

Frequently Asked Questions

2020-2022 Catalytic Multicountry Funds

Issued in May 2021¹

General Questions

What are catalytic multicountry funds and how are they different from allocation funded multicountry programs?

Catalytic multicountry funds are a pillar of the [catalytic investments](#) approved by the Global Fund Board to improve the impact of country allocations and to ensure delivery against the 2017-2022 Global Fund Strategy. Country allocations are based primarily on a country's disease burden and economic capacity. Some countries pool their allocations to manage a multicountry program for better operational efficiency; these are 'allocation-funded multicountry programs'. In contrast, catalytic multicountry funds are used for priorities that cannot be effectively addressed through country allocations alone, yet are deemed crucial to ensure Global Fund investments are positioned to deliver against Global Fund strategic aims.

How much catalytic multicountry funding is available in the 2020-2022 funding cycle?

US\$230 million has been designated for catalytic multicountry grants in the 2020-2022 funding cycle for the following priorities:

Malaria: Addressing Drug Resistance in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and Malaria Elimination in Southern Africa → US\$140 million;

Tuberculosis: TB Multicountry Approaches → US\$40 million; and

HIV: Key Populations and Sustainability Multicountry Approaches → US\$50 million.

These funds complement the other catalytic investments: US\$343 million for [strategic initiatives](#) and US\$317 million for [matching funds](#).

Are 2020-2022 catalytic multicountry grants focused on the same priorities as the 2017-2019 catalytic multicountry grants?

In the 2017-2019 funding cycle there were 17 approved priorities for catalytic multicountry grants. 15 of these are continuing in the 2020-2022 funding cycle. No new priorities have been approved for the 2020-2022 catalytic multicountry funding cycle.

What is the funding application process for catalytic multicountry approaches?

For certain priority areas, candidates will be pre-identified by the Global Fund to apply for funding. For others, a competitive application process will be conducted.

¹ Please consult the [Global Fund website](#) periodically as these Frequently Asked Questions may be supplemented from time to time.

Some applicants will be contacted by the Global Fund and invited to develop a continuation funding proposal to adapt an existing program, others will be invited to develop a pre-shaped proposal that addresses the defined priority area and regional focus. For priority areas with a competitive application process, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be published on the Global Fund website. These RFPs will include specific Terms of Reference (TORs) that an applicant will need to address in its funding proposal. RFPs will be published, in most cases, two to four months prior to the expected submission window in order to allow for robust regional dialogue. After a Technical Review Panel (TRP) review, one proposal (as modified, if necessary) per RFP will be selected to proceed to grant-making.

How many grants will result from each of the catalytic multicountry priority areas?

As per the table on the next page, the Global Fund expects to sign one grant per priority area for funding not to exceed the designated amount.

Application approach for each priority area:

Disease	Priority	Indicative Funding (US\$)	Application approach	Expected number of grants
Malaria	Elimination of malaria in Southern Africa (MOSASWA)	6,000,000	Continuation	1
	Elimination of malaria in Southern Africa (E8)	14,000,000	Pre-shaping	1
	Regional Artemisinin Initiative Elimination of malaria multi-drug resistance (RAI)	120,000,000	Full review	1
TB	Regional TB in the Mining Sector Initiative "Finding missing TB cases" (TIMS)	10,500,000	Pre-shaping	1
	Supporting Uganda Supranational labs and other countries to improve TB diagnosis in Eastern and Southern Africa region (ECSA)	4,000,000	Continuation	1
	Interventions among migrants and mobile population in Asia: Greater Mekong (TB Elimination Among Migrants – TEAM)	7,500,000	Continuation	1
	Interventions among refugees in Eastern Africa (IGAD)	5,000,000	Continuation	1
	TB Supranational Reference laboratory network in Western and Central Africa	5,000,000	Continuation	1
	Strengthening laboratory diagnosis of TB on the region of the Americas (ORAS-CONHU)	4,000,000	Pre-shaping	1
	TB Interventions among Afghan refugees, returnees and mobile populations in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan	4,000,000	Continuation	1
HIV	Sustainability of services for key populations in Latin America	10,500,000	TBD June 2021	1
	Sustainability of services for key populations in the Caribbean	6,500,000	TBD June 2021	1
	Sustainability of services for key populations in MENA region	7,500,000	Continuation	1
	Sustainability of services for key populations in EECA region	13,000,000	RFP	1
	Sustainability of services for key populations in SEA region	12,500,000	RFP	1
TOTAL		230,000,000		15

Eligibility Questions

Who can apply for funding?

Under the continuation and pre-shaping approaches, pre-identified applicants will be invited by the Global Fund to develop a funding request for a specific multicountry priority.

Under the RFP modality, two types of applicants are generally eligible to respond to a multicountry RFP:

- **Regional Coordinating Mechanisms;** and
- **Regional Organizations.**

Regional Organizations include suitable civil society and/or community-based organizations, regional networks/organizations, and a consortium of any of the preceding entities. However, certain multicountry priorities might set specific parameters as to what type of organization is eligible; this is defined in each RFP.

What is a Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM)?

A Regional Coordinating Mechanism is a regional-level public-private partnership whose role is, among others, to (1) coordinate the development of funding proposal(s) to the Global Fund for relevant program(s) based on priority needs at the regional level and (2) oversee the implementation of program activities.

What are the eligibility requirements for Regional Organizations (ROs)?

In order for an RO to be considered an eligible applicant, it must have independent legal personality and comply with the following requirements:

- Demonstrate broad regional stakeholder consultation and involvement by:
 - Having broad experience in working in the region on the issues targeted by the multicountry priority;
 - Having experience working with other regionally/multicountry focused initiatives and/or programs; and
 - Having broad experience and a confirmed track record of working with people living with and/or affected by the diseases targeted by the multicountry priority.
- Not be a United Nations, multilateral or bilateral agency.
- Demonstrate elements of sustainability for the regional strategic priority.

Additionally, an RO should implement to the extent possible the following CCM/RCM Eligibility Requirements:

Eligibility Requirement 1:

- Coordinate the development of the funding proposal through transparent and documented processes that engage a broad range of stakeholders in the solicitation and the review of activities to be included in the application.
- Clearly document efforts to engage key affected populations in the development of funding proposals, including most-at-risk populations.

Eligibility Requirement 2:

- Nominate one or more Implementer(s) (PR) at the time of submission of the funding proposal (if

- applicable).
- Document a transparent process for the nomination of all new Implementer(s) based on clearly defined and objective criteria.
 - Document the management of any potential conflicts of interest that may affect the Implementer(s) nomination process.

NOTE: The Eligibility Requirement 2 is not applicable if the Regional Organization (acting as applicant) acts also as an Implementer (PR).

What is the difference between an applicant and an implementer for purpose of the multicountry RFP?

An applicant is an entity that meets the requirements set for an RCM or RO and that submits a funding proposal. Each applicant must ensure an inclusive regional dialogue process is conducted to inform the proposal during the application period, submit such proposal, and, if selected, oversee the performance of the implementer.

As part of the proposal, the applicant must nominate an appropriate implementer (PR) for the grant who satisfies the requirements set forth in the RFP (including Attachment C Section III: Requirements for Implementers). The implementer will enter into a grant agreement with the Global Fund and implement activities under the grant.

An applicant may also nominate itself as the implementer, if appropriate to address a particular priority. In such cases the applicant will need to satisfy the requirements of both applicants and implementers.

Is an implementer the same as a Principal Recipient?

Implementers of Global Fund grants are the following:

The Principal Recipient (PR) is an entity nominated by the relevant Regional Coordinating Mechanism or Regional Organization to implement a specific program and has signed a grant agreement with the Global Fund.

The Sub-recipient (SR) receives grant funds directly or indirectly from the PR and implements certain program activities under the oversight of the PR.

Suppliers such as bidders, suppliers, agents, intermediaries, consultants and contractors, who are not the PR or SR but provide goods and/or services to a program are not considered implementers.

Can UN agencies or multilateral or bilateral organizations be applicants and/or implementers?

UN agencies and multilateral and bilateral organizations cannot act as applicants (other than in exceptional circumstances, to be approved by the Global Fund Secretariat on a case-by-case basis). However, such organizations can be implementers in exceptional circumstances. Should an applicant wish to propose such an organization as an implementer, the applicant should provide firm evidence that there are no local entities with the requisite capacity to implement the grant and explain in its proposal why a UN agency or multilateral or bilateral organization is best suited to be the implementer of this particular multicountry grant. Furthermore, one of the grant goals should be to facilitate transition to a regional implementer in the future. Should an applicant wish to propose a bilateral organization as an implementer, the applicant should

additionally explain in its proposal why no other international organizations can be appointed.

Can a consortium apply to multicountry RFPs?

A consortium can be considered an eligible applicant for the purpose of a multicountry RFP if represented by a lead RO that complies with all of the requirements of an RO applicant (please refer to the above question and/or Attachment C of the RFPs). The RO requirements do not apply to each consortium member separately. One possibility for an international organization that wants to apply to an RFP, but is not compliant with the RO requirements, is to apply as part of a consortium.

What should the country composition be for a multicountry RFP proposal?

Multicountry applications are only eligible for funding if a majority (at least 51 percent) of countries included in the funding proposal are eligible to submit their own Global Fund request for funding for the related-disease component through a single-country application. The eligibility of a country for the purpose of an application for multicountry funding is assessed as per the [2020 Eligibility List](#).

Countries that, as per the Eligibility List 2020, are eligible only for Transition funding are considered “eligible” for the purpose of a multicountry application.

Development of a Proposal

What is the role of regional dialogue in the process of developing an RFP funding proposal?

Multicountry approaches emphasize a strong multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial dialogue beyond the Regional Coordinating Mechanism/Regional Organization during all stages of the grant cycle. A regional dialogue that is open, inclusive, and participatory ensures that the adopted strategies and plans reflect a multi-stakeholder response and critical engagement of key populations and community-based organizations.

The RFP for a multicountry priority is published, in most cases, around 2-4 months before the funding proposal submission date. This timing allows all eligible applicants to undertake an inclusive regional dialogue. Inclusive dialogue should continue throughout the grant lifecycle.

Is there any funding set aside to support regional dialogue for the 2020-2022 funding cycle?

Multicountry applicants are allowed to use funds from existing Global Fund regional grants or from RCM/RO funding to support regional dialogue processes only (financing of the funding proposal writing is not allowed). In cases where none of these sources of funding are available, applicants are encouraged to seek support from other donors, technical assistance providers or supporting organizations.

What are the key elements to consider when developing a multicountry funding proposal in response to an RFP?

In addition to meeting the general Global Fund application requirements, multicountry funding proposals must:

- Be clearly focused on the RFP objectives;
- Align with technical partners' guidance;
- Be designed with a regional lens and have a clear geographical focus;
- Build on and complement existing strategies, programs, grants etc.; and
- Not replace national interventions.

What documents should be submitted for an RFP application?

The following documents should be submitted for an RFP application:

- Funding Request Narrative
- Performance Framework
- Budget
- List of Abbreviations and Annexes
- All supporting documentation referenced in the funding request
- Prioritized Above Allocation Request (PAAR)
- Implementation Arrangement Map
- Health Product Management Tool (if applicable)
- Documents Confirming the Applicant and Implementer Status
- Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) or Regional Organization (RO) Endorsement of the Funding Request
- CCMs Endorsement of Funding Request from participating countries
- RCM/RO Statement of Compliance
- National and Regional Strategic Plans (Health Sector and Disease specific)

To request an electronic copy of the application materials, please contact accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org. In your message, please indicate the name of the person and organization responding to the proposal and the relevant multicountry priority area.

Do applicants need to prepare an above allocation request?

Applicants under the RFP and pre-shaping modalities are encouraged to prepare a prioritized above allocation request (PAAR) that can be assessed for unfunded quality demand. This ensures multicountry programs have 'pre-recommended' interventions to integrate into grants if savings or efficiencies are found during grant-making, or to include via reprogramming during implementation if additional funding becomes available. The prioritized above allocation request is submitted with the funding proposal and can be updated during grant-making or implementation.

How should the PAAR be calculated?

The general guidance is that a PAAR should represent approximately 30-50 percent more than the available

funding amount (unless otherwise advised by the Global Fund focal point). However, given that the funds allocated to multicountry approaches are limited, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit focused and realistic PAARs with clear potential for impact at the regional level.

How to proceed if additional lines are needed in the Performance Framework?

Please contact Access to Funding at AccessToFunding@theglobalfund.org for assistance and attach the relevant Performance Framework to your request.

Endorsement and Submission

Who needs to endorse a multicountry proposal?

A multicountry funding proposal should be endorsed by all Regional Coordinating Mechanism² members/their designated alternates, or legal representative of the Regional Organization, as applicable. The Global Fund also requires that multicountry applicants provide evidence of endorsement from the CCMs of all participating countries. This is usually provided in the form of a letter signed by the relevant CCM Chair and the Civil Society representative. In case the CCM Chair is not available, the endorsement letter may be signed by the CCM Vice-Chair if justification of the Chair's unavailability is provided as well as who has delegated authority to sign in their place. For those countries with no CCM, endorsement is required from the legal representative of the relevant Ministry of Health or other national coordinating body. In specific cases and where comprehensive rationale is provided, the endorsement of involved CCMs can be provided at the grant-making stage.

Can a Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) endorse more than one multicountry funding proposal for the same priority area?

As per the Instructions³ for the RFP multicountry funding proposals, "The Global Fund requires multicountry applicants to provide evidence of endorsement from the CCMs of all participating countries. To ensure that the interventions proposed in a multicountry funding proposal do not duplicate and are consistent with initiatives under existing national programs, the membership of the CCM of each country included in the multicountry funding proposal (at a meeting or through another documented process) must agree to endorse the funding proposal. It is important to note that the respective CCMs are not approving the budget, or the specific interventions. Rather, the CCMs are endorsing the overall approach as the funding proposal relates to their country."

A CCM can endorse all the funding proposals that it deems consistent with, and not duplicative of, initiatives under existing national programs. CCMs are not required to select only one funding proposal and can endorse any and all proposals that are considered appropriate.

If a CCM endorsement is submitted in a language that is not one of the official Global Fund languages (English, French, and Spanish), a translation in English should be provided.

² Contact information for Regional and Country Coordinating Mechanisms can be found on the [Global Fund Data Service](#).

³ This document is available upon request. Please contact Access to Funding at acesstofunding@theglobalfund.org.

Who from my organization can provide the necessary signature requested by the Global Fund (i.e. for applicant signature/endorsement, Principal Recipient endorsement, Government endorsement)?

For the signatures required for the proposal (e.g. for applicant/PR endorsement or signature of proposal or endorsement from a government in the absence of CCM endorsement), the Global Fund requires that each signature be provided by an authorized signatory of the relevant entity.

To verify that the signature provided is indeed that of a person with legal signing authority, we ask that confirmation be submitted along with a specimen signature. This can be presented in the form of a signed letter issued from the organization (by a person with authority to issue such letter) confirming that the person whose specimen signature is provided (i) is an authorized signatory on behalf of the organization; (ii) holds the office specified next to such person's name, and (iii) the specimen signature constitutes such person's genuine signature. A template is available upon request to AccessToFunding@theglobalfund.org to facilitate this confirmation, but other similar statements are acceptable.

If an organization is not a legally registered entity, the Global Fund requests that evidence be provided linking the person who signed to such organization.

In the case of CCM endorsement, endorsement must be provided by the current Chair and the Civil Society representative, or any other member authorized to represent the CCM (as long as evidence of such authorization is also provided). Note, if such individual does not match Global Fund CCM membership records, the Global Fund will seek further clarification from the applicant.

How should an application from a consortium be endorsed?

A representative of each of the organizations forming part of the consortium should sign the "Endorsement Sheet" template provided by the Global Fund, in accordance with the above guidance.

What happens after the submission of funding proposals?

All multicountry funding proposals submitted no later than the date and time designated in the summary table of the applicable RFP document will be subject to a screening process conducted by the Global Fund Secretariat to assess the extent to which the application fulfils the requirements outlined in Attachment C (Funding Proposal Requirements and General Information) of the relevant RFP document and demonstrates sufficient attention to the project described in Attachment A of the relevant RFP document. During the screening process, the Global Fund may seek additional information or documents from an applicant in order to clarify the eligibility status and/or ensure the completeness of the application package. It is advised that applicants remain reachable after the submission of their proposals in case further clarification is needed. Failure to provide any additional clarifications/documentation requested by the Global Fund may result in the application being deemed ineligible.

All RFP funding proposals assessed as fulfilling the requirements outlined in Attachment C of the relevant RFP document and considered of sufficient quality and technical rigor will be submitted to the Global Fund Technical Review Panel (TRP) for independent expert review. The TRP will select successful applications as per the criteria outlined in Attachment B of the relevant RFP document.

For pre-shaping proposals, applications that demonstrated compliance with instructions provided will be

submitted to the TRP for independent expert review. The TRP will assess the technical soundness and strategic focus of the submission and allow the request to proceed to grant-making or recommend the proposal for iteration and subsequent review by the TRP.

How will unsuccessful applicants be notified?

All funding proposals that do not fulfill the requirements outlined in the instructions or in Attachment C of the relevant RFP document and/or are of insufficient quality will be considered ineligible and will be disqualified from the competitive process. All unsuccessful applicants will be notified of this fact by the Global Fund Secretariat at the end of the selection process and after TRP review. The Global Fund is under no obligation to reveal, or discuss with any applicant, how a proposal was assessed, or to provide any other information related to the selection process. Ineligible applicants shall have no claim whatsoever for any kind of compensation.

In Case of Further Questions

Who should I contact to get more information about each of the multicountry priorities?

For more information about the application process, please refer to the [Catalytic Multicountry Funds Guidelines](#) or contact: AccessToFunding@theglobalfund.org

For more information on each of the multicountry priorities, please contact the following Secretariat focal points, as per the table below.

Disease	Priority	Secretariat Contacts
Malaria	Elimination of malaria in Southern Africa (MOSASWA)	Linden Morrison (Linden.Morrison@theglobalfund.org)
	Elimination of malaria in Southern Africa (E8)	Linden Morrison (Linden.Morrison@theglobalfund.org)
	Regional Artemisinin Initiative Elimination of malaria multi-drug resistance (RAI)	Urban Weber urban.weber@theglobalfund.org)
TB	Regional TB in the Mining Sector Initiative "Finding missing TB cases" (TIMS)	Linden Morrison (Linden.Morrison@theglobalfund.org)
	Supporting Uganda Supranational labs and other countries to improve TB diagnosis in Eastern and Southern Africa region (ECSA)	Linden Morrison (Linden.Morrison@theglobalfund.org)
	Interventions among migrants and mobile population in Asia: Greater Mekong (TB Elimination Among Migrants – TEAM)	Urban Weber (Urban.Weber@theglobalfund.org)
	Interventions among refugees in Eastern Africa (IGAD)	Linden Morrison (Linden.Morrison@theglobalfund.org)
	TB Supranational Reference laboratory Network in Western and Central Africa	Caty Fall (Caty.Fall@theglobalfund.org)

	Strengthening laboratory diagnosis of TB on the region of the Americas (ORAS-CONHU)	Giulia Perrone (Giulia.Perrone@theglobalfund.org)
	TB Interventions among Afghan refugees, returnees and mobile populations in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan	Nicolas Cantau (Nicolas.Cantau@theglobalfund.org)
HIV	Sustainability of services for key populations in Latin America region	Giulia Perrone (Giulia.Perrone@theglobalfund.org)
	Sustainability of services for key populations in Caribbean region	Giulia Perrone (Giulia.Perrone@theglobalfund.org)
	Sustainability of services for key populations in MENA region	Gail Steckley (Gail.Steckley@theglobalfund.org)
	Sustainability of services for key populations in EECA region	Dumitru Laticevschi (Dumitru.Laticevschi@theglobalfund.org)
	Sustainability of services for key populations in SEA region	Nicolas Cantau (Nicolas.Cantau@theglobalfund.org)