Eurasian Coalition on Male Health

Community Actions to Increase Access of MSM and Transgender People to HIV Services in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Regional program, 2017-2019

Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM)

- NGO founded by community activists from several EECA countries and based in Tallinn, Estonia
- Network association open to non-profits and individuals
- Working in the field of HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support for MSM and TG in EECA
- Currently, 55 members from 12 countries

Regional Program

“Community Actions to Increase Access of MSM and Transgender People to HIV Services in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

- Expression of Interest (EoI):
  - submitted to Global Fund in March 2015
  - approved in August 2015
- ECOM invited to submit a concept note by February 2016
- In September-December 2015 ECOM conducts the Regional Dialogue to coordinate the concept note development with communities and other key partners

Introduction to Regional Program

- HIV epidemic is still rapidly increasing among MSM and TG in EECA
- National budgets allocate little or literally no resources to HIV interventions *targeted particularly* to MSM & TG
- TG are effectively ignored in HIV responses
- Access to HIV services for MSM & TG in EECA is disproportionately low

Goal of the Regional Program

To contribute to an increased uptake of HIV prevention, testing, treatment, care and support by MSM and transgender people in the HIV Prevention and Treatment Cascades in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Target countries:

Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, + Georgia as a reserve country and the first in line for the program expansion

Three Primary Objectives

1. To improve HIV programming for MSM and TG

2. To create enabling environments to HIV services for MSM and TG

3. To increase MSM and TG organizations' capacities for a sustainable HIV response

Expected Results: Obj. 1

To improve HIV programming for MSM and TG:

- Community organizations use the HIV Treatment Cascade to contribute to national HIV programs and to monitor benefits of these programs for the community
- More MSM and TG representatives participate in CCMs as well as in other national level HIV coordinating bodies
- More reliable data on HIV among MSM and TG exist in each country
- Best practices in the HIV response among MSM and TG are collected and adapted for use in the region

1.1 Treatment Cascade Promotion: regional level

- Development specialized web-page on the treatment cascade.
- Development of a training curricula on the cascade for use both on-line and off-line.
- ToT for community activists, researchers and managers of services.
- Regional consultation on PrEP, community base testing and mobile outreach and other innovations

1.1 Treatment Cascade Promotion: national level

• Trainings on the cascade as a monitoring and advocacy tool in each country. Participants – employees and volunteers of community organizations and initiative groups and employees/specialists from partner organizations such as medical service providers, human rights defenders, researchers and other, with particular attention to those involved in execution and/or oversight of GF funded projects.

1.2 Advocacy and Capacity Building: regional level

- Dissemination of info on the best practices in community led advocacy.
- Internet base training and technical support (webinars) on community engagement to CCMs and other national coordinating/governing mechanisms, and to GF/UN related coordination and governing structures.
- Regular exchange of experience between community representatives in CCMs and other coordinating structures.

1.2 Advocacy and Capacity Building: national level

- Annual mapping and efficiency evaluation of MSM/trans* community engagement to national and international coordinating mechanisms.
- Improvement of national level coordination of advocacy initiatives aimed at promotion of services sustainability and national funding.

1.3 Improvement in Strategic Information: regional level

- Development of a Regional Expert Group on Strategic Information in area of MSM and TG Sexual Health (RGSISH).
- Development of a web based open library with researches' reports, methodologies, recommendations, and guidelines on MSM/TG sexual health and human rights protection.
- Providing national governmental and community research groups with technical support in planning, conduction of researches, data analysis and publication predominantly in peer-review magazines.

1.3 Improvement in Strategic Information: national level

• Conduction of workshops to acknowledge decision makers and community leaders with standards of data reliability and use for decision making.

1.4 Best Practices in Programming on HIV and MSM/TG: reg. level

Dissemination of recommendations/manuals and cases those describe the best practices in the HIV programming for MSM and TG with particular attention to cases from EECA region.

1.4 Best Practices in Programming on HIV and MSM/TG: nat. level

- Collecting information on MSM/TG health services coverage and quality gaps.
- Training to acknowledge MSM/TG service providers and decision makers from governmental and community sectors with key recommendations and best practices in response to the gaps defined in terms of coverage and quality of services.
- Advocacy campaigns for incorporation of the best practices in national HIV response plans and increase of national funding for MSM/TG targeted services.

Expected Results: Obj. 2

To <u>create enabling environments</u> to HIV services for MSM and TG:

- Legal and policy assessment is carried out in several countries with involvement of MSM and TG
- Community experts work on documentation and reporting of human rights violations towards MSM and TG
- A regional anti-discrimination action plan developed and implementing
- Increased awareness of HIV, MSM and TG-related issues among staff of public systems of health & social care, and law enforcement

2.1 Legal and policy environment assessment

Regional

- Design of assessment protocol to be used at national level
- Formulation of regional advocacy plan

National

- Legal environment assessments
- Formulation of national advocacy plans

2.2 Legal literacy and legal aid services

Regional

- Mapping of MSM and trans* communities to create a regional pool of community experts
- Training for community experts on legal and rights literacy

National

- Formulation of national advocacy plans
- Trained activists help community members access legal help and victims' protection

2.3 Community-based monitoring of legal rights

Regional

- Regional consolidated summary reports;
- Facilitation of information and experience exchange between countries;
- Promotion of human rights issues at international level.

National

- Documentation of human rights violations with emphasis on right to health;
- Annual national summary reports;
- Promotion of human rights issues at international level.

2.4 Training on rights for officials, health workers, and police

Regional

- Development of a training module

National

- Adaptation of the training module to country context;
- Promotion of the module.

Expected Results: Obj. 3

To <u>increase MSM and TG organizations' capacities</u>:

- The Program Sub-Recipients (SRs), MSM and TG organizations, have increased capacity and skills to meaningfully participate in decision-making about the HIV response
- The SRs have improved planning and M&E skills.
- The SRs have improved fundraising and resource management skills
- The SRs have improved skills in building capacity of community leaders

3.1 Organizational strengthening

Regional level:

- Training for leaders of community organizations on the MOCAT (Modified Organization Capacity Assessment Tool) in order to assess the capacity and developmental needs of their organizations.

- Regular collection of information on the organization's technical assistance needs for organizational development, and on the basis of this information, assistance brokering the needed technical assistance.

3.2 HR and volunteer management, and leadership building

Regional level:

- Training for leaders of community organizations on the development of volunteer programs.

- Coordinating regional meetings on community leadership in protecting the health of MSM and transgender people (interconnection between activities in countries and at regional level).

- Assessment of TA needs in the management of staff and the volunteer programs and brokering of corresponding TA.

3.2 HR and volunteer management, and leadership building

Country level:

- A regular electronic newsletter (or listserv) for employees and volunteers of the organizations. Recipients will be informed of the existing recommendations and best practices on the topics of their work, as well as of news and information about whom in the region is undertaking similar work.

- Working meetings on leadership in each country (as follow-up of the regional trainings on leadership) aimed to identifying themes where the community can be a leader of and how to realize this leadership.

3.3 Improving M&E and planning skills

Regional level:

- Collection of information on the TA needs in M&E, and on the basis of this information, brokering the needed TA.

- Development of a model set of indicators for reporting on the work of community organizations to members of the community (accountability to the community).

3.4 Increasing financial sustainability and accountability

Regional level:

- Regional database of the resources involved in ensuring access to health services (especially in the context of HIV, STIs, and Hepatitis B and C) in countries of the region.

- Evaluation and development of a report on the needs for funding programs aimed at healthcare services for MSM and transgender people in the context of HIV in the countries.

-An online training on fundraising to attract community donations.

Approach to Implementation

- Evidence based advocacy – every advocacy initiative is well justified in terms of public health
- National leadership and ownership in prioritization of targets
- Meaningful engagement of community and service providers
- Improvement of international cooperation, particularly regarding epi researches and service best practices
- Accountability of TA providers and donors to beneficiaries

The Regional Program Budget Division

- The Program overall budget is € 3 millions of which:
- ~ 15% for the Program management.
- ~ 10% for the Program M&E and technical support to PR and SRs to support the Program implementation
- ~ 40% for regional level activities
- ~ 35% for national level activities

Eurasian Coalition on Male Health

www.ecom.ngo

www.fb.com/ecomngo

contact@ecom.ngo

@ecomngo