

Operational Update

Pulse Checks, Spot Checks, Progress Reporting, Global Fund Satisfaction Survey, C19RM and other updates

6 October 2021

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Dear colleagues,

In this edition of the Global Fund's Operational Update we would like to share further information regarding the tools that the Global Fund has recently launched to oversee grant investments: Spot Checks and Pulse Checks.

We also share reminders on quality assurance policies for COVID-19 products and new briefing notes and training. An update on potential engagements with Tana/Moon Netting is also included today.

Last but not least, we encourage you to complete the Global Fund's 2021 Satisfaction Survey. Your opinion on the support you have received from the Secretariat during this difficult year is important to us, and we look forward to hearing from you.

We thank you for all the work you do in fighting the three diseases and COVID-19 and wish you a good week ahead.

Best regards,
The Global Fund

Update on New Tools: Pulse Checks and Spot Checks

The new Supply Chain and Health Services Spot Checks and Pulse Checks will allow for more frequent reporting to the Global Fund and its Board and serve as a mechanism to support Principal Recipients in identifying implementation bottlenecks and course correct as needed. It is mandatory to complete this tool but note that it does not inform grant rating.

New Tool	Will replace...	Timeline	Who needs to complete it?
<p>Supply Chain and Health Services Spot Checks aim to improve visibility of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) supply chain performance (ii) commodity and service availability (iii) service disruptions as well as strengthen assurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Service Continuity Spot Checks (implemented through LFAs in 44 countries). • On-Shelf Availability (OSA) surveys led by Supply Operations in 16 countries. 	<p>Data collection will take place four times a year through a combination of on-site facility spot checks, logistics management information system (LMIS) desk reviews and phone surveys where needed.</p>	<p>Data collection to be led by contracted suppliers in 45 countries* - a subset of High Impact and Core Portfolios.</p>
<p>Pulse Checks will capture timely data on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) programmatic progress (ii) implementation disruption (iii) financial data <p>to provide the Global Fund Secretariat with organizational visibility into implementation challenges and facilitate systematic problem-solving.</p> <p>(Note: Data will not be LFA-verified and will not be used for grant rating purposes.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global COVID-19 monthly monitoring survey completed by LFAs. • The COVID-19 Indicator Monitoring (equivalent to the programmatic indicator module of the Pulse Check) currently covers 46 countries.. <p>These two tools will be phased out by the end of 2021.</p>	<p>Principal Recipients will receive Pulse Checks from the Global Fund four times a year starting 4 October. The first Pulse Check covers the period 1 July to 30 September 2021 and the completed Pulse Check needs to be submitted within 30 days.</p>	<p>Principal Recipients of High Impact and Core portfolios.</p>

Pulse Checks

A Guideline on how to submit Pulse Checks is available [here](#).
(FR forthcoming)

An information session on Pulse Checks was held for Principal Recipients on 30 September 2021. The recording and presentation can be found on the [Global Fund website](#). Additional sessions will be held on 6 October (English and French) and 7 October (French); please see below for call-in details.

Topic	Date & Time	Language / Link to session
Pulse Checks	6 October 14:00 to 15:15 CEST	English Join here
	6 October 15:30 to 16:45 CEST	French Join here
	7 October 14:00 to 15:15 CEST	French Join here

Principal Recipients will start to receive Pulse Checks as of 4 October 2021 through the Global Fund Partner Portal and will have until 5 November 2021 to complete and submit them. It is important that Principal Recipients that have not yet submitted Grant Entity Data (GED) contact information do so as soon as possible to be able to access and submit the Pulse Checks.

Principal Recipients can submit Grant Entity Data information on “Editors” and “Submitters” following instructions sent by Country Teams.

Roles & Responsibilities	
Editors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are authorized by the Principal Recipient to access the Partner Portal to download the Pulse Check Excel form. Once completed, they will attach the Excel form back into the Portal.• Can fill in data on the Pulse Check page of the Partner Portal.• Are not able to submit the completed Excel or online form to the Global Fund.
Submitters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have the same rights as the editors (to download and attach the Pulse Check Excel form or complete data in the Pulse Check online form within the Partner Portal).• In addition, they are duly authorized by the Principal Recipient to submit the Pulse Check Excel or online form to the Global Fund via the Partner Portal.

Supply Chain and Health Services Spot Checks

The “Spot Checks” will only be run in [45 countries](#) that have received a C19RM allocation higher than US\$20 million. If your country is not listed, “Spot Checks” do not need to be completed.

We would like to thank Principal Recipients for attending the information sessions and for your attention during the introduction of service providers Palladium, KPMG and IQVIA in your country.

If you weren't able to attend the information sessions, you can watch the recording ([English](#) | [Français](#)) or read the presentation ([English](#) | [Français](#)). If you wish to participate in an information session to ask questions, please consult with your Country Team.

As next steps, formal engagement among service providers, Principal Recipients, Country Coordinating Mechanisms and ministries of health will start at the beginning of October.

Tasks in which Principal Recipients will be involved in include: desk reviews, facilitating access of service providers to updated Master Facility Lists, facilitating or providing approvals for service providers to access health facilities and data and reviewing list of tracer products. Data collection will start in early October.

Information session materials:

23 September – English: [presentation](#) | [recording](#)

28 September – French: [presentation](#) | [recording](#)

Progress Updates (PU), Progress Updates and Disbursement Requests (PUDRs) and Financial Closure Reports

Principal Recipients that haven't yet submitted the above-mentioned reports are requested to do so as soon as possible. These reports are of critical importance to the Global Fund, so that the aggregate progress, financial performance and absorption rates can be presented to support: 1) conversion of donor pledges into contributions, 2) building a stronger case for the 7th Global Fund Replenishment: high absorption rates of well performing and impactful grants make an even stronger case for much-needed funding for the three diseases and C19RM.

More information on PU/DR submission can be found in the Principal Recipient Progress Update/Disbursement Request (PU/DR) Guidelines ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) |

[Русский](#)). PRs and LFAs are encouraged to take the PR Reporting e-learning course, available [here](#) ([iLearn account required](#)).

The Financial Closure reports are essential to provide the Board and the Audit and Finance Committee with a comprehensive view of Global Fund financials and ensure the US encashment and payment of the C19RM pledge. PRs and LFAs are encouraged to take [the dedicated e-learning course](#) (registration in iLearn required).

Global Fund Satisfaction Survey

The Global Fund is seeking feedback from CCMs, PRs and LFAs on support received from the Global Fund Secretariat in 2021.

We would appreciate if you could respond to this survey ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)) by Friday, 8 October 2021 (deadline extended).



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COVID-19 RESPONSE MECHANISM

Updated C19RM Guidelines

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

The C19RM guidelines have been updated, with the following changes:

1. **Section 2.1 – Process Overview and Critical Timelines** includes a revised KPI (C19RM Additional Funding Revision timelines) to capture adjustments to standard timelines based on lessons-learned.
2. **Annex 1: C19RM 2021 End-to-end Assurance Guidance** now has guidance on the LFA C19RM 2021 executive summary template.

Quality Assurance Policies on COVID-19 Products

Interim Quality Assurance Requirements

In addition to the interim quality assurance requirements for the procurement of COVID-19 diagnostic products, the Global Fund published in June 2021 two documents outlining interim quality assurance requirements for the procurement of COVID-19 [medical devices](#) and [pharmaceutical products with Global Fund resources](#). Interim requirements for COVID-19 products are included in the Global Fund Guide to Global Fund Policies on Procurement and Supply Management of Health Products ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)) and on [this web page](#).

Please contact the [Global Fund Quality Assurance Team](#) if further advice is needed.

C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template

Updated Procurement Progress Reporting Template [EN](#)
(ES | FR forthcoming)

Please note that an updated C19RM 2021: Procurement Progress Reporting Template is now live in the Global Fund website.

Principal Recipients are requested to use this updated template for their next reporting deadline (10 October 2021).

Briefing Note: Chest Radiography and Computer-aided Detection (CAD) Solutions for Tuberculosis Programs

A Briefing Note on Chest Radiography and Computer-aided Detection (CAD) Solutions for Tuberculosis Programs ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)) provides information to support in the selection of these technologies. The note outlines the role of chest x-rays and computer aided-detection software in TB programs.