

Operational Update

End of Year Updates

8 December 2022

Dear colleagues,

As we get ready to close the year, I would like to bring you some updates and some reflections, but above all, I would like to thank you for the tremendous amount of effort your countries have made for global health this year.

It hasn't been easy to fight the three diseases in the midst of a global pandemic, that we also had to address. COVID-19 has been shifting and demanding us to adapt quickly to respond but has given us incredible opportunities to prepare for future pandemics.

In this update, you will find information on decisions that the Global Fund Board made at its 48th meeting last month in Geneva (all decisions can be found on the [Global Fund website](#)), as follows:

- Seventh Replenishment funding to be allocated to implementing countries has been approved for a total of US\$13.128 billion. CCMs will be receiving allocation letters towards the end of December.
- The COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) has been extended and funds can be awarded until 30 June 2023, with the flexibility to continue C19RM portfolio optimization as needed. Implementation and use of these funds can be done until 31 December 2025. This extension presents an important opportunity to shift focus to strengthening systems for health and preparing for new pandemics.

In addition, we must continue our work on Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH). In 2021, we updated our code of conduct for recipients of Global Fund grants and required strengthened provisions on PSEAH to be fully introduced into the organization's operations. A copy of the May 2021 letter can be found [here](#) (also available in [Español](#), [Français](#), [Português](#)). The Global Fund will be rolling out further work on this area and you will receive more information from your Country Team in the coming weeks.

As we enter 2023 and develop a new cycle of grants, we are at a critical juncture and the work of our partnership is crucial towards achieving our common 2030 goals. The new

[Global Fund strategy](#) aims to support the achievement of these goals and we appreciate all the work you are already doing in preparing your applications while implementing current grants.

Thank you again for all your efforts. I hope to see many of you next year and look forward to working together in 2023.

Best regards,

Mark Edington
Head, Grant Management Division

C19RM Extension, Reinvestments and Portfolio Optimization

Over the last six months, as the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, the Global Fund observed a shift in implementing country funding priorities from emergency pandemic response to strengthening systems for health, pandemic preparedness and recovery of HIV, TB and malaria programs.

During June-August, the Global Fund initiated an exercise called C19RM portfolio optimization to meet these needs. This process allows countries to reinvest and reprogram C19RM funds and align investments with revised priorities. In response, 49 countries submitted C19RM portfolio optimization requests.

The submissions underlined a substantial need to strengthen health and community systems with 56% of the C19RM unfunded demand being for systems-strengthening interventions – up from 12% in 2021 when the focus was on COVID-19 tools.

C19RM extension

Funding needs are evolving from COVID-19 health products such as diagnostics and PPE, to rebuilding and strengthening countries' ability to fight new pandemics, delivering benefits for HIV, TB and malaria programs and developing resilient and sustainable health systems.

As systems-strengthening investments take longer to prepare, review and implement effectively, the Global Fund requested an extension to its Board so C19RM funds can be used beyond 2023.

This extension presents a unique opportunity for countries to reprioritize interventions aligned with the C19RM's mandate, especially related to RSSH and pandemic preparedness including community health workers (CHWs) that work across several disease programs, lab networks, end-to-end surveillance and systems-building for oxygen and respiratory care.

The extension is fully aligned with the objectives of the new 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy of: (i) maximizing people-centered, integrated systems for health to deliver impact, resilience

and sustainability and (ii) contributing to pandemic preparedness and response. As such, countries are encouraged to align prioritization of needs to be funded under C19RM with funding requests from the upcoming funding cycle to complement investments and mitigate risk of duplicating efforts across funding sources.

C19RM Portfolio Optimization. Unfunded demand C19RM requests have been reviewed and applicants will be informed of next steps in the letters to CCMs outlining the parameters for the extension in the coming weeks.

As C19RM funding can now be used beyond 2023, countries have a new opportunity to reassess C19RM funding needs and consider their priorities alongside designing the core funding requests for HIV, TB and malaria for the next cycle of Global Fund grants.

Next steps. Detailed guidance on how the extension beyond 2023 will work, and updates on accessing additional C19RM funding will be communicated to CCMs in due time.

Updates on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)

Health care must be safe care

People will not access health care services if they fear that doing so will result in sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment. Our goal of eliminating the three diseases depends on the delivery of people-centered services that are freely available to all, without fear or favor, and maintaining workplaces across our extended partnership that are safe spaces where all can thrive.

The Global Fund took an important step in this direction in February 2021, when it updated the [Code of Conduct for Recipients of Global Fund Resources](#) and the [Code of Conduct for Suppliers](#) to incorporate specific PSEAH and child protection provisions. A copy of the letter which was sent to all PRs can be found [here](#) (also available in [Español](#), [Français](#), [Português](#)).

One year on, we want to ensure that PRs comply with the obligations and expectations included in these Codes. This includes:

- Having policies and measures in place to prevent and respond to SEAH.
- Incorporating the PSEAH provisions in contracts or agreements with sub-recipients and with suppliers.
- Ensuring that all sub-recipients and suppliers acknowledge and agree to meet these PSEAH provisions.

[Read more](#) for requirements and next steps for Principal Recipients, which includes a PSEAH Self-Assessment Questionnaire **due no later than 16 December 2022**.

Grant-making for the Next Funding Cycle

It is never too early to start preparing the translation of the funding request into a grant. This process is called grant-making and is defined by Principal Recipients (PRs) and Country Teams working together to design a grant, with support from Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) and Local Fund Agents (LFAs). This collaboration is key to ensure that grants are ready to start implementation (“implementation-ready”) on the first day of their respective implementation periods.

PRs and Country Teams will also be discussing country needs and matching areas of the new Global Fund Strategy that enable them to reach global goals by 2030. These include strengthening community engagement, data collection and analysis for fact-driven decision-making and pandemic preparedness, to name a few.

During January/February 2023, the Global Fund will hold information sessions for in-country partners to explain the grant-making process and what’s expected during this time, and how to prepare.

The following key changes have been made to focus and strengthen grant-making for the upcoming cycle – detailed descriptions of these changes are available on the [Global Fund website](#).

1. **Integrated planning and ensuring implementation readiness.**
2. **Enabling timely and quality grant-making.**

If you have any questions, please contact your Country Team.

Other Updates

The following updates are available on our website:

- [Updated Resources for the Next Funding Cycle](#)
- **Supply Operations**
 - [Insecticide Treated Nets: Procurement Requirements](#)
- **Community Health**
 - [Webinar Series: #CommunityHealth@CountryLevel](#)