

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Multicountry Grant(s)

Invitation Notice

Issue Date	10th September 2024
RFP number	GF-MC-2024-01
RFP Multicountry strategic priority	HIV incidence reduction
RFP Closing Date – Step I proposal	14th October 2024
RFP Closing Time – Step I proposal	24h00 (Geneva time)
Proposal related questions electronic addresses	accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org emmanuel.olatunji@theglobalfund.org

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the “Global Fund”) is seeking proposals from regional stakeholders to implement a multicountry (“MC”) program under the Catalytic Investments for the 2023 – 2025 allocation period, as per the Scope of Work included in **Attachment A** hereto. Unless defined in this RFP or the context otherwise requires, all capitalized terms used in this RFP shall have the same meaning as set out in [the Global Fund Grant Regulations](#) (as amended from time to time) and the [Guidelines on Catalytic Multicountry Funding](#) (“MC Guidelines”).

In this RFP, the “Applicant” refers to an entity responding to this RFP, while “Implementer” refers to the implementing entity of the MC grant proposed by the Applicant. The selection of the Applicant for the development and implementation of the MC grant will be completed in two steps for the 2023 – 2025 allocation period, as specified below:

- (i) **Step I: Selection of Applicant** (“Step I”). The selected Applicant with the highest potential to achieve impact will be identified for the development of the Global Fund supported program through a competitive process that will be reviewed by a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) of the Global Fund. The requirements for the proposals (“Proposal”) to be presented by Applicants for Step I are described in **Attachment B** hereto. The Global Fund Secretariat will evaluate these Proposals based on these requirements. The selected Applicant will be then notified of the outcome and invited to develop a Funding Request (the “FR”) as part of Step II detailed below. Each Applicant should also indicate the proposed implementation arrangement, which should be streamlined and focus on reflecting value for money.
- (ii) **Step II: Evaluation of FR** (“Step II”). The second step involves evaluating the FR submitted by the selected Applicant. To develop the FR, the selected Applicant should follow the terms of the Scope of Work provided in **Attachment A** and comply with the requirements described in **Attachment C**.

- (iii) **Step III. Technical Review Panel (TRP)** (“Step III”): The final selection consists of the review and evaluation of the FR of the selected Applicant by the Technical Review Panel (“TRP”). The evaluation criteria used by the TRP during the FR review process are described in **Attachment D** hereto.
- (iv) **Step IV (“Step IV”): Grant making and Negotiation:** The selected Applicant will be notified regarding the outcomes of the TRP review, as described below. The successful Applicant will then proceed to grant-making, to include negotiations of key priority interventions as per the approved priority areas, taking into consideration previous regional investments, capacity assessment, alignment with national grants, direction for impact and value for money with the Global Fund Secretariat.

Table 1: indicative timelines for this RFP and relevant processes¹

Process	Timeline
Step I Proposal Submission Deadline and engagement:	The Global Fund Secretariat will organize briefing session on the RFP on 19th September 2024 at 15h00 Geneva time. The final deadline for clarification questions associated to the Step I of this RFP is 23rd September 2024 at 24h00 Geneva time. Proposals (in English) must be submitted to the Global Fund by Monday 14 th October 2024 at 24h00 Geneva time.
Selection Notification:	After TEC review, the selected Applicant will be notified, and the application package will be shared by 30 October 2024 or soon thereafter for the subsequent Steps (II – IV)
Step II: FR Submission to include national and regional dialogue/consultation:	The Country Team will engage with the Applicant throughout the FR development stages until final submission. The selected Applicant should submit its FR to the Global Fund by 17 February 2025.
Step III: TRP Review Outcome Notification:	The selected Applicant will be notified of the outcome of the TRP review in April 2025.
Step IV: Grant Making and Negotiation:	The successful Applicant, with the proposed Implementer, will proceed to grant-making in April 2025. Final grant-making documents must be submitted to the Global Fund by July 2025 for Grant Approvals Committee (GAC) review.
Grant Agreement Signature and Implementation:	The grant agreement is expected to be signed in September 2025. The implementation-ready grant start date is 1 October 2025

¹ For the avoidance of doubt, the Global Fund reserves the right to make any adjustments and/or changes to the timelines foreseen in table 1.

This RFP contains the following attachments and annexes:

Table 2: List of attachments and annexes:

Attachment A	Scope of Work for the Multicountry Grant for MENA (Middle East and North Africa).
Attachment B	Requirements for the Proposals for Step I (eligible Applicants and Implementers)
Attachment C	Requirements for the development of the FR for Step II
Attachment D	Evaluation Criteria for Step II
Attachment E	General Instructions

Submitting a proposal in response to this RFP constitutes an acceptance of the terms indicated herein, including [the Global Fund Grant Regulations \(as amended from time to time\)](#), and the Global Fund reserves the right to reject the proposal of any entity or individual, as the case may be, that fails or refuses to comply with, or accept, such terms.

This RFP shall not be construed as a contract or a commitment of any kind. This RFP in no way obligates the Global Fund to award a grant, nor does it commit the Global Fund to pay any costs or expenses incurred in the preparation or submission of proposals.

1. For audit and efficiency purposes, this RFP process is being managed electronically, and Applicants are required to submit their proposals through the country coordinating mechanism ("CCM") file sharing platform.
2. Proposals must be submitted in the Global Fund provided format and received by the Global Fund at the RFP Closing Date and by the RFP Closing Time, all as indicated in the RFP Information Table on page 1. All templates and a link to the CCM file sharing platform will be shared with all interested Applicants upon request sent by email to Access to Funding Department at accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org copying the MC Focal Point, Gosia Matysek at malgorzata.matysek@theglobalfund.org.
3. Any communication between an Applicant and the Global Fund regarding this RFP, which is not through the designated channel, as set forth in Section V of Attachment C (*Proposal Requirements and General Information*) of this RFP, shall invalidate such Applicant's proposal to this RFP.
4. All communications regarding this RFP shall be in writing and sent electronically via email to the Access to Funding Department copying the MC Focal Point. The final deadline for sending clarification questions related to Step I of this RFP is mentioned in table 1 above.
5. The Global Fund will organize an open webinar to present this RFP and respond to potential questions on 19th September at 15h Geneva time (the link to join the meeting will be published at the Global Fund website)

ATTACHMENT A

Scope of Work for the Multicountry Grant in the Middle East- and North Africa (MC-MENA)

1. The Global Fund

The Global Fund was established in January 2002 as an innovative financing institution for the purpose of attracting and managing financial resources globally as well as providing such resources to countries to support national and regional programs that prevent, treat and care for people with the diseases of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and/or malaria

The Global Fund is calling for proposals from interested organizations to provide programming for the strategic priority area “*HIV incidence reduction in the Middle East and Northern Africa (“MENA”) region*” under the MC catalytic funding modality for the 2023–2025 funding cycle with the available upper ceiling of investment amounting to US\$ 6.000.000.

2.1. MC approach

Based on the Global Fund Board’s decision GF/B48/03A in November 2022 on the Catalytic Investments available for the 2023 – 2025 allocation cycle, up to US\$30,000,000 has been made available for the “*Key populations sustainability and impact - HIV incidence reduction*” under the MC approach.

MC applications are only eligible for funding if a majority (at least 51 percent) of countries included in the funding request are eligible to receive the Global Fund’s financing for the related-disease component through a single-country application. The eligibility of a country for the purpose of an application for MC funding is assessed as per the [2023 Eligibility List](#). Countries that, as per the 2023 Eligibility List, are eligible only for Transition funding are considered as “eligible” for the purpose of a MC application.

2.1.1. Context

The HIV epidemic in MENA countries* remains highly concentrated among key populations (“KPs”), including men who have sex with men (“MSM”), people who inject drugs (“PWID”) and female sex workers (“FSW”), as well as their clients and sexual partners. HIV prevalence rates among adults aged 15-49 in 13 MENA countries with concentrated epidemics and eligible for Global Fund funding, range from <0.1 to 0.4% (UNAIDS, 2022), corresponding to an estimated 173,275 people living with HIV (“PLHIV”) of whom 65% are men. However, HIV prevalence in KPs is substantially higher, with estimates ranging from 0.9-18.6% among MSM, from 0.9-8.8% in PWID, and from 0.4-11.8% in sex-workers (UNAIDS, 2024²; WHO, 2020³).

The MENA region saw a 61% increase in new HIV infections over the period 2010 to 2022, representing the highest increase in any of the world’s regions (UNAIDS, 2023) and in stark contrast to the 38% reduction in new HIV cases seen globally over the same period. Trends in incidence and mortality are driven by the regional response to the HIV epidemic which has lagged in MENA*, with only 67% of 173,275 PLHIV knowing their HIV status, and 49% of PLHIV on antiretroviral therapy (“ART”), lower than any other region globally. Furthermore, only 59% of all PLHIV on ART and with viral load measurements

² UNAIDS (2024). *AIDSinfo* | UNAIDS. [online] Unaid.org. Available at: <https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>

³ WHO (2020). *Country profiles| AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases*. [online] World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Available at: <https://www.emro.who.int/asd/country-activities/>

were virally suppressed, although viral load coverage is extremely low overall (UNAIDS, 2023). Low diagnosis rates and ART coverage continue to be the key driver of the increase in HIV infections in several countries in the MENA region.

Low diagnosis rates and ART coverage in the region are driven by limited access to HIV services. Modelling studies have estimated that there are 1.1 million MSM, 234,000 PWID and 1.3 million FSW (Johnston, 2022 and Mumtaz, 2014) across the 13 MENA countries. However, only a small percentage of these populations are reached with Civil Society Organization (“CSO”) -led HIV services: For example, 2022 results reported to the Global Fund suggest that approximately 79,000 MSM, 22,000 PWID and 103,000 FSW were “reached” with a prevention package in these countries during 2022, representing 7%, 9% and 8%, respectively. The same results data indicated that HIV testing services in MENA also have limited coverage, reaching < 10% of KPs in these countries. Similarly, harm reduction services for PWIDs are also scarce in MENA, with only 21,000 PWIDs reached with a prevention package in 2022.

2.1.2. Problem statement

Many factors limit the effective expansion of HIV services to KPs as well as their partners and clients, including human rights issues, legal barriers and stigma and discrimination, limited funding and partner landscape, slow uptake of normative guidance, limited mix of service delivery approaches and a lack of strategic information.

Country-specific HIV grant investments aim to increase effective reach of KPs with HIV testing and preventions services. These investments are largely driven through supporting CSOs to provide (or link clients to) testing and prevention services which mainstream stigma and discrimination reduction activities and promote the safety and security of their clients, as well as advocating for improved conditions for people affected by HIV. HIV grants also include investments in monitoring and evaluation to improve routine data collection and surveys to better guide programmatic decision-making.

Despite these investments, residual challenges in multiple countries in the region include (i) inadequate funding for programs and difficulties in securing long-term financial support, limiting their reach and sustainability, and (ii) slow introduction of new products and service delivery approaches to increase HIV diagnoses and access to HIV prevention commodities.

Key challenges to be addressed in the application to the RFP:

(a) Limited funding and partner landscape

MENA is one of two regions globally (along with Eastern Europe and Central Asia) with the largest HIV funding gap (UNAIDS, 2023). Global Fund funding for HIV grants in the MENA region increased only slightly between grant cycle (“GC”) 6 and GC7, from US\$161 million to US\$180 million and domestic financing for the HIV response is insufficient especially with regards to HIV testing and prevention for groups at risk of HIV.

Furthermore, the HIV partner landscape in the MENA region is limited, resulting in challenges to raise additional funds or to develop technical or fundraising capacity. In particular, CSOs have limited capacity in planning for transition and sustainability as well as in financial management and resource mobilization. Implementation of social contracting have been planned as pilots in a few countries in the region, but further support is required to ensure that lessons are documented and shared with other countries.

A sustainability and transition plan for Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia was developed through the GC6 MENA MC grant (2022 -2024 period). This included a transition readiness assessment which evaluated four key areas (governance, policy, finance, and programs) and recommendations for

progress (a copy of the plan is available on request). Further support is needed for the implementation of these recommendations, including those related to increasing the capacity of CSOs in resource mobilization and partnering with other non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”), government actors and other stakeholders.

(b) Policy bottlenecks and limited-service delivery platforms

Despite normative guidance supporting the use of new HIV prevention, testing and broader sexual health options, their introduction in the MENA region remains limited. For example, both long-acting and oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (“PrEP”), post-exposure prophylaxis (“PEP”), long-acting opioid substitution treatment (“OST”), HIV self-tests (“HIVST”) and dual HIV-Syphilis tests remain scarce, while the provision of existing options such as condoms and lubricants, clean needles and syringes and opiate substitution treatment are also sub-optimal.

Beyond the provision of CSO-led services for KPs, HIV services are highly medicalized and centralized in MENA. The introduction and scale-up of recommended HIV testing modalities and service delivery approaches for KPs is lagging, including social network testing and index testing. There are restrictions on community testing, and parental consent is required in many countries for HIV testing of people > 18 years of age. Opportunities to integrate HIV testing and prevention services into primary health care are sub-optimal including more systematic HIV testing for people living with TB and for people seeking care for symptoms of sexually transmitted infections (“STI”). Pharmacy-based service delivery models for HIV testing and prevention (e.g., HIVST, PrEP, PEP) and treatment (e.g., ART refills) are not widely developed in MENA. In addition, few CSOs are able to provide HIV testing, PrEP or ART refills.

Similarly, the potential for virtual service delivery, including leveraging online platforms (e.g., social media, dating applications) and other digital modalities offer possibilities to reach greater numbers of KPs with HIV prevention, HIV testing and related sexual health services at lower cost, as well as providing a platform for targeted demand creation for HIV and sexual health services, has not been sufficiently exploited.

Supporting countries to update policies and develop operational plans to effect these changes will be key, alongside support to generate data to demonstrate the effectiveness of these approaches.

2.1.3. Geographical scope

The MENA MC regional grant will focus on 5 countries (preferably Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia to capitalize on investments through the previous MC grant); however, with focus on sustainability and transition-related activities for CSO-led programming and sustainable HIV service delivery, as well as alignment with Global Fund funding through the national grants GC7)

2.1.4. Scope of work

Sustainable financing for HIV programs for KPs

- Strategic dialogue with government, international organizations and private sector on commitments to sustainable funding through increased advocacy for HIV programs that effectively reach KPs.
- Technical and institutional capacity building for CSOs to mobilize resources, navigate funding landscapes, promote sustainability and ensure value for money (“VfM”).
- Explore, pilot and strengthen public-private partnership mechanisms for civil society implementers.
- Support the implementation of existing Sustainability & Transition plans.

Support implementation of sustainable and effective HIV prevention and testing programs for KPs.

- Advocacy and related technical assistance strategically focused on policy adoption and operational plan development for HIV testing modalities that align with normative guidance and that are designed to increase HIV testing coverage and linkage among KPs, their clients and partners (including index testing, social network testing, HIV self-testing, etc.) which include decentralized models of care and task shifting. Policy shifts should result from inclusive processes that enable community participation and associated monitoring and evaluation efforts that include community-led monitoring and accountability mechanisms.
- Technical assistance to support implementation and scale-up of high quality, differentiated testing approaches.
- Pilot innovative service delivery models to increase access to testing and linkages by integrating HIV testing in other services such as sexual and reproductive health/sexually transmitted infection clinics, pharmacies, etc.

2.1.5. Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes from the MC grant will include:

- Increased capacity of CSOs to secure funding from a range of sources for HIV prevention and testing programs for KPs and to implement sustainability and transition plans.
- Improved policy environment to enable more effective HIV testing and linkages and facilitate access to HIV prevention and testing services.
- Expanded range of service delivery platforms that provide high quality HIV prevention and testing programs for KPs.

2.2. Streamlined Implementation arrangements

An Applicant is an entity that meets the requirements set forth in the Catalytic Multicountry Funds Guidelines⁴. An Applicant must ensure that an inclusive national and regional dialogue process is conducted if they are selected to submit a funding request during Step II, and, if selected, oversee the performance of the Implementer (if different from the Applicant). Please refer to the Catalytic Multicountry Funds Guidelines⁵ for more details.

2.3. Applicable Global Fund Policies

All relevant policies, rules and guidelines of the Global Fund (as enacted or amended from time to time) shall apply to this Applicant selection process for the selected Applicant.

2.4. Framework Agreement and the Global Fund Grant Regulations

The Applicant will select an appropriate Implementer, which will enter into a Grant Agreement with the Global Fund. The Grant Agreement is governed by the standard Framework Agreement terms and the Global Fund Grant Regulations (as amended from time to time).

⁴ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/applying-for-funding/sources-of-funding/catalytic-multicountry-funds/>

⁵ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/applying-for-funding/sources-of-funding/catalytic-multicountry-funds/>

In particular, the successful Applicant along with the proposed Implementer shall confirm acceptance of the standard Framework Agreement terms and/or amendments thereto, the Global Fund Grant Regulations (as amended from time to time) and policies relating to maintenance of, and access to, books and records, and to full cooperation with the authorized representatives of the Global Fund, including the Office of the Inspector General, in audits, investigations, financial reviews, forensic audits, evaluations or other activities that the Global Fund deems necessary to ensure that Global Fund resources are used in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement for the purposes approved by the Global Fund. Cooperation includes in particular access to all relevant records, documents, personnel, sites, electronic materials and computerized records generated, or in the possession of, the Implementer, or the Implementer's agents, consultants, representatives or SRs, that pertain to activities and expenditures supported by Global Fund resources.

The Applicant and Implementer shall confirm acceptance of the standard Framework Agreement terms and/or amendments thereto, and the Global Fund Grant Regulations (as amended from time to time) in full with the Proposal or, as the case may be, identify any proposed significant deviations from these terms in writing within the funding request.

The Global Fund shall be entitled to accept or refuse in its entire discretion any proposed deviations from its standard Framework Agreement terms and/or amendments thereto, and the Global Fund Grant Regulations (as amended from time to time) submitted in writing within the funding request.

Applicants shall not be allowed to propose any significant deviations from the standard Framework Agreement terms and/or amendments thereto, and the Global Fund Grant Regulations (as amended from time to time) after submission of their Proposal under this RFP.

ATTACHMENT B

Requirements for the Proposals for Step I - Eligible applicants and implementers An applicant is an entity that meets the requirements set for a Regional Coordinating Mechanism (“RCM”)⁶ or Regional Organization (“RO”)⁷ and that submits a Proposal pursuant to the RFP. ROs can also submit applications as part of a consortium⁸ (see the Catalytic Multicountry Funds Guidelines⁹ for further details). Based on the nature of the proposal and the partnership landscape, proposals may be developed and owned by multiple partners operating in the region¹⁰. A consortium application must be presented by a lead RO that complies with all the requirements of a RO applicant and enters into legal agreements with the Global Fund. Note, the RO requirements do not apply to each consortium member separately.

The selected Applicant must ensure an inclusive regional dialogue process is conducted to inform the FR during Step II. It should submit the FR, and, if recommended for funding, oversee the performance of the Implementer. Additionally, the selected Applicant must demonstrate technical and programmatic capacity aligned with the MC strategic priority, possess sufficient regional knowledge and experience in engaging with a broad range of stakeholders, and commit to open and inclusive dialogue and decision-making. Please refer to the Catalytic Multicountry Funds Guidelines^{11,12} and **Attachment C** (*Requirements for the development of FRs for Step II*) for more information about requirements for Applicants.

Applicants must nominate an Implementer. RCM applicants may not act as Implementers and shall nominate an Implementer(s). RO applicants may nominate themselves and/or any third party as Implementer(s). The nomination should follow the procedures and requirements listed under section 1 of **Attachment C**, including documenting a transparent process for the nomination of all new Implementer(s) based on clearly defined and objective criteria, and managing any potential conflicts of interest that may affect the Implementer nomination process¹³.

For the purpose of this RFP, the Implementer will be the entity implementing the grant, as proposed by the Applicant. The Implementer shall be a legally registered entity, with a preference for a regional organization, as opposed to a global multilateral organization.

A successful combination of Applicant and Implementer can demonstrate that they meet the following requirements as show in Table 5¹⁴:

Table 5. Applicant and Implementer requirements

	No	Requirements	Specific in MENA ¹⁵	Applicant	Implementer
Technical Experience	1	Demonstrated experience working with/for key population programs in MENA region.	Yes	X	X
	2	Demonstrated experience implementing key population program innovations or	No		X

⁶ RCMs are a coordination mechanism at the regional level, representing more than one country. They are MC regional-level public-private partnerships whose role is, among others, to (1) coordinate the development of the FR(s) to the Global Fund for relevant program(s) based on priority needs at the regional level and (2) oversee the implementation of program activities. Similarly, to Country Coordinating Mechanism (“CCMs”), RCMs are subject to the Eligibility Requirements and CCM Policy.

¹⁵ Indicates that experience is required specifically in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

	No	Requirements	Specific in MENA ¹⁵	Applicant	Implementer
		differentiated services at regional and/or country levels.			
	3	Demonstrated experience in supporting sustainability financing for HIV programs for KPs	Yes	X	X
	4	Demonstrated experience in supporting implementation of sustainable and effective HIV prevention and testing programs for KPs.	Yes	X	X
	5	Demonstrated experience addressing or advocating for human rights and gender-related barriers, including stigma and discrimination in the MENA region.	Yes	X	X
	6	Evidence of functional governance and decision-making structure to support and improve oversight	Yes	X	X
Management Experience	7	Demonstrated experience of effective coordination and broad stakeholder management related to health programs (KP - HIV Programming) or grant implementation in the MENA region.	Yes	X	X
	8	Demonstrated experience managing projects with oversight of sub-recipients of funds from CSOs, including CBOs.	Yes		X
	9	Experience implementing a minimum of one large scale project in terms of amount of funding, for at least USD 2 million (in USD)	Yes		X
Management Capacity	10	Implementation arrangement structure description and functionality to ensure presence at regional and country levels, allow oversight in multiple countries, simultaneously, in the MENA region.	Yes		X
	11	Existing internal and external control system to prevent and detect misuse of funds or fraud in similar or larger size of investment projects. Proposal should include information as to (i) frequency of institutional financial audit (and last institutional audit report should be provided); and (ii) if organization has an internal control function.	Yes	X	X

⁸ Consortium applicants may include United Nations ("UN") agencies or other multilateral/bilateral organizations if well justified (as local and with greater regional understanding of MENA).

⁹ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/applying-for-funding/sources-of-funding/catalytic-multicountry-funds/>

¹⁰ In such cases, the FR is required to demonstrate how the collaboration and integration derived by this partnership will increase impact and build local capacity.

¹¹ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/applying-for-funding/sources-of-funding/catalytic-multicountry-funds/>

¹² https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12734/core_multicountry_guidance_en.pdf

¹³ In case the RO Applicant is also the nominated Implementer, these requirements are not applicable.

¹⁴ In case the RO Applicant is also the nominated Implementer, all requirements are applicable to the RO Applicant.

¹⁵ Indicates that experience is required specifically in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

No	Requirements	Specific in MENA ¹⁵	Applicant	Implementer
12	Existing financial management system, including financial data collection systems and analytical capacity. Proposal should specify (i) the financial management information systems used for accounting, (ii) if the Implementer has institutional financial policies and procedures in place.	Yes	X	X
13	Existing procurement system. Proposal should specify if the Implementer has institutional procurement policies and procedures in place.	Yes		X

1. Selection process for Step I

Step I involves the selection of an eligible Applicant with the highest potential and capacity to develop and implement the Global Fund supported program. Eligible Applicants are required to submit a Proposal, comprising:

- a. **Presentation of the Applicant and Implementer (up to 2 pages):** describe the Applicant and Implementer¹⁶, including their motivation and rationale for responding to the RFP.
- b. **Capacity Statement of the Applicant and Implementer (up to 20 pages).**
 - i. **Experience.** Demonstrate experience by describing relevant projects, processes, consultancies or lines of technical support implemented. Include key results obtained, countries and stakeholders involved, timeframe, size of investments or costs related to the project or process, organized by subjects for which experience is required (as detailed in Table 5)
 - ii. **Management capacity and systems.** Provide a very brief description of existing tools and systems of the Implementer for the subjects listed under this category in Table 5, as well as of the proposed implementation arrangement structure (see requirement number 9); and
 - iii. **Summary table.** Submit a Summary table indicating how the Applicant complies with all expected requirements, as shown in the following example:

No	Requirements	Applicant [Name]	Implementer ¹⁷ [Name]
1	Demonstrated experience working with/for key population programs in MENA region.	[Number of years]	[Number of years]
2	Demonstrated experience implementing key population program innovations or differentiated services at regional and/or country levels.		[Number of years]
3	Evidence of experience in supporting sustainability financing for HIV programs for KPs	[Number of years]	[Number of years]
4	Evidence of experience in supporting implementation of sustainable and effective HIV prevention and testing programs for KPs.	[Number of years]	[Number of years]

¹⁶ In case the Applicant and Implementer are two different entities.

¹⁷ In case the RO Applicant is also the nominated Implementer, the table should only present one column for the Applicant/Implementer

No	Requirements	Applicant [Name]	Implementer ¹⁷ [Name]
5	Demonstrated experience addressing or advocating for human rights and gender-related barriers, including stigma and discrimination in the MENA region.	[Number of years]	[Number of years]
6	Evidence of experience of effective coordination and broad stakeholder management related to health programs (KP - HIV Programming) or grant implementation in the MENA region.	[Number of years]	[Number of years]
7	Demonstrated experience managing projects with oversight of sub-recipients of funds from CSOs, including CBOs.	[Number of years]	[Number of years]
8	Experience implementing a minimum of one large scale project in terms of amount of funding, for at least USD 2 million (in USD)		[Number of projects over 2 million USD and amounts]
9	Implementation arrangement structure description and functionality to ensure presence at regional and country levels, allow oversight in multiple countries, simultaneously, in the MENA region.		[Yes/No]
10	Existing internal and external control system to prevent and detect misuse of funds or fraud in similar or larger size of investment projects.		[Yes/No]
11	Existing internal and external control system to prevent and detect misuse of funds or fraud in similar or larger size of investment projects.	[Yes/No]	[Yes/No]
12	Existing financial management system, including financial data collection systems.	[Name of systems]	[Name of systems]
13	Existing procurement system.		[Yes/No]

- c. **Additional documents and supportive evidence (no page limit, maximum 15-documents):** applicants are requested to include evidence (as annexes) of the experience and management capacity described in their capacity statement. This supportive evidence, should include:
- i. Documents describing the Applicant and Implementers status (such as the organization's status, by-laws etc.),
 - ii. Curriculum of the experts included in their team, when available.
 - iii. Additional documents or references to listed policies, consultancies or projects, tools and other resources developed by the entities involved in the Proposal (either as Applicant or Implementer) related to their experience.
 - iv. Additional documentation or references related to the management capacity of the Implementer, such as the latest institutional financial audit report.

The title of the documents must be labelled as follows:

- a. Presentation of the Applicant and Implementer: GF-MC-2024-MC-MENASStep1-Presentation-[Your organization name]
- b. Capacity Statement of the Applicant and Implementer: GF-MC-2024-MC-MENASStep1-Capacity-[Your organization name]

- c. Supporting documents: GF-MC-2024-MC-MENA StepI-[name of annex]- [Your organization name]
 (Note: shorten the name of the annex as much as possible as if it is too long, it might not be possible to open the file)

The Secretariat’s evaluation committee will assess the extent to which Proposals submitted in response to this RFP meet the requirements defined above. Only the selected Applicant will be invited to proceed to the Step II — FR development.

2. Evaluation criteria for the Selection of Applicant

The evaluation of the proposals during Step I will be conducted by the Global Fund Secretariat, by representatives from different teams across the Secretariat, including the Grant Management Division and the Strategic Investment & Impact division. The Local Fund Agent (“LFA”) may also be invited in providing contextual background information on the Applicants and Implementers, as an additional source of information.

Only Applicants/Implementers who comply with the definition of Applicants and Implementers will be included in the evaluation. The evaluation team will apply a scoring scale based on the pre-defined weight for the following criteria, in alignment with the specified themes in Table 5:

Criteria	Weight
Demonstrated technical experience by the Applicant, Implementer or both	50%
Demonstrated management experience by Applicant, Implementer or both	30%
Demonstrated management capacity	20%

3. Additional considerations

The Implementer selected at the end of Step II will enter into a Grant Agreement with the Global Fund. The Grant Agreement is governed by the standard Framework Agreement terms and the Global Fund Grant Regulations (as amended from time to time).

The Implementer will also need to accept, abide to and comply with all relevant policies, procedures, rules and guidelines of the Global Fund (as enacted or amended from time to time). Please also refer to the Guidelines for Grant Budgeting¹⁸, which provides more information in relation to the grant budgeting, including guidance on direct and indirect costs under the Global Fund grants. Additional information on applicable policies and structure of the MC grant are detailed in sections 5-6 of **Attachment C**.

During the grant making process, the Global Fund Secretariat, with support from the LFA, will assess whether systems and capacities (referred to as “capacity assessment - CAT”) of the Implementer selected are adequate for effective management of the MC grant funds. This assessment is required to ensure the Global Fund partnership can deliver maximum impact. As noted in *Attachment E - General Instructions*, the Global Fund reserves the right to, at any stage, (a) reject any or all proposals; (b) accept for award a proposal other than the lowest cost proposal; (c) accept more than one proposal; (d) accept alternate proposals, (e) accept part of a proposal; (f) reject part of a proposal (including with respect to the nominated Implementer); and (g) waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.

¹⁸ Guidelines for Grant Budgeting (https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12761/core_grant-budgeting-operational_guidance_en.pdf)

ATTACHMENT C

Requirements for the development of FRs for Step II

Subsequently to Step I, the selected Applicant is invited to submit a FR that demonstrates sufficient technical capacity to fulfill the terms outlined in **Attachment A**. For the purposes of this Attachment C, all references to “Applicant” shall be read as references to the selected Applicant.

1. Requirements for Applicants

An Applicant must be an RCM or RO¹⁹ that demonstrates technical and programmatic capacity in the MC strategic priority and as outlined under the Scope of Work (2.1.4), sufficient regional knowledge and experience in broad stakeholder engagement, and a commitment to open and inclusive dialogue and decision-making.

In order to demonstrate an inclusive proposal development and to be eligible for Global Fund funding, Applicants must comply, as relevant, with the applicable Global Fund CCM/RCM Eligibility Requirements²⁰ or the equivalent Global Fund principles applicable to RO proposal submissions. At the time of the submission of the FR, the Global Fund Secretariat evaluates compliance with CCM/RCM Eligibility Requirements 1 and 2 or the equivalent Global Fund principles applicable to RO proposal submissions these being:

Requirement 1:

All MC applications are expected to demonstrate how the request is complementary to national efforts and other existing regional grants.

A MC request must be endorsed by all RCM members/their designated alternates or legal representative of the RO, as applicable. In addition, endorsement(s) must also be provided for each country represented in the program by: (i) CCM Chair and (ii) civil society representative if the CCM Chair is the representative of the Government, or the representative of the Government if the CCM Chair is the representative of the civil society. For those countries with no CCM, endorsement is required from the legal representative of the relevant Ministry of Health or other national coordinating body.

Requirement 2:

- (i) Nominate one or more Implementer(s) at the time of submission of the FR.
- (ii) Document a transparent process for the nomination of all new Implementer(s) based on clearly defined and objective criteria; and
- (iii) Document the management of any potential conflicts of interest that may affect the Implementer nomination process.

RCM applicants may not act as Implementers and shall nominate an Implementer(s) in accordance with procedures and requirements listed above. RO Applicants may nominate as Implementer(s) both themselves and any third party in accordance with procedures and requirements listed above.

¹⁹ See footnotes 22 and 23 of this document

²⁰ Please refer to the CCM Eligibility Requirements as outlined in the [Guidance note Catalytic Multicounty Funds](#).

Compliance to CCM/RCM Eligibility Requirement 3 to 6 are also evaluated at the time of submission of the funding request as well as monitored on ongoing basis by the Global Fund Secretariat. More information on Eligibility Requirements, see [online](#) and in the [CCM Policy](#).

Additionally, a representative of the “Implementer” must sign off on the bottom of the endorsement sheet confirming that they endorse the funding request and are ready to begin grant making and implementation.

The Applicant will follow an oversight plan for the MC grant. The Applicant will provide strategic oversight to ensure effective and strategic implementation of programs. It will also oversee the performance of the Implementer to ensure that it achieves the agreed targets of the programs being implemented. In case the Applicant is also the Implementer, it should also be responsible for the oversight on the implementation of program activities. This is further described in Eligibility Requirement 3 in the Catalytic Multicountry Funds Guidelines²¹.

The Implementer will enter into a grant agreement with the Global Fund and manage the grant. Implementation of the activities under the grant will be conducted by the Implementer and any selected Sub-recipients (“SRs”) in close coordination and consultation with the Global Fund and relevant regional and national authorities. The Implementer for the grant must have the capacity to oversee the grant activities and expenditure and manage SRs in compliance with Global Fund policies.

2. Requirements for Implementers

As mentioned in Attachment B, the Implementer will be the entity implementing the MC grant proposed by the Applicant. At a minimum, a successful Implementer shall be a legally registered entity and needs to demonstrate compliance with the following requirements²²:

- a. Technical expertise in the MC strategic priority and as outlined under the Scope of work, at MC and country levels.
- b. Effective management structures and planning at MC and country levels.
- c. The capacity and systems for effective programmatic management and oversight of Sub-recipients (and relevant Sub-sub-recipients) at MC and country levels.
- d. An effective internal control system to prevent and detect misuse or fraud.
- e. An effective and accurate financial management system.
- f. Data-collection capacity and tools in place to monitor programmatic and financial performance.
- g. A functional routine reporting system with reasonable coverage in place to report MC financial and programmatic performance timely and accurately.

An Applicant should ensure that the Implementer(s) comply with [the Global Fund Grant Regulations \(as amended from time to time\)](#).

3. FR Requirements

The FR should be concisely presented and structured and should explain in detail the proposed Implementer’s strategic approach, technical capacity and resources to provide the proposed

²¹ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12734/core_multicountry_guidance_en.pdf

²² Detailed information on requirements is presented under Table 5 above.

services. The selected Applicant is expected to use the official FR Template for MC and include all required documentation.²³

FRs deemed incomplete or not responsive to these criteria might not be considered in the review process.

Appropriate application materials, instructions, and supporting documentation are only available through the Global Fund Secretariat Focal Point and will be shared with the selected Applicant with the notification of result of Step I (the Step II application package).

a. Technical FR Materials and Tools

The FR should be supported by regional and in-country data and technical guidance. It should be guided by regional disease strategies and national disease strategic plans, as appropriate, and draw on an inclusive multi-stakeholder regional dialogue process. The FR must emphasize the strategic priority area and Scope of Work within the specific regional and cross-national context and describe how implementation of the resulting MC grant can maximize the impact of the investment by catalyzing national and regional programming to increase the impact and effectiveness of both national and international investments in line with Global Fund Strategic Objectives.²⁴

In addition to the FR document, the following attachments and documentation are required (the templates will be shared with the Applicant selected in Step I):

- Performance Framework (following the Global Fund Modular Framework);
- Budget (in alignment with the Performance Framework and the [Guidelines for Grant Budgeting](#)²⁵);
- Implementation Arrangement Map;
- Health Product Management Tool (“HPMT”) (if applicable);
- Prioritized above allocation request (“PAAR”);
- Endorsement of the FR from the RCM or RO, as applicable²⁶;
- Endorsement letters from CCM of each country that forms a part of the regional application (or equivalent);
- List of abbreviations and annexes;
- Documents describing the Applicant status such as organization’s status, by-laws etc.; and
- Documents describing the Implementers status such as organization’s status, by-laws etc. (Not applicable if the RO – Applicant acts also as an Implementer).

Applicants are requested to include all relevant and necessary contextual documentation with the funding proposal as labelled annexes, including national and regional strategic plans.

Detailed information on required documentation is found below (sections b. to e). For detailed instructions on the information and documentation required, refer to the FR Instructions for MC Approaches which are part of the Step II application package.

²³ Please refer to the FR Instructions, which are part of the Step II application package. All templates will be shared with the selected Applicant.

²⁴ [Strategy - The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#)

²⁵ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/3261/core_budgetingglobalfundgrants_guideline_en.pdf

²⁶ For consortium, a representative of each of the organizations forming part of the consortium should sign the “Endorsement Sheet” template provided by the Global Fund.

b. Global Fund Modular Framework and Budgeting Guidelines

The FR is expected to use the Modular Framework to describe the intended programming and budget. The Modular Framework is a list of standard modules, related interventions, and associated impact, outcome, and coverage indicators (or work plan tracking measures) through which the selected Applicant should describe their intended grant programming. The Global Fund uses the modular approach to organize the programmatic and financial information about each grant throughout its lifecycle, from the FR through grant-making and implementation.

Further information on the Global Fund Modular Framework can be found in the Modular Framework Handbook.²⁷ More details on completing the Performance Framework and Budget may be found in the FR Instructions for MC Approaches.

A FR should additionally follow the Global Fund Guidelines for Grant Budgeting²⁸ (as amended from time to time), which outline the financial requirements for all stakeholders involved in the development, review, and implementation of the Global Fund program budgets.

c. Measurement Framework and key deliverables

The implementer of the MC grant will report on annual basis against the milestones set forth in the Performance Framework, as WPTM²⁹, according to Global Fund requirements for Principal Recipient reporting, applicable to the portfolio category and MC grant.

The implementer of the MC grant should provide periodic updates to the governments of the participant countries, other stakeholders and technical partners, as part of their grant monitoring and oversight approach.

The implementer will also need to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation (“M&E”) plan specific to the MC grant³⁰, to be finalized before the signature of the future MC grant. This M&E plan should address key elements described in Global Fund’s template and guidance for the development of this document.

More information can be found on the M&E Guidance for MC Applicants.³¹

The Applicant shall propose modules and interventions with indicators, targets and workplan tracking measures as relevant, including costing for each of the proposed modules and interventions, and a M&E plan. Please refer to Modular Framework³² and M&E Guidance for MC Applicants.

d. PAAR

The Applicant is encouraged to include a prioritized and costed proposal for funds above the allocation amount (the PAAR) in case any funds become available during grant making and/or the 2023- 2025 allocation period.

²⁷ [fundingmodel_modularframework_handbook_en.pdf \(theglobalfund.org\)](#)

²⁸ [core_budgetingglobalfundgrants_guideline_en.pdf \(theglobalfund.org\)](#)

²⁹ For grants with insufficient coverage indicators, WPTM are used to monitor and assess grant performance. Illustrative examples of work plan tracking measures can be found in the [HIV Indicator Guidance Sheet](#)

³⁰ The implementer can use the [Guidelines for monitoring and evaluation plan](#) for developing its Monitoring and Evaluation plan

³¹ [MC Guidance for Multicountry Applicants.docx](#)

³² [fundingmodel_modularframework_handbook_en.pdf \(theglobalfund.org\)](#)

e. Implementation and governance arrangements

The Applicant should explain how the oversight and steering mechanism of the MC grant is envisioned. The Applicant shall also present streamlined implementation arrangements, ensuring clear focus, regional representation, Value for Money (VfM) and impact in the implementation of the grant. The Global Fund Secretariat will provide additional guidance on this during the development of the FR and during grant making. Please refer to the Implementation Arrangements mapping Instructions.³³

Additionally, the selected Applicant should explain how relevant stakeholders, including national authorities from participant countries will be engaged to support successful implementation of the two workstreams (indicated in the Scope of Work) of the MC grant. For example, a regional governance mechanism to facilitate uptake of innovations through cross-country learning and collaboration.

Implementation of the activities under the MC grant will be conducted by the Implementer and selected Sub-recipients³⁴ in close coordination and consultation with the Global Fund and relevant regional and national authorities. The Implementer for the MC grant must have the capacity to appropriately implement the MC grant activities, control expenditure and manage Sub-recipients in compliance with Global Fund policies.

For more information, please refer to “Guidelines on Implementers of the Global Fund Grants.”³⁵

f. People-centered participatory model of engagement

Under the Global Fund’s funding model, regional and national dialogue is an ongoing process that continues through FR development (as per Eligibility Requirement 1), grant making and grant implementation. This ensures the continued engagement of key stakeholders in strategic decision-making to prioritize resources and activities and resolve bottlenecks to implementation in this MC grant. In addition, national dialogue will be paramount for prioritizing program innovations.

The Applicant must ensure that affected communities are at the center of the regional-level strategies it develops – both in terms of the process of developing strategies and approaches to implementation. This will ensure that funding proposals deploy a people-centered approach that strengthens the engagement of key populations in the design, implementation and monitoring of future grant activities and their long-term sustainability.

4. FR submission and communications

After completing the FR (including the narrative and mandatory attachments), the selected Applicant must submit all documentation via email to the Access to Funding Department (accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org) and copy the MC Focal Point. The full FR must be submitted no later than the date and time indicated in Table 1.

³³ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/5678/fundingmodel_implementationmapping_guidelines_en.pdf

³⁴ As per the Global Fund guidelines, Implementers of the Global Fund grants are the following:

- The Principal Recipient (PR) is an entity nominated by the relevant Regional Coordinating Mechanism or Regional Organization to implement a specific program and has signed a grant agreement with the Global Fund.
- The Sub-recipient (SR) receives grant funds directly or indirectly from the PR and implements certain program activities under the oversight of the PR.

As per the guidelines, suppliers such as bidders, suppliers, agents, intermediaries, consultants and contractors, who are not the PR(s) or SR(s) but provide goods and/or services to a program are not considered Implementers.

³⁵ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/5663/core_guidelinesonimplementers_guideline_en.pdf?u=63648680719000000

A FR should be submitted as MS-Word documents or in the correct template, though annexes may be submitted as PDF and should include all required documentation³⁶. The Global Fund accepts application documents in English and Spanish, though the working language of the Global Fund Secretariat and the TRP is English.³⁷

Unless otherwise indicated, FR **should be divided in three separate files** containing:

- a. The FR narrative and the core supporting documents.
- b. Relevant RCM/RO Eligibility documentation; and
- c. Supporting documents referenced in the FR.

The title of the document of the attachment must be labelled as follows:

- FR narrative: GF-MC-2024-01-FP-[Your organization name]
 - Performance Framework: GF-MC-2024-01--PF-[Your organization name]
 - Budget: GF-MC-2024-01-Budget-[Your organization name]
 - Implementation Arrangement Map: GF-MC-2024-01-ImpMap-[Your organization name]
 - RCM Eligibility documentation: GF-MC-2024-01-RCM-[Your organization name]
 - RO Eligibility documentation: GF-MC-2024-01--ROE-[Your organization name]
 - Annexes: GF-MC-2024-01-[name of annex]- [Your organization name]
- (Note: shorten the name of the annex as much as possible as if it is too long the it might not be possible to open the file)*

The maximum allowable email size (including all attachments) is 30Mb. In case the files exceed this limit, the Applicant can share the file via sharing web sites.

5. Applicable Global Fund Policies

All relevant policies, procedure, rules and guidelines of the Global Fund (as enacted or amended from time to time) shall apply to this Applicant selection process, the ensuing MC grant making process as well as implementation of the contemplated grant.

³⁶ Please refer to the FR Instructions, which are part of the Step II application package. All templates will be shared with the Pre-selected Applicants.

³⁷ Please refer to the FR Instructions for MC Approaches for more information on language requirements and translations.

ATTACHMENT D

EVALUATION CRITERIA (TRP) for Step II

The Global Fund Secretariat will conduct a screening process to assess the extent to which proposals meet the evaluation criteria below and in accordance with **Attachment C** (*Proposal Requirements and General Information*). A FR that is considered of standard quality and technical rigor will be submitted to the TRP for independent expert review. The TRP will evaluate the funding request to ensure that it is (i) technically sound, (ii) strategically focused and demonstrates (iii) potential for achieving the highest catalytic impact, (iv) MC collaboration, and are (v) poised for sustainability in response to the targeted strategic priority. The selected proposals will be recommended to the Grant Approvals Committee of the Global Fund for final review and Board approval before proceeding into grant signing.

During the Global Fund Secretariat screening procedure, applications are evaluated to ensure they fulfil the requirements outlined in **Attachment C** (*Proposal Requirements and General Information*) and demonstrate sufficient attention to the project described in **Attachment A** (*Statement of Work*).

Only a proposal that fulfils all requirements will be considered for the next steps and subsequent technical review by the TRP.

The Global Fund Secretariat evaluation

The selected proposal that meets the criteria outlined in **Attachment C** (*Proposal Requirements and General Information*), demonstrating alignment with the Scope of Work, and in line with the relevant policies and procedures cited in the RFP, will be submitted for technical consideration by the TRP.

In addition, the Global Fund Secretariat will provide the TRP with available complementary analysis that inform the TRP, including any relevant regional and country-level context. This may have bearing on the TRP review as well as available organization's track record/relevant experience.

TRP review process and criteria

The following technical criteria will be used in the TRP's review processes to ensure that Global Fund investments are positioned to achieve the highest impact, VfM and contribute to the goal and objectives set out in the Global Fund Strategy³⁸. Further detail on these criteria is outlined in the Global Fund's Core Information Notes and Technical Briefs³⁹ and the Core Guiding Principles for differentiation⁴⁰. These criteria apply to programs funded through the country allocations as well as to the MC grants. Application and operationalization of the TRP Review criteria will be further contextualized for different MC portfolio types, country contexts and specific priorities as detailed in the internal TRP Operating Procedures.

The Selected proposal and Applicant will be evaluated by the TRP against the framework and investment priority areas put forth in **Attachment A** (*Scope of Work - section 2.1.4 and Expected Outcomes –*

³⁸ For more information, see the [Global Fund Strategy](#).

³⁹ See the [HIV, TB, malaria and RSSH Information Notes, as well as the Technical Briefs](#) which provide more information, for instance on specific disease control issues, community rights and gender issues, as well as RSSH issues.

⁴⁰ For more information, see GF/SC01/DP03, the access to funding principles of differentiation, COE, STC and other relevant access to funding policies.

section 2.1.5) and to ensure investments are positioned for impact and sustainability. Broadly, the Global Fund-supported programs should be guided by the following overarching approaches:

- **Catalytic use of resources:** Global Fund resources should be programmed in consideration of how domestic, donor and other resources in country and region are being used and how Global Fund resources can catalyze the greatest impact within a specific country/MENA regional context. Global Fund investments should be well balanced and allocated to interventions that will contribute to impact in line with national plans, regional realities, previous MC MENA grant investments and the objectives of the Global Fund Strategy.
- **Communities at the center of programs:** Program design reflects the meaningful engagement, leadership and contributions of communities living with and affected by HIV, TB and malaria on how programs can best be focused and structured to meet their holistic health needs. In particular, this includes programs for key and vulnerable populations, and also how the engagement and leadership of communities can be used to improve access to and retention in quality programs for all populations affected by the three diseases.
- **Leveraging partnerships:** This includes pursuing multi-sector partnerships to address common structural determinants of outcomes of HIV, TB and malaria in an efficient and effective way; leveraging local expertise for tailored technical support; strengthening partnerships across national health, social, community and private sector stakeholders to strengthen integrated people-centered quality services; and working across countries to address challenges for the three diseases including barriers to gender equality, equity, human rights and structural barriers to health equity.

In addition to the criteria laid out above, the FR will be evaluated by the TRP for the following principles:

1. Strategic focus
2. MC focus
3. Technical soundness
4. Prioritization of interventions
5. Evidence-based programs for key populations
6. Scale-up and ambition
7. Leveraging partnership
8. M&E plan for impact
9. Addressing human rights related barriers
10. Addressing gender reacted barriers and gender equality
11. Engages key and vulnerable populations in decision making
12. Empowers key and vulnerable communities
13. Technical and implementation capacity of the implementer
14. Value for Money
15. Programmatic risk
16. Strategies to address bottlenecks
17. Sustainability

ATTACHMENT E

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

By submitting a response for this RFP, the Applicant agrees to the following:

1. The Global Fund shall not be considered as making any offer of a contract, nor a grant, by posting this RFP or evaluating any response submitted in response to it, and there shall be no legal agreement or relationship, whether in contract (express, implied, or collateral) or tort, created by this RFP process between the Global Fund and any Applicant. For the avoidance of doubt, any grant agreement remains subject to Global Fund Board approval.
2. The Global Fund expressly reserves the right to change the closing date and timing of, amend, withdraw, or cancel this RFP process and/or its grant strategy, and to reject any or all responses at any time and for any reason, without liability or penalty to any party. Applicants will be informed of all amendments or other modifications to this RFP.
3. The Global Fund may (a) reject any or all proposals; (b) accept for award a proposal other than the lowest cost proposal; (c) accept more than one proposal; (d) accept alternate proposals, (e) accept part of a proposal; (f) reject part of a proposal (including with respect to the nominated Implementer); and (g) waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.
4. The Global Fund will be under no obligation to reveal, or discuss with any Applicant, how a proposal was assessed, or to provide any other information relative to the selection process. Applicants whose proposals are not selected will be notified in writing of this fact and shall have no claim whatsoever for any kind of compensation.
5. All Applicants shall be responsible for and bear their own costs, expenses, and liabilities arising in connection with the preparation and submission of a response to this RFP, as updated, amended, or modified from time to time, and their involvement in the RFP process. In no circumstances whatsoever will the Global Fund be liable for any such costs incurred by any Applicant, whether direct or indirect, irrespective of the outcome of the selection process, nor if the selection process is cancelled, altered, or postponed for any reason.
6. Any dispute, controversy, claim, or issue arising out of this RFP, shall be finally settled by arbitration conducted in accordance with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The number of arbitrators shall be three, the place of arbitration shall be Geneva, Switzerland, and the language used at the arbitration shall be English.
7. The Code of Conduct for Recipients of Global Fund Resources and the investigative, decision-making, and sanctions policies and processes of the Global Fund, including those of its Office of the Inspector General that shall apply to this RFP can be accessed [here](#).
8. The Global Fund has full discretion to investigate any potential fraud or abuse, whether occurring in the past, present, or future, associated with the procurement with Global Fund resources, and the Global Fund at its full discretion may publish the findings of such investigations; through participation in this process, the Applicant acknowledges these processes and will not challenge in any setting the investigation by the Global Fund of potential fraud or abuse associated with procurement with Global Fund resources, the dissemination of investigation findings, and the responses undertaken by the Global Fund to findings of fraud or abuse, in all cases whether occurring in the past, present, or future.
9. Nothing contained in this RFP may be construed as a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities accorded to the Global Fund.

10. Nothing in this RFP shall be taken to mean or read as compelling or requiring the Global Fund to respond to any questions or to provide any clarification to a query of an Applicant. The Global Fund reserves the right not to respond to questions raised by an Applicant that it perceives as irrelevant, or not to provide clarifications if in its sole and absolute discretion it considers that no reply is necessary.
 11. The Global Fund reserves the right to seek any additional information or document from the Applicant in the manner it deems fit at its sole and absolute discretion.
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