RAI Regional Steering Committee

Regional Component of the Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative (RAI2E) Grant

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Package #6.1: Supporting a regional CSO platform to address access to services to the community

1. Main objective

The RAI Regional Steering Committee (RSC) is inviting proposals from local and international non-governmental organizations to host and support the Regional Malaria Civil Society Organization (CSO) Platform for the 2018-2020 period.

The Regional Malaria CSO Platform aims to support the GMS malaria elimination goals by: providing a forum for CSOs to exchange best practices, coordinating CSO advocacy efforts around key strategic issues affecting services to hard-to-reach groups, and ensuring that program interventions are targeted to the populations most in need and are based on principles of human rights and equality in access to health.

This package aims to support CSOs to improve impact in country components through regional multi-sectoral collaboration in RAI2 E implementing countries. Under this package, the RSC intends to enhance high-level regional, political and multi-sectoral engagement to support country-level elimination efforts. This package aims to enhance collaboration with and between CSOs at national and regional level. CSO participation can ensure vulnerable and affected communities are informed and empowered as part of an inclusive, effective malaria elimination program.

2. Background: the RAI2-Elimination program of the Global Fund

The Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative (RAI) was launched in 2013 in response to the emergence of artemisinin resistant malaria in the Greater Mekong region. Funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the first RAI round was a $100-million grant covering the countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The grant, which ends in 2017, supported the increased coverage of impregnated nets, diagnosis and treatment, as well as case detection and surveillance, giving priority to areas of artemisinin resistance.

Global Fund recently approved a second phase of RAI, or the RAI2-Elimination (RAI2E), with a total of USD 242.3 million over three years. RAI2E is a milestone as the Global Fund's largest regional grant with the first to have a defined goal of disease elimination in a specific geography. The majority of the grant funds have been awarded across the five countries to support their country components of the RAI2E (208.3 m USD). The main focus is on malaria case management through expansion of community health volunteers, strengthening surveillance systems, and scaling up elimination activities. In addition, US$34million has been dedicated to a regional component that supplements the country components.

The regional component aims to address overarching issues affecting national strategies, enhancing country components and ensuring regional coherence. The RAI Regional Steering Committee (RSC), a multi-stakeholder governance body, provides strategic guidance, selects recipient implementers, and oversees grant implementation track progress against program objectives and ensures funding is used in accordance with agreed strategic priorities. Engagement with and close involvement of civil society, among other constituency groups, is critical to the successful governance of the RAI program through the RSC at regional level.

The regional component of the RAI2E has seven packages of funding. This Call for Expression of Interest concerns the package 6.1, which is dedicated to supporting a regional CSO platform to address access to services to the community.

3. The Regional Malaria CSO Platform for the GMS

The Regional Malaria CSO Platform for the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) is a network of more than 50 civil society organizations1 from the Global Fund RAI implementing countries: Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The Regional CSO Malaria Platform also serves as the CSO constituency engagement mechanism for the RAI RSC. The Regional Malaria CSO Platform aims to provide common space to all the CSOs from the GMS that are working on malaria or working with key-affected communities in the region through other development programs (e.g. for education, human right provision, and other health services), including to the Mobile Migrant, Ethnic and Vulnerable (MMEV) populations (such as mobile and migrant groups, ethnic minorities, forest/plantation workers, etc.). It is a platform for sharing good practices, capacity strengthening and coordinated actions for advocacy and policy change to address malaria issues among vulnerable groups.

The CSOs have played and are playing a crucial role in malaria control and elimination in the GMS especially in providing services to hard-to-reach populations where governments have limited access and capacity to reach out for providing services. As the malaria burden in the GMS is increasingly concentrated along borders and forested areas, CSOs have proven their effective services by building trust with the affected communities, many of which are undocumented, illegal workers and groups marginalized by, or out of reach of, the government system.

Moving towards malaria elimination needs greater coordination and collaboration among countries within and across the borders by addressing and harmonizing border activities. Given their field-level insight, the contribution is considered essential to ongoing to national and regional policy dialogue (e.g. around the unique role of community including Village Health Volunteer/Workers (VHV/VMW) within the Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM)). CSOs also need to contribute to health system strengthening, advocating to government for financing and human resource support and engaging with the private sector.

It is also important to build engagement among the CSOs in national responses and Global Fund country governance processes (e.g. national Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs)). Support of the Regional Malaria CSO Platform is needed to document and share experiences and lessons learned in CSO engagement in the Global Fund because malaria in the GMS is a regional issue. Improved coordination between CSOs and government programs is also necessary.

There was a clear gap in advocacy efforts before establishing a platform in 2014 in order to address the specific needs of key at-risk populations. Since its establishment, the platform has effectively demonstrated the added value of convening CSO implementers to discuss best practices and challenges, as well as highlight advocacy agendas.

4. Objectives and activities of the Regional Malaria CSO Platform in 2018-2020

4.1 Overall objectives of the platform

1. To provide an enabling environment for civil society actors to deliver and advocate for the delivery of adequate services to affected communities currently beyond the reach of mainstream services;

2. To ensure a strong ''last-mile' response in national and regional elimination programs, thus safeguarding the Global Fund return on investment, Ensuring program quality and relevance, and progressing elimination in the hardest to reach areas and populations;

3. To improve the coordination of CSO actors at all levels (national/regional, with national programs, with CCMs, etc.) and linking them with other networks in the GMS region;

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[1] Civil Society Organizations include: local and international non-government organizations and networks, community-based groups, research/academic organizations, ethnic organizations, etc.

4. To improve the technical capacity of CSO actors, where they sit outside the capacity building systems of national governments (peer support and formal training);

5. To ensure that program interventions are targeted to the populations most in need and are based on principles of human rights and equality in access to health, including a strong program focus on strengthened community systems through engagement with malaria volunteers (VMW/VHW/MMW/MMV/CHV);

6. To bring the unique insight of CSOs to malaria elimination efforts, and in doing so, provide a voice to affected communities.

4.2 Platform activities

In support of the above objectives, the CSO platform will work in three main areas, as follows:

A. Active engagement of CSOs and malaria affected communities

- Hold regular, open, and inclusive consultations at regional and country level including malaria-implementing CSOs and other groups involved with affected communities (e.g. ethnic health organizations, community-based organizations, community health providers);

- Serve as a constituency engagement mechanism for civil society and affected communities to be represented in various governance fora across the GMS region (including RAI RSC and national CCMs);

- Through consultation workshops at country level and close coordination with CCMs, support and strengthen the engagement of community representatives and CSOs in national CCMs;

- Facilitate effective and meaningful collaboration between CSOs and other stakeholders (governments, private sector, donor agencies, technical partners, etc.) in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of malaria programs and policies;

- Conduct regular mapping of CSOs working in malaria affected areas of the GMS to ensure broad participation in the platform and meaningful representation of affected communities in program governance at various levels;

- Support coordination of activities between CSO groups and harmonization efforts with other technical working groups (e.g. Malaria Elimination Taskforce of ADB) and platforms/networks (mobile/migrant; indigenous group; vulnerable people) at regional and national level to avoid overlaps of work/interventions.

B. Advocacy and communication

- Through regular consultations, inputs from platform members, and project site visits, collect and document evidence of success and barriers and share best practices, including evidence of programmatic impact;

- Develop and maintain an active online website/platform for knowledge management and information exchange (both within CSO members and for external use), including relevant technical information;

- Develop and implement an advocacy work plan and strategies using a variety of communication channels and tools (social media, reports/documentaries, website…) and through representation of CSOs & platform at various fora;

- Engage policymakers, politicians and media (e.g. through site visits, documentary and news) to increase visibility on the CSO role & issues, raise awareness on malaria elimination (in collaboration with other advocacy partners), advocate for policy change and mobilization of resources, etc.

- Advocate for and support the participation of CSO/communities in national, regional and global malaria and other critical health and development agendas / events at national and regional level;

- Support ongoing efforts to strengthen data & information-sharing at regional, sub-regional (cross-border), and national levels;

- Promote transparency and accountability of governments, UN agencies, technical partners, private sectors and CSOs, engaging policy makers;

- Mentor new leadership and technical support for advocacy (Mentorship training to build/strengthen capacity of malaria community advocates and CCM CSO/KAP representatives);

- Advocate and propose affordable, adequate, equitable, sustainable, and evidence-based investments and interventions in malaria responses;

- Highlight program implementation gaps and challenges requiring political or technical input, and make recommendations on potential solutions where appropriate.

C. Technical support / capacity-building to the CSOs and community networks

- Mobilize technical assistance support for CSOs and community-based networks through various channels (e.g. partnership-building with technical agencies, seeking expertise/resources within the CSO platform, contracting of external assistance);

- Provide technical support to CSOs to improve quality and effectiveness of program implementation (e.g. malaria treatment literacy training to RAI implementing NGOs and volunteers, training curriculum development for malaria prevention, test and treat focusing on MMPs and cross border populations in different languages);

- Strengthen CSO capacity for advocacy, communications and resource mobilization (e.g. technical support or trainings in message development, or to identify new funding sources for integrated services);

- Provide support for strengthening of community health systems and malaria volunteer networks (VMW/VHW/ MMW/MMV/CHV), particularly in view of future sustainability (i.e. transition to integrated health services to hard-to-reach populations).

5. Geographic Scope of Call

Activities of the platform (consultations, workshops/trainings, field visits, etc.) will be conducted across the five RAI2E implementing countries in the GMS, which include Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam.

The CSO Platform Host Organization can be based in any of the five RAI countries.

6. Scope of Work

The purpose of this call is to identify a suitable non-government organization (CBOs, CSOs, local NGO, International NGO, or ethnic organization) to serve as host organization to the malaria CSO platform.

The Regional Malaria CSO Platform is a network of different independent organizations and individuals; its activities are discussed and agreed by the Platform members and will be conducted under the overall oversight of a governance mechanism constituted of Platform members. The Platform is co-chaired by the two CSO representatives which sit on the RAI RSC and which are elected through an open process every three years.

The host organization provides the legal, administrative and logistical framework for the platform activities to be funded and delivered. This will include (non-exhaustive): recruitment of a CSO Platform Coordinator and other staff as deemed necessary; administrative/logistical arrangements for all consultations/workshops/trainings; recruitment of technical assistance support (as/when applicable); development

and maintenance of online tools (e.g. Platform website) and other communication materials (reports/publications), etc.

In close consultation with the Platform members and under the general oversight of the Platform governance mechanism (committee), the host organization will also:

- Develop annual work plans/budgets for the CSO Platform activities, including a schedule of meetings/trainings/field visits, etc.;

- Ensure ongoing communication/coordination of and between CSO Platform members and support the CSO Platform leadership/co-chairs and governance mechanism on platform-related decisions;

- Coordinate the development and implementation of advocacy and communication strategies;

- Support knowledge management, data collection and gathering of evidence, reports & analyses;

- Enable the development of partnerships and create communication channels where appropriate with national CCMs, national programs, and other partners at regional / national level;

- Identify and mobilize appropriate sources of technical assistance and expertise as may be required by the Platform for capacity-building activities;

- Coordinate and work closely as necessary with RSC CSO representatives, RSC Secretariat, CCMs and the Global Fund;

- Other tasks as may be required from time to time by the Platform representatives / governance mechanism;

As a signatory to the grant agreement with the RAI Principal Recipient (PR), the host organization is responsible for overseeing and reporting on the use of the Platform budget on a regular basis and for ensuring compliance with the applicable policies of the PR and of the Global Fund. The host organization also develops and submits activity / programmatic reports to the Principal Recipient on behalf of the CSO platform.

7. Grant Period

Implementation dates for the activities and budget in this grant will cover the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020.

8. Available Funding

The maximum available funding to be awarded under this call is: **1 million USD.**

Disclaimers:
1. The RSC reserves the right not to award any funding through this Call or to award a lower amount.
2. The issuance of the Call for Proposals does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the RSC, nor the Global Fund. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.
3. Final detailed budgets and targets will be determined during grant negotiation of successful applicants with the PR and the Global Fund.
4. Applicants understand that any results of the RSC selection process are not legally binding and are subject to the final approval of the Global Fund.

9. Eligibility Criteria

Both national and international non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply for this grant. In order to respond to this EoI, applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. The organization (and any partners/sub-grantees) must be legally registered to operate in the proposed project country/ies, with registration or a Memorandum of Understanding with the respective Ministry.
2. The organization has past experience in the implementation of Global Fund activities in any of the 5 RAI2E countries.

3. <u>Conflict of Interest</u>: The grantee's other relationships, associations, activities, and interests should not create a conflict of interest that could prevent full impartiality in implementation of the grant activities. The grantee or any of its representatives cannot hold an elected mandate as a CSO representative at the RAI RSC.

Any organization that does not meet the minimum eligibility criteria will not be considered.

10. Guidance for Applicants

The proposal must not exceed **15 pages** and must include the below information. A Word Template is available for applicants' use. The RSC reserves the right to reject proposals which are incomplete or exceed the prescribed page limit.

SECTION 1 – ORGANIZATION'S SUMMARY AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1.1 Name of the Organization, Contact and full address

1.2 Registration status of organization. *Please provide relevant documentation as Annex.*

1.3 Brief introduction on the organization's mission, vision, and general areas of expertise (max. ½ page)

1.4 If applicant is/was a recipient of Global Fund grants: a brief summary of funded project(s)

SECTION 2 – INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

2.1 Technical capacity and experience (2-3 pages)

Describe your organization's expertise relevant to the scope of work in the EoI, and include a brief summary of relevant projects.

In particular, please describe your experience or expertise related to malaria programming, community-based health networks, hard-to-reach groups, policy, advocacy, partnership coordination, and/or strategic governance of health programs.

Describe how your organization's capacity will support the effective coordination of the platform and delivery of activities proposed under the scope of the work.

2.2 HR and financial management capacity (1-2 pages)

Briefly describe your organization's national and international (if any) management structure and provide an overview of current staffing or plans to recruit additional staff.

Please describe your total annual operating budget in 2016 or 2017, the amount of funds managed by your organization and describe your organization's capacity to manage large donor grants, including Global Fund grants if applicable.

2.3 Monitoring and evaluation (½ – 1 page)

Provide an overview of your information management, M&E, reporting, and supervision systems. Describe, with one or two illustrative examples of how your organization uses M&E data to inform program decisions.

SECTION 3 – TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

3.1 Situation analysis (1-2 pages)

Without quoting these TORs or other available documents/reports, summarize your current understanding of the work conducted under the regional CSO platform established since 2014, citing what you perceive as its main achievements and main challenges.

3.2 Proposed activities (3-4 pages)

Describe the activities you propose to implement as host organization to strengthen and support the work of the regional CSO platform in 2018-2020.

In particular, please articulate:

- your proposed strategy to enable collaboration and coordination between the platform and other malaria stakeholders at national and regional level;

- how your organization will support advocacy, communications, knowledge management and capacity-building activities;

- how your organization will work to enable strong representation of malaria-affected communities at national and regional level.

3.3 Complementarity and sustainability (2-3 pages)

Describe how you will ensure that the work of the regional CSO platform will build upon or complement other existing governance platforms / mechanisms at national and regional level.

Articulate your vision of how the platform could evolve over the 2018-2020 period and how it might be made sustainable beyond 2020, in a scenario where less (or no) Global Fund financing would be available.

SECTION 4 – FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Please provide a budget estimate in the form of a table including a detailed list of activities, cost per activity, and other implementation costs (e.g. staffing, logistics). Applicants can present the budget in their own format (Excel preferred) or use the budget template provided in Annex B.

The following scoring components will be used to evaluate proposals.

APPLICATION COMPONENT	Maximum Score
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY	**40**
TECHNICAL PROPOSAL	**30**
FINANCIAL PROPOSAL	**30**
TOTAL	**100**

A narrative template (Word) and Annex B budget template (Excel) are available for download at the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t55ojyf3v16ueif/AAC1y8kvMhIWoNC1TVdZaOKQa?dl=0

All applications should be submitted electronically to: RAI2Eproposals@gmail.com. Documents can be attached by email or provided in a DropBox link.

Questions can be sent to RAI2Eproposals@gmail.com. A FAQ will be compiled for the most common questions and posted/updated on this website: http://www.raifund.org/en/rsc/calls-for-proposals

Submission deadline: Sunday 26 November 2017 at 11.59PM/23h59, Bangkok/Phnom Penh time (ICT)