

# **Young People in the heart of CCM: Making CCM work for young people**



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## ABBREVIATION

CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
CRG	Community Rights and Gender Department
GF	Global Fund
EECA	Easter Europe and Central Asia
EGC	Ethics and Governance Committee
LAC	Latin America and Caribbean
TRP	Technical Review Panel

## BACKGROUND

In May 2017, The PACT with support from UNAIDS, launched #uproot, a youth-lead political agenda aimed to tackle the root causes that put young people at risk of HIV, including inequalities, violence, discrimination and stigma. To address these barriers, the #uproot agenda proposes as one of its core pillars to keep strengthening young people's participation in decision-making spaces that affect their health, including Country Coordinating Mechanisms. Youth LEAD, in representation of The PACT and with the support from UNAIDS, undertook a set of concrete advocacy activities during the past three months to promote youth participation in CCMS. The following is a report on the outcomes of these advocacy efforts.

Young people are at the center of HIV epidemics, and we cannot bend the curve of the epidemic without the prioritization and participation of young people as beneficiaries, partners and leaders in the HIV response. The Lancet Commission Report (2015) shows that HIV prevalence among young people and adolescents account for almost 39% of all new infections worldwide while AIDS-related deaths among adolescents increased by 50%.

The response of the Global Fund towards the young people affected by HIV has been palpable with the evolution of the New Funding Model (NFM) at various levels, particularly at the global level. The new strategic plan of the Global Fund (2017-2022) commits to end age related disparities with the GF grant and ensure broader health equities. There has been increased numbers of young people at the global governance board of the Global Fund through civil society board delegation including Point 7<sup>1</sup>, one of the donor board constituents. Similarly, the Community Rights and Gender Department undertook the Assessment of current Global Fund investments to address HIV and TB prevention, treatment and care needs of adolescents for better adolescent health outcomes. The outcome of the assessment has guided the revision of the modular template of the GF application to better design and plan the programs for adolescents and young people in the GF grant, and development of the Information Note of Adolescents<sup>2</sup>. The *Note* is a guiding document to inform the strategic investment on the adolescents through the GF grant. There have been efforts and instances where the global discourse of the GF has been transformed and translated into design and implementation of the program at the country level or ensuring the meaningful engagement of the young people in key decision making bodies of the GF. For instance, the development of the Youth Guide to the GF<sup>3</sup> and subsequent trainings in the countries to increase the capacity of the young people, Special Initiatives-long term capacity development of the young key populations in Asia and the Pacific.

However, at broader level, the Technical Review Panel (TRP) evaluation reports on the success of the Funding Model indicated that human rights of key populations, gender equality and equity, and community systems strengthening remain limited<sup>4</sup>. The concept notes have rarely differentiated the interventions and result based on key populations, sex and age; and, the issues of young people continue to be left behind. The grey literatures, testimonials and the experiences of the youth activists on the GF

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<sup>1</sup> Point 7 is one of the Global Fund Board donor constituents consisting of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

<sup>2</sup> The Global Fund (2016) Maximizing impact by addressing adolescents' needs in Global Fund concept notes: Strategic Investments for Adolescents In HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Programs.

[https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/1292/core\\_adolescents\\_infonote\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/1292/core_adolescents_infonote_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> UNAIDS (2014): Making the money work for young people: a participation tool for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

[http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/JC2661\\_part2\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2661_part2_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The Global Fund (2016) The Technical Review Panel's Consolidated Observations On The 2014-2016 Allocation-Based Funding Model.

[https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/3114/trp\\_consolidatedobservations2014-2016allocation-basedfundingmodel\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/3114/trp_consolidatedobservations2014-2016allocation-basedfundingmodel_report_en.pdf)

have informed and depicted that meaningful engagement of young people in the decision making body, specifically CCM, is one of the factors to respond to the gaps surfaced by the TRP. CCM is responsible for the GF proposal development and oversight of the grant implementation. The CCM members have access to information, intel and knowledge related to the GF grant design and implementation which are key to influence for the right investment during the program development and to hold accountable the concerned stakeholders during the implementation.

The challenges remain regarding the extent and meaningfulness of engagement as well as the quality of representation of key populations<sup>5</sup> and marginalized populations like youth. Moreover, the young people are also reluctant to be part of CCM due to lack of knowledge and lack of clarity on how to engage in complicated processes related to the CCM. The situation has changed recently with diverse support. With increased efforts on capacity development, there has been increased attention from young people to be part of the CCM. The Special Initiatives support to Youth LEAD, the Asia Pacific Network of Young Key Populations, in Asia and the Pacific, from 2014-2016 resulted in the new seats for young people in the CCM of three countries.

After careful analysis of the situation and learning lessons from the past, the PACT under #uproot<sup>6</sup> spearheaded the global advocacy to increase the inclusion of young people in the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) to better engage in the Global Fund decision making process at countries. The advocacy plan aligned with the current efforts of the Global Fund Secretariat to review and improve the functionality of the CCM and the process is called COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM Evolving CCMs to align with the Global Fund Strategy<sup>7</sup>.

Most recently, the Review of the GF Business Model<sup>8</sup> identified the CCM as one of three areas, which needed strengthening and support. It tasked the Global Fund to identify ways to catalyze and strengthen partnership to deliver greater results, including through CCMs. In order to respond to these recommendations, the following initiatives were announced / agreed:

1. Develop the Global Fund's CCM strategy
2. Strengthen engagement with CCMs by Country Teams and by Partners
3. Enhance performance of CCMs<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism –fit for implementing the new strategy within the SDGs area? Position Paper by Switzerland, Germany and France.

<sup>6</sup> #uproot is a global, youth-led political agenda based on the principles of equity, inclusion and solidarity, aimed at ending AIDS by 2030 and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people by tackling the structural barriers, bigotry and exclusion that jeopardize young people's health, through decentralized coordination, crowdsourcing technical expertise, crowdfunding, and partnership building.

<sup>7</sup> COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM Evolving CCMs to align with the Global Fund Strategy  
<sup>4</sup> Ethics and Governance Committee Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland 11-12 July 2017

<sup>8</sup> Defining the CCM Evolution Roadmap- How to develop an approach supporting CCMs in implementing the GF Strategy 2017-22? Input by Germany to the Strategy Committee Meeting 21 – 23 June. The review of business model document is from GF/SC03/09, 21 March 2017, Update on Global Fund Business Model

Following up on the business model review and the discussions on CCMs at the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> GF Board Meeting, the GF Secretariat, under the oversight of the Ethics and Governance Committee (EGC), initiated a process to update guidelines and develop support approaches for CCMs, enabling them to better fulfill their role in the realization of the GF's strategy.

The CCM evolution process does not foresee a CCM strategy - in the sense of one framework document - but the development and update of specific individual policies and products. It is suggested to differentiate CCM models and support according to the country context. The following deliverables are planned: revised CCM guidelines; revised CCM Policy; CCM code of conduct.

With this context, the advocacy plan was formulated and aligned with the CCM evolution timeline to be more realistic and achieve tangible result, with three key recommendations

*Retain the explicit inclusiveness of children and young people, as outlined in the 2011 CCM guideline<sup>1</sup>, in the revised CCM policy and guideline. And more importantly, develop appropriate mechanisms to monitor the compliance in implementation of the guideline. We would also like to draw your attention that in spite of country ownership being one of the important elements of the GF business model, it often jeopardizes the implementation of the issues pertaining to human rights, inclusiveness of key populations and young people based on the country context which needs to be addressed effectively.*

*Aligning with the recommendations from Germany, Switzerland and France constituency to the GF board<sup>1</sup> we would urge that in countries with high disease prevalence among young people, a CCM youth seat should / could be made mandatory and necessary capacity development approach for the new CCM members to optimize their contributions in the process. The engagement will safeguard the strategic investment required for the young people, on the radar, to achieve the vision of 90-90-90 and strengthen the accountability mechanism to prevent the youth program falling off from the cracks.*

*The PACT and relevant youth networks should be consulted to ensure that the selection process gets done in the most appropriate/effective way. Such approach will ensure the support mechanism to the selected youth participant from national, regional and global youth networks and foster peer-to-peer learning. Importantly the practice will reflect the true essence of the youth leadership and ownership towards the response ending the epidemic.*

## ADVOCACY PLAN PROGRESS

The matrix below in the table summarized the progress of the advocacy starting from August 30 until 38<sup>th</sup> Global Fund Board Meeting in November. However the CCM evolution road runs until 2018 May and next new plan will be developed after the board meeting

S N	Activities/events	Strategy/action
1	Review and assess the entry points of engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review the existing documents particularly CCM Evolution, CCM code of conduct, positions of different GF board constituencies</li> <li>- Call with CRG and other experts related to the CCM.</li> <li>- Reach out to the CCM hub, different constituency like Germany, Point7 to form the ally on the issue.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Progress summary of activity 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The small working group consisting of five young people representing as the delegation to the Global Fund Board (Communities, Developing NGO Delegation and Point 7 Youth Advisors) and CRG Advisory committee member was formed. The lead consultant distributed the relevant documents for the review and discussion. They key documents included: The Global Fund Strategy 2017-2022: Investing to End Epidemics, Position papers developed by Germany constituency on the CCM, Position paper developed by Germany, Switzerland and France on the CCM, Guidelines and requirement for the CCM 2011, Code of Ethical Conduct for CCM menders, CCM Evolution: Evolving CCMs to align with the GF strategy, Guidelines developed by the key populations, adolescents and young women.</li> <li>• Series of call with CRG department was made to discuss on the advocacy plan and secure the discussion slot on the CCM and young people in the CRG Advisory Meeting that took place from 10-12 September 2017.</li> <li>• Reached out to Point 7 and Developing Countries NGO Delegation to inform about the advocacy on CCM and young people.</li> </ul>		
2	Develop position papers on Young People and CCM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collect evidence and testimonials on youth engagement in the CCM</li> <li>- Develop the succinct 1-2 pager position paper</li> </ul>
<p><u>Progress summary of activity 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Position paper on Young People and the CCM was developed titled <b><i>Young People in the heart of CCM: Making CCM work for young people.</i></b> It includes the evidence, rationale for inclusion of young people in the CCM, existing barriers and facilitators for the meaningful inclusion, testimonials from the young people in the CCM and three concrete recommendations. The paper has been peer reviewed by the UNAIDS and PACT members.</li> <li>• The paper is the key product of the advocacy, which became the basis for the demand, discussion and making cases in the advocacy platform.</li> <li>• The position paper has been translated into French and Spanish with support from UNAIDS.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The position paper is attached as an annex to the main report.</i></p>		
3	CRG advisory group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To request for the agenda on CCM and youth.</li> <li>- Report back to the small working group as the reflection of the meeting</li> <li>- Utilize the position papers to negotiate with the group members</li> </ul>
<p><u>Progress summary of activity 3</u></p>		

- One of the members of the working group Mr Niluka Parera attended the CRG advisory group meeting. The separate slot to discuss the advocacy of young and CCM was provided. The position paper was presented and the Global Fund Secretariat acknowledged the issues of young people in the CCM.

*The brief report is attached as an annex to this report.*

4	Regional meetings on CCM consultation i. Francophone Africa ii. Southern & East Africa iii. Asia (including EECA) iv) LAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request to CRG for the details of such regional meetings and to engage the representative from youth group.</li> <li>- Utilize the position paper to negotiate in the meetings</li> </ul>
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Progress summary of activity 4

- Series of skype call took place with CRG department and numerous emails were exchanged with various organizers (HIV/AIDS Alliance, BACK UP GIZ, 5% Initiative and Global Fund CCM Hub) to access information about the regional consultation.
- As the result separate youth seats were secured for the consultations in Anglophone Africa and LAC (Latin America and Carribean). Ms Munyaburanga Uwase Nadege from Rwanda and Mr Adolofu Ruiz from Paraguay was selected, through competitive process within the PACT, for the respective consultations. The open call was done within the PACT members and where selected based on their engagements and appropriateness to the advocacy work.
- The Anglophone Africa consultation took place in Addis Ababa from 5-8 September organized by the CCM Hub, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and GIZ BACKUP Health (on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation). The workshop brought together CCM members from selected Anglophone African Countries, which included Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia and Afghanistan. Two youth participants were present in the consultation and presented the Position paper on the CCM and Young People developed in activity 2. *The one-pager report of the consultation from the youth participant is attached as an annex.*
- The LAC consultation took place in Panama on 19-20 September organized by CCM Hub, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and GIZ BACKUP Health (on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation). Like in the Africa consultation, the Position paper on the CCM and young people was presented and utilized as an advocacy tool. The position paper was translated into Spanish for this consultation. *The one-pager report of the consultation from the youth participant is attached as an annex.*
- In-spite of persistent effort we could not secure the youth seat for Francophone Africa organized by 5% Initiative. However, they allowed sharing the position paper on CCM and young people, which was translated into French before it was shared. There was no feedback received from 5% Initiative on how the position paper was utilized during the consultation.
- Similarly there was no youth participant for Asia consultation. The Global Fund CCM Hub explained that due to limited funding and time they were not able to accommodate the youth participants. However, they suggested reaching out to leaders from the CS board delegations to channel the voice of young people to the process.

5	Point 7 Retreat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To request for the agenda on CCM and youth and make the presentation</li> <li>- Report back to the small working group as the reflection of the meeting</li> </ul> <p>Utilize the position papers to negotiate with the group members</p>
<p><u>Progress summary of activity 5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lead consultant attended the Point 7 Retreat in Hague Netherland from 2-3 October as the youth advisor. The advisor upon request was provided with separate time slot to present the key issues of young people in the GF and inclusion of young people in the CCM.</li> <li>• The position paper was circulated in advance to all the representatives of the Point 7.</li> <li>• The position paper was presented and well received by the Point 7 representatives. Ireland committed to take it forward in the board level discussion.</li> </ul> <p><i>The summary report of the retreat is attached as an annex of this report.</i></p>		
6	Developing NGO and Communities delegation retreat or dialogue with leadership team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To write an email about the advocacy agenda to the leadership team and seek their support and insights.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Progress summary of activity 6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lead consultant shared the position paper and advocated to include the recommendations on the inclusion of young people in the CCM to the Developing Country NGO Delegation. The leadership of the delegation has committed to take it forward at the board level. It has been shared with the Communities Delegation through the youth delegations.</li> <li>• Since there was no retreat during the advocacy period, the activity to share the advocacy during the retreat could not be completed.</li> </ul>		
7	38 <sup>th</sup> Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compile all the learning and reflection from different events and present it in the pre-board meeting events.</li> <li>- Propose for the bi-lateral or joint meetings with CCM hub, Interim ED, Board Chair/Vice chair to present the position paper and progress on advocacy in different forums.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Progress summary of activity 6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The advocacy team requested for the side event of young people in the 38<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, which will take place from 14-15 November in Geneva. However the board meeting was intensely focused on the selection of the new Executive Director, which left little appetite for any side events during the board meeting.</li> <li>• Two youth delegations from Communities Delegation and Point 7 will be present in the board meeting. The lead consultant has been coordinating with the youth delegations to make bi-lateral meeting with the board constituencies, CRG team and CCM Hub and advance the issues on the inclusion of young people in the CCM.</li> </ul>		

## KEY OUTPUT OF THE ADVOCACY

## WAY FORWARD

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One solid position paper on the inclusion of young people in the CCM peer reviewed by the global youth activists developed, and widely circulated at national, regional and global level. The paper has been translated into French and Spanish to reach out to wider groups and stakeholders. Such comprehensive position paper on the CCM and young people has been developed for the first time at the global level, which will be source of knowledge for future advocacy as well.</li> <li>• The PACT members engaged in the key advocacy platforms, which included regional consultations on the CCM in Anglophone Africa and Latin America, CRG advisory Group meeting, retreat of the Point 7 countries and the GF Board Meeting. They presented the position paper on the inclusion of young people in the CCM and candidly discussed on the key recommendations to be adopted by the concerned stakeholders.</li> <li>• Strong commitments from the civil society Board Delegations and Point 7 delegation, led by Ireland on the CCM issues within Point 7, to push the recommendations on the inclusion of young in the CCM at the 38<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and in different other strategic meetings on the CCM.</li> <li>• The key stakeholders (bi-lateral donors, the GF Secretariat and the board delegations) of the advocacy reached out remotely (via skype, email correspond) and through physical meeting. The stakeholders have firm commitment to advance the recommendations, to include young people in the CCM, of the advocacy at various level of the Global Fund.</li> <li>• Champions of the young people activists created to advocate on the inclusion of the young people in the CCM at national, regional and global level.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the advocacy progress and recommendations on the inclusion of young people in the CCM during the side event or designated session on the CCM at the 38<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Point 7, led by Norway, discussed with the CRG department of the GF for the specific youth side event during the board meeting. But the board prioritized the selection of the new executive director, which left limited appetite for the new event during the board meeting. However, the CCM evolution session was scheduled during the pre-board meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Two youth representatives from the Point 7 Youth Advisor and Community Delegation planned to engage in the session and support to the CS delegation and Point 7 to raise the issue of inclusion of young people in the CCM.</li> <li>• The limited discussion on the CCM evolution process during the 38<sup>th</sup> board meeting demand and offer for intense discussion during the 39<sup>th</sup> board meeting and specific committee meetings in-between. PACT together with Point 7 Youth Advisors and the youth delegations in the CS board constituency will push for the advocacy agenda and follow up on the commitments made by the different board delegations.</li> <li>• The remote reflection meeting will be conducted amongst the PACT CCM advocacy working group and UNAIDS post 38<sup>th</sup> GF board meeting and new work plan with new strategy of engagement will be developed.</li> <li>• Youth LEAD (the organization where lead consultant is based) in consortium with Y+, the global network of young people living with HIV, and Youth RISE, the global network of young people who use drugs, have successfully bid the Strategic Initiative project of the Global Fund. The project will be instrumental to generate evidence and advance the advocacy on the inclusion of young people in the CCM.</li> </ul> |
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*The Anglophone regional workshop on the CCM evolution was organized by the GF CCM Hub, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and GIZ BACKUP Health (on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) to gather input on the current CCM model and what would be the areas of improvement which was also a learning exchange for CCMs.*

*The first two days of the workshop brought together CCM members from selected Anglophone African Countries (including: Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia and Afghanistan) where participants reviewed the current CCM model and developed, discussed, and recommended concrete steps and actions to be implemented in 2018 and beyond. The second two days provided a platform for learning exchange on CCM governance, the CCM eligibility requirements regarding Oversight and Civil Society/key population engagement. The CCMs also presented good practices and challenges in the areas and discussed approaches to improve CCM performance.*

*Two participants representing the youth were also present at this meeting; one of them **Ms. Nadège M Uwase, being a member of the PACT**; and Ms. Consolata Opiyo. These two youth representatives shared with all the participants at the meeting a joint statement of youth-led and youth-serving organizations working with and for young people, particularly key populations and those living with HIV “Young People in the heart of CCM: Making CCM work for young people”. In the statement, young people, particularly young key populations including young gay men, young transgender, young drug users, young sex workers, young women and young people living with HIV, globally, under the coalition of the PACT and beyond called for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to make Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) work for young people by creating an enabling environment for their meaningful engagement in the CCM.*

*Among the internal challenges faced by the Secretariat, it was noted that there is poor quality of members represented on CCM, the act of sharing the joint youth statement led to the inclusion of an action point in the recommendations of the meeting: that the CCM membership should be comprised of: Government, Bilateral, Multilateral, CSOs (INGO, NGO), Private Sector, Key affected populations, Academia and Parliament. The youth falling under the CSOs (INGOs, NGOs) cluster but again this would depend on a country context.*

## **Annex 2: Latin America and Caribbean: Regional Consultation on CCMs evolution**

Panama: 19-20 September, 2017

Report prepared by: Adolfo Ruiz

*The HIV epidemic in Latin America and the Caribbean is getting younger than ever. Approximately 200,000 young people between 15 and 24 years old and 33,000 children live with HIV. The epidemic affects more men than women. About 1,100,000 men live with the virus. Key populations include female sex workers (prevalence below 10%), trans women and gay men (prevalences above 10%). There are no disaggregated data about the epidemic in young people from key populations. This still is one big barrier in terms of possibility to demand public legislations and politics to us, young people from the key populations. We are the most affected ones by the virus.*

*I read the document Young People in the heart of CCM: Making CCM work for young people, focusing on the list of recommendations. I offered the PACT and GayLatino Youth Reference Group support to my colleagues to ensure that the selection process gets done in the most appropriate/effective way. All my colleagues agreed with the three recommendations, specially in the second one, and the reasons are clearly exposed in the beginning.*

*The CCMs of the region need more than ever young people from key populations meaningfully engaged in its processes. Although, I was the only young person from key populations in this regional consultation. I consider that as a good sign for the work we plan to do in the field of HIV in the CCMs of the region. We need to really ensure this recommendations are being taken seriously and materialize them.*

*There were two days of workshop, the first day was about socializing information and the general current situation of the CCMs and thinking about the role of them in the transition process. The Code of Ethical Conduct for CCM members was also present and discussed. The second day was about the CCMs in the post transition. There were four work groups.*

*Generally the participants of the consultations agreed the CCMs must take action in this transition and the post transition processes in terms of the civil society sustainability, the legal structure of the CCMs, the creation of committees to work specifically on this processes, the exploration of other funds and the denomination of the CCMs too.*

*I think in young people from key populations we can find key answers to most of the current problem/crisis around the GF and the CCMs. We just need to invest, empower, generate data about the epidemic in young people and there are going to be favorable perspectives to our regional CCM situations.*

### **Annex 3: The GF CRG advisory group meeting**

Geneva: September 2017

Report prepared by: Niluka Parera

*The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has been dedicating much of its energy among other things to ensure that communities are meaningfully engaged throughout its interventions. Within its strategies to engage communities, the Community, Rights and Gender department of the Global Fund plays a key role. One such initiatives of the CRG department to ensure the community engagement at its core level is the CRG advisory group, which is consisted of community representatives and other UN agencies. The annual meeting of the CRG advisory group for 2017, which is currently consisted of 20 members representing all three diseases, took place during 11-12<sup>th</sup> of September in Geneva.*

*The two days meeting focused on Community, Systems and Reponses, CRG strategic initiative on technical assistance, Universal Health Coverage and Exclusion, scaling up programs to remove human rights related barriers to health services in 20 countries, Malaria, Gender and Human Rights, Tuberculosis and Gender and CCM evolution initiative. Among the many important points of discussion much prominence was given to the discussion on the importance of transitioning of financing the diseases to local governments. 1/10 of the investments in the global HIV response is done by the Global Fund. Out of that investment 13% is invested in key populations. While Global Fund is actively engaged in these efforts in number of countries, the indispensability of ensuring effective policy and structural reforms to ensure sustainable transitioning was emphasized.*

*The advisory group members demonstrated the importance of creating demand at the national and regional level for technical assistance through the selected organization. The selected organizations also have a responsibility to work with national organizations to explore technical capacity requirements and address them accordingly. The group members also emphasized the important role the selected organizations can and should play in facilitating linkages and partnerships between governments, non state parties and communities to effectively address perceived threats to community engagement and disease responses. The discussions on Universal Health Coverage mainly focused on 2 key issues. Definitions of Universal Health Coverage need to be standardized so that member states cannot deviate from meeting minimum requirements by offering country specific interpretations. Simultaneously attempts by states to utilize Universal Health Coverage as an easy way out from effectively addressing human rights issues in accessing health services should be dealt with. Despite the existences of Universal Health Coverage, key populations are left behind in attaining highest attainable health due to criminalizing laws, stigma and discrimination. Addressing such human rights issues should be an integral aspect of facilitating universal health coverage.*

*During an open session on the CCM evolution efforts on day 2, the engagement of young people in the Global Fund processes at the national level was discussed. The position paper developed by youth organizations through the PACT was briefly presented at the discussion highlighting the need for a dedicated seat for youth communities at the CCMs to ensure meaningful youth participation in the Global Fund. Despite the recognition of disproportionate impacts of all three diseases on adolescents and young people, the difficulties of prioritizing the issues of adolescents within Global Fund was articulated by the CRG department. However, it was unanimously accepted that meaningful engagement of young people is crucial to an effective and sustainable HIV response (and also for other two diseases) and such engagement could be, without doubt, facilitated through a dedicated seat for young people at the CCM.*

**The** youth Advisor was provided with 15 minutes slot to make presentation on the challenges and experiences with the GF implementation at country level during the Point 7 Retreat. The key points of the presentation included

- Prevention and treatment services for YKP unknown (ref: GF investment in YKP in Asia- Youth LEAD). The YKP are integrated with KP.
- The high impact interventions for YKP are few (eg LOLIPOP in Indonesia) and cross sharing has not been effective.
- Age of consent creating barriers to access the existing services.
- Community System Strengthening and Young People

The presentation drew attention of the Point 7 countries on the differences between general young people and YKP, which were not clear for some P7 countries. The key message was not to compare between these youth groups but to make choice for strategic investment where 95% of the new HIV infections amongst young people was from high risk adolescents. The youth advisor provided evidences on why YKP are more at risk to HIV but received lesser investment. The discussions were very helpful to convince the Point 7 that investment on YKP is the most effective and strategic.

Similarly the Youth Advisor also made presentation on the inclusion of young people in the CCM, which garnered support, commitment and candid discussions. The inclusion of young people in the CCM was well received by the P7 constituencies. The discussion was focused around why young people have to be in the CCM. Ireland leads the discussion on the CCM at the GF and they were committed to advance the advocacy at the broader GF board level. The youth advisor also reflected over the need of meaningful engagement and accountability mechanism in the CCM and reinforced the concept of nothing for us without us.

The youth advisor also provided general recommendation to the CCM discussion. The purpose, legality and functionality of the CCM should be revisited if it should evolve to another level. The difference between the concept and reality of the CCMs are very vast and there is need of nuanced discussed and design to fulfill this gap.