

Strengthening Community Led Monitoring Interventions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

STRATEGIC VISION

INTRODUCTION

This strategic vision provides general recommendations on improvement of the Community Led Monitoring interventions in Central Asian countries.

The strategic vision is informed by the report “COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING. View of Non-Governmental Organizations. Results of a survey of representatives of NGOs working in the field of HIV in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan” elaborated by Health Advocacy Coalition (HAC).

The purpose of the strategic vision is to define a strategic conceptual vision on implementation of CLM that is an integral part of national HIV response, as well as describe bold recommendations and areas of interventions/actions.

As a result of implementation of the strategic vision it is hypothesized to contribute to better implementation of CLM with focus on the following results:

- CLM is institutionalized with the operation of Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations, who are capacitated in implementation of structural CLM, have understanding, resources and instruments for its implementations.
- Policies and systematic functions integrate CLM as a core intervention of national HIV responses, recognize its importance, and provide sufficient resources for its implementation.
- Both external and internal factors that impede implementation of CLM are addressed and an enabling environment is established.

This strategic vision is a framework document that provides general directions and requires further elaboration with detailed action plan and activities.

CONCEPTUAL VISION ON INTEGRATED COMMUNITY LED MONITORING

What is CLM - Community Led Monitoring is an internal accountability mechanism for national HIV responses, that aims to inform national policies and strategies.

CLM data builds evidence on what works well, what is not working and what needs to be improved, with suggestions for targeted action to improve outcomes.

Integrated CLM - Quality and structured CLM can be implemented only if recognized by national systems and integrated across its major functions. In order to implement a quality CLM of an integrated nature, the system functions should ensure following:

- **Policy and Strategic Framework** - National Policy and Strategy in the field of HIV integrates obligations and political support for CLM on national level, through prioritizing it with national strategic and action plans. National policy and strategy recognise CLM as an essential instrument of monitoring of quality of services, level of access to services, human rights violations, etc.
- **Financing of CLM** - sufficient and sustainable financial resources are allocated for implementation of CLM and channelled to communities for its implementation.
- **Legal Framework** - national legal and regulatory framework recognises CLM as an essential instrument for generating strategic information for informed decision making. Further communities and their unique capacities are recognised by national legal and regulatory framework as provides/implementers of CLM. There are standards, that define what is CLM, how it is implemented, and how its results are used for informing strategies and actions.
- **Governance and Decision Making** - key coordination and decision-making structures meaningfully engage communities, ensuring their representation in core decision making groups/committees, and establishing environment where decisions are influenced by community.
- **Accountability** - national accountability mechanisms integrate CLM, and national surveillance and monitoring systems include CLM as a routine instrument for data collection and generation.

GROUNDS FOR APPLYING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CLM

The report “COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING. View of Non-Governmental Organizations. Results of a survey of representatives of NGOs working in the field of HIV in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan” summarizes key aspects and gaps in implementation of quality CLM in selected countries. The findings outlined in the report create a ground for applying integrated approach to implementation of the community led monitoring, with purpose to ensure its quality nature and on the other hand to sustain CLM as an instrument informing advocacy and further decision making. On one hand these grounds are related to the emerging need to strengthen and institutionalize CLM with community based and civil society organizations, while on the other hand they highlight necessity of integrating CLM into national systems.

The findings and conclusions of the report can be grouped in three major directions:

1. First and foremost, report describes lack of understanding and systematic approach to implementation of CLM by CSOs and CBOs in all three countries and outlines the need to invest into capacity building of organizations, in order them being able to implement quality CLM with respective follow-up advocacy and communication. Report also describes the need of capacity building of individuals, to equip them with the skills on analysing and interpreting the collected data and translating it into the evidence.
2. Secondly, report highlights the fact that in all three countries, there is lack of state support to CLM interventions, including lack of or no funding available within the state resources. This directly questions the sustainability of CLM, especially in transition period, as most international donors reduce their funding.
3. Lastly, report summarizes that in all three countries, there is the gap in recognition of CLM generated data by stakeholders, including ability of CLM to influence decisions and inform strategies in line with the interests of communities in need.

Thus, based on the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report ‘COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING. View of Non-Governmental Organizations. Results of a survey of representatives of NGOs working in the field of HIV in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan’ this document provides strategic vision and offers strategic directions to be implemented with purpose to ensure quality, sustainable and integrated CLM in three selected countries.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Proposed theory change is built around five successive principles that lead to quality and structured CLM, that is an integral part of national HIV response.

In order to achieve the context where national HIV response considers ground level needs of PLHIV and KP communities, and its policies and strategies are based on the CLM generated data and information, the following principles should be ensured

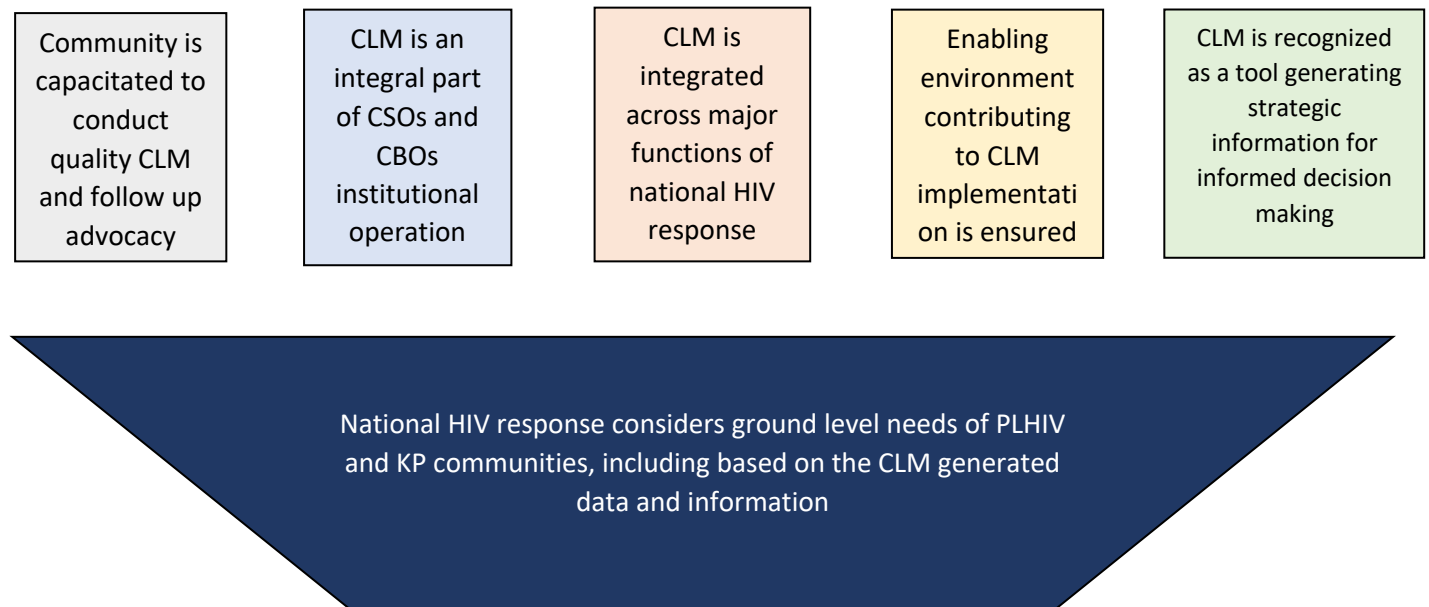
First, community representatives and their constituents should be equipped with skills and capacitated to be able to implement quality CLM, as well as ability to translate CLM generated data into evidence and implement follow-up evidence-based advocacy and communication.

Secondly, CLM should be an integral part of institutional operation of civil society and community-based organizations.

Thirdly, major functions of national HIV response should integrate CLM and provide continuous support to its implementation.

Fourth, on national level enabling environment should be formed to ensure that CLM is continuously implemented, including allocating sufficient funding for CLM, as well as creating policy, strategy and legal framework.

Fifth, CLM should be recognized as an integral part of national surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems, and a strategic instrument for generating information that informs decision making while forming national policies and strategies.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Based on the findings described in the report "COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING. View of Non-Governmental Organizations" and defined theory of change, the following strategic directions are recommended to be implemented in order to ensure continuous, quality and integrated CLM in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan:

Strategic Direction 1. Assessment of Level of Implementation and Systematic Integration of Community Led Monitoring (CLM).

As previously mentioned the findings of the report "COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING. View of Non-Governmental Organizations" outline lack of state support to CLM interventions, putting under the risk the sustainability of CLM, as well as its ability to influence decisions. Thus with purpose to clearly understand the current level integration of CLM on systematic level and what are the facilitators and obstacles to CLM, we recommend to conduct the mentioned assessment.

This assessment is envisaged to act as an ground level evidence to facilitate dialogue and further actions towards integrating and sustaining CLM on national level in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The following interventions are recommended within this strategic direction:

- 1.1. To conduct assessment of level of implementation and systematic integration of CLM, based on the proposed Analytical Framework and Study Protocol.
- 1.2. To produce cross-country synthesis report
- 1.3. To widely disseminate the report
- 1.4. To convince national and international partners to invest into strategic integration of CLM across major functions of HIV response

Strategic Direction 2. Elaborate CLM integration roadmap

The purpose of the strategic direction is to define key actions required for recognition, strategic integration and sustainable implementation of CLM on country level.

National level roadmaps should be elaborated in all three countries. Roadmap elaboration should be based on results of the survey "COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING. View of Non-Governmental Organizations. Results of a survey of representatives of NGOs working in the field of HIV in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan", as well as results of the "Assessment of Level of Implementation and Systematic Integration of Community Led Monitoring".

The following interventions are recommended within this strategic direction:

- 2.1. To elaborate roadmap for CLM integration

2.2. To define core legal and regulatory changes required ensuring recognition of CLM as part of strategic information for informed decision making

2.3. To define sustainable financing sources and mechanisms for CLM across national and international funding sources

2.4. To define core accountability features to data and information generated within CLM

2.5. To conduct an advocacy for integration of CLM across major systematic functions of HIV response (policy and strategy, governance and leadership, financing, legal framework, accountability)

Strategic Direction 3. Capacitate CSOs and CBOs for quality implementation of CLM

The purpose of this strategic direction is to capacitate community based and civil society organizations on implementation of quality CLM, including its integration into their institutional work, as one of the major tasks.

As outlined in the findings of the survey “COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING. View of Non-Governmental Organizations. Results of a survey of representatives of NGOs working in the field of HIV in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan” one of the major challenges in CLM implementation is lack of organizational and individual capacity within communities and community-based and civil society organizations.

Thus, we recommend to focus on systematic capacity building of CSOs, CBOs and individual community leaders to equip them with the key skillset on CLM implementation and follow-up advocacy.

The following interventions are recommended within this strategic direction:

3.1. Capacitate CSOs and CBOs on implementation of quality CLM, including following actions:

- identifying needs
- collecting information
- Analyzing and interpreting collected information and suggesting solutions
- Disseminating information
- Implementing advocacy
- Monitoring the results and achievements

3.2. Provide technical assistance for CSOs and CBOs on institutionalization and implementation of CLM