

4. Example: international workshop provides candour and collaboration

Context

Assessing the capacity of recipients of global financing to pinpoint their TS needs can be threatening for members of staff who are under the microscope. This can lead to over-reporting of successes and strengths, and under-reporting of failures or weaknesses. One proven way to avoid these pitfalls is to enable recipients to analyse their own capacity and needs, rather than bringing in outsiders to assess organizational capacity. It should be stressed to recipients, however, that openness is the best option as the ultimate purpose of the analysis is to strengthen their capacity to successfully implement programmes.



Technical support

In 2007, the International HIV/AIDS Alliances' Global Fund Grant Support Group held a workshop that brought together four Principal Recipients of Global Fund grants: organizations from Ukraine, Senegal, South Africa and India. The participants were encouraged to share experiences and identify their own technical support needs. For each stage of the Fund's grant management cycle, they presented their experiences and highlighted challenges faced in such areas as procurement, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation.

At each stage, the Support Group highlighted strategic options available to them, allowing participants to reflect on the choices they made and what they might have done differently. Participants then identified lessons learnt. These were all documented as a checklist for Principal Recipients, with "do's and don'ts" for each stage of the grant management cycle.



Results

Principal Recipient managers were able to identify their different and shared challenges and technical support needs. They then assessed whether they could address these needs by themselves, or with the help of each other, or from external sources of TS. Finally, they included TS plans in their programmes and budgeted for them. Participants agreed that this process was successful and fostered learning and collaboration among groups from different world regions.