



## URGENT CALL FROM LAO PDR

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

Vientiane, 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:**

- Protect TB and HIV patients and KPs from catastrophic costs by implementing the system for social health protection through a multi-sectoral collaboration (Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare).

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

- Support the mobilization and develop the advocacy capacity of networks of key affected and marginalized MSM/TGW in the context of HIV, TB and malaria as well as people of diverse sexuality for their effectively advocacy in health-related decision-making, including in-country coordinating mechanisms (CCM).



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

- Strengthen the foundational knowledge on gender and SOGIESC of community networks and civil society organizations representing or serving key, vulnerable and marginalized populations and build their capacity to operationalize gender-transformative approaches in their own work;
- Support the comprehensive package of gender- and SOGIESC-sensitization for key government and other health service institutions and coordination bodies to promote embedding of gender- and SOGIESC- responsive approaches and interventions in health policies, programmes, and budgets.

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,



Viengkhone Souriyo  
Executive Director  
CHIA Laos

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Midnight Poonkasetwattana'.

Midnight Poonkasetwattana  
Executive Director  
APCOM

CC:

- CCM Laos
- National Center for HIV/AIDS (CHAS)
- National TB Center (NTC)



### **About Community Health and Inclusion Association (CHIAs)**

The Community Health and Inclusion Association (CHIAs) is community-led on health and social justice for LGBTQI and key affected population, which focus on community system strengthening in advance for health, rights and gender services among LGBTQI and key affected population in Lao PDR. CHIAs established in 1999 as community-led HIV services for key population including men who have sex with men, transgender women and sex workers. CHIAs currently Sub-Recipient of the Global Fund both country and multi-Country grant Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Population (SKPA) and received supported both financial and technical from APCOM and APTN on community lead for enhancing MSM and TG community engagements with the Global Fund Processes in Lao PDR.

### **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).