

*Candidate Statement***Section A. Contact Information**

Country	USA
Name	Alka Dev
Position/ Organization	Independent Contractor
Email	alkaconsultant@gmail.com

Section B. Statement of intent (max. 300 words)

In no more than 300 words, please describe how your professional background makes you a suitable candidate for this post and also describe what you would like to achieve if you were elected to this post.

I have over 10 years of experience working with US non-governmental organizations to develop, manage and evaluate programs for health system capacity building and outreach to marginalized and vulnerable populations. The main components of my work experience have been provider training to improve knowledge and quality of care, health policy advocacy and analysis, and health status improvement of women, children with special needs, ethnically marginalized communities, and those at risk for TB and HIV infection.

Over the past five years, I have worked on several aspects of TB programming including assisting NTPs to develop strategic plans, coordinating the development and submission of GFATM proposals, developing provider trainings in TB and the DOTS strategy and piloting approaches to improve access to TB services for poor and marginalized communities such as incentives, community mobilization, and behavior change communication. Based on my experience in reproductive health and HIV prevention, I have been interested in engaging individuals and groups affected by TB both at the community level and at the health system level (such as doctors and nurses who find it difficult to work with TB patients due to limited skills, knowledge and resources).

In a position on the core group of the ACSM at country level sub group, I hope to use my experience in assisting NTPs to develop sound and realistic ACSM strategies but also to identify and apply innovative strategies to form partnerships with communities and advocacy groups for improved TB programs. Further, I would like to explore ways in which grassroots organizations can be mobilized to work with NTPs in bringing quality care to those most at need.

Section C. Short biography (max. 300 words)

In this section, please provide a short biography outlining your academic background, professional experience, and any major project/initiative that highlight your knowledge of advocacy, communication and social mobilization at country level.

My work in TB began in 2003 in Kosovo where I helped to prepare the country proposal to GFATM and secured funding to expand the NTP's activities and function. I also worked with the Kosovar and Romanian NTPs to implement TB control projects focused on training of providers in TB, inclusion of ethnic minorities into the national strategy, operations research for quality control and TB education and communication. In 2006, I built upon my experience in Romania and Kosovo to develop a TB project in Mexico with an emphasis on integration of ethnic minorities and extremely poor communities and TB education and communication. In Romania, I also led the development of the country proposal to GFATM and secured funds for the development of a national ACSM strategy. My most recent work in Mexico has been to develop a community TB care strategy for rural and ethnic minority communities, which is currently being piloted.

In 2006, I also led an ACSM workshop at the 37th Union World Conference on Lung Health. I have been a member of the country level ACSM sub group since 2006 and have attended the past two working group meetings. Currently, I am providing technical assistance on TB operations research in Romania, community TB care in Mexico, and GFATM proposal development in Vietnam.

I graduated with a Masters from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in 1998. Since then, I have worked in areas of blindness prevention, HIV prevention, reproductive health promotion and most recently, TB prevention and control.