C19RM in 2023: What’s new and different?

The COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) has been extended and countries can use existing C19RM funding until 31 December 2025. Funding may be awarded until 30 June 2023.

As the pandemic has evolved moving away from an emergency response, countries have the opportunity to refocus C19RM investments to strengthen systems for health and reinforce pandemic preparedness, also showing complementarity and maximizing synergies with Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) investments, as part of the Technical Review Panel (TRP) submission requirements.

All countries implementing C19RM funding after the end of 2023 will need to complete a grant revision of Grant Cycle 6 (GC6) grants, showing reinvestments towards strategic areas listed below. Strategic areas are listed in the newly updated C19RM Technical Information Note:

- Surveillance system strengthening
- Improvements to laboratory systems and diagnostics
- Human resources for health and community strengthening
- Medical oxygen, respiratory care and therapeutics
- Health product and waste management systems

### Updated Resources

- The C19RM Guidelines ([Internal](#) | [External](#)) have been updated to include the new timelines for the award and use of funds, programmatic priorities, and processes for the integration of C19RM funds and reinvestment of C19RM funds for GC6 grants and implementation. A further update is scheduled to be published in August 2023.

- The **C19RM Modular Framework** ([English](#)) has been updated and now includes three new interventions for Community Health Workers.

- In addition, applicants can use the **C19RM Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)) to support the definition of expected outcomes of the investments in the C19RM funding request for additional funding.

- A newly introduced **C19RM Performance Framework form** ([download](#)) will be required for grants that have received US$20M or more of C19RM funds and have an Implementation Period for the use of C19RM funds extending beyond December 2023. Applicants can use the C19RM indicator guidance sheets for details on those to be included in the Performance Framework form.

- An updated **Detailed Budget** (until the end of 2025) allows countries to budget for existing funding plus the additional requested funding.

- The **C19RM Health Product Management Template (HPMT)** ([download](#)) and **C19RM HPMT User Guidelines** ([English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)) have been updated to support applicants requesting new and/or additional health products under C19RM PO wave 2.
Endorsements

All C19RM funding requests must be endorsed by:

- The CCM Chair/Vice-Chair and civil society representative
- The national COVID-19 response coordinating body or the body responsible for the specific intervention if the funding request includes COVID-19 interventions.
- The national epidemic and pandemic preparedness coordinating body or national International Health Regulations (IHR) focal points.
- Representatives of the Ministry of Health and of the Ministry of Finance.

Reinvestment of C19RM Funds

Countries can invest or reinvest C19RM funds towards longer-term investments in health systems strengthening and pandemic preparedness in three opportunities: during preparation of the additional funding request; when they integrate C19RM funding into a GC6 grant; or during programming of existing C19RM funds to align with the strategic shift and extended implementation period.

In all cases countries should ensure complementarity with GC7 grants. Note that newly awarded funds can only be integrated into GC6 grants, and implementation of activities, with the applicable Budget and Health Product Management Template, can also only be managed through GC6 grants. Countries will need to indicate the priority areas in the C19RM budget, the C19RM Performance Framework where applicable and the C19RM Health Product Management Template.

Assurance

The C19RM assurance approach has been updated as follows:

- All portfolios should implement risk-based and investment-driven LFA assurance.
- In the area of health product management, some minimum assurance requirements remain for High Impact and Core portfolios:
  - For high-risk contexts: pre-award procurement reviews for in-country procurement of strategic and mainstream health products.
  - As relevant (based on C19RM investment areas) in GC7: assurance for PSA plants, waste management, and laboratory equipment.
  - At least in 2023: supply chain reviews to review stock levels and expiries of health products used to implement C19RM activities (e.g., diagnostics/ PPC/therapeutics) irrespective of source of funding.

Communities at the Center

The involvement of communities in the design and delivery of COVID-19 programs continues to be important, particularly in terms of institutional capacity building, community-led monitoring, community-led advocacy and research, and social mobilization. Particularly relevant in terms of the pandemic is the need to invest in community systems that respond to violations of human rights and to gender-based and intimate partner violence.

Communities are encouraged to work with their CCMs to be able to have the most recent technical information and to access the CCM funding set aside to support community consultations. Communities can also utilize existing technical assistance to identify those interventions that are of highest priority for civil society to be included in the C19RM funding request. For more information, communities are encouraged to contact their regional communication platform.