

Operational Update

End of Year Updates

13 December 2021

In this Edition

- [End of the Year Message by Mark Edington](#)
- **Update on New Tools: Pulse Checks and Spot Checks**
 - [Pulse Checks](#) (action required)
 - [Timing of PR Reporting: Upcoming Pulse Checks and PU/DR Submissions](#) (action required)
 - [New Grant Entity Data - Principal Recipient Roles for Upcoming PU/DR Submissions](#) (action required)
 - [Supply Chain and Health Services Spot Checks](#) (for information)
- [Supply Chain Roadmap](#) (for information)
- [Placing Orders and Procuring Health Products for 2022](#) (action required)
- **Other Updates from Supply Operations**
 - [TA Pool Portal](#) (for information)
 - [Price and Quality Reporting Tool: Request to Report PPE Products & Medical Devices](#) (action required)
 - [C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template](#) (action required)
 - [Interim Quality Assurance Requirements for the Procurement of COVID-19 Medical Devices](#) (for information)
- **Global Fund Communications to Principal Recipients** (action required)
- **Updates on Tuberculosis**
 - [Tuberculosis Quarterly Update](#) (for information)
 - [Briefing Note: Testing for both Tuberculosis and SARS-CoV-2](#) (for information)
- **Trainings Updates**
 - [Guidelines for Grant Budgeting: New eLearning Module](#) (for information)
 - [Grant Entity Data Toolkit](#) (for information)

Dear colleagues,

COVID-19 continues to have a devastating impact around the world, as witnessed by the new waves hitting us all. As we continue fighting this pandemic alongside HIV, TB and malaria, I would like to stop for a moment to say: thank you.

Thanks to all CCM members, Principal Recipients, Sub-recipients, Ministries of Health, communities, LFAs, technical partners, civil society, private sector, and everyone in the Global Fund partnership who have gone above and beyond to deliver on programs for HIV, TB and malaria, the COVID-19 response and continue to strengthen health systems.

Thank you for having worked hard to prepare C19RM funding requests in a remarkably short time while implementing programs for HIV, TB and malaria. Thanks to your commitment, we were able to award a record amount of funding in just six months: over US\$3 billion for C19RM. The focus for all of us needs to be on implementation, so that collectively we truly make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

While we are expecting 2022 to be another challenging year for those of us in global health, we also have much to look forward to: 1) we continue to celebrate 20 years since the Global Fund was created, 2) we will host our Seventh Replenishment and 3) we will start the roll-out of our new Global Fund Strategy for 2023-2028.

I take this opportunity to thank you again and wish you a restful festive season for those of you celebrating.

I hope we can meet in person in 2022.

Mark Edington
Head, Grant Management Division

Update on New Tools: Pulse Checks and Spot Checks

We would like to thank Principal Recipients (PRs) and Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) for all the work done through Spot Checks and Pulse Checks so far.

Pulse Checks

We have achieved a submission rate of 96.4% for the new Pulse Checks launched through the Partner Portal in October 2021. PR support to provide timely visibility into implementation progress and key programmatic and financial information is critical to get insights into issues across the portfolio to identify solutions.

Option to Submit Pulse Checks through the Online Form Now Available for all PRs

Principal Recipients have the choice between two options to submit Pulse Checks through the Global Fund Partner Portal, by: (a) attaching the Excel form or (b) entering information directly into an online form. Both submissions are done through an internet browser or “online”, but the difference lies in where Principal Recipients input the information.

For this first round of submissions, eleven PRs piloted the Pulse Check online form with great success.

“Using the Pulse Check online form was easy and convenient. We also liked that multiple people could access the online form and populate it at the same time”, says Caroline Newbert, Global Fund Grant Manager at NACOSA, a Principal Recipient in South Africa. “It is incredibly helpful that the information is saved automatically and as a PR you can complete the form through multiple visits to the Partner Portal”.

PRs are encouraged to consider completing their Pulse Checks through the online form and can contact their Country Team to request for such.

Timing of PR Reporting: Upcoming Pulse Checks and PU/DR Submissions

Principal Recipients will receive system notifications to access the Pulse Check covering October-December 2021 in early January and are required to submit the fully completed Pulse Check by 9 February 2022.

The updated Progress Report/Disbursement Request (PU/DR) template will be shared with PRs through the Partner Portal in early February. The PR is expected to submit the completed PU/DR to the Global Fund, for LFA review, within 60 days. Timelines to complete the PU/DRs, updated guidance materials, and the timing of information sessions will be communicated to PRs and LFAs from early 2022 onwards.

New Grant Entity Data - Principal Recipient Roles for Upcoming PU/DR Submissions

The upcoming Progress Report/Disbursement Request (PU/DR) process will be fully managed through the Global Fund Partner Portal. Principal Recipients received the first information on this in an email from the Partner Portal in November 2021 and more information and sessions will be held from mid-December onwards.

Currently available key resources include a high-level summary of the process ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)) and the Authorization Letter ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)) that PRs are required to submit.

Supply Chain and Health Services Spot Checks

Data collection has started in 35 of the [45 countries](#) where “Spot Checks” are taking place and expect to be completed for the first 21 countries by 9 December 2021. Consultation meetings with Principal Recipients and Ministries of Health will follow for those countries that have completed data collection.

“Spot Checks” will be run quarterly, as the new monitoring and oversight tool that replaces previously used tools and that aims to improve visibility on the availability of HIV, TB, malaria and COVID-19 commodities, and services and readiness at healthcare facilities and in communities. The next round will start in January 2022.

If you weren't able to attend the information sessions held in September, you can watch the recording ([English](#) | [Français](#)) or read the presentation ([English](#) | [Français](#)).

Supply Chain Roadmap

Co-created by various members of the Global Fund partnership, the [Supply Chain Roadmap](#) aims to collectively invest and drive in-country supply chain improvements. A Global Health Supply Chain Dialogue event is planned for the first quarter of 2022 to share the strategy and outline how it will support national strategic plans. Please read this Update ([English](#) | [Français](#)) for more information.

Placing Orders and Procuring Health Products for 2022

Principal Recipients that have submitted requisitions for products needed in 2022 to wambo.org or through other procurement channels are requested to accelerate approvals of those requisitions before **17 December 2021** so that they can be issued to the Procurement Agents before the Global Fund's financial year-end closure.

Principal Recipients that have not yet initiated requisitions for products needed in 2022 should submit and approve those requisitions without delay. This is valid for requisitions through wambo.org and other procurement channels.

More details can be found in this Update ([English](#) | [Français](#)).

Please contact your Global Fund Supply Operations' PR-Services focal point and/or your Country Team if you have questions.

Other Updates from Supply Operations

TA Pool Portal

Supply Operations recently launched a new centralized platform, the [Technical Assistance Pool Portal](#), to give an overview of existing technical assistance (TA) vendors and services.

This portal allows users to access information in four areas: 1) Sustainable Supply Chain Governance, 2) Supply Chain Data Innovation, 3) People-centric Supply Chain Design and 4) Private Sector Engagement.

To obtain a password to access the Technical Assistance Pool Portal, please send an email to SCTAPoolAdmin@theglobalfund.org, including the email address to be used in the portal.

Price and Quality Reporting Tool: Request to Report PPE Products & Medical Devices

Principal Recipients (PRs) and Procurement Service Agents (PSAs) are required to report personal protective equipment (PPE) products and medical devices that have been purchased as of 1 July 2021 through the [Price and Quality Reporting \(PQR\) Tool](#) ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)).

This includes **surgical and non-surgical masks, respirators and Class C and D medical devices** that meet the Global Fund quality assurance standards. See the [Principal Recipient/Procurement and Supply Management Price and Quality Reporting Quick Guide](#) to follow the reporting process. You can contact [PQR Admin](#) with further questions.

For questions related to reporting PPE/Class C and D medical devices, please contact **your Health Product Management (HPM) focal point**.

For additional information, see the [Procurement Supply Management Guidelines](#) and the [Interim Quality Assurance Requirements for Procurement of Covid-19 Medical Devices](#).

C19RM Procurement Progress Reporting Template

The updated version of the **C19RM 2021: Procurement Progress Reporting Template** is now available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) on the [Global Fund website](#).

The next reporting deadline for all portfolios is **10 January 2022** using the latest version of the template available on the [Global Fund website](#).

Please also note that:

- The reporting is cumulative.
- Only (a) C19RM Strategic and Mainstream Health Products procured outside of PPM/wambo.org; and (b) all C19RM Local Sourcing Advised Products with Enhanced Reporting (currently only those listed in Table 4 of the C19RM Health Product Segmentation Framework (HPSF)) are within scope for reporting. Further details on the classification of these products are available in the C19RM Health Product Segmentation Framework ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)).
- The **English, French or Spanish** template can be used for reporting and all financial data should be reported in **US\$** value.

Interim Quality Assurance Requirements for the Procurement of COVID-19 Medical Devices

[The Interim Quality Assurance Requirements for the Procurement of COVID-19 Medical Devices](#) ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)) were republished on 27 October 2021 with the following updates:

- The risk classification for each item as per Globally harmonized principles of the Medical Device Classification, was added in Annex 1. The example table was updated to reflect the classifications (see on page 2).

For the set of products classified as “C” and “D”, (as per Globally harmonized principles), in addition to meeting national requirements, an international standard of quality must also be met.

Additional guidance materials will be shared early next year.

Global Fund Communications to Principal Recipients

The following is a list of addresses/applications that may send Principal Recipients messages. Please ensure these recipients are approved senders and not pushed to your spam folder.

- The Partner Portal: partnerportal@theglobalfund.org
 - Grant Entity Data: grantentitydata@theglobalfund.org
 - Country Support: country.support@theglobalfund.org
 - Wambo.org: info@wambo.org
 - The Global Fund Operations: theglobalfund.operations@theglobalfund.org
 - The Global Fund Operational Update: operationalupdate@theglobalfund.org
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Updates on Tuberculosis

The Tuberculosis Quarterly Update

The first [Tuberculosis \(TB\) Quarterly Update](#) (English) was published in October 2021, and includes information on tools, guidance, best practices and highlights of the TB Strategic Initiative and other TB-related activities.

Briefing Note: Testing for both Tuberculosis and SARS-CoV-2

The new [Briefing Note on Testing for both Tuberculosis and SARS-CoV-2](#) was published in October 2021 and provides information on how to use integrated service delivery and optimize implementation activities to support both TB and COVID-19. It outlines:

- Clinical features of both tuberculosis and COVID-19.
 - Opportunities to test individuals for both pathogens.
 - Types of tests available.
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Training Updates

Guidelines for Grant Budgeting: New eLearning Module

A new eLearning course on the Guidelines for Grant Budgeting is available on iLearn for Principal Recipients (PRs). This course is composed of seven modules, corresponding to the seven sections of the Guidelines for Grant Budgeting ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)). Each module can be completed individually. We will share more information next year, as the Spanish and French versions become available. In the meantime, you can access the English version by visiting [this page](#).

Grant Entity Data Toolkit

The Grant Entity Data (GED) Toolkit is now available in English, French and Spanish to support CCMs, PRs and LFAs understand this process. All resources can be found [here](#).
