

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

A Joint Statement of youth-led and youth-serving organizations working with and for young people, particularly key populations and living with HIV

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 PACT¹ and beyond brings calls for The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (TGF) to make Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) work for young people by creating an enabling environment for their meaningful engagement in the CCM.

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%.

Firstly, its time for the CCM to understand the necessity of having young people sitting with them. Secondly, we need to have youth organizations run by youth and that way they will have ownership to lead the response”
National AIDS Authority
Vice Chair and CCM Chair
alternative - Cambodia.⁷

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. The focus is to invest to reduce health inequities including gender- and age-related disparities. The key performance indicator (KPI) has been also developed, which will measure HIV incidence in women aged 15-24 in 20 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa².

There has been increased numbers of young people at the global governance board of the Global Fund through civil society board delegation including Point 7³, 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 outcomes of the assessment has guided the revision of the modular template to better design and plan the programs for adolescents and young people in the GF grant, and development of the Information Note of Adolescents⁴. The *Note* is a guiding document to inform the strategic investment on the adolescents through the GF grant.

"When we first started, I didn't have a large capacity to engage in the GF. However, the more I understood about the process, the more confidence I got to raise YKP issues to CCM members. We advocated to the CCM chair to provide open meetings of the CCM panel to invite the YKP community to raise issues for themselves about the problems we faced. They did, and now YKP has been included in the concept note for Indonesia and the National Strategic Plan, which has prioritized the issues of YKP including a meaningful engagement in Indonesia's CCM as the chair of TWG," Alexa Dominizh- Fokus Muda and YKP CCM alternative⁹.

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 GF⁵ 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, available comprehensive evaluation reports on the success of the Funding Model by the Technical Review Panel (TRP) indicated that human rights of key populations, gender equality and equity, and community systems strengthening remain limited⁶. 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 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.

However, challenges remain regarding the extent and meaningfulness of engagement as well as the quality of representation of key populations⁸ 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.

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Most recently, the Review of the GF Business Model identified the CCM as one of three areas which needed strengthening and support¹. It tasked the Global Fund to identify ways to catalyse and strengthen partnership to deliver greater results, including through CCMs. In order to respond to these recommendations, the following initiatives were announced / agreed¹¹:

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

Following up on the business model review and the discussions on CCMs at the 36th and 37th 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 process is named as the *COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM: Evolving CCMs to align with the Global Fund Strategy*¹². The aim of the process is to revise CCM guidelines, CCM Policy and CCM code of conduct.

There exist a Guideline and Requirements for Country Coordinating Mechanisms at the global level approved by the board in 12 May 2011 and updated on November 2013¹³. The guideline has already acknowledged children and young people as the Civil Society Representatives, in page 24.

Similarly, the German Constituent to the GF board have explicitly supported the inclusion of young people in the CCM on their paper to the Ethics and Governance Meeting stating that

“Broader population-based participation is required to achieve the GF's strategic objectives as well as UHC. One gap in our health response is that we have so far failed to adequately engage and reach young people. Already in 2009 the GF Board took a decision to provide more room for youth leadership and involvement in the work of the Global Fund. We recommend reaching out to young people and young peoples' networks in the consultations on the CCM evolution, in order to define ways for their meaningful engagement in CCMs. It should be explored whether in countries with high disease prevalence among young people, a CCM youth seat should / could be made mandatory.”

The Position Paper submitted jointly by Switzerland, Germany and France¹⁴ during the 36th GF board also supports the inclusion of young people in the CCM. The document suggested *Provide guidance on how to ensure adequate and meaningful participation of women, youth and representatives from the wider community sector in CCMs* under the recommendation to (Re) prioritising the engagement of civil society and key populations.

Children and Young People: Children and young people should be represented on the CCM, through youth groups, organizations, national and international NGOs working with children and young people living with and affected by HIV, TB and Malaria.

The Global Fund encourages CCMs to preferably include young people themselves through representatives of organizations established and led by young people.

Guideline and requirement for CCM updated on Nov 2013, page 24

Recommendations

The youth group under the leadership of PACT aims to capitalize on the ongoing favorable policy changes and great support from the donor countries for the meaningful engagement of young people in the CCM. As such this paper urges for the following recommendations

Retain the explicit inclusiveness of children and young people, as outlined in the 2011 CCM guideline¹, 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 than in spite 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.

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.

Aligning with the recommendations from Germany, Switzerland and France constituency to the GF board *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.

References

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9. Ibid 7
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Further information

Gaj Gurung (gaj@youth-lead.org)



The PACT is a vibrant coalition of more than 80 organisations working collaboratively and strategically in the global HIV response. Since 2013 we have been building solidarity across youth organisations to ensure the health, well-being and human rights of all young people.

<http://www.theyouthpact.org/>, <https://www.facebook.com/youthpact/>