

## CRIB SHEET

The 6<sup>th</sup> Partnership Forums of the Global Fund started on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Fund Partnership Forums are being held virtually.

Starting from 2002, the Global Fund has been one of the main funders of health and human rights programmes for people using drugs in countries with low and middle income.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Partnership Forums' main focus is to discuss how the Fund can better work after 2021 and achieve the ambitious 2030 goals for HIV, TB, malaria, and health in general as it set out in UN Sustainable Development Goal Three. This is an *important window of opportunity for people who use drugs* to advocate for both maintaining and increasing focus and investment on protecting the health and defending the human rights of people who use drugs and promote the better alignment of the Global Fund funding with the needs of the community of people who use drugs.

**This Crib Sheet provides practical guidance on participating in the Partnership Forums and highlights key discussion points, which can be used to advocate for community priorities during the Forums.**

### What to Expect

The Global Fund Partnership Platform dialogues will be held virtually. There will be opening presentations, followed by presentations on key issues. During the sessions it is possible that electronic tools, such as Mentimeter and Whiteboard, will be used. You will be given instructions on how to engage with these tools.

There will be virtual booths on specific topics, and you are able to move from booth to booth as you choose. The Help Desk set up so that you can ask for support.

Visit the Partnership Forums web-site for more information and regular updates:

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/partnership-forum/>

### Maximizing your Participation

- Discuss with peer activists, organizations, and networks to identify the main advocacy topics they see for the Global Fund and what they recommend to change in the Fund's current work.
- Get familiar with the agenda/program and meeting procedures.
- Know the Forums' sessions that interest you, and how to join those sessions.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions – since this is the first virtual Partnership Forums, everyone will be learning.
- Even if the questions being discussed do not appear to be directly related to key issues for people who use drugs, there are many ways in which the people who use drugs' health and rights agenda can be linked to the Global Fund strategy discussions. These links will be discussed later in this Crib Sheet.
- Don't be shy. In events such as these, it is important not to wait for your chance to speak up. Usually, you will be asked to indicate your request to speak by clicking on a 'hands-up' icon. As many others will also want to contribute, you should request to speak as early as possible. Be confident, and do not be afraid to be 'pushy'. Your voice and contribution are critical for protecting interests of your community.

## Key Discussion Points

Below, we have provided suggestions for key points that you can raise to promote people who use drugs' advocacy priorities during the Partnership Forums.

### *Equity in the access to health protection*

In order to fulfil its international commitment to promoting equal health and human rights protection for all, including people who use drugs, the Global Fund must address structural inequities and barriers that exacerbate vulnerability and drive the three epidemics. This can be achieved by:

- **Increasing advocacy for decriminalisation.** The Global Fund should use its political leverage and advocacy opportunities in countries to push for legal and policy reform, that will benefit people who use drugs affected by the three diseases. The criminalisation of drug use, along with other forms of legal oppression, remains one of the greatest barriers to people who use drug's health and human rights protection. Additionally, criminalisation makes it harder for people who use drugs to participate meaningfully in Global Fund processes. In order to address these structural inequities, the Global Fund must strongly support advocacy for the decriminalization of people who use drugs, along with the decriminalisation of sex work, sexuality/gender expression, and removal of other legal penalties that affect key populations.
- **Addressing stigma and discrimination, gender inequality, and violence among key populations.** Along with criminalisation, stigma and discrimination, violence, and gender-based inequality are epidemics in themselves. In addition to driving the HIV and TB epidemics, these structural inequities have increased vulnerability throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, exposing people who use drugs to increased health risks and violence, along with loss of income and exclusion from social protection schemes.

### *Strengthening community engagement and leadership*

By addressing structural inequities and barriers, the Global Fund can promote a more inclusive and enabling environment for community members to lead the HIV and TB response. This can be done by:

- The Global Fund should commit to formally considering a **dedicated funding stream for key populations and local civil society organisations**, with representatives from networks and communities involved in the discussions and considerations at all steps. Such a key population-specific funding stream would allow people who use drugs' organisations and networks to control how funds are used for community-led programming while strengthening community leadership and ownership in Global Fund processes. Funds could be facilitated through global key population networks, existing smaller funding mechanisms, or other means – as long as key populations are fully involved in the design and implementation of this funding stream.
- More proactive efforts are needed to **increase community leadership and engagement in national and multi-country Global Fund supported projects**. This requires more funding to build the capacity of Country/Regional Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) and stronger policies to ensure they are fully inclusive and representative.
- More funding and technical support should be made available across the four strategic priority areas of local **civil society strengthening (CSS)**, with the funds being made available for a much wider range of activities including administration and community-led monitoring and advocacy. CSS should be a high-profile and **embedded component of health systems strengthening (HSS)** throughout the Global Fund's work in areas of resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH) and beyond, including in the **universal health coverage (UHC)** agenda.

### *Ensuring that people who use drugs' and other key populations are not left behind*

The Global Fund is exploring the option to become a broader 'Fund for health' and to fight a wider range of diseases and emerging pandemics, such as COVID-19. This model is grounded in a biomedical, rather than a human rights-based approach, and poses significant risks to people who use drug's and other key populations:

- **The expansion of the Global Fund’s mandate can decrease the attention and funding for key populations.** Without additional funding, broadening the Global Fund’s mandate to cover a wider range of diseases and pandemics could result in people who use drugs and other key populations being left behind. Any expansion of the Global Fund’s mandate *must* be accompanied by significant additional funding to ensure that programming for key populations is not decreased.
- **Global HIV targets may be pushed further off-track.** Missed 2020 HIV targets (“90-90-90”) have already resulted in millions of additional HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths. The current target of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030 is also off-track. In accordance with the UNAIDS report, worldwide, 62% of all new adult HIV infections occur among key populations and their sexual partners. In order to ensure that 2030 targets are met, the Global Fund must reinvigorate its approach to promoting the health and human rights of key populations.

**If you would like to discuss your participation, or any of the key issues, please feel free to contact Gennady Roshchupkin, INPUD Technical Advisor – [genarosh@inpud.net](mailto:genarosh@inpud.net)**

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*This Crib Sheet has been developed with the use of the “Crib Sheet: Participating in the Global Fund Partnership Forums” developed by NSW*