Scaling up Human Rights Advocacy and Accountability among People With and Affected by Tuberculosis in Asia-Pacific

ABOUT THE PROJECT

PROBLEM STATEMENT — National TB responses are still implemented heavily under a biomedical approach, overlooking the structural and systemic issues tied to stigma, discrimination, and non-recognition of the rights of people with TB and TB survivors. Through the meaningful involvement and partnership with TB-affected communities and civil society in the region, it is envisaged that there will be a shift in the paradigm of the current national TB responses and regional approach to the TB responses that will transform these responses to be more responsive to the issues and challenges faced by key populations and people with tuberculosis.

AIM — Establishing an Asia Pacific human rights advocacy agenda that will influence national TB responses and align with the regional and global TB agenda for a rights-based TB response.

OBJECTIVES

1. Support civil society, TB-affected communities, and TB survivors groups in the rollout of the TB and Human Rights Training Manual and in the implementation of their advocacy plans.

2. Lead the development of a regional human rights advocacy agenda for the TB response.

3. Advocate and influence regional and global processes for the inclusion of human rights and community engagement-related indicators in the TB response.

CONTRIBUTION TO REACHING KEY UN HLM TARGETS BY 2022. With regards to the UN Political Declaration on TB, this proposal is aligned with paragraph 33 in supporting the development of community-based health services and approaches that protect and promote human rights in addressing TB; and in paragraph 37 in the commitment and promotion of the rights and dignity of those diagnosed, living with, and affected by tuberculosis.

ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE TB STRATEGIC PLAN. This proposal is aligned with the national priorities of the three countries that were identified (Nepal, Viet Nam, and Papua New Guinea). For Nepal, this proposal is aligned with their National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Prevention, Care, and Control 2016–2021 Objective 4 and 5 with regards to partnering with the NGO sector and scaling up Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) Program; in Papua New Guinea, there is alignment with the TB Strategic Plan 2016–2020 namely addressing TB as a public health crisis, particularly under its fourth priority, providing a sound and coherent policy on TB that promotes multisectoral leadership and meaningful involvement of key populations; and in Vietnam, it is aligned with the National Strategy for Tuberculosis Prevention and Control to 2020, with a View of 2030, in two priority areas including revising policies and introducing legal frameworks to encourage organisations and key populations to participate in the TB response and addressing stigma among key and vulnerable and populations.
ABOUT APCASO

APCASO is an Asia-Pacific regional civil society network of community-led and non-government organisations working on the intersections of HIV, health, and social justice, with focus on advocacy and community capacity development. APCASO is currently the secretariat of ACT! AP, the first and only regional coalition of TB activists in Asia-Pacific. Our mission is to strengthen advocacy and community systems towards effective social development and health responses, inclusive of HIV in Asia and the Pacific.

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