it is considered that resources and processes should have a better use; also the gaps to be met have been identified for an effective response.
- The allocated money has a term period; the CRG team is a very small one to cope with the demand and response.
- The GF has reported the availability of these resources.
- CCMs or organizations should be the ones seeking technical assistance, which must be done before signing the grant.
- The CRG evaluation started this month, we will be present to promote their participation and coordinate spaces to collect observations and requests thereof.

Summary of the presentation made by the LAC Platform. Miguel Martínez, General Coordinator

The Special Initiative on CRG: Communities, Rights and Gender, seeks that all people affected by the three diseases are able to play a significant role in the GF's processes, and ensure that grants reflect their needs. The LAC Platform was selected through an open RFP. The implementation period of the Platform runs from January to December 2016, under the execution modality of service contract.

The Platform's lines of action are: enhance the knowledge of communities and civil society of the Global Fund and how to access technical assistance, and coordinate with other technical assistance initiatives. For this purpose, its activities include: dissemination of information on the Global Fund through social networks and the development of the Platform's web page; additionally, the Global Coalition of TB Activists has designed a website in Spanish. There is a Documents Bank to collect and disseminate information about the GF, Corresponsales Clave and Observatorio Latino, as well as a database on communities and civil society.

Understanding of the deficiencies in technical assistance and capacity building for civil society and community groups will be improved through three national studies on technical assistance accessibility and effectiveness; and innovations in technical assistance to communities will take place through the completion of three national training (participatory) studies and a regional meeting of activists and experts.

Strategic capacity building initiatives shall be promoted, for which three countries will be accompanied during their strategic and policy planning; three national needs assessments will be developed on technical assistance, and there will be tools and support for parallel reports on community and civil society participation.

Summary of the presentation made by the communication component of the Platform, César Coria, Communications Coordinator.

The aim is to facilitate communication between communities and civil society. To such end, there are communication tools, such as a website disseminating news and updates about GF, civil society and communities, a bank document which purpose is to disseminate information and technical assistance opportunities: <http://plataformalac.org>.

There is also an electronic newsletter that will publish relevant information from the website, as well as articles produced by Corresponsales Clave, the GF, and other actors and key partners of the Platform: http://boletin.plataformalac.org/archivo/abril/pla010416_.html.

Regarding social networks, the LAC Platform counts on a Facebook profile and a Twitter account: <https://www.facebook.com/PlataformaLAC>, <https://twitter.com/plataformalac> = @plataformalac. This communication strategy in social networks will be complemented by an alert system through a contacts database in the region.

Summary of the dialogue with the participants

- The Platform is not spokesperson for GF.
- Being only at national level, the studies to be conducted contradict the regional approach of the regional Platform. An effort shall be made to negotiate this approach.
- The Platform's life span is limited; therefore it should avoid raising expectations that will not be able to meet.
- The Platform's role should be to try to mobilize communities in order to provide a more sustainable response over time.
- The Platform will strengthen some aspects that are already onstage, that are not new, and which will continue after the Platform leaves.
- The Platform should make an effort to integrate the Caribbean region in other ways beyond the translation of documents.
- The Platform is not authorized to conduct political advocacy, neither to provide technical assistance as such. What it will do is provide support to the civil society and the communities in the areas of support, coordination and communication (an aspect that needs to be strengthened particularly in the Caribbean).

Session 3 - Panel on Gender Approach from the perspective of civil society within the context of GF grants

Summary of the presentation made by Violeta Ross- RedBol/CCM Bolivia

The CCM in Bolivia has been reformulated: they were previously considered a good CCM but, with regards to the new funding models, they became an ineligible CCM at risk of losing all the support from the GF. Currently, the CCM in Bolivia is constituted by 50% from state and 50% from civil society, female sex workers (FSW), men who have sex with men and Trans have a single seat, which affects the opportunity for active participation.

Organizations sustainability or public policies sustainability? For example, prevention and care policies presently funded by the GF are priorities for Bolivia. In Bolivia, the estimated expenditure for prevention is 13 million dollars, of which the GF covers 10 million and the Bolivian government counterpart provides only 1 million dollars.

In a context of scarce resources such as Bolivia, gender and violence issues affecting vulnerable populations are avoided. On the other hand, the lack of epidemiological data in that country affects the timely intervention, for example, in FSW populations. Not counting on the resources to make an impact in the country is a major challenge, because these are not priorities for most governments, thus the GF needs to support advocacy within this context.

Summary of the presentation made by Marcela Romero- Regional Secretary at RedLACTrans

There is no evaluation of governments from the human rights perspective, which is a priority. It is necessary to develop indicators displaying the work of Trans women and their contribution. Some governments consider that vulnerable populations are women and children, making the Trans populations invisible. For example, the Trans population in the Caribbean is invisible due to the discrimination they experience.

The RedLACTrans Regional Project proposes advocacy training and developing strategies with an approach to reporting acts of violation of rights towards Trans women. Typically, GF grants are focused on testing or health interventions, and that is recurrent lack of access to basic services such as health or access to the labor market. Deprived of their right to identity, Trans women suffer the same violence experienced by women.

Summary of the presentation made by Tania Kembel- Chances4Life Organization (Suriname) Representative of Sex Workers at Suriname CCM.

"Going a seat further at the table" pointed out that, in order to include gender and human rights more effectively in grants, it has been necessary to include gender specialists in the country dialogue teams, count on activists on fundamental rights of the vulnerable populations, as well as a strong representation of the key members of the population.

Sex workers in Suriname experience stigma and discrimination in the health sector, high incidence of violence against female sex workers, particularly towards transgender sex workers. There is lack of access to legal services and law enforcement, such as lack of understanding of the gender identity of Trans women.

It is time to translate the dialogue into action in order to address the realities of key populations, to make a greater effort to reach them and to expand counseling services and HIV testing; further work on addressing stigma and discrimination through training and sensitization of health workers, to help improve the installed capacity of the health sector aiming at improving the quality of service delivery for key populations.

Summary of the presentation made by Adolfo Ruiz- SOMOSGAY, representative of MSM in CCM Paraguay
Paraguay has a concentrated HIV epidemic among vulnerable populations; it has a CCM of which SOMOSGAY is member. It counts on three HIV projects (including the current project from 2015 to 2018). Positive experiences are few; however, the multisectoral work has enabled the civil society participation in the process.

Regarding challenges and obstacles, it was highlighted the technical assistance without human rights and gender perspective. The inclusion of human rights and gender perspective is required in the technical assistance when drafting the concept note and proposals development. It is also necessary to implement methodologies that streamline work processes, so that the community can be involved therein and avoid an imbalance of power and decision making. The GF's new funding model has emphasized the revision of the CCMs' structure and the reorganization of the civil society, thereby assuming that the civil society's role of advocacy, enforcement and comptrolling at national level will go beyond the GF.

Summary of the presentation made by Heather Doyle, CRG/GF

To hasten the end of epidemics it is necessary to promote and protect human rights and gender equality. To such end, support programs for women and girls, including programs promoting health and sexual and reproductive rights, should be expanded. Likewise, investments should be made to reduce health inequalities, including those related to gender and age. The GF's Strategic Actions to Promote Gender Equality are:

1. Support the replenishment of resources with emphasis added on civil society. Technical partners support the GF's work to promote gender equality and to have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls.
2. Data and grants management by gender and sex / age, thus supporting the strategic objective of promoting gender equality.
3. Policies, procedures and partnerships that contribute to expanding investments to promote gender equality, addressing inequalities related to gender and age, and meeting the needs of women and girls. To such end, country teams are being supported to design and expand high-impact interventions aimed at adolescent girls and young women, and to promote gender equality.

The GF has gender-sensitive policies, which are reflected in the indicators' reports breakdown by sex and age, as recommended by WHO; performance indicators deriving investments towards appropriate locations and populations, and thereby eliminating barriers to assistance related to gender and promoting gender equality.

With this in place, it is expected quality investments in the three diseases for adolescent girls and young women; a data system responding to programmatic and investment decision-making; strong partnerships to ensure quality and sustainability at national level and an increase in the Secretariat's capacity to address gender equality in the countries supported by the GF. Through the Special Initiative on Community, Rights and Gender, the civil society groups including women living with HIV and sex workers may receive resources to propose improvements in services for women and their engagement in country dialogue.

Summary of the dialogue with the participants

- It was pointed out the importance of incorporating masculinities in the gender equity issue, as well as violence against Trans women and female sex workers.
- It was noted that the presented framework is based on an approach that emphasizes women and girls, making the Trans population invisible.
- It is important to conduct the exercise of incorporating gender issues in the region at this stage of the transition and, with the funding support of this stage, leverage some things.
- It was observed that the human rights and gender topic had not been incorporated from the TB approach perspective, since indicators remain more biomedical than social.
- The RedTraSex project represents an opportunity for the region to address human rights with the GF's resources, which will allow the provision of evidence within the sex work context. For example, the first Female Sex Workers union in Latin America and the Caribbean has been recognized by the Ministry of Labour of Colombia.

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

Objective of the block: Inform participants about TA opportunities in the region.

Session 4: Technical Information Fair (Market Place): Carousel (10 minutes rotation of technical assistance providers around 7 working tables). Presentation of the technical support offer from each organization or agency, and Questions and Answers session.

Participating Technical Assistance Providers:

Ginet Vargas – *HIVOS*

Oscar Ramírez – *Socios en Salud*

Ximena Salazar – *Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia*

Verónica Cenac – *CVC/COIN*

Miguel Martínez – *CRAT*

Patricia Bracamonte – *ONUSIDA*

Edwige Fortier – *CRG/ GF*

Session 5: Panel - Advances and challenges for the participation of people with TB, malaria and HIV in the region and in the CCM.

Summary of the presentation made by Alberto Colorado, Global Coalition of TB Activists

Tuberculosis is the result of social inequities in populations where human rights are limited. The response to TB in the region is met with limited political will, unstructured public policies, and lack of a multisectoral approach, in addition to the system's adverse reactions to monitoring and social oversight of the TB programs and policies. On the other hand, bureaucracy delays swift action against TB, and there is lack of communication and transparency of TB programs before the Civil Society. It is recognized the shortage of NGOs and affected persons' associations working on TB and TB/HIV at regional level, and lack of support for the representatives of persons affected by TB in the CCMs (Leadership, financing, training and power of management).

It is necessary to strengthened communities affected by TB; this requires technical assistance with active participation, capacity building and funding. To promote social monitoring and advocacy of the authorities in transparency, accountability and commitment in the response to TB. The importance of providing food and economic security to those affected must also be identified; as well as having a multi-sectoral approach in response to TB by the state and, finally, get various key populations in TB engaged in the mechanisms of GF and other public and private entities.

Summary of the presentation made by Walter Suarez – Vice-president CCM Bolivia. Representative of Malaria

The CCM of Bolivia representative of Malaria is recently participating in it; previously, decisions were taken without the participation of the population affected by Malaria. The Amazon region is the most affected by malaria in Bolivia. There are three types of Malaria recognized in the jungles of Bolivia, and cultural activities that are characteristic of the region expose the population to Malaria, therefore, sometimes there is no timely diagnosis or medication. Access to health services is limited due to geographic conditions and / or distance. There are people trained for rapid testing, without having to wait for the health professional (Malaria), allowing an early treatment. The area will be attended with rapid tests, mosquitoes and treatment. Presently, there is a country dialogue where civil society has an increased participation.

Summary of the presentation made by Stephen Díaz, CCM Belize

Belize is a small country with great HIV impact. One of the problems in Belize is the high level of stigma to vulnerable populations. Stigma and discrimination is a major problem particularly for young people. People living at the borders are more affected by this problem, the key population presents legal barriers and many of them do not access health services. We have young people who, due to lack of knowledge, does not access the services.

Although there are new groups, it is necessary to have a greater capacity development in key populations; however, accreditation processes are very difficult, thereby preventing their participation in spaces such as the CCM. Young people with HIV in Belize needs a greater participation in GF processes. On the other hand, people with HIV have been unable to develop, staying in the process of knowing about their diagnoses; there is

a lack of psychosocial support to help improve the quality of life of people with HIV. Some people have to go to Panama to access health services, because there are still gaps to be overcome in Belize.

Summary of the dialogue with the participants

- It was highlighted that young people need to develop their skills in order to improve their engagement in the GF's processes.
- Common denominators among the 3 diseases were identified, namely, primary health care, prevention and intersectoriality.
- The need to continue strengthening community response, particularly in TB and Malaria was recognized.

Thursday, May 5, 2016

Block 3 - Identifying challenges for the sustainability from civil society and communities

Objective: Reflect with the participants on the challenges presented to the civil society under the Global Fund's new strategy and identify technical assistance needs.

Session 6: Panel: The Global Fund's Sustainability & Transition Policy and Resource Allocation Methodology

Anuar Luna, Technical coordinator for the LAC Platform, introduced the first panel indicating that from March 20 to 21, a regional meeting was held in Panama to present and discuss the sustainability and transition policy, and analyze the related risks.

Summary of the presentation made by Dee Smith, President CCM Guatemala

The aim of the new policy is to support country actions to expand and maintain programs that will generate lasting effects through funded systems nationwide that are capable of producing results. The challenges faced by Guatemala regarding this process are the lack of installed capacity to conduct robust and quality processes, the necessary leadership to be accountable and demand transparency, the lack of involvement in decision-making by community-based organizations, and the centralization of the health system decision-making that does not allow the development of community response, the insufficient funds allocated to health, and the absence of evaluations of the cost-effectiveness of interventions made by the Ministry of Health with the three diseases, the lack of updated strategic information to make decisions about program funding; the lack of coverage of HIV, TB and Malaria programs at national level that limit human and economic resources to areas with a higher incidence of infections disregarding the need for mass prevention actions in order to achieve a sustainable response.

Guatemala requires national vision and leadership to ensure that programs continue and respond to the needs of the country; collaboration between civil society and government. The Government must improve its capabilities and interventions using evidence-based approaches, evaluate and ratify the level of commitment to allocate a global health budget that reflects the reality of the country; work on a national sustainability plan that involves every sector of society and programs for the three diseases, as well as a clear process to define a response pathway, while avoiding last-minute development of intervention plans. The three pillars: advocacy, service delivery and monitoring must be 'in place' long before the pressure of the Global Fund's withdrawal starts.

Summary of the presentation made by John Quelch – CCM Guyana

Four risks were identified at the meeting in Panama: availability of funds for the three diseases, availability of data, limited support for vulnerable communities, and barriers for services. Regarding the availability in the use of data at national level, it was highlighted that, when data is collected there is not much willingness from the government to include community and civil society; therefore interventions do not have an impact in the populations in real need of assistance.

A meeting with the Ministry of Health was held upon returning to Guyana. In said rapprochement between civil society and government, the civil society raised its concerns about the likelihood that the GF's grant will be withdrawn within 3 to 5 years. Finally it was noted that: "If our governments are going to take responsibility of the HIV response, what will be left to the civil society? It is necessary to have some type of consortium engaging civil society in the national response, since civil society itself has been a large part of the response. We consider the CCM should be a response mechanism."

Summary of the presentation made by Melecio Mayta – ASPAT Peru

It is a challenge to count on allocation of resources from the Global Fund for a special program to fund actions by the Civil Society with adequate indicators that allows achieving the sustainability of actions in the fight against TB, HIV and Malaria. To ensure sustainability, scientific evidence must be generated on the effectiveness of interventions from projects of GF and other cooperation partners. Likewise, it is necessary to generate evidence of the cost-effectiveness of the actions from civil society to enable states and other institutions to contract specialized services offered by the civil society.

Finally, in order to ensure an efficient transition, it is necessary to strengthen technical capacity and empower civil society, networks and platforms, well as to have advocacy actions for resource mobilization and political commitment to make actions taken by the GF become state policies, as well as social mobilization to visualize the problems and resource requirements, access to treatments, etc., social monitoring and monitoring of policy implementation compliance, guidelines, standards, plans, programs, projects and demand transparency.

Summary of the presentation made by Sergio Montealegre, REDCA+

The issue of sustainability and transition is being heard of since Rounds 3 and 4, but was not definitely confirmed until Panama. We are given a transition period and again we focus on sustainability of health systems, but very little on sustainability of community systems. We continue to see sustainability as health programs in order to achieve the goals and the coverage after funding expires. To mobilize resources into a region from where all donors are already withdrawing, with donors' resources being increasingly scarce. However, there is a significant experience in Costa Rica to raise funds through the national lottery that provides by law that 1% to 1.5% of the earnings must be given to the civil society for HIV prevention and promotion; although there are still some structural barriers that civil society should consider.

It is a call to reflect about leaving comfort zones, it has been identified that work needs to be done towards overcoming the gaps and that we need to improve. The assistentialism of some representatives is recognized in their participation in such spaces, which appears to be motivated by their own benefit. Only when we get out of this comfort zone we will be able to work towards the sustainability of any disease and there will be a full transition in order to provide an effective response.

Summary of the dialogue with the participants

- It is essential to ensure comprehensive attention in the sustainability analysis.
- The fact that the GF withdraws does not mean the problem is over; it is a call to taking more concrete actions.
- It is time to reflect in order to place clear actions and make demands on governments, starting with our representatives in the CCM.
- The transition will take time. When we talk about sustainability, it does not come with money, but with the actions of individuals and / or representatives of our countries, of our decisions.
- The issue of transition must be borne by the states. As civil society, we cannot assume the responsibilities of States and international agencies; our work in the region is to seek funding to contribute and help our community.

Summary of the presentation made by Nuria Diez Lungo – Global Fund/ Focal point for civil society

Sustainability and transition are not new words; the GF is a financial institution whose support is limited. The new GF strategy for 2017-2022 has a strong focus on sustainability and the impact of investments, which includes supporting countries during the transition from the GF's support to local support. The transition is a mechanism by which a country or a disease component will move gradually towards full funding and implementation of health programs, independently of the GF's support.

There is a campaign for the mobilization of resources by the GF with a goal of 13 million dollars. There will be resources for Latin America according to how this goal is met; on the other hand, there is an eligibility list. Resources are limited, and therefore these will be focused, which may mean that some eligible countries will not receive an allocation or may receive a very limited one. Based on these policies, detailed operational guidelines will be developed so the CCMs are able to prepare their transition and sustainability plans. The GF can invest in and support countries in their sustainability planning, as well as in their national health strategies and strategic plans for diseases. The aim is to promote planning for an early and continuous sustainability. The

policy counts on work plans for the transition. Evaluations will be conducted for the preparation of both the programmatic and the financial transition.

All the components that are currently funded by an existing grant may receive funding for up to one more allocation period and maximum for one more period, which is not guaranteed, with a few exceptions if the criteria are met. In order to incentivize countries to increase domestic funding before the transition, the policy includes the compensation component previously known as counterpart financing. This will ensure that countries are assuming funding responsibility for vulnerable populations when approaching the transition phase.

According to the process, countries first evaluate what has been done in the country, for which purpose CCM meetings will be organized to plan evaluations. The GF may support the evaluation processes and support the country in priority areas; then the CCM shares the findings, which are discussed, and the evaluation is validated to determine the following steps. Eventually, a budgeted action plan is developed and this action plan may be used for the next financing.

Summary of the presentation made by Javier Hourcade Bellocq, International HIV/AIDS Alliance

The GF's new strategies are in line with the sustainable development goals. Although the GF's Strategic Framework provides its objective-mission to be "Investing to end epidemics", it is significant that the greater part of its investments is directed only to 15 countries of the world, 9 of them in Africa. If everything goes well at the Replenishment Conference, it is possible that Latin America and the Caribbean get an approximate 2% of the proceeds. There have been no substantial changes in the Eligibility Policy; eligibility **does not guarantee the allocation**. What has not changed are the variables related to per capita income used by the World Bank and the disease burden in HIV, Malaria and TB through PAHO / WHO, Stop TB, Roll Back Malaria, etc.

The GF's Strategic Framework 2017 – 2022 recognizes and includes the specific sub-objective to "Support sustainable responses for epidemic control and successful transitions." The principles to work with countries in the long-term sustainability of programs are described in Sustainability, Transition and Co-financing Policy, as well as a framework to ensure a successful transition from GF funding. The approach is based on the core premise that planning for sustainability should be taken into account by all countries. It includes principles such as: differentiation (case by case analysis), alignment with the strategies, medium and long term country plans and transition predictability and capacity. A "catalytic fund" of 15 million dollars will be allocated for the purpose of promoting the use of allocations for the strategic priorities of GF and strategies related to co-infections, vulnerable populations, programs based on gender, human rights, and regional approaches and strategic initiatives.

Summary of the dialogue with the participants

- The UN High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS is an opportunity to advocate for greater financial commitments.
- It is urgent to demand our governments to fulfill the commitments that they themselves made.
- It is important not to cut resources immediately from successful experiences; acknowledge the role of the key population, which must be registered to be evidenced.
- The development of this strategic plan will put our skills on practice and count on our own indicators and monitor our actions.
- It will be difficult to attain increased domestic donation in our countries.
- Emphasis is made on country-based approaches and the strategy towards network projects is not made explicit.
- There is evidence that, in this region, the responses on prevention focused on key populations are not necessarily the responses being funded by the governments.
- The UNAIDS strategy clearly shows how HIV is linked to TB not only from a health perspective, but also from a gender, equity and inclusion perspective.
- In Colombia, the State launches grant calls but, due to the limited capacity of some organizations, cooperation agencies end up competing with the CSOs.
- In the same way as the GF has its transitional plan, as civil society we need to develop that strategic plan to respond to the sustainability of each of our organizations.

Session 7 - Group work to identify the technical assistance needs within the transition process framework

Participants were organized in sub regional groups - Central America, South America and the Caribbean - and two additional groups were formed, one for NGOs and the other for key partners. Each group was furnished with an analysis format with the questions: What do we need to do as civil society in the next three years to prepare sustainability and transition? AND What kind of support (Technical assistance, tools, etc) will we require? They were instructed that the areas of analysis were Governance, Funding and Programs. The following is a summary of the results of the group work:

	WHAT DO 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 (CCMs, NAP, 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 the CCMs 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 digital media communication strategies (social networks) to generate social pressure on the States 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-funding 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 marketing 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 program development processes.

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

Objective: Share sustainability experiences conducted by civil society organizations at local or regional level.

Session 8 - Panel: Experiences of civil society and communities (this Panel was based on experience gathered by Asociación VIA LIBRE (Peru) Fundación Huésped (Argentina) RedTrasex (Regional).

Summary of the presentation made by Robinson Cabello Chávez, Executive Director at VIA LIBRE

Sustainability is a process in which we never stop learning. We think we have succeeded, just to realize that there are new things to learn. It is an experience, not a model. Currently, VIA LIBRE is a center accredited by the Ministry of Health for the delivery of antiretroviral treatment, where treatment and testing are free, but we have to charge those who can afford to pay in order to support the operating costs of the system. The response to HIV requires strategies to continue our work without neglecting community work. VIA LIBRE has opted to generate revenue through its services.

The model is supported by the payment of services; 90% of users pay for the services received and 10% is subsidized, in such way we are able to cover the resources for those who cannot afford it from those who can. The revenue-generating areas are the pharmacy and the research center; the laboratory also produces income, but to a lesser extent. We have a zero balance, currently these services are self-funded. The pharmacy service is another resource generating unit; research is a source of income for the organization, being unrestricted funds for VIA LIBRE. We focus on the production of evidence, and presently we are set out to the continuous improvement of the attention given to treatment. We talk about operational research demonstrating effectiveness - what we used to do before, now has to be demonstrated. It is only this way that a public policy can be sustainable.

The user perspective is also very important for the institution. In the early years we had volunteers for our services and, as it happens with volunteering, sometimes we did not count on staff and this was an inconvenience to users. The population was consulted, and 95% agreed to pay for an accessible service that they would not have otherwise. As a challenge and lesson learned, mission and objective should always be in front; otherwise we might get lost, and be regarded from the outside as an institution that is only in search of resources.

Summary of the presentation made by Leandro Cahn – Fundación Huésped

Success is the succession of many failures. To be economically sustainable, an organization must have more than one source of income, have more than one way to generate income, have a strategic planning, financial planning, avail from adequate financial systems, have a good public image and financial autonomy. Regarding the traditional donor, we have businesses through social responsibility, Individuals, which remain the main funding stream, and the sale of services such as clinical protocols and the pharmaceutical industry in the case of enrollments for studies.

HIV work was associated with other social problems related to childhood, sexuality, access to health, access to justice, etc. With businesses we have funds for specific projects, with the same logic of international cooperation. An example of this is the launching of a TV program produced by Huésped, where the channel donates all the proceeds from advertisement sales during the broadcast. Furthermore, there is another strategy with individual donors.

We must stop being afraid to ask because we use the money well for our organizations. It is all about generating conversation and, in the case of putting together the subjects of sex, humor and celebrities in the social networks, we will have more chances to communicate, and the ability to generate communication is what allows positioning.

Summary of the presentation made by Elena Reynaga, REDTRASEX

There is a question that is being posed to us quite often since a few months ago: What is going to happen to RedTraSex after the Global Fund withdraws? That question means two things to us: either that that person does not know the history of RedTraSex or that person does not know RedTraSex today. Our main activity is related to political advocacy actions to change the reality of female sex workers and for this end it is essential to count on strong organizations and trained leaders: that is the best installed capacity we have. We are a social grassroots organization, not an NGO. We do not provide services, but have a strategic plan that limits our scope. We work in different areas of institutional strengthening: legal status, strategic planning, accounting systems, administrative processes, accountability not only in economic terms but also in political accountability. An example of this is the first union of female sex workers in Latin America and the Caribbean: the National Union of Female Sex Workers of Colombia SINTRASEXCO has been granted legal standing by the Ministry of Labour.

We are a reference on issues related to sex work in 13 of the 14 countries where RedTraSex is present, the organizations integrate at least 5 spaces for debate and decision making on HIV, Human Rights, Discrimination, Women, Work and Justice issues. What makes us sustainable today? Being protagonists of our own story, counting on almost 20 years of experience, breaking the siege of HIV, counting on organizations that are standing up and counting on leaders trained in a variety of fields. The added value, which has a regional focus, generates exchange of experiences, strength and power, maximizing resources: with little we do a lot, and we have achieved recognition for the work done in the international community.

Summary of the dialogue with the participants

- Sustainability is an issue that must be addressed from the sustainability of national responses, not only from the sustainability of organizations.
- Organizations with a business model have greater independence and less ideological prostitution before donors.
- When funds are withdrawn many shall adapt, not necessarily the strongest; only those that make a difference will remain, those that are legitimate.
- The strategy of presented sales is motivating to work on sustainability strategies for organizations.
- One thing is to talk about the sustainability of our organizations, we are one of those organizations that existed before the GF, during the GF and that we will continue to exist after GF because we have a mission. There are organizations that were created just to access the GF's funds.
- There is concern regarding who will pay for what the GF is paying for now. Our governments are not interested in working with the populations we work with.
- Stronger organizations have better opportunities to face decision makers than weaker organizations.
- It is necessary to understand the successful experiences in the Caribbean - there have been times where the Caribbean was not supported and that has forced us to be innovative.

Block 5 – Perspectives of the civil society and the communities

Session 9 - Updating of the delegation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Global Fund and participation of the Civil Society and youth.

Summary of the presentation made by Javier Hourcade Bellocq, Delegation LAC GF

The Latin America and the Caribbean delegation in the Global Fun Board is part of the “implementers” block. All governments supported by the GF are sitting at the table to make decisions. Civil society and communities have their own delegations; civil society has a delegation in the developing countries NGOs and another one in developed countries NGOs. There is a delegation for LAC 2015-2017 with two representatives from youth. It is worth mentioning that this delegation meets to discuss the agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean. In the Caribbean there is a coordinated work is much more articulated than before.

There is a communication platform managed in Buenos Aires and in coordination with colleagues in the Caribbean, which has information about the meetings and what is happening in the GF. This tool was created for the issue of accountability. The official documents may be found in: lacfondomundial.org.

The main achievements have been that governments at ministerial level took charge of their participation in the GF: before the global health meeting in Geneva, the Ministers of Health from Latin America and Caribbean countries met to discuss GF issues. Many were unaware of the GF, but this has changed now. The profile of Latin America and the Caribbean was much raised within the GF Board, for example with Dr. Mirta Roses in the GF Strategies Committee, and Dr. Dereck Springer as president of the implementors' block.

Summary of the presentation made by Sergio López – Youth AL

The LAC delegation held critical points for discussion and agreement on certain issues, including resource allocation methodology, regional initiatives, sustainability policies, transition and Co-financing, GF Strategies 2017 – 2022 and the framework of key performance indicators (KPIs) 2017 – 2022. The Sustainability, Transition and Co-financing Policy sets out principles and flexibility focused on the sustainability in countries and allows a process of transition planning linked to different co-financing requirements. Countries that are 10 years away of the transition will be supported for a preparation evaluation, focused on incentivizing increased domestic resources for health and focus investments along continuous development.

The proposal of LAC's positioning regarding sustainability, transition and co-financing is that the policy must include the principle of partnership, shared responsibility, accountability, roles and responsibility among actors in order to develop the transition and sustainability plan. The measures that the GF will address to protect programs from premature transition should be specified in more detail. The evaluation of the degree of preparation for the transition must be an independent process and should be conducted through consultation with multiple partners.

Why sustaining investment in the region? To guarantee the availability of human, technical and financial resources that generate an appropriate response to the three diseases and have good performance and impact indicators in the response, high level of inequality and absolute number of poor people. To include a comprehensive approach to youth it is necessary to resume a discussion 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 presentation made by Jumoke Patrick – Youth Caribbean

In three years' time, Jamaica and the Caribbean will no longer have support from GF; there is still hostility to key communities in the region. That is why the participation of communities in the Board is very important. As a member of the board of GF, I want to make sure the community understands this: most young members of key communities have no knowledge, some are not even interested in the GF.

With regard to sustainability, it is clear that organizations have to change our way of thinking and keep in mind that political sustainability is very fragile. The good thing in the Caribbean is that we are good at implementing programs and achieving objectives.

As a delegation, we have tried to represent and recognize that we are the only young organization represented by the region in such space. It is important to have adequate representation on the GF Board. That is the reason for committing to sharing information, publish documents and participate in decision-making for the benefit of the key communities. The real challenge for the Caribbean is the respect for human rights; likewise the real challenge is to ensure that attention cascades on the LGBT population. During the transition, key populations may be left without access to services.

Annex 1 Evaluation of the Meeting

The evaluation form was prepared in English and Spanish, and was completed by 42 of the 61 participants.

General data:

I participate or collaborate in (you may choose more than one option):

CCM	MCR	Regional Project	TA Provider	Key partner	Other (specify)
20	3	5	4	9	1 (RP)

My field of action is focused on (you may choose more than one option):

Mesoamerica	Andes	Southern Cone	Hispanic Caribbean	Caribbean	Regional AL
6	6	4	3	6	17

I identify as:

Man	Woman	Transgender Person
24	17	1

I participate in response to (you may choose more than one option):

Tuberculosis	Malaria	HIV/AIDS
15 (7 also checked Malaria y VIH; 4 also checked HIV)	2 (one also checked HIV)	25

Compliance with the objectives of the meeting

To which extent the Regional Meeting of the LAC Platform met your expectations

Not at all	Partially	Totally	Beyond
0	16 (5 from the Caribbean)	23 (1 from the Caribbean)	3

- Build a dialogue with the civil society and the communities about the role of the LAC Regional Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication of Civil Society and Communities and the GF's Special Initiative on Communities, Rights and Gender**

Not at all	Partially	Totally	Beyond
0	10 (3 from the Caribbean)	19 (2 from the Caribbean)	13

- Exchange of information and experiences on key processes associated with communities, human rights and gender, to articulate in the development of Concept Notes and Grant Preparation related to the FG's New Funding Model.**

Not at all	Partially	Totally	Beyond
0	12 (3 from the Caribbean)	22 (2 from the Caribbean)	8

- Reflect on the implications that the Sustainability and Transition Policy will have on civil society and the communities**

Not at all	Partially	Totally	Beyond
0	6 (3 from the Caribbean)	22 (2 from the Caribbean)	14

- 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.**

Not at all	Partially	Totally	Beyond
0	9 (3 from the Caribbean)	22 (2 from the Caribbean)	11

Satisfaction with the contents

General utility of the topics on the agenda

Bad	Fair	Good	Very good
0	6 (2 from the Caribbean)	21	13

Utility of block 1 **Presentation of the LAC Platform and the Special Initiative on CRG**

None	Some	Sufficient	Very useful
0	9	18	15

Utility of block 2 – **Technical Assistance from the Global Fund**

None	Some	Sufficient	Very useful
1	10	20	9

Utility of block 3 - **Identification of sustainability challenges for the civil society**

None	Some	Sufficient	Very useful
1	7	19	14

Utility of block 4 - Sustainability: Experiences and needs of the civil society and communities

None	Some	Sufficient	Very useful
0	11	16	14

Utility of block 5 – Perspectives of the civil society and communities

None	Some	Sufficient	Very useful
1	10	23	7

Logistic aspects

Quality of the interpretation services

Bad	Fair	Good	Very good
1	3	12	17

Transport arrangements

Bad	Fair	Good	Very good
2	4	10	17

Quality of lodging

Bad	Fair	Good	Very good
0	0	9	27

Quality of food

Bad	Fair	Good	Very good
0	0	14	28

Expenditure reimbursement

Bad	Fair	Good	Very good
0	7 (5 from the Caribbean)	10	16

If we had the opportunity to organize a similar meeting in the future, please indicate the issues that should be addressed in it:

1. Human Rights, regional alliance, strategic alliance
2. Concrete support plans from the platform
3. Additional information about CRG
4. How does technical assistance work
5. Transition in UMICs
6. Advances in the platform's use
7. Masculinities
8. Successful experiences on sustainability
9. SC's accountability
10. Strengthening of CCMs
11. National budgets
12. Political Sustainability
13. Malaria
14. Leadership
15. Integration of services
16. SC Fundraising
17. More topics about TB

Other comments:

"Well organized forum; facilitation needs to be more sensitive towards gender (90% interventions of men, 10% of women)"

"Include more options from the Caribbean and Central America, not only Argentina and Peru"

"A more specific meeting for the Caribbean would be useful given the fact that translation can be a challenge; it is necessary a dialogue in the Caribbean"

"Perfect organization, very good facilitation!"

"Excellent, I appreciate the opportunity, the methodology allowed to frank, fraternal, transparent and purposeful dialogue"

Annex 2
Workshop Agenda
Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication of Civil Society and Communities (LAC Platform)
First Regional Meeting – Work Agenda
Lima, Peru 4th – 5th May, 2016 - Sol de Oro Hotel

Objectives of the meeting

1. Build a dialogue with the civil society and the communities on the role of the LAC Regional Platform for Support, Coordination and Communication 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 Elaboration of Grants related to the Global Fund's New Funding Model.
3. Reflect on the implications that the Sustainability and Transition 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.

Day One – Wednesday, May 4th.

Schedule	Topic	Methodology	Responsible
Block 1 - Welcome and Introduction to the LAC Platform and the Special Initiative CRG			
8:30 to 9:00	Registration of participants, handout of materials.	Registration	Logistic Team
9:00 to 10:00	Welcome, presentation of participants, presentation of the program and logistic aspects	Presentations in Plenary	Robinson Cabello Pablo Anamaría Milena Chávez
10:00 to 10:45	Presentation of the Special Initiative Community, Rights and Gender	Presentation Questions & Answers	Edwige Fortier GF CRG Team
10:45 to 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 to 12:00	Presentation of the LAC Platform	Presentation Questions & Answers	Miguel Martínez Anuar Luna César Coria
12:00 to 13:30	Gender approaches from the civil society's perspective within the Global Fund's context.	Panel Questions & Answers	Heather Doyle - CRG / GF Tania Kembel – Chances for Life Marcela Romero - RedLACTrans Violeta Ross – RedBol/CCM Bolivia Adolfo Ruiz – SomosGay/CCM Paraguay
13:30 to 15:00	Lunch Break		

Schedule	Topic	Methodology	Responsible
Block 2 – Technical Assistance from the Global Fund and Community Participation			
15:30 to 16:30	Technical Assistance Opportunities	Informative Fair	Ginet Vargas - HIVOS Oscar Ramírez - SES Ximena Salazar -UPCH Verónica Cenac - CVC Miguel Martínez –CRAT Patricia Bracamonte – ONUSIDA Edwige Fortier – CRG GF
16:30 to 16:50	Coffee Break		
16:50 to 17:30	Advances and challenges for the participation of people with TB, Malaria and HIV in the region and the CCM.	Exposition and dialogue Questions & Answers	Alberto Colorado – Coalición Global de Activista en TB Walter Suárez – CCM Bolivia Stephen Diaz – CCM Belice

Day Two – Thursday, May 5th

Schedule	Topic	Methodology	Responsible
Block 3 – Identification of sustainability challenges for the civil society			
9:00 to 9:30	Summary of the previous day and expectations feedback	Exposition and dialogue	Pablo Anamaría

9:30 to 11:15	Global Fund's Policy on Sustainability, Transition and Resource allocation Methodology	Panel Questions & Answers	Nuria Diez – Equipo LAC / GF Javier Hourcade International HIV/AIDS Alliance John Quelch – SASOD Guyana Sergio Montealegre -RedCA+ Melecio Mayta –ASPAT Perú Dee Smith – CCM Guatemala.
11:15 to 11:30	Coffee Break		
11:30 to 15:00	Sustainability of civil society and communities in response to HIV, TB and Malaria.	Group work Feedback and comments	Pablo Anamaría
13:00 to 14:00	Lunch Break		

Schedule	Topic	Methodology	Responsible
Block 4 – Sustainability: Experiences and needs of the civil society and the communities			
15:00 to 17:00	Sustainability experiences of the civil society and communities	Panel Questions & Answers	Robinson Cabello -Vía Libre Leandro Cahn -Fundación Huésped Elena Reynaga -REDTRASEX

Schedule	Topic	Methodology	Responsible
Block 5 – Perspectives of the civil society and the communities			
16:45 to 18:00	Update of the Latin America and the Caribbean Delegation of the Global Fund and participation of the Civil Society and Youths.	Exposition and dialogue with the LAC Delegation of Global Fund	Javier Hourcade Bellocq- Sociedad Civil Sergio López - Jóvenes AL Jumoke Patrick - Jóvenes Caribe
18:00	Closing.		

Annex 3
List of participants

N°	Full Name	Country	Organization / CCM / MCR	Email address
1	Adolfo Ruiz	Paraguay	Somos Gay	adolfo@somosgay.org
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