

# Operational Update

New Tools to Oversee Grant Investments, Accelerating Procurement under C19RM, and other updates

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## In this Edition

- [New Global Fund tools to oversee grant investments](#) (action required)
  - [C19RM: Accelerating Procurement of Approved Health Products](#) (action required)
  - [C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template](#) (action required)
  - [Updated C19RM Documents](#) (for information)
  - [Online Course on Implementation Period Reconciliation and Grant Closures](#) (for information/action)
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2 September 2021

Dear colleagues,

Effective implementation and oversight of grants are key to deliver on targets set for the three diseases and to continue to fight COVID-19.

The Global Fund would like to share with you **information and required actions** for two new tools that we are introducing to strengthen how we oversee investments: **Pulse Checks** and **Health Services Spot Checks**. These new tools are intended to gather data that will allow us to anticipate issues, unblock bottlenecks and course-correct so we can solve problems together.

They come in addition to already existing ones like the [C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template](#) that we shared in previous updates.

Action by Principal Recipients is required on the following topics:

- New Pulse Check tool: update Grant Entity Data by **9 September**.
- Initiate **urgent** procurement of health products for Principal Recipients with C19RM awards.
- Submission of the **C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template** according to the timelines you will find on this update.

We thank you for your effort in the fight against the three diseases and COVID-19 and we stand together to support you.

The Global Fund

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## **New Global Fund Tools to Oversee Grant Investments**

Two new and complementary oversight tools, **Pulse Checks** and **Supply Chain and Health Services Spot Checks**, are being rolled-out for **High Impact and Core portfolios\*** in September/October. Information will be collected throughout October.

The **C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template** referenced later on this update also complements the information gathered through Pulse Checks and Health Services Spot Checks.

**Pulse Checks and Supply Chain and Health Services Spot Checks** are part of a broader effort to strengthen operational oversight of Global Fund investments in HIV, TB, malaria and COVID-19, including improving our understanding of how C19RM investments contribute to mitigating COVID-19 related disruptions. The new tools will support more timely identification of emerging risks and issues, enabling more agile decision-making for course-correction.

### **Pulse Checks: for High Impact and Core Portfolios**

- **[Principal Recipients\\*](#)** will receive Pulse Checks from the Global Fund starting **1 October**. They will need to provide information for the period **1 July to 30 September 2021** and submit the completed Pulse Check **by 31 October**. To understand what information will be requested, please see **an example .pdf version** of a Pulse Check (in [English](#); French and Spanish versions will be available on [this page](#) soon). Detailed guidance will be provided when the Pulse Checks are launched.
- LFAs are not required to verify Pulse Checks. Instead, LFAs will verify the information provided in the Pulse Checks only when the Global Fund's Country Team requests it.
- The Pulse Checks will replace the COVID-19 Monitoring Tool that is currently completed by LFAs. LFAs will receive a separate communication when the date for the final submission of the survey is defined, expected towards the end of 2021.
- Countries already completing the **[MECA Indicator Monitoring tool](#)** are required to continue completing the tool until further notice; this tool is expected to be discontinued at the end of 2021.

\*High Impact and Core portfolios as per the [Global Fund's categorization of portfolio categories](#).

### **Grant Entity Data (GED) for Pulse Checks: for High Impact and Core Portfolios**

**7 September - revised instructions:** A Confirmation Letter is no longer required at this time. Principal Recipients are asked to submit all information through the online form mentioned below. Further instructions can be found on [this link](#).

A separate section in the Global Fund Partner Portal on Pulse Check reporting will be made available to send and receive the Pulse Checks from Principal Recipients. There will be two levels of access: **editors** can download, attach and fill in reporting information and **submitters, in addition to having editor rights**, can submit the Pulse Check to the Global Fund.

- **Principal Recipients** will be required to fill out an [online form](#) by 9 September (**only contacts with GED access will be able to access this form**) including information on who can access and submit the Pulse Check in the Partner Portal. Country Teams will validate the information. A dedicated message with further instructions will be sent to the designated admin focal points within each PR organization shortly.

### **Supply Chain and Health Services Spot Checks: for a set of 45 countries**

Health Services Spot Checks will be used to collect supply chain and health services performance data, including:

- On-shelf availability for HIV, TB, malaria and COVID-19 tracer products.
- On-time and in full delivery of HIV, TB, malaria and COVID-19 tracer products from the central medical stores to lower levels, including testing sites.
- Data on availability of COVID-19 testing services and oxygen therapy as well as disruption of health services (HIV, TB and malaria and tracer services) at facility level, and health systems resilience tracer indicators.

Data collection will be led by contracted suppliers in the [45 countries](#) that account for the Global Fund's largest investments in HIV, TB and malaria (approximately 90% of C19RM investments). The Global Fund Country Teams will introduce the contracted suppliers to Principal Recipients during September. More information will follow.

Data collection will start from 1 October. In each of the [45 countries](#), data collection will take place four times a year through a combination of on-site facility and testing site spot checks, logistics management information system (LMIS), desk reviews (where the LMIS is deemed to be sufficiently mature) and phone surveys.

### **Information Sessions : Health Services Spot Checks and Pulse Checks**

Sessions on Health Services Spot Checks will be available in English and French for the 45 countries that need to complete the checks. Sessions will take place on 23 September and 28 September. Further details will follow.

Sessions on Pulse Checks will take place in early October. High Impact and Core portfolios will be contacted with further information.

## C19RM: Accelerating Procurement of Approved Health Products

**Principal Recipients** are requested to accelerate the procurement of approved health products under C19RM awards to ensure rapid availability in-country. Please note these timelines for PPM procurements:

- The submission of the initial requisition is expected within 7 days of the country receiving the Notification Letter (NL).
- An additional 14 days are available for the conversion to a signed Purchase Order (PO) requiring multiple stakeholders to complete the necessary tasks timely.

If your country received a C19RM award and you haven't yet placed your orders or have any challenges in timely initiation of procurements, please contact your Country Team as soon as possible to address any bottlenecks.

**This call for urgent action applies to all approved health product procurements, including outside of PPM, through approved national sourcing channels or non-PPM existing pooled procurement channels (GDF, PAHO, UNICEF, UNDP etc.).** More challenging procurements, like for medical oxygen PSA plants, will require timely planning and execution, and Technical Assistance can be provided by in-country partners or financed through C19RM grants if needed, to avoid any start-up or procurement delays.

**We strongly urge Principal Recipients to expedite and fast-track all procurement preparations and initiation activities,** for those budgeted under Q4-2021. Expedited procurement also enables timely delivery of necessary health products, laboratory equipment and PSA plants to support national COVID-19 responses.

### C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template

**Principal Recipients are required to fill in this new template and submit to the Global Fund according to the timelines below.**

The [C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template](#) allows Principal Recipients to report information to the Global Fund according to the three-category framework for health products outlined in the [Health Product Segmentation Framework](#): a) Strategic b) Mainstream and c) Local Sourcing Advised.

**High Impact and Core portfolios:** Principal Recipients are expected to submit monthly reports to the Global Fund no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each calendar month of the Implementation Period.

**Focused portfolios:** (a) Principal Recipients are expected to submit reports for the health products procured through national sourcing channels not later than 10 January after the end of each calendar year of the Implementation Period. (b) For health products procured through non-PPM pooled procurement channels, reports are to be submitted no later than the following quarterly dates of each calendar year of the Implementation Period: 10 January, 10 April, 10 July and 10 October respectively.

Spanish and French versions of the C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template will be available on [this page](#) shortly.

## Updated C19RM Documents

Updated C19RM Guidelines [EN \(ES and FR forthcoming\)](#)

Updated C19RM Funding Request Instructions [EN](#) | [ES](#) | [FR](#)

Updated C19RM Health Product Segmentation Framework [EN](#) | [ES](#) | [FR](#)

The C19RM Guidelines, Funding Request Instructions and Health Product Segmentation Framework have been updated. An [upcoming web update](#) will list the changes made to these documents.

## Online Course on Implementation Period Reconciliation and Grant Closures

A new 30-minute online course on Implementation Period Reconciliation and Grant Closures is now available in iLearn. The course guides Principal Recipients and other partners on the process of closing an implementation period or grant. The first section explains the main stages of the closure process, key requirements and timelines, while the second part discusses common challenges related to implementing and finalizing closures.

An [iLearn account](#) is needed to access the course. The course is available in English; French and Spanish versions are currently being developed.

Online course on Implementation Period Reconciliation and Grant Closures (in [English](#))

*Spanish and French courses will be available soon.*