



URGENT CALL FROM INDONESIA

A New Global Fund Strategy Grounded in Realities:
Human-centered Response to End the Epidemics

Jakarta, 21 October 2021

Dear The Global Fund Chair of the Board and Executive Director; Donald Kaberuka and Peter Sands,

The Communities express immediate and strong concerns regarding the attention and investments for gay men, other men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people in the regional and national HIV response. For the 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy, it is imperative that it is grounded on lived realities of key populations and their communities which is also responsive to emerging needs. **The Global Fund must ensure that its new strategy and operational plan prioritize investment and support for gay men, other MSM and transgender people and emphasize inclusion and non-discrimination against the community.**

The current prioritization and investments towards programs targeting gay men, other MSM and transgender people in Indonesia is inadequate, ran short of minimum level of coverage and scale-up in required services. This has undermined the ability of the Global Fund to achieve its current Strategic Objective on scaling up evidence-based interventions with a focus on key and vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by the three diseases (Strategic Objective 1).

To further contribute to the strategy development process, we would like to put forward some practical country-specific considerations in effort to maximize impact on the response to HIV among gay men, other MSM and transgender people at the country level. We held a consultation with our communities and, based on the 2023-2028 Strategy Framework as approved by The Global Fund Board, we listed below points of recommendations:

In order to 'Maximizing People-centered Integrated Systems for Health to Deliver Impact, Resilience and Sustainability', the Global Fund must:

- Encourage continuing to strive for the best access to people living with HIV (PLHIV) treatment and other prevention tools so that it can be accessed by the public and the community is by increasing community involvement in encouraging these efforts, one of which is through capacity building so that the community can participate in advocating;
- Strengthen the capacity of the local organization and HIV program implementing organizations by developing alternative and innovative outreach strategies, to help overcome barriers to outreach workers in an effort to improve the quality of outreach amid an increasingly intolerant situation with a human rights approach, gender sensitive, and focus on fulfillment of gay men, other MSM and transgender people outreach officers in the scope of prevention, care, mentoring, care and support in HIV issues;
- Utilize social media to conduct campaigns, provide information and education to the general public regarding correct HIV information.



In order to ‘Maximizing the Engagement and Leadership of Most Affected Communities to Leave No One Behind’, the Global Fund must:

- Involve the gay men, other MSM and transgender people communities in the decision-making process;
- Undertake more innovative HIV prevention promotions such as PreP and Oraquick Services;
- Encourage efforts to discuss with the government the legality of consumption of hormone products by transpeople as these services are not legally available to them in public health care facilities;
- Expand the outreach area of the gay men, other MSM and transgender people communities in other parts of Indonesia, especially the Eastern part of Indonesia (outside the islands of Java, Bali, Sumatra);
- Develop appropriate models of psychosocial interventions to increase use and adherence among PLHIV communities in Indonesia.

In order to ‘Maximizing Health Equity, Gender Equality and Human Rights’, the Global Fund must:

- There are efforts to involve parents or family or friends of the gay men, other MSM and transgender people communities in various activities, especially advocacy activities related to the fulfillment of their rights;
- Train health-care workers or workers from the transgender community based on their specific needs, for example, train doctors, health workers and psychologists who are able to advise on the transition process and information regarding hormonal drugs for the transgender community;
- Increase the understanding and awareness of community-based organizations (CBOs) members of the importance of safety and security both individually and organization.

We truly hope that this initiative will help shape the 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy that not only puts the community at the heart of the response, and that resources will be put into the community as well.

Yours sincerely,

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National Coordinator
GWL-INA

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Executive Director
APCOM



About GWL-INA

Gaya Warna Lentera Indonesia (GWL-INA) is a national network of 83 community-based organizations (CBOs) and peer support groups for gay men, other MSM and transgender people communities in Indonesia. The network is expected to be able to accommodate critical gaps in supporting and increasing the scale of activities and programs that can reduce HIV and AIDS transmission in the gay men, other MSM and transgender people communities in Indonesia, including the role in encouraging and strengthening CBOs in an effort to influence policy makers and advocacy to increase community access to efforts to fulfill access to law, justice and health for the gay men, other MSM and transgender people communities.

About APCOM

APCOM is an Asia Pacific regional organization based in Bangkok, Thailand. It represents and works with a network of individuals and community-based organizations across 35 countries in the region. We focus on improving the health, rights and wellbeing of gay men, other MSM and LGBTQI people across Asia and the Pacific region.

APCOM organization's technical expertise is embodied within the projects we have implemented. Through our experience and funding support from stakeholders, we bring diverse partners together to discuss and take actions on issues affecting the lives of vulnerable and marginalized key populations. Past and current projects included, but not limited to: JumpStart, WISDOM: Community Voices Strengthening, FINANCE Inc., Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme (MSA), Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition (SHIFT), Enhancing MSM and Community Engagements with the Global Fund Processes, Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Population in Asia (SKPA).