

May, 2017



Constituency Engagement & Communication Plan

Bhutan Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)

1. Contextual Background

1.1 The Global Fund: An innovative financing institution that provides major funding to national disease programs for HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The Global fund was created in 2002 as a partnership between government, private sector, NGOs and international agencies with a secretariat at in Geneva, Switzerland. Since the inception, the Global Fund has emphasized the principle of country ownership both in the design and implementation of grants. The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) is the core mechanism in the Global Fund model of multi-stakeholder partnership and accountability. It brings together stakeholders from government; civil society and the private sector to coordinate the development of country proposals and exercise oversight of grant implementation.

1.2 Bhutan CCM:

The Bhutan Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) was established in 2005 coinciding with the development of Round 4 Proposal for Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Bhutan CCM is central to ensuring the Global Fund's commitment to local ownership and participatory decision-making. The CCM Bhutan includes representatives from government, Multilateral/bilateral agencies, civil society, academic institution, private sector, people living with diseases and key affected population. The 20 membered CCM Bhutan has two permanent committees: The Executive committee and Oversight Committee.

Constituency	Seat	Appointment	Types of Organizations
Government	5	Nomination	From MOH and other relevant ministries
Developmental Partners	3	Selection	Bilateral partners and multilateral partners (e.g., UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO)
Non-Government Organization	7	Election	CSO registered with Bhutan Civil Society Authority
Faith based Organization	1	Election	Organizations representing the larger and other minority religious communities
Academic	1	Election	Academic and research, with expertise in health and three GF diseases
Private and Corporation	1	Nomination	For profit sectors registered with the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce

Key Affected population	1	Election	Specific population groups affected by diseases (e.g., transgender, injecting drug users) in Bhutan.
People living with Disease	1	Election	Individual or organization working for people living with disease (e.g positive networks)

2. Rationales

The Global Fund framework document emphasizes both participation and accountability as critical elements necessary for effective grant implementation. Inherent in these principles is the question of good governance and civil society engagement. For such a partnership to work effectively and in an accountable manner, processes must be open and transparent and conducted in accordance with agreed-upon rules or procedures outline in the Bhutan CCM Governance manual. Therefore, remaining within the overall governance the engagement and communication plan aim ***to promote transparency and accountability through constituency consultation and meaningful participation.***

3. Guiding Principles

Drawing on the inherent policies and practices of the Global Fund and the Bhutan CCM for effective community engagement and communication the proposed plan will be guided by the following principles:

- ***Meaningful involvement of people living with disease and Key affected population:*** The experience, insights and efforts of people affected by HIV, including women, young people and key populations, are valuable resources in the national response for HIV, TB and malaria and as members of decision-making bodies. The plan recognizes the importance of the participation of

communities in the design, implementation and evaluation of services to achieve the national and global commitments towards combating HIV, TB and Malaria.

- *Open communication and consultation:* The plan will promote transparent and authentic communication between and amongst the key stakeholder to better programs and policies, thereby improving conditions for people living with and affected by the three diseases.
- *Mutual accountability for results:* The plan recognise the importance of reporting the results of the program to both national and global partners through shared learning and respect for independence.
- *Multi-sectoral partnerships:* The response needs to be holistic and multi-dimensional and it involves strong and growing partnerships between the government, civil society and the private sector. Existing partnerships will be strengthened and new mechanisms will be established on the basis of equality and mutual respect at all levels

4. Process of Strategy Development:

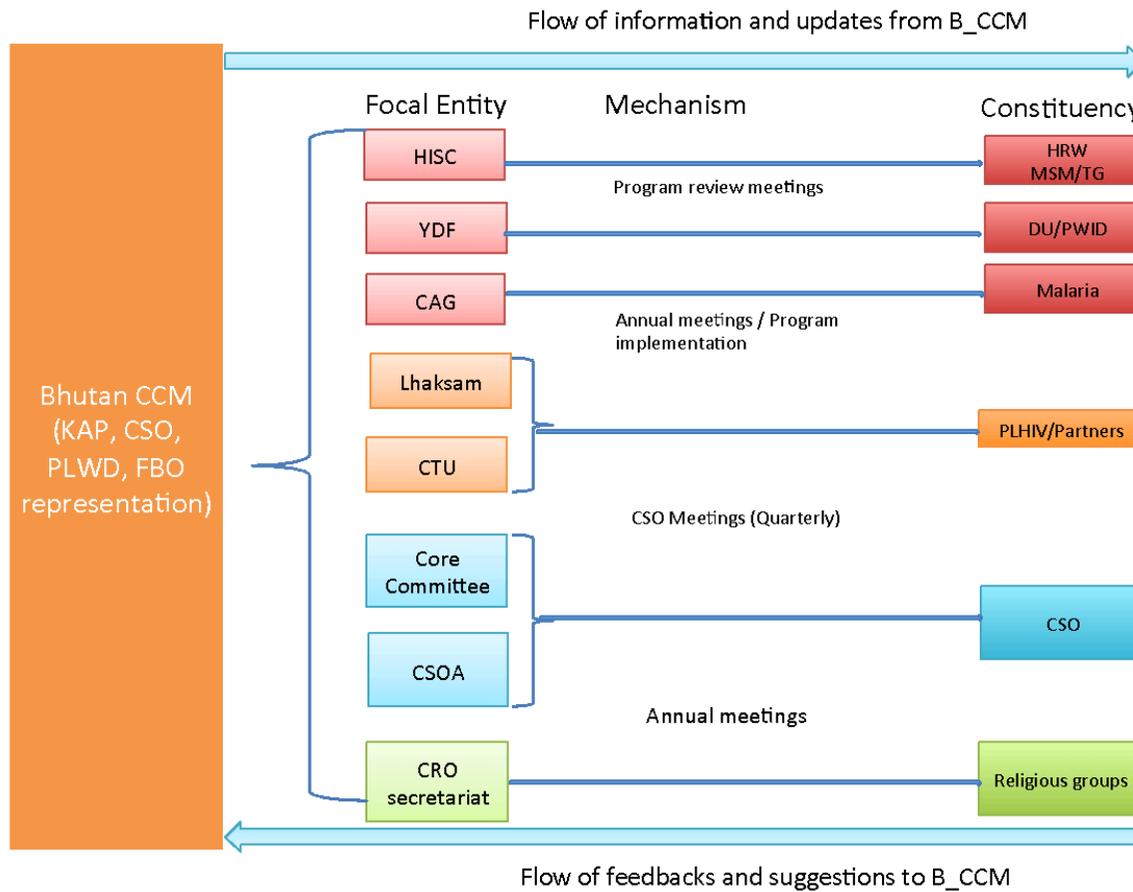
The Bhutan CCM secretariat with approval from the CCM initiated the development of the constituency engagement and communication plan. The process for the development of the plan began in February of 2017 with the desk review of the funding CCM documents and global and regional best practices for effective CCM participation. Following the desk review, an consultative workshop was organized with the various consistencies in **Paro, Bhutan on (Annex 1: Workshop Agenda and Annex 2: Participant list)**. The objective of the workshop was: to understand the current mechanism of engagement and communication

Following the workshop an extensive bilateral consultations took place to the various constituencies and their partners to understand the current opportunity and challenges for strengthening collaboration and engagement for effective grant oversight and country dialogue.

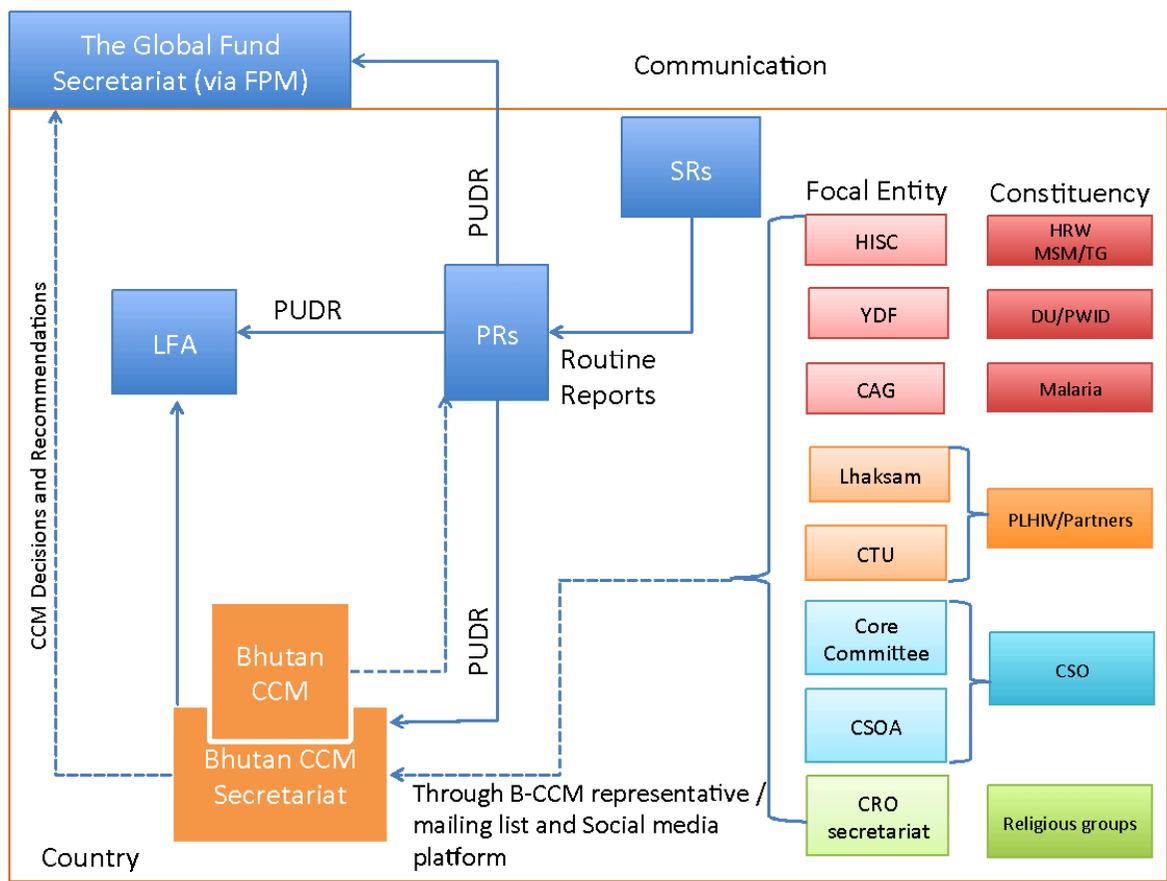
5. Strategic Framework

The proposed plan of action for community engagement and communication are inline with the existing systems to maximize value for money and also to prevent creating parallel systems.

5.1 Engagement Framework



5.2 Communication Framework



6. The Engagement and Communication plan

The overall objective of the plan is to **effectively coordinate and engage all stakeholders and beneficiaries, who are critical for achieving national targets for HIV, TB and Malaria to meaningfully participate in the CCM and country dialogues.**

6.1 Key Affected Population Constituency

To reach the KAP, the plan identified three entry focal entity namely, Health Information Service Centre (under Ministry of Health); Drop in centres (under the Youth Development Fund); and the Community Action Group in the southern districts.

6.1.1 HISC is currently implementing the targeted intervention for MSM, TG and HRW through the four HISC centre in Thimphu, Phuntsholign, Gelephu and Samdrupjongkhar under the MSA regional and national grant. The KAP outreach workers are recruited to delivery services to the beneficiaries and also to hold consultative meetings for improving services and advocacy. The routine review meetings of the out reach workers, coordinated by the HISC present an opportunity to incorporate specific CCM agendas, hold consultation and also to disseminate information on the global fund mandates.

6.1.2 YDF currently runs the drop in centre (DIC) and the drug rehabilitation centres. YDF through various programs also implements targeted intervention program for vulnerable youth including DU/IDUs. The regional and DIC meetings which are funded by the various donors presents an opportunity for disseminating information and CCM deliberation to the beneficiaries. In addition YDF is also open to organizing consultative meetings and dialogue to strengthen the national response for DU/IDUs in the country.

6.1.3 Community Action Group (CAGs) primarily working in the malaria endemic areas are informal networks working closely with the local communities in health promotion. CAGs with its networks of volunteers and committees have been a critical advocates and implementer of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVDCP). NVDCP is the sole implementing partner for the GF malaria grant focusing on elimination of malaria. The coordination meetings and programme review meetings can be used as a platform for disseminating and gathering information from the constituencies.

6.2 People living with Disease (PLWD)

6.2.1 Lhak-Sam (BNP+) is the first and only network of HIV positive people formed in 2010 to address the needs of PLHIV for mutual support, solidarity, and networking in Bhutan. They have 117 HIV members registered and have been conducting advocacy and awareness on treatment adherence for the PLHIV on ART, prevention program in schools and general advocacy sharing life experiences. Partnering with the National HIV/AIDS and STI Control Programme, Lhaksam has been complementing the prevention work to mitigate the impact of HIV in the country. In addition to advocacy, lhaksam has been reaching out to the children affected by the HIV/AIDS,

orphans and disadvantaged individual with HIV in the country. Currently as a SR to both the regional and National grant, they have been implementing various activities through their outreach workers. The coordination meetings and the regional and annual meetings provides an platform for constituency consultation and the dissemination of information pertaining to national and GF mandates.

6.2.2 Care and treatment Unit (CTU)

The care and treatment unit housed at the National referral hospital currently coordinates and support treatment program. The unit regular coordinates with the treatment provider and care providers such as Lhaksam to educate PLHIV on treatment adherence and management. The CTU has the potential to hold consultative dialogue with both the health care providers and PLHIV to improve treatment outcomes and to identify gaps and opportunities.

6.3 Civil Society Organization constituency

Although the government enacted the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Act in 2007 and the Rules and Regulations in 2010, the principal of solidarity and volunteerism has been an integral part of the traditional Bhutanese society acting as a mechanism to provide space for public participation in decision-making. The Chapter 2, Section 4 of the CSO Act distinguishes two types of CSOs in Bhutan: public benefit organizations (PBOs) and mutual benefit organizations (MBOs)¹. Currently there are 47 registered CSOs (35 PBO and 12 MBO). Today, CSOs play an important role in complementing the government in education, health, gender equality and women's empowerment, environmental and cultural preservation, and private sector development. In case of health, majority of the CSOs provides care and support services to enhance health and well being of the population. Over the past five years, few of the CSOs have been formally collaborating with the Ministry of Health through various vertical programs.

6.3.1 Civil Society Authority

Following the enactment Civil Society Organizations Act of Bhutan, 2007 the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs spearheaded the formation of the CSO Authority on 20th March 2009 as an appropriate regulatory agency to implement the CSO Act. The mandate of the CSOA are; to facilitate communication between Civil Society Organizations and the Government; to encourage and facilitate the CSOs to inform, promote, connect and strengthen individual Civil Society Organizations; to review and approve all applications for registration of

¹ The Civil Society Organizations Act of Bhutan, June 20th, 2007

CSOs which satisfy the requirements of this Act; to approve the accreditation of foreign CSOs within the provisions of the laws and this Act; to monitor the activities of CSOs to ensure their compliance with the Act and with their own Articles of Associations; to liaise with other agencies of the Government and interested parties; to exercise other related powers and carry out responsibilities prescribed in the CSO Act and regulations. The board of directors governs the CSOA with two-elected representative from the CSO constituency.

6.3.2 Core Committee:

The Core committee is an informal group of nine CSO representatives who are elected by the CSO fraternity during the quarterly meeting for the term of two years. The two eminent CSO member from eh CSOA are defector member of the core. The primarily mandate of the CC is to facilitate and initiate dialogue with the CSO fraternity and the relevant sectors including the parliamentarian and government partners. Currently there is a representative from the Bhutan CCM on the CC. CC meets every quarter prior to the CSO quarterly meetings.

6.4 Faith Based Organization

6.4.1 Chhoedey Lhentshog (Commission for Religious Organization) established in June 2009 under the Religious Organizations Act of Bhutan, June 2007 to address the changing need in the country to strengthen the spiritual heritage and to promote religious harmony among various religious organizations that do not fall under the Central Monk Body. The Mission of the CRO are; to facilitate the establishment of ROs in order to benefit the religious institutions and protect the spiritual heritage of Bhutan; to facilitated constructive partnership between the government and religious institutions; to ensure a system of public accountability by providing a framework for responsible and effective self-regulation and to promote the effective use by ROs of the resources contributed, donated, or endowed whether in cash or property. Currently there are 96 religious organization registered with the CRO.

7. Provision of information to Bhutan CCM Members and consistency

1.1 Bhutan CCM members shall be provided by the GF/CCM Secretariat with the following, and shall in turn make these documents available, as appropriate, to their organisations:

- The Governance Manual, Conflict of interest policy, and Oversight plan
- Notice of CCM meeting, agenda, and copies of all relevant documents

- Confirmed minutes of committee meetings
- Log of previous CCM decisions
- All relevant important documents from the Global Fund, including Guidelines; Calls for Proposals, and Grant Score Cards
- All formal correspondence from the Global Fund to the CCM , and vice versa, including the comments of the Technical Review Panel on proposals submitted, letters communicating decisions and conditions regarding original grant approvals and renewals, and responses to progress reports and disbursement requests that have been submitted to the Global Fund;
- All important documents related to the preparation of proposals to the Global Fund, including calls for proposals within the country, outlines and drafts of the Global Fund proposal and the final Global Fund proposal.

1.2 Written reports must be disseminated at least two weeks ahead of scheduled CCM meetings. All documents should be sent to members by email including any important documents relating to the implementation of programmes funded through Global Fund grant, including quarterly or other periodic reports prepared by the PR, LFA and Fund Portfolio

2. Provision of information to members of the public: The CCM Secretariat ensures that members of the public are informed of the focus of the planned proposal and are given an opportunity to make suggestions and to submit proposals. Organizations and constituencies, which are represented on the CCM, may also submit recommendations to the Secretariat.

- The Secretariat is responsible for ensuring that information is accessible to all interested parties within Bhutan and if relevant, beyond. Specifically, the Secretariat will disseminate the following, when possible via a website:
- List of all Bhutan CCM member and alternates, with full names and contact details;
- Governance related documents
- Meeting minutes and any relevant report from the standing committees including oversight reports and PRs grant implementation report.

8. Engagement Work plan for Non government constituencies.

Objectives		1. To initiate dialogue with Key FBO constituency to understand the needs and gaps for three diseases							
		2. To disseminate global fund related information and Bhutan CCM decision							
Constituency		No.	Activity	Lead	Budget	2017			
						Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Adhoc
Faith Based Organization		1	Consultative workshop during the Annual CRO meetings	CRO				X	
		2	Bilateral discussion with program implementers	FBO CCM member					X
Civil Society Organization		1	Partial support for the CSO quarterly meetings during which feedback will be seek from the consistency and update related to GF will be disseminated. (This activity is currently being support by the Helavatas Bhutan under the CSO strengthening program)	CSO Core Committee			X		
People Living with HIV		1	Consultative workshop with PLHIV networks and groups on program impact and gaps	Lhaksam			X		
		2	Consultative meeting for country dialogue (can be a complementary support to the fund available with PR)	PR					X
Key Affected Population		1	Networking meetings (informal settings) to understand gaps and need of the KAP.	HISC (MSM/TG and HRW)			X		
		2	Peer Meetings at the DIC	YDF (DU/IDUs)					X
		3	Community program meetings	CAG					

9. Strengthening the constituency communication Plan

Non Government Constituency communication Work plan 2017								
SI.NO	Objective	Activity	Lead	Budget	2017			
					Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Adhoc
1	To expand NGOs/ PLWD networks/ Civil society organization mailing list for communicating GFATM issues	NGOs /PLHIV networks/ Civil society organization mailing list can be expanded and used to communicate and to solicit feedback of NGOs/PLHIV networks/Civil society organization and Community leaders on GFATM processes	CCM Secretariat		X			
	To explore viability of establishing new communication platforms and/or social media (Google groups, face book etc) for dissemination of information and identify key concerns	Regular updates on communication platforms like Google groups , face book etc. should be monthly /quarterly disseminate information on global fund issues and to solicit constituency inputs	CCM Secretariate			X		
2	To establish NGOs/PLWD networks/Civil society organization Forum or Use existing platforms/Forum to disseminate information on GFATM grants and to get feedback	Contribute to ongoing communications & coordination platforms (e.g. ,program reviews, annual meetings) to provide information on GF grants.	CCM Secretariat					X
4	To Club the agenda of Global Fund grants/status with events of key international days (related to HIV/TB/Malaria)	The International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers (17th December), the World AIDS Day (1st December), MSM day (10th May) etc. offer an opportunity to provide feedback to KAPs on HIV/ AIDS services available and collect information on priority needs and challenges in accessing services. Provide this feedback to the CCM.	CCM Secretariat					X
5	CCM members / Oversight Committee members take feedback of KAPs/PLWDs during their field visits and/or ensure KAPs/PLWDs are consulted during these visits.	KAPs/PLWDs members on CCM to ensure that the KAPs/PLWDs are consulted during CCM field visits as appropriate to ensure their issues are considered and reflected in oversight recommendations	CCM Secretariat					X