



FRANCOPHONE AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY TECHNIQUE ASSISTANCE FORUM



RESOLUTIONS



We, representatives of organizations providing technical assistance (Expertise France, BACKUP Health, DAT / UNAIDS for West and Central Africa), firms and agencies providing technical assistance (OASYS, GCC, IRESCO , WAG, MOTO ACTION, HUB Alliance International, CRG, ICI-Santé) and civil society organizations (CSOs) benefiting from technical assistance, meeting together in Saly Portudal (Mbour, Senegal) on 22 and 23 May 2017, to reflect on the coordination and harmonization of technical assistance to Francophone civil society organizations involved in the implementation of public health programs, including Global Fund grants.

Aware of the dysfunctions and risks in this area, manifested through:

- The lack of coordination and anticipation of CSO capacity-building needs, which very often lead to unreliable and credible demands;
- Technical assistance formats that are sometimes inappropriate, too short to ensure effective and sustainable transfer of skills to beneficiaries;
- The lack of a solid mechanism for renewing the consultants database or young training experts;
- The inherent constraints in technical support (DATs) linked to bilateral cooperation, such priorities of which are defined by the donor country;
- The continuing of infrequence funding for technical assistance, particularly from the Global Fund;
- Lack of certification from most experts who do not render them accountable and concerned about the quality of their services;

Concerned to preserve achievements hardly achieved during the three decades and determined to seize all opportunities in terms of technical assistance which which could be:

- The existence of technical support systems (TAs) must be compatible with the demands of civil society;
- Various experiences with a knowledge of needs and contexts;
- The emergence of new practices and community expertise;
- Initiatives around orientated mechanisms to strengthen ownership of beneficiaries;
- The necessity to ensure the quality of technical assistance by providing training or upgrading to experts as much as possible;
- The international context convenient to strong and meaningful involvement of CSOs in the elimination of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by 2030, respect for and promotion of human rights, and strengthening of community systems;

Convinced that better coordination and harmonization of technical assistance to civil society organizations in Francophone Africa requires the following preconditions:

■ Clearly define the areas of intervention (geographical, expertise) and to communicate with potentials beneficiaries;

- Define the skills of a consultant and the source of these skills to ensure transparency and accountability in the selection process;
- Operationalize the needs and supply identification platform (e-CAT Global Fund);
- Have short- or average-term technical assistance plans for CSOs;
- Design harmonized request forms to streamline the effort of CSOs seeking support for several DATs on the same subject;
- Define the responsibilities of technical assistance providers in the follow-up of missions, training of experts, impact assessment;
- Establish ongoing dialogue between DAT to ensure that all kind of needs expressed are covered;
- Adopt harmonized rules and rates of pay;

To this end, we recommend the establishment of a Task Force to coordination civil society technical assistance in francophone Africa, to carry out the process of reflection and advocacy leading to:

- Mobilize technical assistance in order to adapt to the needs of civil society and consistent with the Global Fund cycle
- Improve the quality of technical assistance through training of consultants, monitoring missions and evaluating results.
- Sustain the achievements of technical assistance through a better transfer of competences to civil society organizations, enhancing community expertise and sharing experiences among the actors involved;

Let us propose, as initial composition of the Task Force, representatives of the following entities:

Providers of technical assistance:

- BACKUP Health (GIZ)
- Initiative 5% (Expertise France)
- UNAIDS

Global Fund:

- ITP Department
- CRG Special Initiative

Providers:

- WAG (OASYS, GCC, IRESCO)
- ICI-Santé
- PFAO

Beneficiaries (OSC):

- RMAP+ (Mali) VIH
- Dimension Humaine (Togo) Malaria
- Affirmative Action (Cameroun) Human Right and Gender
- ABTL (Burundi) Tuberculosis

Action track for the Task force

Focus	Reflections and Advocacies	Period	Responsible
	Improve the visibility of technical assistance opportunities through the regional platform	September-December 2017	Regional platform
	Promote the creation of a common pool of consultants between TA providers to ensure a common knowledge base: - Specific technical skills: human rights and gender, new Global Fund tools - Organizational Strengthening - Support for the development of structures (capacity building plan, resource mobilization)	January-December 2018	To be determined within the Task force
	Make e-CAT Global Fund platform operational	September-December 2017	Regional platform
The mobilization of TA adapted to the needs of civil society consistent with Global Fund cycle	Develop advocacy guidelines for ministries in charge of cooperation and development to better take into account TA needs	June-August 2017	To be determined within the Task force
	Develop a South-South technical assistance mechanism: sharing of knowledge, experiences (support for writing applications)	January-December 2018	To be determined within the Task force

Focus	Reflections and Advocacies	Period	Responsible
	Propose an approach to identify and train young experts from local communities	January-December 2018	To be determined within the Task force
	Harmonize request forms to maximize organizational effort	January-December 2018	All TSF
	Intensify exchanges with other regional platforms and propose bridges with ITP	September-December 2017	Regional platform and CRG
	Encourage medium- and long-term planning of TA (skill building plan) by CSOs	January-December 2018	To be determined within the Task force
	Define the competencies of consultants and the sources of these competences to make them transparent and accountable	January-December 2018	To be determined within the Task force
Improving the quality of TA through training of consultants, monitoring missions and	Advocate with providers / ministries to integrate training and upgrade consultants in future TA programs		To be determined within the Task force
evaluating results	Improve the definition of the responsibilities of providers, consultants, beneficiaries in the monitoring of the quality of missions and definition of common evaluation modalities	September-December 2017	To be determined within the Task force
	To systematize the ante and post-mission on the evolution of competences	January-December 2018	All TSF

Focus	Reflections and Advocacies	Period	Responsible
The sustainability of TA achievements through better transfer of competences from	Create an Independent Evaluation Mechanism	January-December 2018	To be determined within the Task force
TAs to CSOs, enhancement of community expertise and sharing experiences between actors	Define and unlimited the areas of competence of each TA provider in relation to the needs of beneficiaries	June-August 2017	Regional platform
involved	Strengthen the regular exchange between TA providers on new missions Promote identification of qualified focal points	September-December 2017	All DAT
	within beneficiary organizations	June-August 2017	All DAT
	Systematically insert into the mission program a transfer of skills to the beneficiary organizations	September-December 2017	All DAT
	Encourage the development of a knowledge and know-how management system within organizations, among themselves	January-December 2018	All DAT and regional platform
	Capitalize and share best practices between		Regional Platform in
	TA providers and CSO	January-December 2018	collaboration with DATs

List of participants

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