

Call for Concept Papers for Strengthening of the Community System for Viet Nam Global Fund Proposal Round 8

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM) has announced the availability of Round 8 funding, and the application is due to the GFATM on July 1 2008. The Secretariat of the Viet Nam Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) of the GFATM is charged with organizing Viet Nam's submission to the Global Fund. The CCM consists of representatives from the Ministry of Health, other ministries, mass organizations, the community of people living with HIV/AIDS, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, and local and international non-government organizations.

The Viet Nam CCM is seeking concept papers on *Community System Strengthening Component* to include in Vietnam's proposal submission. Please see the attached for information on the following: 1) background information and priority areas for concept papers 2) concept paper format, and 3) review criteria.

All registered government and non-government organizations working in Vietnam are eligible to submit concept ideas. Concept papers should be emailed to ccmvietnam@gmail.com or received at the following address no later than 5 pm, Vietnam time, on **May 12,2008**.

The Global Fund HIV/AIDS Project
7 Floor
14 Lang Ha street
Dong Da district
Hanoi
Tel: 04 – 772 29 93
Fax: 04 – 772 29 94
Email: cpmu@mohaid.gov.vn

Concept papers will be reviewed by the Global Fund HIV sub-CCM and finally approved by the CCM. Organizations with accepted concept papers will be requested to provide much more detail for inclusion of their concept(s) in the overall Vietnam Global Fund proposal and work together with the team to prepare the Vietnamese Round 8 GFATM application.

For more general information about the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, see www.theglobalfund.org.

1. Background info and priority areas for concept papers

The Vietnam Country Coordinating Mechanism in the meeting organized on 26 March 2008 discussed the Technical Review Panel (TRP) decision to mark the Round 7 HIV proposal as *Category 3: Not recommended for funding in its present form but strongly encouraged to resubmit*, and after review of the strengths and weakness outlined by the TRP, decided to resubmit the Round 7HIV proposal. The application is due to the GFATM Secretariat in Geneva by July 1, 2008.

The resubmitted proposal will keep the main structure as the Rd7 HIV application with the main goal to reduce the spread of HIV among injecting drug use and commercial sex networks, and reduce associated morbidity and mortality in underserved provinces trough:

- Establishment and scale-up of essential package of HIV prevention programs for injecting drug users and sex workers in community-based settings and Treatment and Education Centers
- Strengthening the capacity and coordination of HIV care and treatment services in provincial and district health facilities and Treatment and Education Centers

In addition to this and in accordance with the new suggested criteria for Round 8 (<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/apply/call8/>) a component for strengthening of the Community Systems relevant to in-country context will be added.

Community System Strengthening

Community systems strengthening refers to initiatives that contribute to the development and/or strengthening of community-based organizations in order to improve knowledge of, and access to improved health service delivery. Specifically in the context of applications to the Global Fund, community systems strengthening initiatives are encouraged to achieve improved outcomes for HIV prevention, treatment, and care and support programs.

In this context, community systems strengthening areas of activity may include a focus on:

- **Building capacity** of the core processes of community-based organizations to provide an increased range, or quality of services, through, for example:
 - Physical infrastructure development, including obtaining and retaining office space, holding bank accounts, and improving communications technology;
 - Organizational systems development, including improvements in the financial management of community-based organizations, and the development of strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, and information management capacities
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- **Building partnerships** at the local level to improve coordination, enhance impact, and avoid duplication of service delivery.
- **Sustainable financing**, including a focus on supporting initiatives to plan for and achieve predictability of resources over a longer period of time with which to work for improved impact and outcomes for the disease

For more information on community systems strengthening initiatives please visit the Global Fund's Fact Sheets entitled 'Community Systems Strengthening' available through the Global Fund's website.(<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/apply/call8/>)

What we are looking for:

Following the CCM decision for resubmission of the Round 7 HIV proposal, and to ensure a broader, multi-sectoral approach to national HIV program implementation through sustainable involvement of the community based organizations, **applicants that have organizational, managerial and technical capacity to act as Sub recipient for the community system strengthening component are encouraged to develop concept papers** that address the need for strengthening of the community based organizations that support and/or extend service delivery to, especially, key affected populations (IDUs, MSM, FSWs), people living with HIV, in the area of :

- **Building capacity** of the core processes of community-based organizations to provide an increased range, or quality of services, through, for example:
 - Physical infrastructure development, including obtaining and retaining office space, holding bank accounts, and improving communications technology;
 - Organizational systems development, including improvements in the financial management of community-based organizations, and the development of strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, and information management capacities
- **Building partnerships** at the local level to improve coordination, enhance impact, and avoid duplication of service delivery.
- **Sustainable financing**, including a focus on supporting initiatives to plan for and achieve predictability of resources over a longer period of time with which to work for improved impact and outcomes for the disease

2. Concept paper format

- *5 single-space typed pages maximum*
 - *The format of the concept paper should contain the following sections. Sample questions are provided to guide applicants in understanding what types of information are requested.*
 - *Concept interventions should be for a maximum of 5 years*
1. **Stated needs** – What gaps exist in the area of community system strengthening that make your intervention concept(s) needed? What data exist to show that there is a gap? What other interventions are currently being implemented in Viet Nam?
 2. **Goals, objectives, and strategies** – What is your intervention trying to accomplish? Can you state an overall goal for the project? What kind of specific capacity building interventions are needed and for who? Do you have evidence that your strategies have been used elsewhere and are successful?
 3. **Activities and proposed targets** – What specific activities are you proposing to meet the goals of the project? How the suggested activities will build capacities of community-based organizations to provide an increased range, or quality of services, and address the needs of key affected populations (IDUs, MSM, FSWs) and people living with HIV
 4. **Additionality** – How do the strategy and activities complement existing interventions? How do they fit in with Vietnam's national strategy on HIV/AIDS and the AIDS Law? How do the proposed activities enhance partnerships at the local level to improve coordination, and avoid duplication of service delivery?

5. **Organizational capacity** – What is the experience of your organization or your group of organizations in managing or implementing similar interventions that you have proposed?

Proposed total cost – Please provide there the total budget you are requesting for 5 years or the amount of time of your intervention (please specify). Also provide estimates of major budget categories such as the amount of funds for activities, staff, equipment, training, etc.

3. Review criteria

The criteria that will be used to review these concept papers are in agreement with those used by the Global Fund in their review of country applications. They include the following:

1. Soundness of approach (25 points)

International best practices in strategy being followed? Are population groups most affected prioritized? Are stakeholders being included? Are issues of gender and human rights included?

2. Feasibility (25 points)

Are the interventions relevant to Vietnam? Are they a good value for money? Do they build on and complement existing programs? Are innovative approaches proposed? Are technical assistance needs demonstrated?

3. Organizational capability and capacity (25 points)

Are the organization and its partners capable of managing and implementing the proposed project? Do they have experience in building local non-governmental and community based organisations in Vietnam? Do they have the needed expertise in technical areas for the project?

4. Additionality and overall contribution to Vietnam's proposal to GF (25 points)

Does the proposed intervention support the National Strategy? Does the proposed intervention help to make the HIV component more comprehensive or more fragmented? Does the proposed intervention stand out as an individual intervention or is it well integrated? Will the intervention add to existing efforts or replace them? Will the proposed intervention help to make the proposal a winning proposal to the Global Fund?