COVID-19 Response Mechanism Guidelines

Approved on: 7 April 2021 | Date Updated: 7 April 2021

Approved by: Executive Grant Management Committee

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Applicable Policies and Guidance¹

- Global Fund Board Decision on Second Extension of C19RM and Operational Flexibilities (GF/B44/EDP18) (link forthcoming)
- OPN and Operational Procedures on Make, Approve and Sign Grants
- OPN on Risk Management
- OPN on Annual Funding Decision and Disbursements
- OPN on Grant Revisions
- Guidelines for Grant Budgeting
- OPN and Operational Procedures on Pooled Procurement Mechanism
- OPN and Operational Procedures on Implementation Period Reconciliation and Grant Closure
- Interim Quality Assurance Requirements for the Procurement of COVID-19 Diagnostic Products
- Guide to Global Fund Policies on Procurement and Supply Management of Health Products

¹ In case of inconsistency between the C19RM Guidelines and the OPNs and guidelines outlined in this section, the C19RM Guidelines shall prevail.
Section 1: General Guidance on C19RM

Purpose

These Guidelines on the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (“C19RM”) (the “C19RM Guidelines”) apply to Global Fund Country Teams, applicants and Principal Recipients and cover the following stages of the end-to-end process for C19RM: (i) C19RM Funding Request submission, review and approval; and (ii) Health Products procurement (the “Part 1 Processes”). The C19RM Guidelines will be supplemented during the course of April 2021 to cover the following additional stages: (i) integrating approved C19RM funds into grants; (ii) annual funding decisions, disbursements and increases in Wambo.org Ceiling, Principal Recipient reporting and reinvestment of C19RM savings/funds; (iii) Implementation Period reconciliation and Grant Closures; (iv) risk management and assurance across the grant lifecycle; (v) Secretariat reporting; and (vi) critical timelines (the “Part 2 Processes”).

The C19RM Guidelines supersede the C19RM Operational Procedures (except for the Reinvesting C19RM Funds section) dated 8 June 2020 (and amended on 19 November 2020), with immediate effect.

Background

In April 2020, the Global Fund established C19RM to support countries to respond to COVID-19 and mitigate its impact on programs to fight HIV, TB, malaria and systems for health. The pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on global health systems, jeopardizing the fight against HIV, TB and malaria and progress towards the 2030 goals for the three diseases. Based on significant additional contributions from Global Fund donors, on 30 March 2021, the Global Fund Board approved an extension of C19RM and associated operational flexibilities. On 7 April 2021, the Global Fund launched the second phase of C19RM.

Deadlines

The deadline for the Global Fund to award C19RM funds is 31 March 2022. All awarded C19RM funds, including any C19RM funds awarded to recipients in 2020 (“C19RM 2020”), must be used (i.e. goods and services must be delivered and paid for) by 31 December 2023 at the latest. However, as C19RM funding is intended for urgent needs, it is expected that funds will be used well in advance of this deadline. In particular, Principal Recipients are strongly encouraged to use C19RM 2020 funds by their original deadline of 30 June 2021.

Eligible Applicants

All countries, including regional/multi-country recipients, that are currently receiving funding from the Global Fund are eligible to receive C19RM funding.

Eligible Investments

C19RM is designed to assist eligible countries to respond to COVID-19 in three ways:

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2 Unless defined in the C19RM Guidelines, all capitalized terms have the meaning set out in the Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014) available at: https://www.theglobalfund.org/grantregulations.
3 The C19RM was approved by the Global Fund Board pursuant to GF/B42/EDP11 (Additional Support for Country Responses to COVID-19). The time limit for award of C19RM funds was extended pursuant to GF/B43/EDP12 (Extension of C19RM Timeline and Operational Flexibility for COVID-19). Under GF/B44/EDP18 (Second Extension of C19RM Timeline and Operational Flexibility for COVID-19), the Board approved an additional extension of C19RM.
4 GF/B44/EDP18 (Second Extension of C19RM Timeline and Operational Flexibility for COVID-19).
5 This includes countries receiving funding during the 2017-2019 and 2020-2022 allocation periods, including through the approach for non-eligible countries in crisis.
1. COVID-19 control and containment interventions, including personal protective equipment ("PPE"), diagnostics, treatment, communications and other public measures as specified in WHO guidance;

2. COVID-19-related risk mitigation measures for programs to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, including, but not limited to, support for COVID-19 interventions needed to safely implement campaigns, community and health facility-level HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programs and additional delivery and procurement costs for HIV, TB and malaria programs related to addressing COVID-19 disruptions; and

3. Expanded reinforcement of key aspects of health systems, such as laboratory networks, supply chains and community-led response systems, to address advocacy, services, accountability and human-rights based approaches.

Applicants can request funding under a combination of the above categories.

In consultation with technical partners, the Global Fund Secretariat has developed technical guidance to define and illustrate a range of interventions that it considers eligible for C19RM funding, including HIV, TB and malaria adaptation packages (e.g. lab system strategies with combined testing for COVID-19 and tuberculosis), RSSH interventions and COVID-19 interventions (e.g. a package of interventions aimed at COVID-19 control and containment in prisons). Please refer to the C19RM Technical Information Note.

C19RM funds cannot support the procurement of vaccines, or primarily focus on vaccine deployment. The C19RM Technical Information Note provides further guidance on this. While the use of C19RM for the procurement of PPE and for some health systems interventions (such as strengthening support to community health workers) may contribute to the implementation of country vaccine deployment plans, GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance and the World Bank are going to be the principal sources of external support to countries’ vaccine deployment efforts.

**Allocation**

The Global Fund sends each eligible country or regional/multicountry recipient a C19RM Allocation Letter confirming the potential C19RM amount available to them (the "C19RM Base Allocation"). The C19RM Base Allocation is in addition to and distinct from countries’ 2017-2019 and 2020-2022 allocations and additional to the C19RM 2020 awards. This amount is only a starting point for determining overall C19RM funding awards: applicants are also asked to submit C19RM Above Base Allocation Requests, which will be reviewed and if approved, may be either funded immediately or registered as C19RM Unfunded Demand. Applicants are highly likely to receive at least a portion of their C19RM Above Base Allocation Requests; therefore, it is extremely important that countries submit robust demand for both the C19RM Base Allocation and C19RM Above Base Allocation amounts.

Neither the C19RM Allocation Letter nor the C19RM Above Base Allocation Request guarantees an award of C19RM funding. All complete C19RM funding requests ("C19RM Funding Requests") of appropriate quality, submitted by the communicated deadline in the C19RM Allocation Letter, will be reviewed and approved by the Global Fund before C19RM funding is awarded.

If the applicant decides not to request C19RM funding by the specified deadline(s), the funds will be reallocated to other countries.

The C19RM Base Allocation is a starting point for calculating C19RM funding awards. The Global Fund has flexibility to adjust these awards to reflect COVID-19-related needs and will take account of the following factors:

- COVID-19 considerations, such as current incidence, mortality and potential vulnerability;
- the extent of disruption of services in Global Fund-supported programs;
• the amounts of C19RM funding already awarded and progress in implementing these funds; and
• the availability of funding from other sources.

Countries that have been harder hit by COVID-19, with low C19RM Base Allocations relative to COVID-19 need, or where HIV, tuberculosis and malaria services have been particularly disrupted, will receive proportionately higher amounts of C19RM Above Base Allocation funding, as long as they submit ambitious C19RM Funding Requests of appropriate quality.

Any adjustments will be considered by the Global Fund at the time of making award decisions and will be considered contextually and qualitatively, taking each country’s current situation into account while recognizing the limitations of COVID-19 burden data and the intrinsic difficulty of weighting the different factors.

C19RM Funding Request Submission

All C19RM Funding Requests must be coordinated and submitted by the Country Coordinating Mechanism (“CCM”) (or the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (“RCM”) or Regional Organization (“RO”), as appropriate). For non-CCM/RCM/RO applicants, the recipient of the Allocation Letter will coordinate the C19RM Funding Request.

All CCM applications must be endorsed by all CCM members.

All multicountry applications must demonstrate how a C19RM Funding Request is complementary to national efforts and other existing regional grants. RCM C19RM Funding Requests must be endorsed by all RCM members or their designated alternates. RO C19RM Funding Requests must be endorsed by the legal representative of the RO. Additionally, all RCM and RO applicants must provide evidence of endorsement from the CCMs of each of the countries included in the relevant program. Where a country does not have a CCM, endorsement is required from the legal representative of the relevant Ministry of Health or other national coordinating body.

All non-CCM applications must be endorsed by the legal representative of the applicant.

In addition to the above, COVID-19 control and containment interventions need to be endorsed by the national COVID-19 response coordinating body in all cases. For multicountry applications, this would apply to the participating countries of the multicountry, where these interventions are going to be implemented.

The Global Fund only reviews complete Funding Requests. Applicants should, therefore, ensure that all required documents and tools are submitted to the C19RM Secretariat in a timely manner.

Two-stage Application Process

Applicants can request C19RM funding in two stages:

1. **C19RM Fast-track Funding Request**: Applicants can submit an initial C19RM application on an accelerated basis to support urgent needs for COVID-19 health products (including PPE, diagnostics, and therapeutics as set out in the optimal category within the Health Product Segmentation Framework – link forthcoming) and costs relating to the effective deployment of such health products, including technical assistance. The amount of C19RM Base Allocation to be used to secure urgent COVID-19 commodities through the Fast-track process will depend on individual country circumstances. As an indication, it is anticipated that at least half of the C19RM Base Allocation will be applied for through this Fast-track process, looking at the Global Fund portfolio as a whole. 

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6 Such costs include, but are not limited to, PSA fees, freight and insurance fees, QA/QC fees, custom clearance fees, in-country warehouse and storage costs, in-country distribution costs and other PSM-related costs.
Requests require full CCM endorsement as well as the endorsement by the national COVID-19 response coordinating body; and

2. **C19RM Full Funding Request**: Following a Fast-track submission, applicants can take further time to develop and submit the remainder of their C19RM Funding Request, which includes additional interventions as needed under the three eligible investment categories. In addition to the full CCM endorsement, COVID-19 control and containment interventions of the C19RM Full Funding Request must be endorsed by the national COVID-19 response coordinating body.

While the C19RM Fast-track Funding Request process is intended to minimize the delay in deploying critical, basic elements to countries for their COVID-19 responses, it is optional. Applicants can choose to apply for C19RM funding through the C19RM Full Funding Request only.

Applicants are requested to refer to the [C19RM Funding Request instructions](https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/applying/materials/) when completing the C19RM Funding Request form for C19RM Fast-track and Full Funding Requests. Set out below is the list of required documents for each submission type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Fast-track submission</th>
<th>Full submission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C19RM Funding Request Form</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C19RM Consolidated Budget</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ Including C19RM Above Base Allocation request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantification or needs assessment for COVID-19 health products (including contribution and projected pipeline from other sources of funding)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 National Testing Strategy, where available</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C19RM Health Products Management Template (&quot;C19RM HPMT&quot;) per grant</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C19RM Funding Landscape Table</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCM Endorsement of C19RM Funding Request</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endorsement by the national COVID-19 response coordinating body</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ COVID-19 control and containment</td>
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C19RM Funding Request Development

In all cases (Fast-track and Full Funding Requests) the applicant must ensure that C19RM Funding Requests are developed in collaboration with the entities coordinating the national COVID-19 response, to ensure alignment with the National Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 (“NSPRP”) and robust information sharing on key data and existing and emerging investments. Ideally, this will include direct coordination with relevant national response Pillar working groups or related technical bodies with specific responsibilities for COVID-19 lab diagnostics, infection prevention and control, e.g. PPE and medical therapeutics.

For the C19RM Full Funding Request, effective community and civil society engagement are crucial for developing a robust response to the pandemic, including opportunities to support community-led initiatives, to both mitigate the impact on HIV, TB and malaria services, and strengthen the national COVID-19 response. Applicants must consult with, at minimum the HIV, TB and malaria national control programs, civil society, key and vulnerable populations as well as communities, including those most severely affected by COVID-19. This includes CCM members and non-CCM representatives. Even if a country is experiencing significant disruption, CCMs are still expected to make efforts to invite inputs from civil society, communities and key populations using virtual tools. Since some health systems investments may contribute to future pandemic preparedness, CCMs are also requested to ensure appropriate involvement of relevant actors (e.g. International Health Regulations focal points) and alignment with relevant plans where available (e.g. the National Action Plan for Health Security).

In principle, Eligibility Requirement 8 applies to all C19RM Funding Requests (Fast-track and Full Funding Requests). Accordingly, Global Fund Country Teams will support CCMs by discussing any barriers to inclusive country dialogue as early as possible.

Technical assistance for the development of the C19RM Funding Request is generally country and CCM-led via national COVID-19 structures, in-country technical partners or existing CCM funding resources. Where additional funding is needed to support a meaningful country dialogue and an inclusive C19RM Funding Request, the applicant should note that CCMs already have a minimum of 15% of their CCM budget allocated for civil society organization engagement, and costed workplans can be realigned with C19RM consultation priorities, as needed. In addition, supplementary resources (up to an additional 25% of the CCM’s 2021 annual funding allocation) are available on request, to increase a CCM’s capacity to support engagement and coordinate with the national response.9 On approval by the Global Fund, CCMs will be able to immediately use existing

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8 Per the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism Policy (GF/B39/DP09), Eligibility Requirement 1 provides that “[t]he Global Fund requires all CCMs to: i. Coordinate the development of all funding requests through transparent and documented processes that engage a broad range of stakeholders, including CCM members and non-members, in the solicitation and the review of activities to be included in the funding request; and ii. Clearly document efforts to engage Key Populations in the development of funding requests.”

9 Please note this support is available to CCMs and RCMs but not to ROs or non-CCMs at this time.
CCM funding in anticipation of this additional funding to conduct the activities. Please contact the CCM Hub for further details.

Applicants are requested to review additional available COVID-19 Global Fund guidance when completing the C19RM Funding Request:

- **C19RM Technical Information Notes**;
- **C19RM Funding Request Instructions**;
- **COVID-19 Information Note on Considerations for Community, Rights and Gender**;
- **COVID-19 Information Note on Human Rights**;
- Community, rights and gender considerations have also been integrated into disease-specific guidance notes;
- Guidance note on conducting inclusive country dialogues virtually; and
- **Value for Money Technical Brief** to address efficiency and sustainability aspects of COVID-19 investment.

### Implementers

C19RM funding will be channeled through existing Principal Recipients and grants. The applicant is strongly encouraged to identify the most optimal existing implementation arrangements to facilitate the effective delivery of the C19RM interventions.

The Global Fund will consider new implementers (e.g. lead agencies for the national scale response) in exceptional circumstances, following a detailed capacity assessment and provided that the implementers have satisfactory assurance arrangements in place as well as an ability to implement the proposed interventions with speed. Where the applicant proposes a new implementer, the applicant is requested to consider having them implement as Sub-recipients in the first instance. The assessment of Sub-recipient capacities is normally the responsibility of the Principal Recipient. The Global Fund, however, reserves the right to undertake such capacity assessments in unique circumstances (see **OPN on Additional Safeguards Policy**). New implementers proposed as Sub-recipients will be reviewed by the C19RM Investment Committee after the applicant has submitted the C19RM Funding Request.

Any request for a new Principal Recipient, however, requires in principle approval by the C19RM Investment Committee before submission of the C19RM Funding Request. If the C19RM Investment Committee’s in principle approval is received, the Country Team will immediately initiate a capacity assessment. Based on the capacity assessment and the Country Team’s recommendation, the Regional Manager or Department Head (for High Impact countries), will decide to accept or reject the nominated Principal Recipient. This decision will be communicated to the C19RM Investment Committee at time of review of the C19RM Funding Request. If a nominated Principal Recipient is rejected, a request for the nomination of an alternative Principal Recipient will be made to the applicant and another capacity assessment will be conducted as required.

### C19RM Funding Request Review and Approval

Following confirmation by the C19RM Secretariat that the C19RM Funding Request is complete, the application package is shared for review and input by GAC partners and relevant ACT-Accelerator partners with technical COVID-19 expertise (“CTAG”) in parallel with the Secretariat’s review. In order to mitigate the potential additional delay entailed by this step, the period for input is limited to three days, and partners are provided with criteria to tailor their reviews. The C19RM Investment

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10 New implementers may be considered in exceptional circumstances, subject to satisfactory assurance arrangements and ability to implement proposed interventions with speed.

11 Paragraph 19 of the **OPN on Make, Approve and Sign Grants**.
Committee will consider input provided by GAC partners and CTAG in determining funding awards or recommendations.

The C19RM Investment Committee reviews all C19RM Funding Requests. They approve: (1) all C19RM Fast-track Funding Requests; and (2) C19RM Full Funding Requests (including the C19RM Above Base Allocation request) up to US$ 35 million.

The C19RM Investment Committee recommends to the Global Fund Board for approval C19RM Full Funding Requests (including the C19RM Above Base allocation request) awards of more than US$ 35 million. This amount is measured in aggregate per country and does not include any funding awarded for COVID-19 health products through the C19RM Fast-track process, or C19RM funding awarded in 2020. The C19RM Investment Committee may also recommend awards under US$ 35 million to the Global Fund Board for approval where the Committee determines that the non-Health Product components of an award are of a nature and scale to raise significant concerns about risk and complexity.

Following any Board-approved C19RM awards, the C19RM Investment Committee can approve additional/subsequent awards of up to US$ 10 million, provided the award is to be used for the scale-up of interventions previously approved by the Board. The C19RM Investment Committee will notify any such approvals to the Board.

The C19RM Investment Committee award decisions are made on a country and grant-by-grant basis as follows:

1. **Immediate award**: Approved interventions, the funds for which can be immediately released for integration into grants. If there are conditions attached to the integration of funds, funds will be released for integration once the conditions are met.

2. **C19RM Unfunded Demand**: Approved interventions that can be funded if additional C19RM funds become available and/or efficiencies are identified during the revision (for C19RM Full Funding Requests only).

3. **Iteration**: Interventions that require iteration; a revised C19RM Funding Request should be resubmitted by the applicant for review in due course.

4. **No award**: Interventions that have not been approved and will not receive C19RM funding.

The C19RM Investment Committee’s decision for a given C19RM Funding Request can be a combination of immediate award, C19RM Unfunded Demand (for C19RM Full Funding Requests only), request for iteration and/or no award.

Following C19RM Investment Committee or Global Fund Board decision, the Global Fund sends a notification letter (“C19RM Notification Letter”) informing the applicant of the: (1) final decision and approved amount per grant; (2) technical review outcomes of the C19RM Funding Request; (3) any requirements or conditions associated with the outcomes of the review (including integration and use conditions); and (4) outline of next steps. The final approved consolidated C19RM budget (including C19RM Unfunded Demand, where relevant) and the C19RM HPMT will be appended to the C19RM Notification Letter.
Section 2: Grant Lifecycle Guidance

1. C19RM Funding Request submission, review and approval

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**C19RM Fast-track Funding Request**

- Receive FR
- Screen FR
- Translate FR (if applicable)
- Concurrent review of FR by Secretariat
- Review FR (GAC Partners & CTAG)
- Share FRs + recs with IC
- Notify IC decision
- Notify Applicant
- Record investment in IMM
- Record contingent liabilities
- Implement

**C19RM Full Funding Request**

- Receive FR
- Screen FR
- Translate FR (if applicable)
- Concurrent review of FR by Secretariat (and TRP if applicable)
- Review of FR (GAC Partners & CTAG)
- Share FRs + recs with IC
- Notify IC decision
- Prepare Board paper
- Board decision
- Notify Applicant
- Record in IMM
- Record in IMM
- Implement

Option 1: If FR < $3MM

Option 2: If FR > $35m
- or has high risk/complex non-commodity activities
Set out below is the step-by-step process for the C19RM Funding Request submission, review and approval process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Timeline(^1)</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>C19RM Funding Request preparation and submission</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Preparation of <a href="mailto:C19RM@theglobalfund.org">C19RM Funding Request</a>,</td>
<td>a. Ongoing, until C19RM Funding Request is submitted.</td>
<td>CCMs (RCMs/ROs in multicountry contexts) or as indicated in the C19RM Allocation Letter for non-CCM/RCM/RO contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Submission of C19RM Funding Request to C19RM Secretariat, copying the relevant CT (<a href="mailto:C19RM@theglobalfund.org">C19RM@theglobalfund.org</a>).</td>
<td>b. Dates communicated in the C19RM Allocation Letter.</td>
<td>CTs support countries, in collaboration with other teams, including Finance, Technical Advice &amp; Partnerships (TAP), Community, Rights and Gender (CRG), Supply Operations (SO) and Risk, as applicable, and well ahead of the anticipated submission date when possible.</td>
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<td>CTs may request LFAs to be involved as observers or to engage them in the early review of draft documents.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C19RM Funding Request review</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Screening, overall review of completeness of the C19RM Funding Request (including checking the CCM endorsement).</td>
<td>a. Within 2 days from C19RM Funding Request submission.</td>
<td>C19RM Secretariat and CT conduct screening and overall review of the C19RM Funding Request for completeness. In case of major quality issues (e.g. request falls outside the scope of C19RM, request is inconsistent with funding instructions or incomplete submissions), the C19RM Funding Request may be sent back to the applicant or the applicant is requested to provide clarifications/missing documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. If applicable, translation of the C19RM Funding Request.</td>
<td>b. If applicable, translation - within 2 days from C19RM Funding Request screening.</td>
<td>C19RM Secretariat, in consultation with the CCM Hub, reviews completeness of CCM endorsement and compliance with Eligibility Requirement 1. Following the eligibility assessment, CCMs may be considered in one of the following categories:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C19RM Funding Request review starts after completion of the screening of the application package, and translation of the C19RM Funding Request, if applicable.</td>
<td></td>
<td>a. <strong>Compliant:</strong> Where the applicant fully complies with the eligibility requirements and relevant indicators;</td>
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<td>b. <strong>Compliant with Issues:</strong> Where some indicators are not fully met, but the applicant demonstrates credible intent to comply;</td>
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<td>c. <strong>Indeterminate Compliant:</strong> Where further information is required to make an assessment; or</td>
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\(^1\) All references to “days” in these procedures mean “business days”.

COVID-19 Response Mechanism Guidelines, 7 April 2021
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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</table>
| a. C19RM Funding Request sent for concurrent review by all reviewers. b. Application materials shared with the GAC partners and CTAG. | This step starts the clock for the C19RM Funding Request review | d. **Non-Compliant:** Where most or all the eligibility criteria indicators are not met. These cases will be escalated to the Investment Committee. **Issues identified during the screening of ER1 are escalated to the C19RM Investment Committee.** Communications Department – Translations team arranges translation, if applicable. 

The review process starts only when the C19RM Funding Request submission is complete. In case of only minor issues, the review can start, and any final or missing documents will be obtained in parallel. |
| GAC partners and CTAG review of the C19RM Funding Request | **Fast-track and Full:** Day 1-3 – concurrent with the Secretariat review | GAC partners and CTAG conduct review based on defined criteria. |
| Global Fund Secretariat concurrent review of the C19RM Funding Request | **Fast-track:** Day 1 - 4 | The following teams review the application package and capture individual review recommendations in the Review and Recommendation Form (RRF): |
| | **Full:** Day 1-6 | • **CT** reviews overall soundness of the request, proposed activities and associated budget and complementarity/potential duplication with other available sources of funding (in consultation with Health Finance Department). The CT comments on the risk and proposed mitigating measures to ensure that funds are used for intended purposes, including recommending any relevant conditions to integration or use of funds. The CT should also confirm the Procurement Channel arrangements in line with the HPMT.  

**Technical Advice and Partnerships (TAP)** reviews alignment with WHO technical guidance, the [C19RM Technical Information Note](#), the NSPRP and guidance from partners.  

**Community, Rights and Gender (CRG)** reviews alignment with the principles of community engagement, gender equity and human rights.  

**Supply Operations (SO)** reviews feasibility of supply of the health products request to be procured, especially related to supply-side aspects, including the availability of scarce products. |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Timeline(^1)</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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| Technical Review Panel review of material reprogramming requests. | Expedited review | • **Risk Department** assesses if there are significant risks associated with implementation of the proposed activities.  
*Refer to RRF instructions for further details about review expectations. CTs may involve LFAs in the review of the documents.*  
CT, in consultation with TAP advisors, determine if the C19RM Full Funding Request results in material reprogramming of the underlying HIV, TB and malaria grants into which the C19RM funds will be integrated.\(^2\)  
CT immediately alerts the C19RM Secretariat if the materiality threshold is triggered. C19RM Secretariat may refer such cases to the Investment Committee for guidance.  
C19RM Secretariat coordinates a TRP expedited review of the material reprogramming request. |

### C19RM Funding Request approval

| Preparation and sharing of the final recommendation and brief/dashboard with the C19RM Investment Committee. | **Fast-track:** Day 5  
**Full:** Day 7-8 | C19RM Secretariat prepares the final recommendation/brief/dashboard based on reviewers’ inputs and shares it along with the C19RM Funding Request package with the C19RM Investment Committee. |
| C19RM Investment Committee decision-making on the C19RM Funding Request. | **Fast-track:** Day 6  
**Full:** Day 9 | C19RM Investment Committee reviews all C19RM Funding Requests.  
- C19RM Investment Committee approves (i) all C19RM Fast-track Funding Requests; and (ii) C19RM Full Funding Requests (including the C19RM Above Base Allocation request) up to US$ 35 million.  
- C19RM Investment Committee recommends to the Board for approval (i) all C19RM Full Funding Request (including the C19RM Above Allocation request) awards more than US$ 35 million, and/or (ii) C19RM Full Funding Request awards under US$35 million, where the C19RM Investment Committee’s review suggests that the non-health product components of an award raise significant concerns about risk and complexity. |

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\(^1\) Please refer to the Program revisions section of the [OPN on Grant Revisions](#) (paragraph 53) for the relevant material program revision thresholds.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of the recommendation to the Board (if applicable)</td>
<td><strong>Full submission</strong>: Day 10-11</td>
<td>A group of advisors connected to the C19RM Investment Committee provides guidance to support decision-making for specific funding requests and when the C19RM Investment Committee requires it. C19RM Secretariat records the C19RM Investment Committee recommendation in the paper to the Board, requesting the Board’s no-objection on C19RM Full Funding Requests requiring Board approval. Governance Team coordinates the Board review and approval process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board decision (if applicable)</td>
<td><strong>Day 12-16</strong></td>
<td>Board approves on a no-objection basis, any C19RM full submission requests over US$ 35 million and any awards under US$ 35 million where the C19RM Investment Committee’s review suggests that the non-health products components of an award raise significant concerns about risk and complexity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notify applicant of the investment decision</td>
<td><strong>Fast-track</strong>: Day 7</td>
<td>HPM Specialist to update C19RM HPMT to reflect approved products and quantities, based on the available submitted documents, prior to input to HPMT aggregation tool. CT sends the final signed C19RM Notification Letter to the applicant (draft prepared by the C19RM Secretariat) confirming the award (the “2021 C19RM Award”) and enclosing the approved C19RM Budget and C19RM HPMT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After approval of C19RM Funding Request awards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment decision recorded in the IMM (GOS)</td>
<td>Day 2 after the C19RM Notification Letter is sent to the applicant</td>
<td>Grant Controlling Team inputs and approves based on segregation of duties principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingent Liabilities recorded in financial systems on a grant by grant basis</td>
<td>Day 2 after the C19RM Notification Letter is sent to the applicant</td>
<td>Financial Services team records Contingent Liabilities in financial system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board notified of C19RM Fast-track and awards under US$ 35 million</td>
<td>As part of regular reporting to the Board</td>
<td>C19RM Secretariat reports on C19RM awards as part of regular reporting to the Board.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Implementation

**Procurement of Health Products**

Procurement of Health Products financed from C19RM can be done through either the Global Fund’s Pooled Procurement Mechanism (“PPM”)/wambo.org or other procurement channels as described below.

Principal Recipients are strongly encouraged to use PPM/wambo.org, where the terms of the relevant Grant Agreement permit. This will allow for countries to benefit from negotiated terms and pricing, while simplifying orders especially for those products currently scarce on the global market.

The procurement channel arrangements must be clearly captured in the C19RM HPMT prior to the C19RM Investment Committee deliberations on the C19RM Fast-track and/or Full Funding Request.

As is detailed in the C19RM Technical Information Note, a three-category framework for Health Products has been developed that describes the sourcing of products with different dynamics, including those products which are scarce or for which supply may be tight on the global market and where pooling or enhanced visibility of progress is needed to have assurances that key products are secured and delivered when needed for impact:

- **Strategic Health Products** are products that are scarce on the global market where pooling of demand is essential to secure volumes so that they are not lost to high income markets;
- **Mainstream Health Products** are products where supply is tight or fragile and enhanced visibility of progress is needed; and
- **Local Sourcing Advised Health Products** are products which are general low value bulky and/or hazardous products such as alcohol and bleach, or those for which contracting of a local contractor is preferred, for example, for supply of some oxygen interventions.

As described in Section 2 of the Guide to Global Fund Policies on Procurement and Supply Management of Health Products, Principal Recipients may be required by the Global Fund to use PPM/wambo.org where the Principal Recipient’s procurement and/or supply management capacity is insufficient. The use of PPM/wambo.org may also be mandated by the Global Fund in other situations, in particular, to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 products based on coordinated allocation models with partners. Such situations will be analyzed and managed on a case by case basis.

**For Strategic Health Products**, the following procurement channels should be prioritized:

- a. the Global Fund’s PPM/wambo.org; or
- b. existing UN entity procurement channel where the UN entity is also Principal Recipient, provided the Principal Recipient agrees to provide monthly reporting on visibility from procurement to delivery.

**For Mainstream Health Products**, Principal Recipients are strongly encouraged to use PPM/wambo.org.

If Principal Recipients elect not to use PPM/wambo.org, they can request to procure the Mainstream Health Products through:

- a. national sourcing channels, provided the Principal Recipient agrees to provide to the Global Fund:

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15 The C19RM Investment Committee may consider alternative procurement channels proposed by the applicant, in exceptional circumstances only.
i. procurement performance assurance (including on quality, speed, volume, price and overall risk); and
ii. monthly reporting on visibility from procurement to delivery.

b. existing pooled procurement channels for the grant (GDF, PAHO, UNICEF, UNDP etc.). In such cases, the Global Fund will work with the Principal Recipient to obtain:
   i. procurement performance assurance (including on quality, speed, volume, price and overall risk); and
   ii. monthly reporting on visibility from procurement to delivery.

In all such cases, the Global Fund Country Team will need to be assured and confirm to the C19RM Investment Committee that there is confidence in terms of procurement performance (quality assurance compliance, speed, volume, price and overall risk). Reporting and other requirements approved by the C19RM Investment Committee will be communicated to the applicant in the C19RM Notification Letter and incorporated into the Grant Agreement with the relevant Principal Recipient.

**For Local Sourcing Advised Health Products.** PPM/wambo.org may support on low value items if no sources are available at the country or sub-regional level.

Further details on which products fall into each category can be found at [https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/covid-19/health-product-supply/procurement-advice/](https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/covid-19/health-product-supply/procurement-advice/).


For procurement through PPM/wambo.org, the [OPN and Operational Procedures on Pooled Procurement Mechanism](https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/covid-19/health-product-supply/procurement-advice/) apply with some flexibilities as defined in this document.

For procurement through other channels, the Principal Recipient undertakes the procurement following the terms of the Grant Agreement, including any additional grant requirements related to the above.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Procurement through PPM/wambo.org</td>
<td>Following (i) issuance of the C19RM Notification Letter(^\text{16}); (ii) completion of wambo.org onboarding (if not already completed), and (iii) increase in wambo.org ceiling (if there are sufficient uncommitted funds)</td>
<td>PR initiates the procurement in wambo.org. CT confirms that funding is approved for these health products in the wambo.org approval chain, (or offline form(^\text{17})), based on the C19RM Notification Letter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Procurement through other channels</td>
<td>Following issuance of C19RM Notification Letter(^\text{18})</td>
<td>PR manages this process. If funds are needed to initiate this process, PR can use in-country cash or request disbursement from the Global Fund.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{16}\) This applies to all C19RM Fast-track awards and C19RM Full Funding awards which do not require Board approval. If the C19RM Full Funding Request requires Board approval, health product procurement may be initiated following Investment Committee review and recommendation.

\(^{17}\) See Section 3 for further information on use of the offline form.

\(^{18}\) This applies to all C19RM Fast-track awards and C19RM Full Funding awards which do not require Board approval. If the C19RM Full Funding Request requires Board approval, health product procurement may be initiated following Investment Committee review and recommendation.