

MODEL FOR ENGAGING TRANSGENDER PEOPLE WITH COUNTRY LEVEL GF PROCESSES¹

1. Rationale for having a transparent and documented elections process to nominate a representative from the community of transgender people to the CCM.

Requirement #4: The Global Fund requires all CCMs to show evidence of membership of people that are both living with and representing people living with HIV, and of people affected by and representing people affected by Tuberculosis and Malaria as well as people from and representing Key Affected Populations, based on epidemiological as well as human rights and gender considerations.

Requirement #5: The Global Fund requires all CCM members representing non-government constituencies to be selected by their own constituencies based on a documented, transparent process, developed within each constituency. This requirement applies to all non-government members including those members under Requirement 4, but not to multilateral and bilateral partners.

From these two requirements it results that the Key Population groups are entitled to be part of the CCM and, in order to do so, they have to follow a procedure of organizing a transparent and documented process to nominate representatives of their groups.

Although it is possible, a model in which all KP groups are represented by one delegate to the CCM it is highly difficult to implement for a number of reasons:

- It is difficult to organize a process in which all concerned KP groups can be included.
- It is extremely hard for one person to consult with all KP groups, take on board their needs and demands, communicate them clearly in the CCM, advocate for them and report back to the KP groups; this is a full time job and, most often, KP representatives in the CCM are either volunteers, either they already work for an organization – therefore their time is limited, which is in itself a barrier to meaningful participation.
- In the model of one representative for all groups, it is likely that the representative will be more concerned of the needs of the group he/she comes from due to obvious reasons and he/she will put more energy into this form of representation.

2. KP representatives meaningful participation in the CCM.

In order to have a strong delegate who will ensure proper representation, each group should demand the CCM to allocate one seat for each major KP group in the country. Based on the scale of the epidemic and its effect over certain groups, the most affected groups should be represented in the CCMs. When discussing about HIV, the most affected KP groups are usually PWID, MSM, TG and SW. However, in EECA, those groups and PLHIV are also at risk or affected by TB, which is even a stronger argument for having them represented in the CCMs.

¹ The document, as technical support, is provided International Charitable Foundation "[Alliance for Public Health](#)" and adapted for transgender people in Ukraine by community-based organizations [HPLGBT](#).

Meaningful participation means that the representative is actively involved with the community he/she is part of, the he/she is supported by the community and has access to up to date information as well as the capacity to bring the issues his/her community deals with to the CCM.

Such a representative needs to fulfill a minimum set of criteria:

- To be part of the community and to identify as such or, in countries with repressive legislation, to be someone who can prove closeness to the community.
- To be a strong activist – proven track record.
- To be a good public speaker.
- To act in a transparent manner, to be flexible and available to communicate with community members.
- Gender balance: in order to ensure representation of women (thus incorporating the GF gender equality policy), a gender balance criteria has to be added; additionally, the CCM membership allows for a main member and an alternate. If such is the case, the delegation process should be set for two representatives, one man and one woman. The one who scores best should be the main representative, the other one should be the alternate.

3. Elections are the safest process which can determine a strong representative.

When looking for ways to identify a representative, more methods are available:

- The representative can be nominated by a groups of well-known activists and professionals credited to know best the environment and the community.
- Self-nomination of a well-known and trusted activist.
- Elections within the community. The last method is the safest one, as it is the most inclusive, transparent and thus it insures the highest degree of representativeness.

4. Steps to organize transparent and documented elections.

In order to organize a documented and transparent election process, a community needs to know how many members does it reach. The number of its members is important to assess the power of the community, as well as the level of openness of the respective society (the more repressive a society is, the less KP communities are visible, e.g. there are less public faces openly identifying as part of a KP group. Ideally, a KP group should find a way to count their numbers, to find out how many people can it reach.

Following this step, an election committee should be set up, and charged with the following tasks:

- Establish the KP representative terms of reference (this is based on the community needs and harmonized with the CCM members ToR).
- Elaborate a step-by step election procedure (calendar, voting, results, contestations, final results).
- Announce the elections within the community.
- Conduct and coordinate the election process.

In order to have a successful process, few conditions have to be met:

- One has to know how many people can be reached and involved.
- Communication systems to carry information from the election committee to the community and back have to be in place.
- The election has to be carried out in such a way that it ensures as many participants as possible: for instance the votes can be received in the time of a week or a month, via

email – in this way the news about the elections have the time to spread and people have the time to understand and to participate.

5. Monitoring the KP representative activity in the CCM.

Once elected, the representative should perform according to the Terms of Reference. A list with community demands to be taken to the CCM should be made available (the best way to do it is through community consultations). A mechanism to monitor his activity should be put in place, as well as a mechanism to regularly collect the community feedback and updates.