

TRP Review

Approaches Manual

How the TRP differentiates
funding request reviews

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this manual is to provide Technical Review Panel (TRP) members with a detailed description of how the TRP reviews the different types of funding requests submitted to the Global Fund. The TRP conducts its reviews in accordance with the [Global Fund Strategy 2023-2028](#), the [TRP Terms of Reference and its annexed Review Criteria](#), while applying a differentiated approach across different country contexts. This manual covers the review approaches for the five types of funding requests which countries can submit to the Global Fund to access their allocation funding: Full Review, Tailored for National Strategic Plans, Tailored for Focused Portfolios, Tailored for Transition and Program Continuation. In addition, it describes the review approach for Prioritized Above Allocation Requests (PAAR) and PAAR updates, and for TRP clarifications; funding requests related to Catalytic Investments (CI) (namely Matching Fund Requests, Strategic Initiatives (SIs) and Multicountry requests); the TRP's engagement under the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) and other initiatives.

Prior to this document we recommend reading the Introduction to the TRP: A practical guide for members which gives an overview of the role, mandate, governance, management, and operations of the TRP (this is an internal document that will be shared during the Induction to TRP members).

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1. TRP's mandate and review criteria

The Global Fund operates in three-year allocation cycles where financial resources mobilized from donors (a process known as Replenishment) are allocated to eligible countries. These countries then engage in an inclusive consultative process at country level to develop and submit funding requests to the Global Fund in order to access the funds allocated to them.

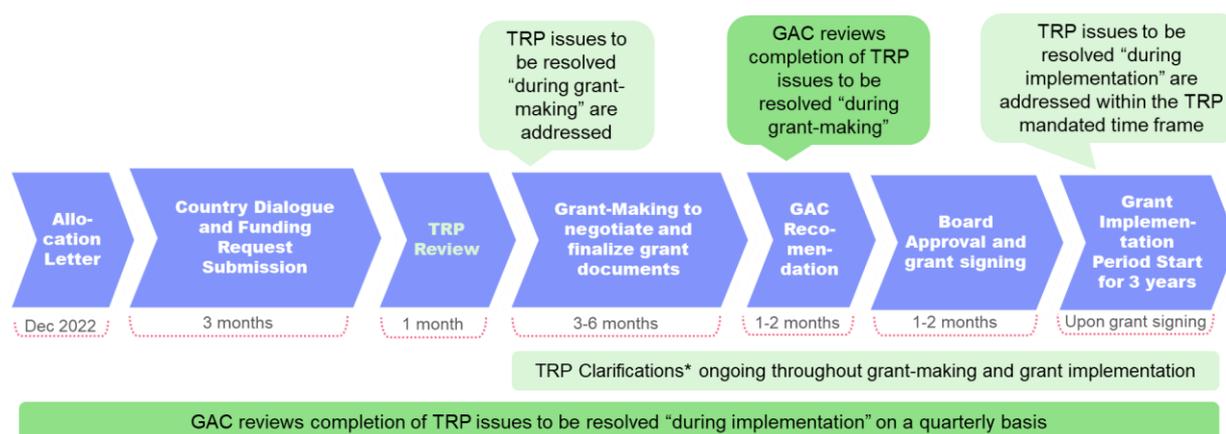
The TRP is an independent, impartial team of experts appointed by the Strategy Committee (SC) of the Global Fund with the responsibility to conduct a rigorous technical assessment of funding requests.

The TRP reviews funding requests to ensure investments proposed for Global Fund financing are strategically focused, technically sound, have potential for achieving the highest impact and are poised for sustainability. The TRP conducts its work in line with the TRP TORs and in its annexed Review Criteria, approved by the Strategy Committee. The review criteria are aligned with the [Global Fund Strategy 2023 – 2028: Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World](#) to ensure that the TRP's assessment of funding requests occur within the strategic priorities set by the Global Fund Board. The TRP reviews look for complementarity and coordination of the Global Fund investments with other investments in the country. The scope and depth of TRP reviews are tailored to the country context and type of funding request – in line with the Global Fund's commitment to applying differentiation in its funding model.

Annex 1 of this Review Approaches Manual provides a set of questions to serve as a guiding tool of how TRP members can apply the review criteria in line with the Applicant Guidance Materials. In addition to the detailed TRP Review Criteria, the guiding questions provide applicants greater understanding of the overall framework against which their funding requests would be assessed.

The TRP's independent expert reviews of funding requests provide assurance to the Global Fund's Board that investments are prioritized towards the highest impact interventions in the given country context, ensuring value for money and achieve results. In this regard, the TRP review is an important checkpoint in the grant life cycle that provides rigorous, independent technical assessment and recommendations to strengthen quality of programs. TRP reviews also provide the Secretariat, applicants, technical partners and other stakeholders in the Global Fund Partnership with leverage to drive key actions during the grant cycle (see Fig.1).

Figure 1: How the TRP review fits in the Global Fund grant cycle (Catalytic Investments or C19RM reviews are not included)



1.1 New elements in 2023-2025 cycle

The new Global Fund [Strategy \(2023-2028\)](#) primarily aims to accelerate impact to end AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, with a particular focus on making catalytic investments and leveraging innovations to spur faster progress in reducing new infections, addressing structural barriers to improved disease program outcomes and building equity, sustainability and lasting impact. The new Strategy puts people and communities at the center of the partnership's work and reiterates the importance of building more inclusive, resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH), addressing gender inequality and ensuring protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) in the implementation of programs. To strengthen action in these aspects, three new elements will be part of the TRP review process in the 2023-2025 cycle:

- **Gender Equality Marker (GEM):** The Global Fund Board decided to implement a Gender Equality Marker (an international checklist of gender-related criteria) to track and report on plans for gender equality at funding request stage and during grant implementation. The TRP has been assigned the task of providing a GEM score for every funding request. Further guidance on how the TRP will assess and score funding proposals, based on a set of minimum criteria adopted by the Global Fund Board, can be found here ([Link forthcoming](#)).
- **Program Essentials (PE):** These are key evidence-based intervention areas and approaches to accelerate the achievement of the ambitious goals set out in the Global Fund's Strategy and other HIV, TB and malaria global strategies. More information can be found in the [HIV, TB and malaria core information notes](#). When part of national programs, PE will support countries to achieve their national targets. They can be funded either by the Global Fund or other sources. The applicants will provide self-assessment of their progress of achievement of PE for HIV and TB. The TRP review will consider an applicant's level of advancement towards fulfilling PE.

- **Protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH):** All applicants identify program-related risk(s) of SEAH and propose corresponding mitigation measures during the country dialogue to be included in funding request submission. In the 2023-2025 allocation period, TRP review of assessment on SEAH will be introduced as a pilot for a sub-set of countries and lessons learned will be documented. In the pilot countries, close review of the alignment of the funding requests with the risk assessment and mitigation tool will be undertaken by TRP members recruited for their PSEAH expertise. Please refer to the [Guidance Note on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment](#).

1.2 Important considerations for TRP reviews

In its review of funding requests, the TRP takes into account the following important considerations:

- **COVID-19 impact and response:** The TRP considers the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the HIV, TB and malaria epidemiological trends and vulnerabilities over the 2020-2022 funding cycle as well as the mitigating actions, pandemic preparedness (PP) and health system strengthening actions implemented through the C19RM funds.
- **Significant changes in allocation amount:** In cases where country allocations have been significantly increased or decreased, the TRP should pay special attention - even in situations of good performance - to issues related to absorption, sustainability, etc. presented for the TRP in the Global Fund Secretariat Briefing Note (SBN, a document for internal use only). The TRP considers sustainability in its reviews of all funding requests.
- **Regression or stagnation of epidemic control and/or elimination:** In cases where disease trends are negative or stagnant, the TRP review should attempt to get to the root causes of the situation, through its application of the review criteria in the given country/program context. The TRP also considers the previous TRP recommendations and assesses whether or not they have been progressed or if they have not been implemented.
- **Challenging operating environment (COE) countries:** For countries classified by the Global Fund as a COE, the TRP tailors its review taking into account the context of the country and the special flexibilities made available to the country, for example related to greater risk tolerance, implementing partners, assurance providers or short-term planning. For more information about COE, please refer to the [Operational Policy Note on COE](#).

2. TRP review process

2.1 Overview of the TRP review process

The TRP organizes its serving members in small review groups to review funding requests submitted to a review window. The TRP Leadership, Focal Points (FPs) and the Secretariat

ensure that the group composition includes the key expertise needed for the specific funding request review. As such, the number of members in the group varies depending on the type of funding request. For instance, for joint funding requests (e.g., TB/HIV or malaria/RSSH), the group composition would include 1-2 reviewers with expertise in the corresponding components¹. For funding requests where TRP will be engaged in pilot of review of approaches to protect from SEAH, additional members with expertise in PSEAH can be included in the review group. Wherever possible, review groups utilize reviewers with experience in more than one area of expertise.

For funding requests that warrant more in-depth TRP engagement, the review group size may increase accordingly. For instance, depending on the amount invested in the funding request on PP, an expert in this area may be in the group. Alternatively, a member with expertise in PP may be deployed to support across more than one funding request, with responsibility of providing inputs as relevant to the review group.

Each TRP review group has a Primary and a Secondary reviewer who facilitate discussions and lead finalization of the Review and Recommendation Form:

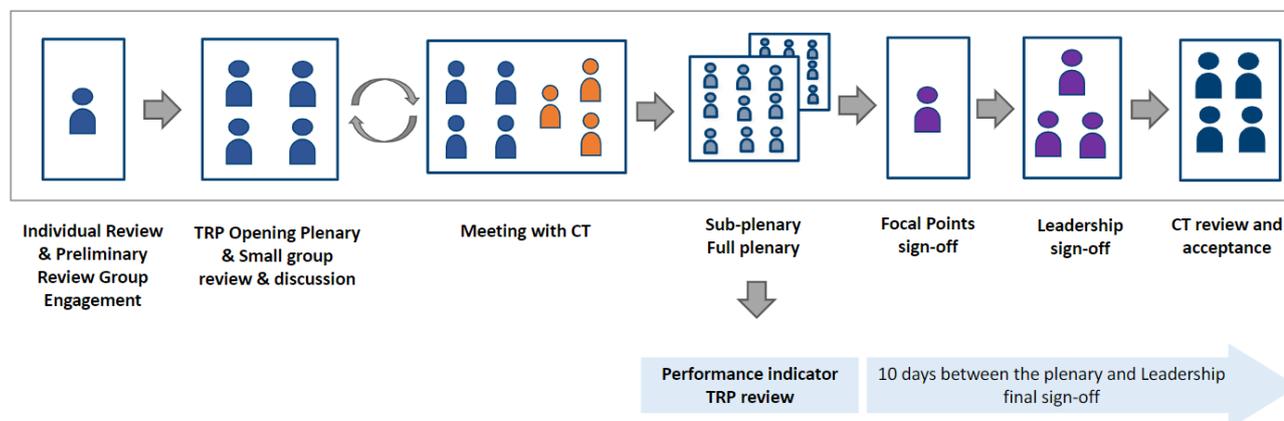
- **Primary Reviewers:** Their key responsibilities are to facilitate discussions in the review group, organize an effective result-oriented process, and encourage an inclusive participation of all group members during the group meetings and plenary sessions. The Primary Reviewers ensure that a first remote meeting of the review group happens during the 10 days prior the start of the review window. The Primary Reviewers ensure a differentiated review based on the funding request's type. They lead the group's processes and meetings and ensure the discussions with the Global Fund Secretariat's Country Teams (CTs) are highly prioritized. They are responsible for managing the drafting of the TRP Review and Recommendation Form and ensuring that the recommendations (issues and actions) are appropriately prioritized. Finally, they present the draft TRP Review and Recommendation Form to the TRP membership during plenary discussion and ensuring that the feedback and outcomes from plenary are reflected in the finalization of the TRP Review and Recommendation Form.
- **Secondary Reviewers:** They support the Primary Reviewers in coordinating group discussions and preparing the TRP Review and Recommendation Form, and are assigned tasks by the Primary reviewer, typically organizing the PAAR review and managing other tasks, e.g., extracting lessons learned. The Secondary Reviewers also ensure that all group members complete a survey about the quality of the funding request and submit it to the Secretariat in a timely manner.

The different steps of the standard review process (see Fig. 2) include: individual review and preliminary review group engagement; TRP opening plenary and small group review and discussions; meeting with the Secretariat Country Team (CT); sub- and full plenary

¹ The Global Fund raises funds on a three-year cycle for responses to the HIV, TB and malaria epidemics and in reinforcing resilient and sustainable systems for health. These are known as "components" and countries where the Global Fund invests take the lead in determining where and how to best fight the three diseases and present funding application for review by different Global Fund structured based on these components.

discussions; sign-off by FPs and Leadership; CT review and acceptance. The TRP Leadership - consisting of a Chair and two Vice-Chairs - provide overall oversight on the TRP review process.

Figure 2: Standard steps of TRP review process



Step 1: Individual Review and Preliminary Review Group Engagement

The TRP members selected to review a given funding request receive the application documents 10 days prior to the review meeting. They are expected to read all the documents related to the funding request and, on that basis, to commence their individual review of the funding request during this period.

Following their individual review of the funding request, and in line with the schedule agreed by the Primary Reviewer, TRP members from the review group send to the Primary Reviewer a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of the funding request, as well as questions to be discussed with the CT. These questions or areas for discussion could relate to matters that are not covered in any of the documentation and require clarification for quality assessment of the funding request to be conducted in line with TRP review criteria.

Most Primary Reviewers will convene a remote meeting, ahead of the TRP Window, at a time convenient to review group members so that the group can discuss in advance the key questions and areas of discussion that needs to be highlighted to the CT. The Primary Reviewer should ensure the prioritization of areas of discussion with the CT and consolidate them in the following categories: (a) clarification questions; (b) gaps or missing information in the funding request documentation that would help TRP decision making; (c) key issues from the CT SBN requiring discussion, including exploring in more depth issues covered in the SBN. When the areas of discussion with CT are defined, the Primary Reviewer should submit them so the CT can prepare answers in advance of its meeting with the review group.

Step 2: TRP Opening Plenary and Small Group Review and Discussion:

Step 2a. TRP Opening Plenary: The TRP review meeting starts with an opening session, convened by the TRP Chair where the TRP discuss the overall agenda of the review window and receive any required information briefings from the Secretariat. In addition, TRP members engage with Technical Partners and Secretariat technical teams² around normative guidance, and other contextual information that could support the TRP review while respecting the independence of the TRP. Such additional contextual information for TRP members may include regional disease trends, key challenges in implementation noted by technical partners and opportunities for enhancing impact.

Step 2b. Small group review and discussion: Following the opening or introductory day of the TRP review window, review groups have 2 days during which they meet to discuss the funding request, gather information – especially from the meeting with the CT – complete their assessment and draft the TRP outcome (TRP Review and Recommendation Form) for presentation in the plenary. If the questions or areas for discussion with the CT had not been submitted (at Step 1) for the CT’s attention, they are consolidated at this stage by the Primary Reviewer according to the following categories: (a) clarification questions; (b) gaps or missing information in the funding request documentation that would help TRP decision making; (c) key issues requiring discussion, including exploring in more depth issues covered in the SBN. The Primary Reviewer then submits them so the CT can prepare answers in advance of its meeting with the review group.

The TRP review group reviews the PAAR and provides an assessment of the priority of elements that are quality demand and should be allocated funds if resources become available. The review group also completes the survey assessing the quality of the funding request and the GEM. During these days the review group may consult with FPs or Leadership for steer if needed (e.g., if there is major disagreement among review group members).

Step 3: Meeting with the CT:

This meeting enables the CT to provide additional contextual information on the funding request in response to the questions the review group submitted for the CT’s attention. The meetings are structured around prioritized areas of discussion compiled by the Primary Reviewers. Secretariat technical experts may participate in the meetings with the CT and TRP.

After meeting with the CT, the review group completes and submits the TRP Review and Recommendation Form for discussion in the TRP sub-plenary. Before the sub-plenaries, all TRP members are requested to read the draft TRP Review and Recommendation Form

² Technical Advisory Partnerships (TAP), Community Rights and Gender (CRG), Health Finance and Sustainability (HFS)

of other review groups and to provide their comments if any in a virtual Discussion Board³ made available to them.

Step 4: Sub-and Full Plenary:

Sub-plenary: The sub-plenary is the forum where review groups present and discuss their Review and Recommendation Forms with a larger group of TRP experts to ensure that their recommendations on the funding request respond to the TRP review criteria, are evidence-based, prioritized and strategic, i.e., they are focused on the major weaknesses of the funding request that need to be addressed in order for the program to be technically sound, strategically focused, to deliver impact and be poised for sustainability. Moreover, they are clear, feasible, aligned with normative and technical guidance, and aligned to the expectations for the funding request modality.

During the session, the Primary Reviewers (or their delegate) present the TRP Review and Recommendation Form, providing a brief description of the funding request and the proposed issues to be raised by the TRP. The TRP Vice Chairs facilitate the discussion, engaging all TRP members in discussion to reach a decision on the funding request by consensus, moving to a vote in rare cases where consensus is not achieved.

Step 4b. Full plenary: This is a formal closing of the TRP deliberations that takes place after the sub-plenaries and facilitated by the TRP Chair. All funding request reviews outcomes from the sub-plenaries are presented to the full plenary for information. In this session, TRP members discuss outliers, cases where there were critical challenges in TRP processes or disagreements in the sub-plenary and that may require inputs from other TRP members in the full plenary, and points identified as lessons learned that could be further discussed by the TRP during its lessons learned session at the end of the review meeting.

After the full plenary, each review group revises the TRP Review and Recommendation Form to incorporate the steer provided by the plenary. The Global Fund Secretariat provides editorial support on the Form.

Step 5: FP sign off

TRP Leadership, in consultation with the Secretariat and FPs, assigns sign-off responsibility to FPs on specific funding requests. FPs undertake a quality check of the TRP Review and Recommendation Form to ensure alignment with normative guidance and recommendations made in the TRP sub-plenary and support consistency across TRP reviews in their technical area of expertise. Before they sign off the TRP Review and Recommendation Form, FPs might request revisions and to see the Form again; they may consult each other and/or TRP Leadership if needed, e.g., if there is no consensus among

³ The Discussion Board is an IT platform that supports peer review deliberations on technical issues across TRP review groups and this discussion is continued in the TRP sub-plenaries.

review group members. Technical support from FPs, TRP leadership or other TRP experts can be called upon for a specific issue at this stage.

Step 6: Leadership sign-off

The TRP Chair or Vice Chair assigned to a given funding request conducts the final review and signs off the review outcome, ensuring that the TRP Review and Recommendation Form is in line with plenary discussions and adheres to the guidelines for each funding request application type. During FP and Leadership sign off processes the review group may be requested to adjust the TRP Review and Recommendation Form.

The Access to Funding (A2F) Department supports the TRP to ensure an effective and independent review process. A2F provides guidance on Global Fund policies as needed during TRP plenaries and A2F staff work with TRP review groups to ensure a consistent level of quality across TRP Review and Recommendation Forms and sufficient focus on differentiation approach. They ensure that TRP members have access to the TRP Review and Recommendation Forms and guidance documents and facilitate the discussion between the TRP and CTs during the TRP review meetings.

Step 7: CT review and acceptance

The CT receives the TRP Review and Recommendation Form, along with the template ('CT comments on TRP Review Form') asking the CT to flag on the following concerns, if any, including:

- TRP recommendations and issues to be addressed during grant-making that are not clear, feasible, or actionable;
- Any inaccuracies or mis-statements regarding existing grants;
- Any issues or language that the CT may find politically sensitive and that may need to be nuanced

The TRP Review and Recommendation Form is shared with the CT for clarification purposes and not to reopen the assessment of the application or to negotiate TRP decision on the funding request. The feedback received from the CT is shared with the TRP review group with the understanding that the TRP reserves the right to discuss and consider the comments and suggestions or not, as it deems appropriate.

2.2 Exceptional 'early TRP engagement' prior and during the submission of the funding request

In specific cases that warrant more in-depth TRP engagement, the review process may include the following:

- **A TRP early engagement with the CT prior to submission of the funding request:**
The CT may request an early engagement with the TRP prior to the review of a funding request, and accordingly submits a high-level concept note of 1-3 pages describing the

proposed strategies and interventions for the disease program. TRP early engagement is offered by the TRP only in cases where the value added of engaging the TRP is clear and is guided by specific questions from the CT. The TRP provides comments and recommendations on the concept note to serve as initial technical steer to the CT as they advise the applicant on the development of the funding request. In these cases, some and ideally all the review group members that participated in the TRP early engagement will be part of the review group assigned to review the funding request when it is submitted for TRP review.

- **Additional engagement with the CT during the TRP review of the funding request:** In addition to meeting with the CT once the review of the funding request has started (as noted above), the TRP in some cases may request further meeting/s with the CT to obtain responses on outstanding questions and ensure that more ambitious recommendations in contexts of low performance and/or challenging environments are feasible to implement.

Annex 2 describes the process for TRP early engagement prior to submission or during the TRP review of the funding request.

2.3 Key Performance Indicators for TRP reviews

TRP reports annually to the SC on its performance, specifically on the effectiveness and efficiency with which the TRP delivers on its mandate. Timely finalization of the TRP Review and Recommendation Form is a key performance indicator (KPI) against which the TRP reports its performance, with the target of: “at least 80% of final TRP forms should be cleared by TRP and accepted by Country Teams within 10 working days of the final TRP plenary” of the review window.

Figure 3 below illustrates the estimated maximum time assigned to each of the steps of the TRP process to allow the TRP to meet the KPI target.

Figure 3: Estimated timeline for complying with the KPI



2.4 Outcome of TRP review process

The TRP Review and Recommendation Form is the main vehicle for communicating the TRP review outcomes to the applicants, the Secretariat, technical partners, and the Global Fund Board. It captures the outcomes of the TRP review process and reflects the TRP’s technical expertise under its independent mandate. It provides the Board with assurance

that the proposed investment is technically sound, strategically focused, will maximize impact and is poised for sustainability. It provides the Secretariat with the authority and mandate to drive key actions during grant making and implementation. Finally, it highlights areas that should be addressed by the applicant and/or the Secretariat and Technical partners to strengthen country programs or for regular follow-up and tracking of progress during the implementation of the grant.

Following its review, the TRP makes one of two possible recommendations on the funding request: (1) recommended for grant-making or (2) recommended for iteration.

Different components of joint funding requests can have different recommendations, i.e., partial recommendation for grant-making and partial iteration. Additionally, the TRP may recommend iteration of Matching Funds, if included in the funding request, or PAAR, even if the funding request is recommended for grant-making. The rationale for the recommendation is presented in the TRP Review and Recommendation Form that is shared with the Secretariat, GAC and applicant.

Recommended for grant-making

This outcome implies the country can proceed to work with the Secretariat to negotiate a grant (or more than one grant) in line with the modules and interventions in the funding request reviewed by the TRP, considering any actions or clarifications requested by the TRP. The TRP makes a recommendation for grant-making if it finds that the funding request meets one of the following attributes:

- **Fulfils expectation:** The TRP finds the request to be strategically focused, technically sound, with potential for achieving the highest impact and poised for sustainability, without significant concerns relating to the review criteria.
- **Has minor concern/s:** The TRP finds the request to be technically sound, strategically focused, poised for sustainability and positioned to achieve maximum impact, with some minor programmatic concerns of operational and/or technical nature. In accordance with the differentiated approach to TRP reviews and the focus of TRP reviews at a strategic level, the TRP does not include a recommendation to address a minor concern, except where there is a strong rationale that a specific action may contribute to improvement in the quality of the country program.
- **Has major concern/s that can be addressed through clarifications:** The TRP identifies major weaknesses in the funding request that may reduce the program quality. However, such concerns can be addressed or clarified through discrete actions recommended by the TRP. In such cases, the TRP recommends the program to proceed to grant-making, and includes in the TRP Review and Recommendation Form:
 - Requested actions to be cleared by the TRP (i.e. when the TRP considers its leverage as the clearing body would have added value in ensuring a technical recommendation relating to strategic focus, technical soundness, potential for impact and/or sustainability of the funding request is adequately addressed. Additionally,

when the TRP previously raised similar concerns which have not been adequately addressed, the TRP would typically request for the clarifications to be cleared by the TRP itself.

- Requested actions to be cleared by the Secretariat (i.e. typically operational issues but may include less complex technical issues which the TRP opts to delegate to the Secretariat's CT to follow up on, ensuring they are addressed by the applicant in line with the directions or requested actions specified by the TRP).

The TRP ensures actions recommended are clear, feasible, sufficiently strategic to drive impact (i.e., address major weaknesses and not minor concerns). As relevant, the TRP may include additional non-mandatory actions of lower priority as supplementary advice for the applicant and CT attention. In formulating issues, the TRP considers the approach to differentiated review of funding requests. For instance, it is not expected that every review group member in a review group should come up with an issue related to their area of expertise.

The TRP ensures each issue and action requested are actionable and specifies a timeline for clearance (during grant-making or during grant implementation, for instance) taking feasibility into consideration and consulting with the CT as needed.

Recommended for iteration

The TRP recommends an iteration (resubmission) when it finds the proposed program is not technically sound and/or strategically focused and, as such, will not contribute to achieving maximum impact, and, where applicable, is not poised for sustainability due to major weaknesses identified. In this case, the major concerns identified by the TRP are such that the TRP considers a major strategic reconsideration of the request is needed to address the fundamental weaknesses identified, and that these issues cannot be addressed appropriately through the applicant coming back to the TRP and the Secretariat with clarifications.

Before recommending a funding request for iteration, the TRP carefully analyzes the benefits versus the drawbacks. Concerns about technical soundness and/or strategic focus notwithstanding, the drawbacks may include challenges for the country to promptly re-submit a funding request in time before their existing grant ends, meaning the existing, and perhaps underperforming, program requires extension. If the TRP strongly considered iteration but decided to recommend the funding request to proceed to grant-making, the TRP might be very directive in its recommendations in order to assist in the improvement of the quality of the program while requesting all or most issues and actions raised in the TRP Review and Recommendation Form to be cleared by the TRP to ensure the technical and strategic concerns identified are addressed to the TRP's satisfaction.

2.4.1 Guidance for review of iterated funding requests

Following a TRP recommendation for iteration, the applicant submits a revised funding request as well as an Applicant Response Form that summarizes how the revised funding request addresses the different recommendations raised by the TRP in the original review.

The TRP endeavors to deploy some (or all) of the reviewers that participated in the review of the original funding request to consider the iterated funding request. The review group captures its review outcome in a specific Review and Recommendation Form for iterated funding requests.

The TRP review of the revised funding request checks the following:

- Has the applicant “fully addressed” or “partially addressed” each of the recommendations raised by the TRP in the previous review?
 - If any of the recommendations have not been addressed to the satisfaction of the TRP, the TRP considers whether to include a follow-up recommended action in the TRP Review and Recommendation Form for the applicant’s attention.
- Does the TRP find any major weakness in any “new” programmatic aspect included in the revised funding request?
 - If yes, the TRP includes a recommendation in the TRP Review and Recommendation Form around this aspect.

The TRP avoids raising significantly new issues on originally proposed strategies except where new programmatic elements are introduced by the applicant in the revised funding request.

2.5 Funding request documents for TRP review

The package of core documents submitted by applicants for TRP review includes the following:

Funding Request Form	Describes the interventions that the applicant is proposing for Global Fund financing.
Programmatic Gap Table	Highlights key programmatic gaps in the National Strategic Plan (NSP) that the applicant plans to address in the current allocation cycle.
Funding Landscape Table	Provides an overview of main sources of funding (domestic and other donors) and resourcing gaps remaining in the country program.
Detailed Budget	Outlines how the applicant intends to invest the allocation funding across modules and interventions.
Performance Framework	Specifies coverage targets (outcomes and impact) to be achieved with the requested funds.

PAAR	High level interventions and budget that could not be covered within the allocation amount and which the applicant wishes to invest in to maximize impact (e.g., by increasing coverage) if additional funding is available.
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Annexes: Additional information to support the application

NSPs	Country-owned disease and health sector strategic plans that provide the goal, strategic objectives, milestones and costing of the national response over a period of time NSP is mandatory for the Tailored for NSP modality.
RSSH Gaps and Priorities	An analysis of RSSH gaps (including community systems) and how they will be addressed to ensure quality HIV, TB and malaria services, while contributing to overall health system strengthening and pandemic preparedness. This annex is compulsory for High Impact and Core countries, and optional for Focused countries (see Figure 4: Portfolio categorization).
Essential Data Tables (EDT)	Key program data pre-filled by the Secretariat and validated by applicants. High Impact and Core countries provide additional data in the HIV and TB program EDTs.
Gender assessment (If available)	A gender assessment explores the different roles, that women, men, and gender-diverse people play within society, the different opportunities and barriers they face, and the different levels of power and control over resources they have. It applies this understanding to program and policy development and service delivery, to make sure everyone benefits equitably.
Assessment of human rights-related barriers (If available)	An assessment of human rights-related barriers to services in the country and of the existing programs to reduce these barriers, including of programmatic gaps.
Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) risk assessment (mandatory for <u>pilot</u> countries)	An analysis of the potential risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH) that could affect the Global Fund-financed programs, including mitigation measures to address these risks.

Transition Workplan and other supporting documentation related to sustainability and transition (if available)	Mandatory for the modality of tailored for transition. It could be integrated in the NSP. Transition Readiness Assessments might be included.
Implementation arrangement map (if applicable)	A visual depiction of the grant or program implementation structure that shows all the entities involved program implementation, the role they play and the flow of funds, commodities, and data.

Full review funding requests also include a health product management tool that the TRP examines. Applicants are encouraged to provide other additional annexes that might be instrumental for the TRP review including, but not limited to, program reviews, various epidemiological and technical assessments, etc. The list of additional documents submitted by the applicant is provided in the List of Abbreviations and Annexes.

In addition to the main documents and annexes, applicants submit additional documents (listed below) relating to the CCM eligibility requirement that are for Secretariat review⁴. If the TRP review raises concerns that can be addressed through these additional documents, they will be provided upon request:

- Funding Priorities from Civil Society and Communities
- Country Dialogue Narrative
- Country Coordinating Mechanism’s (CCM) Endorsement of Funding Request
- CCM Statement of Compliance
- Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Risk Assessment (outside the pilot countries for the TRP SEAH review).

To support their review, TRP members also consider the following country-specific information:

- Co-financing Commitment Documentation
- Secretariat guidance and information shared with countries, such as the Allocation Letter, and the Portfolio Analysis, if available.
- A SBN if available: The SBN provides additional contextual information prepared by the Secretariat rather than the applicant (and which cannot therefore be referenced in the TRP Review and Recommendation Form as it is not shared with the applicant). The SBN is also used to convey messages and additional information from partners to the TRP.

⁴ The TRP is not required to conduct a review of these documents.

- The TRP notes that the SBN for Tailored for Focused Portfolios applications will be lighter or may not be included in the package of documents for the TRP, as the CTs may have no further information or capacity to add to what is presented in the funding request. The Portfolio Analysis, produced by the CTs for the dialogue with the applicant, will be provided to the TRP if available.
- C19RM approved grants (notably review reports) as well as progress reports to ensure alignment with core funding requests.
- TRP Review and Recommendation Form from the previous funding cycle and progress of the implementation.
- TRP Clarification Form(s).
- Approved or updated PAAR and their review forms from the previous cycle.

Documents that the TRP members need to read and be fully conversant with in the conduct of any TRP review:

- Most recent normative guidance and information about the country context as this should inform the TRP deliberations.
- [Global Fund policies](#), procedures and guidance, including [Information Notes, Technical Briefs and Guidance Notes](#).

3. TRP approach to reviewing different portfolios

3.1 Introduction to the different portfolios

The Global Fund’s funding model uses a differentiation framework that recognizes countries differ in terms of disease burden, operating environment, size of Global Fund’s investments, and fiduciary and programmatic risks. The differentiation framework recognizes the need to balance the time spent developing and reviewing funding requests, negotiating, and finalizing grant awards and ultimately the time available for grant implementation in the Global Fund end-to-end grant management process. For the TRP, the goal of differentiation in its reviews is to streamline and tailor the review process to key information required for strategic decision-making to help improve the quality of country programs while optimizing focus, time and efforts on grant implementation. As part of the differentiation framework, countries eligible for Global Fund financing are categorized into 3 types of portfolios (high impact, core and focused) based on the size of their allocation and disease burden (see Fig. 4). The [Global Fund Operational Policy Manual](#) (Introduction section) includes the list of countries under each portfolio.

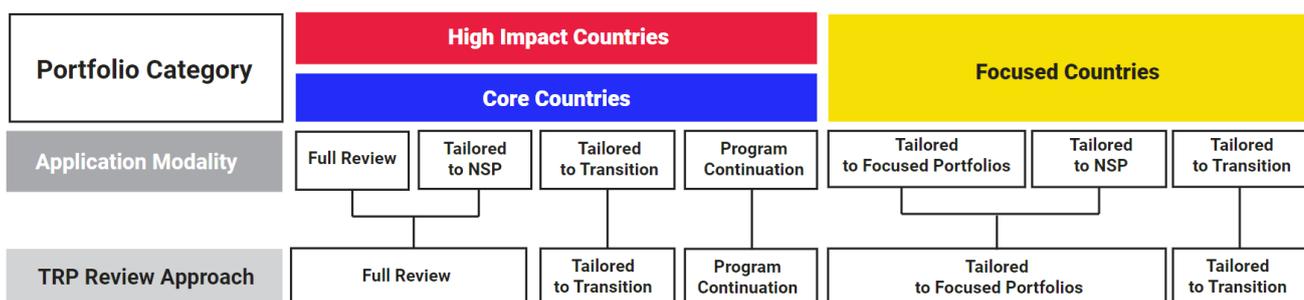
Figure 4: Portfolio categorization and management approach

		Portfolio Category		
		High Impact Countries	Core Countries	Focused Countries
Country Portfolios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very large portfolios, mission critical disease burden Portfolio allocation: >US\$250 million Ranked 1-10 in disease burden share in at least 1 disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger portfolios, higher disease burden Portfolio allocation: between US\$30 million and US\$250 million Ranked 11-30 in disease burden share in at least 1 disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller portfolios, lower disease burden Portfolio allocation: <US\$30 million Remaining portfolios (not in top 30 in disease burden share) 	
Management Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full/expanded CT support Substantial country-level presence and support of technical partners support for implementation of the country program and address recommendations related to the Global Fund supported program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full CT support Significant country-level presence and support of technical partners in implementation and addressing identified recommendations of Global Fund's supported programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined CT support: one Fund Portfolio Manager (FPM) covering 2-5 portfolios Limited country-level presence and support of technical partners 	

Ahead of each allocation period, the Grant Approval Committee (GAC) approves the most suitable type of funding request and corresponding review approach for each country component that receives an allocation. These are communicated to countries in the Allocation Letters. The applicant may propose changes to the application modality and corresponding review approaches based on the outcomes of the country dialogue.

The access to funding processes, including the application modality, the TRP review approach, the requirements in the grant making and grant management stages, are differentiated according to the different portfolio categories. Figure 5 illustrates how application and TRP review approach are differentiated under the three portfolio categories.

Figure 5: Country categories and corresponding application modality and TRP review approaches



3.2 Approach to Full Review and Tailored for National Strategic Plans (NSP) application modalities

<p>Focus and criteria of the review</p>	<p>The TRP review of funding requests from high impact and core countries through the Full Review and Tailored for NSP funding request modalities is a comprehensive review of the country strategic priorities and proposed program interventions for Global Fund investment.</p> <p>The TRP applies the same review approach to both types of applications. However, for Tailored for NSP funding requests, the disease national strategic plan(s) is the main application document while the main document for the Full Review is the funding request form.</p> <p>The TRP review assesses the funding request against the TRP Review Criteria and associated guiding questions, detailed in Annex 1. The review group verifies whether the program proposed for funding is based on robust priority-setting within the context of competing needs and resources available; i.e., that it prioritizes the most strategic and most impactful interventions that are in line with normative guidelines (technically sound) and leverage or contribute to building sustainable systems for health and approaches to set the country on track to end AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030.</p>
<p>Review group composition</p>	<p>The TRP group assigned to review a disease funding request from high impact and core countries through the Full Review and Tailored for NSP funding request modalities normally comprises of 5-6 experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 disease experts for each disease component included in the funding request • 1 equity, human rights and gender (EHRG) expert • 2 experts with RSSH and health financing and sustainability (HFS) expertise
<p>Meeting with the CT</p>	<p>In the 10-days period between when review documents are submitted to the TRP and the first day of the review window meeting, a pre-engagement between the review group and the CTs may be organized remotely. This is most relevant in the case of large portfolios (high disease burden, risk and allocation amount) where the TRP, in agreement with the Secretariat, identifies a clear need of an early discussion to facilitate its review. The objective of the pre-engagement is to help the TRP understand key particularities and challenges of the portfolio. TRP questions for this engagement do not need to be shared in advance.</p>

Sub-Plenary	The estimated discussion time for each funding request in the sub-plenary is 20 minutes for a single funding request and 30 minutes for a joint request.
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3.3 Approach to Tailored for Focused Portfolios application modality

Focus and criteria of the review	<p>The TRP’s review of Tailored for Focused Portfolios funding requests, including those submitted through Tailored for NSP modality, aims to ensure that the applicant has adequately focused its proposed program within specific investment priorities defined in advance through consultations between the Global Fund and the country. Country investment priorities for focused portfolios are specified in the allocation letter or other formal communication to the applicant. TRP review against these priorities helps ensure that limited Global Fund resources are not spread too thinly across multiple program areas, and that value for money and impact are maximized while minimizing transaction costs (Ref. OPN for Design and Review Funding Requests, Forthcoming link).</p> <p>When applying the review criteria, the TRP prioritizes issues and actions to be addressed by the applicant and encourages a limited number of focused interventions. The review recognizes that in Tailored for Focused Portfolios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it may not be feasible for the limited resources to cover all gaps identified by the TRP; • available resources should not be spread too thinly; and • funds should be directed towards a focused set of interventions aligned with national strategic priorities that to drive maximum impact, be complementary to other domestic and external funds, and contribute to sustainability, while maintaining or further reducing the proportion of management costs.
Review group composition	<p>The TRP review group includes 4 members, and the group is assigned to 2 Tailored for Focused Portfolios funding requests (as opposed to one funding request for Full Review) during the window. As needed, 1 or 2 additional reviewers may be added for joint funding requests. The TRP aims to ensure relevant expertise areas are represented in the group by including reviewers with experience in more than one area of expertise.</p> <p>Exceptionally, a review group for this TRP review approach could be assigned to only 1 funding request if it is not possible to pair with another funding request Tailored for Focused Portfolios. In this case, the group size will remain 4 members, except for funding requests of less than US\$5 million where the group size will be 3 members.</p>

Sub-Plenary	To the extent possible, a specific sub-plenary for applications Tailored for Focused Portfolios will be organized with only those TRP members conducting Focused Portfolios reviews and discussions will be grouped by (sub-)regions wherever possible. The estimated discussion time per funding request in the sub-plenary is 15 minutes for a single funding request and 25 for a joint funding request.
Issues and Actions	In line with the goal of TRP differentiated reviews explained in section 3.1, the outcome of the TRP review is a limited number of issues (strongly recommended not more than 4) and actions that focus on specific programmatic areas that need to be strengthened to maximize impact of the proposed investment to deliver against a limited range of priorities.

3.4 Approach to Tailored for Transition application modality

Focus and criteria of the review	<p>The Tailored for Transition application modality is used by countries from any Global Fund portfolio category (high impact, core or focused portfolios) as long as they are classified as transitioning from Global Fund support. As the basis for its review, the TRP notes that transition is “the process by which a country, or a country-component, moves towards fully domestic funding and implementing its health programs independent of Global Fund support while continuing to sustain the gains and scaling up as appropriate”.⁵</p> <p>Consequently, the TRP tailors its review by placing a specific focus on how the funding request sustains the gains achieved and enables the country program to implement interventions essential to end the epidemic and/or prevent resurgence after Global Fund support comes to an end.</p> <p>The funding request should be guided by the country’s transition workplan, which may be integrated in the NSP, as part of the requirements of the STC policy. The TRP review assesses the extent to which the funding request effectively identifies key challenges and supports implementation of the transition workplan ensuring sustainability:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In particular, and as appropriate to the specific context, the TRP assesses whether the funding request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports maintaining gains and continued scale-up of priority interventions by identifying and addressing key transition related financial and/or programmatic challenges (including EHRG issues). This may include adequate measures to sustain financing for specific
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⁵ [The Global Fund Sustainability, Transition and Co-financing Policy](#)

	<p>programs or interventions including for key and vulnerable populations and for community-led programming;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports transition from Global Fund financing of effective and evidence informed interventions for key and vulnerable populations, and interventions related to health equity, human rights and gender equality; • Enables strengthening of priority health system components or addresses key RSSH related challenges, including community systems strengthening, that are essential to long-term sustainability and continued success for the disease responses post-transition. <p>2. The TRP also notes differences among transition country applications including countries or disease components that recently became eligible for transition funding; countries or disease components that previously transitioned out from Global Fund financing and then became eligible again, and countries or disease components that, in consultation with CTs, are agreed to be reviewed as transition for other contextual reasons (e.g., to submit a joint proposal with another component that is in transition, because the country is projected to move to high income and may be ineligible for future Global Fund support, etc.).</p>
Review group composition	<p>The TRP review group includes 4 members, and the group is assigned to 2 Tailored for Transition funding requests (as opposed to 1 funding request for Full Review). As needed, 1 or 2 additional reviewers could be added for joint funding requests. The TRP aims to ensure relevant expertise areas, including programmatic and financial sustainability, are represented in the group by including reviewers with experience in more than one area of expertise.</p> <p>Exceptionally, a review group for this TRP review approach could be assigned to only 1 funding request if it is not possible to pair with another funding request Tailored for Transition. In this case, the group size remains 4 members, except for funding requests of less than US\$5 million where the group size will be 3 members.</p>
Sub-Plenary	<p>To the extent possible, all Tailored for Transition funding requests are discussed in the same sub-plenary as applications for Focused Portfolios, and discussions will be grouped by (sub-)regions wherever possible. The estimated discussion time in sub-plenary for a transition funding request is 15 minutes for a single funding request and 25 minutes for a joint funding request.</p>
Issues and Actions	<p>In line with the goal of TRP differentiated reviews explained in section 3.1, the outcome of the TRP review is a limited number of issues (recommended not more than 4) and actions that focus on specific</p>

programmatic areas that need to be strengthened to maximize impact of the proposed investment and enhance progress towards transition.

3.5 Approach to Program Continuation application modality

<p>Focus and criteria of the review</p>	<p>The rationale for the Program Continuation approach is to enable well-performing programs which require no significant changes to continue implementation with minimal distraction. Program Continuation is a fast-track application approach that reduces the burden and time in preparing funding requests and increases time spent on implementation. Country programs eligible for applying for Program Continuation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated good grant and program performance during the previous funding cycle; • Did not use Program Continuation approach in the previous cycle; • Have an allocation change of less than 30% for the disease component when compared to the previous funding cycle; • Is not envisioned to need a material change in programming by the Secretariat.⁶ <p>The focus of the TRP review is to validate whether the program previously recommended for grant-making by the TRP, and currently in implementation, can deliver highest impact if it continues implementation under essentially the same goals, strategic objectives and programmatic interventions.</p> <p>Program Continuation is a streamlined application modality with comparatively less information provided in the funding request narrative and lower level of effort for applicants to complete. The TRP considers, as main sources of information for its review, the applicant's self-assessment of whether the program will continue to deliver impact if it continues in its current form. In terms of documentation, an important assumption is that the elements presented in the past TRP review are still valid, as such the documents submitted in the form of the Program Continuation request are complementary to those and limited in scope.</p>
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⁶ As part of its review, the TRP will advise whether any material changes to the current program should be carried out. A program revision is considered material when:

Changes to the program contradicts the original TRP's recommendation on the funding request, or there is a significant redesign or shift from the original approved funding request/grant); OR there is a lack of agreement in the normative guidance or significant gaps in evidence to support the programmatic changes under consideration; OR there is unexplained lack of impact or difficult trade-offs in decision making that need to be made, which therefore requires an independent technical review of the program revision request.

Review group composition	The TRP review group includes 4 members, and the group is assigned to 2 program continuation funding requests (as opposed to 1 funding request for Full Review). As needed, 1 or 2 additional reviewers may be added for joint funding requests. The TRP aims to ensure relevant expertise areas are represented in the group by including reviewers with experience in more than one area of expertise.
Sub-Plenary	The discussion for program continuation funding request is conducted in 1 of the existing sub-plenaries, depending on the number of applications received in the window. The estimated time for each sub-plenary's discussion is 15 minutes per single funding request and 25 minutes per joint request.
Issues and Actions	<p>Depending on its assessment, the TRP decides whether to: (a) validate the application to proceed to grant-making or (b) recommend re-submission of a funding request for the TRP review. In case of the latter recommendation, the TRP provides clear rationale why it considers that the program needs a rethink and cannot deliver impact under its current strategic approach.</p> <p>In line with the goal of TRP differentiated reviews explained in section 3.1, for the program continuation funding requests that the TRP validates to proceed to grant-making, the TRP Review and Recommendation Form includes a limited number of issues (recommended not more than 4) and actions that focus on specific areas where programmatic adjustments are needed to further enhance impact.</p>

3.6 How the TRP reviews PAARs and PAAR Updates

PAAR

Principle of the review	<p>PAARs convey important program needs beyond those presented in the allocation funding request, which the applicant proposes to implement to achieve additional results (especially coverage) if additional resources become available. Such additional program needs, expressed as interventions, are considered unfunded quality demand (UQD) and kept in the Secretariat's Register of UQD, if approved by the TRP.</p> <p>Alternatively, the TRP may deem above allocation requests not to be quality demand and therefore not recommended for funding should additional resources become available.</p> <p>All applicants are required to submit the PAAR together with their allocation request, regardless of the type of funding request. The applicants are encouraged to include a PAAR request that is at least 30% of their allocation amount.</p>
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	<p>While only limited information is requested by applicants for PAARs, the TRP review of PAAR aims to ensure the proposed interventions are technically sound, strategically focused, with potential for impact and poised for sustainability (in alignment with review of the allocation funding request). The PAAR review checks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complementarity: the PAAR builds on and complements the allocation request. • Prioritization: the PAAR prioritizes elements that, if funded, will further maximize impact in line with the Global Fund Strategy. <p>Importantly, the TRP review checks that the applicant has proposed strategically important interventions under the allocation request and has not placed these under the PAAR – given that the funding has not yet been secured and is not guaranteed.</p> <p>The budget information in the PAAR is presented at a more aggregate level compared to the budget information in the allocation request. Since a PAAR is for funding that is not guaranteed, applicants are not asked for detailed budgets for the proposed interventions at this stage. The TRP still expects to see sufficient costing details on interventions (as opposed to budget lump sums) to allow for effective TRP review of the PAAR. The TRP review is based on the understanding that should funding become available to cover PAAR interventions recommended by the TRP as UQD, the Secretariat scrutinizes the budgets linked to these interventions as part of due diligence during grant-making.</p> <p>PAAR interventions approved by the TRP may potentially be funded through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings found during grant-making; • Additional Global Fund resources that may become available through portfolio optimization⁷; or • Funding from other donor sources, including private sector.
<p>Approach to the review</p>	<p>The TRP reviews PAAR together with its review of the allocation funding request. The TRP review includes the following steps/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the proposed interventions build on or complement the allocation funding request? • Are the proposed interventions technically sound and strategically focused, poised for sustainability, and have potential to maximize impact if resources become available to fund them?

⁷ Portfolio Optimization process by which additional funding can be added to a grant, which has an intervention registered in the UQD (Unmet Quality Demand) Register.

- What is the TRP’s view on the priority ratings assigned by the applicant to the respective interventions? The TRP specifies whether it considers the respective interventions to be:
 - High priority;
 - Medium priority;
 - Low priority; or
 - Not recommended (i.e., not considered to be quality demand).
- What are the rationales for the TRP’s recommendation? The TRP provides a clear rationale when:
 - The priority rating specified by the TRP for an intervention is different from the priority rating assigned by the applicant in the funding request;
 - The TRP does not recommend an intervention or module for funding.
- Are there any PAAR interventions that the TRP considers critical and which it recommends the applicant to fund under the allocation amount?
 - If yes, the TRP should identify these, and it may also specify any within allocation interventions that could be deprioritized/moved to the PAAR.
- The TRP may comment on the budget of those PAAR interventions it considers to be high, medium or low priority. The Secretariat will scrutinize the budgets linked to PAAR interventions as part of due diligence during grant-making if resources become available to fund them.

The TRP ensures that the amount for those interventions that it does not recommend (i.e., interventions not considered to be quality demand) is not included in the total amount recommended for PAAR in the TRP Review and Recommendation Form. However, if the TRP recommends de-prioritization of any interventions from allocation funding to PAAR, it does not change the allocation funding amount. Similarly, prioritization of some elements from PAAR to allocation funding does not result in an increase to the allocation funding amount or reduction of approved PAAR amount.

PAAR update

<p>PAAR Update process</p>	<p>After TRP review, an applicant may be invited to update the PAAR due to additional funds becoming available or the need to change the scope or add new interventions – this is known as a PAAR Update. PAAR updates do not have to come back to the TRP for review when they request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funds for interventions already reviewed and recommended by the TRP and placed on the UQD • Additional funds for interventions already reviewed and recommended by the TRP as part of the Funding Request, but not currently on the UQD <p>This approach is applied for requests for additional funds up to 30% of the approved intervention budget (in line with Global Fund Budget revision policy). Where the request is for additional funds of more than 30% of the approved intervention budget, or the activities have not been reviewed previously by the TRP, the TRP is requested to conduct a review of the PAAR Update. The review of PAAR updates is conducted outside of TRP review windows. The review of the PAAR Update is divided into two categories, Streamlined and Standard, as described below.</p>
<p>Streamlined PAAR Update Review Process</p>	<p>Streamlined PAAR Update reviews are conducted by the TRP for PAAR updates (to be funded through resources beyond the allocation) that only consist of increasing amounts for activities (above 30%) already reviewed and recommended by the TRP. Wherever possible, the streamlined PAAR update is assigned to the FP that reviewed the original funding request. Quality assurance includes the TRP Leadership review and sign-off. The streamlined PAAR Update review process is estimated to take 3 business days.</p>
<p>Standard PAAR Update Review Process</p>	<p>PAAR Updates can be requested during grant implementation and will be reviewed by the TRP using the Standard PAAR Update review process if they consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new activities due to evolving country contexts; • emerging needs due to the change in the epidemiology profile; • substantial additional funding becoming available to the applicant that changes the scope of the initial request, among others. <p>Wherever possible, the standard PAAR Update review are assigned to the Primary and Secondary reviewers or other members of the TRP group that reviewed the original funding request. The quality assurance includes TRP Leadership review; no FP review is engaged. The</p>

standard PAAR Update review process is estimated to take 7 business days.

3.7 How the TRP reviews applications under Global Fund Catalytic Investments

Catalytic investment (CI) priorities are a portion of available funding that has been set aside for programs and activities that are critical to achieve the aims of the Global Fund Strategy and partner plans, but not adequately provided through country allocations alone. Catalytic investments include:

- **Catalytic Matching Funds:** Countries eligible for matching funds are designated specific amounts for the priority areas and need to meet pre-defined matching funds conditions. Matching fund requests are submitted together with the allocation request by the Applicant. More information about the matching funds priority areas in the 2023-2025 funding cycle can be found [here](#).
- **Catalytic Multicountry Funds:** These funds may be the only source of funding for the program or may be provided in addition to the country allocations of constituent country components. Close coordination between country programs and the implementation of multicountry initiatives must be demonstrated all the time. For more details on the Multicountry Funding Application, please refer to the [Guidance](#). The list of Multicountry strategic priorities for the 2023-2025 cycle can be found [here](#).
- **Catalytic Strategic Initiatives (SI):** These limited funds are available for centrally managed approaches for strategic areas that cannot be addressed through country allocations due to their cross-cutting, innovative or off-cycle nature. These initiatives are critical to ensure country allocations deliver against the Global Fund Strategy. The list of priority areas for Strategic Initiatives for the 2023-2025 allocation period can be referred [here](#).

The TRP approach for reviewing matching funds is detailed in section 3.7.1. However, relevant aspects of the operationalization of the Catalytic Multicountry or Strategic Initiatives are still being defined, and the TRP approach for its review will be detailed accordingly at a later stage and integrated as sections 3.7.2. and 3.7.3.

3.7.1 Approach to Matching Funds

Principle of the review

The TRP review aims to assess whether the proposed matching funds request demonstrates potential to catalyze the impact in conjunction with the programmed allocation request. In this regard, the review will check:

- **Complementarity:** that the request builds on and complements investments in the priority area programmed under the allocation funding request.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalytic potential: that the request invests in technically sound and strategically focused interventions; includes evidence-based interventions directly linked to the priority area; and clearly demonstrate the incremental impact that will be achieved. <p>To access the additional funding assigned to them under matching funds, applicants are required to meet certain conditions communicated to them in the Allocation Letter. The TRP assesses how well the applicant has met the conditions and will make a recommendation on matching funds as part of their review of the funding request.</p>
<p>Approach to the review</p>	<p>There is no separate matching funds application form; applicants are expected to describe within their funding request how they have met the access conditions tied to the matching funds they have been designated.</p> <p>The TRP review structures its assessment of matching funds requests in the TRP Review and Recommendation form as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the TRP’s overall recommendation on the matching funds request? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for grant-making; or • Recommended for further iteration <p>Note: The TRP can iterate the matching funds request even if it is recommending the allocation request for grant-making. Meanwhile, the TRP cannot recommend the matching funds for grant-making if it is recommending the allocation request for iteration.</p> 2. What is the rationale – strengths and weaknesses (as applicable) – that informs the TRP’s overall recommendation on the matching funds request? The TRP rationale addresses on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the allocation request invests in the priority area, and whether the matching funds request builds on and complement the allocation funding request; • Whether the proposed request is technically sound and strategically focused, prioritizes evidenced-based interventions and high impact interventions, is poised for sustainability and/or includes innovative approaches to address needs and challenges; • Whether the proposed investment will catalyze impact; and whether expected achievements are clear in terms of increase in programmatic targets and/or improvements in program quality. <p>If the TRP recommends that an intervention not be funded, the rationale for doing so should be clear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the applicant does not meet one or more of the matching funds conditions, does the TRP have any comments in relation to this?

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there any actions related to the matching funds request that the TRP wishes to recommend for the applicant? If yes, the TRP will include this in the section for “issues and actions” of the TRP Review and Recommendation Form. |
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4. TRP engagement in new initiatives and modalities

4.1 COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM)

In November 2022, the Global Fund Board approved the extension of C19RM funds through 31 December 2025 acknowledging that the COVID-19 pandemic is evolving, and that country priorities are shifting towards longer-term investments in health systems’ infrastructure and capacities for pandemic preparedness and response.

The Global Fund Board requested the Secretariat to involve the TRP in several aspects of C19RM reviews and decision-making processes during the proposed extension, including:

- TRP participation in C19RM Technical Advisory Group (CTAG);
- TRP provision of input into the upfront technical guidance and strategic prioritization to reflect a shift in funding needs and refocus investments towards RSSH/PP;
- TRP provision of input into revision of C19RM Monitoring Framework;
- Provision of full visibility on approved C19RM investments to the TRP during its review of HIV/TB/Malaria/RSSH grant funding requests, to enhance synergies between the two funding streams, based on alignment of the timing of submissions to C19RM and C19RM Grant Cycle 7 applications; and
- TRP sharing of observations and lessons learned through regular channels of debrief with GAC, the Secretariat and Partners.

The operational steps of the TRP’s engagement in the C19RM process are still being defined and further guidance will be provided to TRP members.

4.2 Payment for Results

Payment for results (P4R) is a modality of funding which is deployed across all funding modalities where the Global Fund disburses grant funds to countries based on the verification of results being achieved, rather than the activities undertaken. This approach allows a more flexible use of grant funds to support national strategic or disease specific plans and is not based on monitoring and managing inputs. If an applicant is interested in using a P4R modality, they are encouraged to discuss with their CT. Further information

on Payment for Results can be found in the Guidance on Payment for Results and the Payment for Results Operational Policy Note (links forthcoming).

The TRP considerations and process for the TRP’s review of funding requests based on the P4R modality are still being defined and provided to TRP members.

4.3 Joint investments (Blended finance)

The Global Fund regards blended finance (joint investment) as a modality where funding from the Global Fund combines with and complements other sources of financing, including resources from multi-lateral development banks and/or other development finance institutions, to address high-priority areas at the country or sub-regional levels. These investments may help align development finance and leveraging additional investments for health systems or the national responses. Please refer to the [Operational Policy Note section on Blended Finance / Joint Investments](#) for further information.

The benefits of early engagement of the TRP in blended financing initiatives and funding requests has been highlighted by TRP Observations and Lessons Learned during the 2020-2022 funding cycle. The TRP considerations and process for the TRP’s review of funding requests that include blended finance/joint investments are still being defined and will be included in this document at a later stage.

5. Approach for TRP Clarifications

<p>Principle of the review</p>	<p>When the TRP recommends funding requests for grant-making and includes recommendations in the TRP Review and Recommendation Form, it may specify that some of these recommendations be “cleared by the TRP”. TRP Clarifications is the process through which the TRP reviews applicant’s response to these recommendations. In this process, the TRP review assesses if the applicant has adequately addressed the recommended actions.</p>
<p>Specific documentation</p>	<p>The TRP Applicant Response Form is filled in by the applicant. Depending on the timeline specified for the recommendation in the TRP Review and Recommendation form, the applicant’s response is provided to the TRP when the program is still in grant-making or later on during grant implementation.</p>
<p>Group review</p>	<p>The Primary and Secondary Reviewers of the original funding request are requested to review the response from the applicant. If they these TRP reviewers not available or are no longer serving the TRP, the TRP Secretariat assigns a serving TRP member from the original review group with a similar expertise. In the event that there are no TRP members available to review the applicant response</p>

	<p>from the original review group, the TRP Secretariat assigns the review to two TRP FPs with relevant expertise.</p>
<p>Steps of the review and outcome</p>	<p>The TRP Primary and Secondary Reviewers review the applicant’s response and specify in the response form whether they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Satisfied” with the response. • “Partially satisfied” with the response. In this case, the reviewers will specify follow-up actions for the applicant and/or Secretariat’s attention. • “Not satisfied” with the response. The applicant will have an opportunity to provide a follow-up response in case the TRP is not satisfied with the original response. If the TRP still finds that the response does not address the issue to its satisfaction, it will include feedback in the response form and escalate the issue to attention of the GAC. <p>Following review by the Primary and Secondary Reviewers, the TRP Chair or Vice-Chair sign-off on the TRP Clarifications Form before it is submitted to the CT and applicant.</p>

Annex 1: Guiding Questions

The objective of this annex is to extract the key questions, based on the Global Fund Strategy, the Review Criteria and applicant guidance materials including such new elements as the HIV, TB, and malaria Program Essentials, and Critical Approaches⁸ for RSSH investments, that the TRP uses when assessing a funding request. As indicated in the Review Approaches Manual already, this annex is useful for the applicants to see how the TRP operationalizes the Review Criteria.

This list of questions does not have to be answered by the TRP review in its entirety but is intended to be useful when reflecting on each objective of the new Global Fund Strategy 2023-2028.

Primary Goal: Ending AIDS, TB and malaria

Strategic focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the funding request aligned with the areas of focus on HIV, TB and malaria outlined in the Global Fund Strategy, the HIV, TB and malaria Information Notes (including the Program Essentials) and other normative guidance, as relevant to context? • Does the funding request build on results, impact and lessons learned of previous implementation periods and is it based on most recent available disaggregated epidemiological and other contextual information (gender, age, geography, socioeconomic and education status) to address the needs of key and vulnerable populations? • Does the funding request demonstrate complementary with other investments (from domestic resources and other donors)?
Technical soundness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the applicant chosen evidence-based interventions aligned with normative and prioritization guidance (e.g., program essentials) for prevention, diagnostic, treatment and care, including maximizing impact from available resources and responding to COVID-19 and future pandemics (while contributing to building RSSH)? • Does the funding request document their impact on the effectiveness and reach of programs?
Prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the prioritization of interventions and approaches in the funding request the most cost-effective in addressing the holistic needs of the key, vulnerable and marginalized populations and in reducing inequity?

⁸ The Global Fund has identified critical approaches for RSSH to support investments in 3 areas: human resources for health, health products management systems and national laboratory systems. The critical approaches set out specifications for RSSH interventions supported by the Global Fund. The aim is to drive uptake and adoption of evidence-based recommendations and best practice for health system strengthening.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the rationale for prioritizing interventions explained in the funding requests, using clear criteria?
Potential for impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there ambitious and sustainable scale-up of cost-effective interventions (e.g., program essentials) and acceleration of program implementation (including rapid and equitable deployment of new tools and innovations if available) to achieve highest impact?
Program quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request support efforts to deliver high-quality, rights-based services responsive to inequities in access to services across the prevention, diagnostic, treatment, and care continuum?
Evidence-based programs for key and vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request propose investment in epidemiologically appropriate effective rights- and evidence-based interventions to scale up programs to improve access to equitable, gender transformative and/or responsive prevention, diagnostic, care, and treatment services among key and vulnerable populations that are disproportionately affected by HIV, TB and malaria?

Objective 1. Maximize People-centered Integrated Systems for Health

Integrated, people-centered quality services and systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request sufficiently propose investment in rights-based, integrated people centered quality health services including greater integration of service delivery? • Does the applicant prioritize and elaborate on opportunities for greater integration of responses across the diseases and with broader health and community systems?
Community systems and community-led programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To which extent are community health systems and strategies integrated with the national disease responses and grant implementation ensuring a holistic and people centered service delivery for HIV, TB and malaria? • Is the investment focusing on strengthening the capacity of community-based and community-led organizations in service delivery and programs, to scale up effective community-led programs including service delivery, research and advocacy, and advancing human rights and gender equity? • Are community systems interventions strategic and is community-led programming aligned with and effectively supporting the national disease responses and grant priorities? • Does the funding request propose investment in and prioritize evidence-based community system strengthening interventions

	including utilizing lessons learned from past implementation? Does it include strengthening of community-led systems, to prepare for, detect and respond to future pandemics?
Sexual and reproductive health and rights programs and their integration with HIV services for women in all their diversity and their partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are sexual and reproductive health and rights services effectively integrated into service delivery platforms for HIV and <i>vice versa</i>? • Does it efficiently invest in holistic services, tailored to the needs of individuals across the whole spectrum of sexual and reproductive health aspects, including prevention of HIV infection, and gender-based violence prevention and response? • Do sexual and reproductive health and rights services deliver tailored services for women in all their diversity, including women and girls from key and vulnerable populations and the intersections across different sub-populations, as well as their sexual partners?
Health Product Management Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request align with the ‘Critical Approaches’ for Health Product Management (HPM) systems, as outlined in the Health Product Management Section of the RSSH Information Note? • Does the funding request contribute to developing more integrated health product management systems, including quality supply chains supportive of people-centered services, end-to-end management of national health products and lab services, and quality-assured and affordable health products? • Does the applicant prioritize and focus investments on strengthening national capacity on procurement and planning, management information systems, national regulatory systems, and national HPM governance and financing to build sustainable and effective national HPM systems?
Human Resources for Health, including community health workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request demonstrate alignment with HRH critical approaches as outlined in the HRH section of the RSSH Information note? • Does it contribute to supporting integrated workforce development and HRH strategic planning, implementing a shift towards more effective interventions to improve HRH performance, and enhancing system readiness to scale CHWs aligned with WHO guidance? • Is there adequate and contextualized justification of remuneration costs proposed in the funding requests, and do they demonstrate alignment

	with principles and criteria contained in the Budgeting guidelines and Value for Money brief?
Laboratory System Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request demonstrate alignment with the Laboratory Systems Strengthening Critical Approaches as detailed in the Lab section of the RSSH Information note)? • Does the funding request contribute to strengthening laboratory systems addressing the 9 laboratory systems core capabilities? For example, does the funding request include consideration for strengthening laboratory governance and leadership, integrated sample referral networks, external quality assurance schemes, Biosafety and Biosecurity, HR capacity , coverage and availability of diagnostic services for priority diseases?
Monitoring and evaluation systems, including data generation and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the funding request aligned with the Essential M&E Investments supporting data generation, analysis and use, integrated and/or interoperable systems and data quality at all levels, as well as addressing monitoring of health inequalities and inequities, as recommended in the M&E section and Annex 4 of the RSSH Information Note?
Private sector engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request support opportunities for better engagement with the private sector (non-state actors, for-profit and not-for-profit) to improve the scale, quality and affordability of services wherever patients seek it (for example via policy dialogue, regulation, financing and information exchange)?

Objective 2. Maximize health equity, gender equality and human rights

<p>Invests in equitable health outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request include analysis of populations and sub-populations, including key and vulnerable populations and their sub-groups, facing the biggest inequities in access to services and health outcomes (for example by place of residence, race, ethnicity, indigenous status, occupation, gender, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, education, socioeconomic status and social capital, criminalization)? • Does the funding request identify the underlying causes of these inequities, including the social and structural drivers and criminalization? • Does the intervention seek to address these inequities and their underlying causes as they relate to services access and health outcomes? • Does the funding request include the use qualitative and quantitative disaggregated data (for example by place of residence, race, ethnicity, indigenous status, occupation, gender, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, education, socioeconomic status and social capital, criminalization) to inform the design, implementation and monitoring/evaluation of interventions? • Does the funding request describe and demonstrate a clear understanding of the policy and/ or legal framework that present barriers or enablers to accessing health information, services or products for specific communities (e.g., adolescent girls and young women, sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who use or inject drugs, people in prisons and other closed settings, transgender and gender diverse individuals, migrants, refugees, children, etc.)
<p>Removal of human rights and gender-related barriers⁹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request clearly identify human rights- and gender-related barriers to accessing services (including stigma and discrimination and harmful laws and policies, including criminalization), particularly for key and vulnerable populations? • Does the funding request propose investment in evidence-based programs that comprehensively address and remove the identified human rights and gender-related barriers? • Has a gender assessment recently been conducted, are data disaggregated and the findings from analysis used to inform the design of the funding request?

⁹ Some of the questions related to gender-related barriers overlap with the questions required for filling the Gender Equality Marker.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request take a gender-transformative approach, in addition to meeting gendered health needs and removing gendered barriers to accessing services? • Does the funding request include the collection and use of sex and - where possible - gender disaggregated data to inform the design, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation of interventions?
<p>Youth-responsive programming, including for adolescent girls and young women and young key and vulnerable populations (and their partners)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the proposed approaches and interventions age and gender appropriate and tailored to the needs of young and adolescent women, men, boys, girls, trans and gender diverse people? Do they consider the intersectionality of identities whereby young and adolescent people may also identify as one or more key or vulnerable communities?

Objective 3. Strengthen resource mobilization, sustainability, health financing, and value for money

<p>Health finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request include sufficient analysis of the financing of the national response and health system, including trends in domestic financing over time? • Does the funding request include a sufficient overview of the current challenges to strengthening health financing systems and strategies to address these challenges? Existing challenges may include (but are not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing financial barriers to access such as out of pocket spending, especially catastrophic expenditure; • strengthening resource tracking and the generation and use of health finance data; • supporting the integration of national responses into Universal Health Coverage (UHC) financing mechanisms; • strengthening purchasing efficiency through procurement reforms (including improved procurement planning, accessing pooled procurement and institutionalizing health technology assessment to inform product selection and pricing policies,
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	<p>integrating procurement to general public procurement systems);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing public financing of services provided by civil society and communities (e.g., public contracting and funding of not-for-profit civil society and community organizations to deliver services) to enhance sustainability and transition readiness.
Leverages innovative financing approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where relevant, does the funding request sufficiently describe strategies to attract additional resources for health and/or channel debt and borrowing into the achievement of relevant health outcomes? • Where the funding request includes descriptions of innovative financing approaches (including debt for health and/or joint investments with multi-lateral development banks), does it provide sufficient analysis of how this support the programmatic and/or other objectives of the national response / health system, and complement other Global Fund investments?
Co-financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request sufficiently describe how co-financing commitments contribute to achieving programmatic objectives of the national response and strengthening sustainability of the national response, health system, and key programmatic interventions? • Does the funding request sufficiently describe overall domestic financing commitments and trends, including the trends in domestic expenditure on health, overall financing of the national responses, and increased uptake of key costs of national responses (including those supported by the Global Fund)? • Does the funding request outline sources of data (including budget execution and allocation for retrospective and prospective commitments) supporting the commitments that the country is making?
Application focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request demonstrate compliance with the application focus requirements for the corresponding country income level as defined in the Global Fund’s Sustainability, Transition and Co-financing Policy?
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the funding request adequately describe and provide strategies to address the key epidemiological, financial, programmatic, political and/or other sustainability challenges facing the health system and national responses? The TRP may refer to the STC Guidance Note,

	<p>which provides an overview of sustainability considerations, including annexes on the specific diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the epidemiological context, does the funding request adequately describe and provide strategies for addressing the sustainability of services for key and vulnerable populations?
<p>Value for Money</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the funding request demonstrate concrete and credible efforts to maximize and sustain equitable health impact for the level of resources available? TRP members can refer to the updated Value for Money Technical Brief for additional guidance, which covers the five dimensions of Value for Money and should be considered holistically. Does the funding request provide information on the evidence used to inform resource allocation and utilization decisions at program and system levels, as well as enhancing efficiency? TRP members can refer to Annex 1, 3 and 4 of the updated Value for Money Technical Brief for additional guidance on the check list, tools available and country best practices on efficiency improvement. Does the funding request demonstrate that trade-offs between the various dimensions of Value for Money have been considered, and provide information on the rationale for considering trade-offs (given the country context, epidemiological trends, programmatic gaps, expected results, contributions from other funding sources, available budget, as well as health system capacity constraints)?

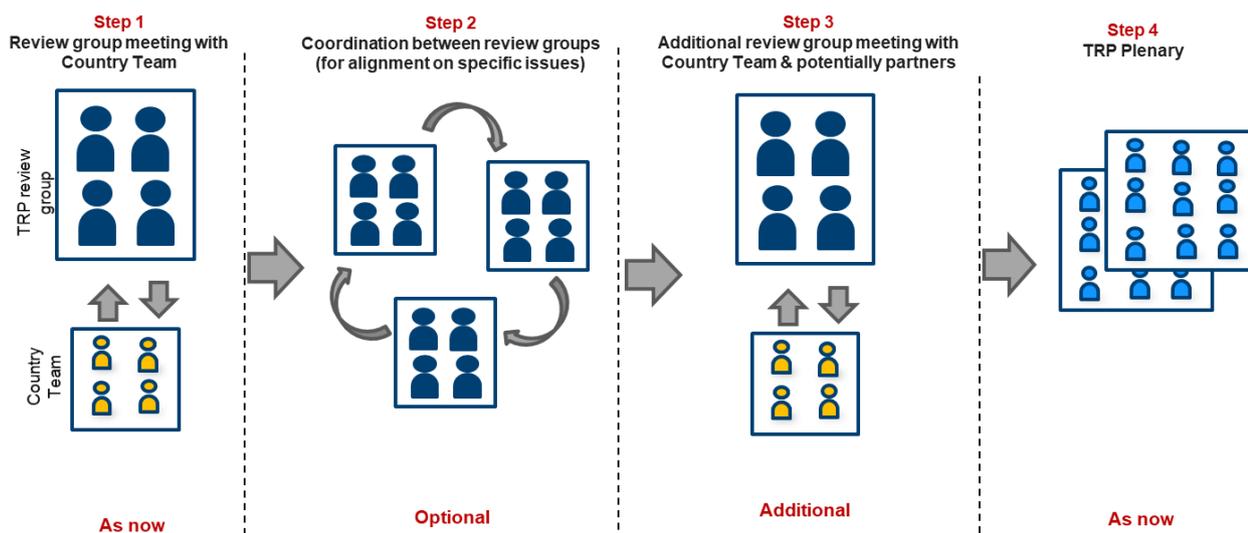
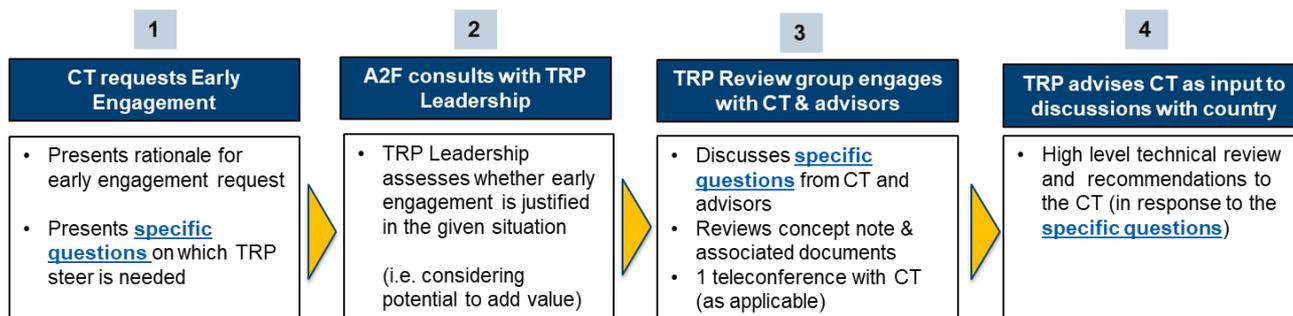
Objective 4. Strengthening countries’ pandemic preparedness capabilities by building integrated and resilient systems for health

<p>Basis of Investments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the investments to strengthen countries’ pandemic preparedness capabilities built on the International Health Regulations, described in the National Action Plans for Health Security or Joint External Evaluations, informed by COVID-19 response, and/or drawn from disease-specific preparedness plans or cross-cutting systems-focused strategies (e.g. laboratory strengthening, disease surveillance, health workforce capacity development, and medical oxygen and respiratory case management), and reflecting robust country governance and holistic operational planning?
<p>Focus of Investments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the funding request contributing to HIV, TB and malaria outcomes as well as achievement of broader epidemic and pandemic preparedness goals, including strengthening the specific, prioritized capabilities necessary to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks

of novel and re-emerging pathogens, as reflected in intra- or after-action reviews, simulation exercises, and/or timeliness metrics such as 7-1-7I'?

Annex 2: Process Steps for ‘Early TRP Engagement prior to funding request submission’

Figure 6: Modified TRP review process for specific applications requiring an enhanced engagement with the Secretariat Country Team and Technical Partners



Annex 3: List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

A2F	Access to Funding department (hosts the TRP Secretariat at the Global Fund)
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CI	Catalytic Investment
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
COE	Challenging Operating Environment
C19RM	COVID-19 Response Mechanism
CT	Country Team
EDTs	Essential data tables
EHRG	Equity, human rights and gender
GAC	Grant Approvals Committee
GEM	Gender Equality Marker
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
KPIs	Key performance indicators
KVPs	Key and vulnerable populations
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NSP	National strategic plan
OPN	Operational policy note (in the Global Fund's Operational Policy Manual)
P4R	Payment for results
PAAR	Prioritized Above Allocation Request
SEAH	Sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment
RSSH	Resilient and sustainable systems for health
SBN	Secretariat Briefing Note
SC	Strategy Committee (of the Global Fund Board)
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment
SI	Strategic Initiative
STC	Sustainability, transition and co-financing
TB	Tuberculosis
TRP	Technical Review Panel
TOR	Terms of reference
UHC	Universal health coverage
UQD	Unfunded quality demand