

# Frequently Asked Questions on Matching Funds for the 2020-2022 Allocation Cycle

Updated: July 2020

## General Overview of Matching Funds

### 1. What are Matching Funds?

Matching Funds are additional investments beyond the allocation amounts that the Global Fund has designated to specific countries to incentivize the programming of the country allocation towards key strategic priority areas, in line with the Global Fund Strategy 2017-2019: Investing to End the Epidemics, and partner disease strategies.

They require applicants to meet specific conditions to access this additional funding as outlined in the allocation letters sent to applicants in December 2019.

### 2. What are the Matching Funds strategic priority areas?

The Matching Funds priority areas for the 2020-2022 funding cycle are:

- HIV prevention: Adolescent girls and young women in high prevalence settings
- HIV prevention: Scaling up community-led key population programs
- HIV prevention: Condom programming
- HIV: TB preventive treatment for people living with HIV, with a family approach
- TB: Finding missing people with TB
- TB: Strategic engagement in Western and Central Africa
- Cross cutting: Programs to remove human rights-related barriers to health services

Subject to funding confirmation, there are two additional priority areas:

- HIV prevention: Differentiated HIV service delivery - Self-testing
- Resilient and sustainable systems for health: Data science in community health

### 3. Who is eligible for Matching Funds?

Eligible countries have been informed in their 2020-2022 allocation letters if they are eligible for Matching Funds, as well as the specific conditions required to access these funds.

## **Applying for Matching Funds**

### **4. How does an applicant request Matching Funds?**

Applicants must submit an integrated funding request which includes their allocation and their Matching Funds request. The funding request should clearly outline how the Matching Funds financial conditions (including key budget figures) and programmatic conditions are met (including key targets).

Matching Funds will be reviewed as part of the funding request review.

### **5. Is there a separate budget template that needs to be used for Matching Funds?**

There is no separate budget template for Matching Funds; applicants should integrate the Matching Funds amounts into the standard budget template submitted with the funding requests.

However, applicants are requested to indicate in the funding request narrative which interventions in the budget relate to the Matching Funds investment, and the investment from the allocation in the priority area, to clearly demonstrate that the access conditions have been met.

In addition, applicants are requested to indicate in the funding request form which interventions in the budget relate to Matching Funds.

### **6. What role does the Technical Review Panel (TRP) play in Matching Funds?**

The TRP reviews new funding requests which include Matching Funds requests. The TRP ensures that Global Fund investments are technically sound and strategically focused. The TRP is an independent review body and individuals on the TRP are not Global Fund employees.

### **7. What role does the Grant Approvals Committee (GAC) play in Matching Funds?**

With its oversight on the portfolio, the GAC will determine the upper-ceiling for Matching Funds amounts recommended for grant-making and will confirm when a grant is ready to be recommended to the Global Fund Board for approval.

## Conditions for accessing Matching Funds

### 8. What conditions are required to be met to access Matching Funds?

For applicants to access the Matching Funds indicated in their allocation letter, they must meet certain conditions. Broadly, the access conditions indicate the amount of funds that applicants must allocate to the relevant priority area, while programmatic conditions relate to the required investment focus and outcomes of the relevant programs within each priority area.

### 9. What are the access conditions?

Please refer to the Matching Funds: 2020-2022 Funding Cycle Guidance Note (May 2020) for the access conditions for each priority area. Please refer to Annex 1: **Examples of the access conditions being applied** for worked examples on meeting the access conditions.

### 10. What are the programmatic conditions?

In addition to meeting the relevant financial condition, each applicant must address specific programmatic conditions for each priority area to access their Matching Funds.

For comprehensive guidance on the specific conditions required to access each of the Matching Funds priority areas, please see [Matching Funds 2020-2022 Funding Cycle Guidance Note](#).

## Exceptions, Flexibilities & Streamlining

### 11. Can the TRP or the GAC award Matching Funds on an exceptional basis where the financial or programmatic conditions have not been met?

In exceptional cases - where there is a strong business case to do so - the TRP and the GAC can exercise flexibilities to the Matching Funds conditions. In making such decisions to exercise flexibilities, weighting will be given to the country context and the catalytic effect of the Matching Funds.

Refer to examples B and C in Annex 1.

### 12. If Matching Funds were awarded on an exceptional basis for an applicant in the 2017-2019 funding cycle, will the exception “carry-over” to the 2020-2022 funding cycle?

Any exception to conditions granted to a country in the 2017-2019 funding cycle cannot be carried forward and has no bearing on whether an exception will again be granted in the 2020-2022 funding cycle.

It is vital that in the funding request, applicants provide a clear and complete description of how they have met the access conditions and programmatic conditions. If applicants cannot meet the conditions, they must outline a strong business case for why Matching Funds should be nevertheless granted on an exceptional basis, for the TRP and the GAC to consider.

If you received Matching Funds for *Programs to remove human rights-related barriers to health services* on an exceptional basis in the 2017-2019 period, refer to the **Cross-Cutting Priority Areas** section below.

### 13. If an applicant has been recommended to submit their funding request using the *Program Continuation* approach (i.e. a streamlined application approach for well-performing programs which have recently been reviewed by the TRP and which require no significant changes), and they have also been designated Matching Funds, can the applicant apply a streamlined application approach to Matching Funds?

There is no streamlined application approach for Matching Funds. All applicants with designated Matching Funds must submit a funding request that includes a full, clear and complete description of how they have met the access and programmatic conditions.

### 14. What about where an applicant is eligible for Matching Funds for multiple priority areas – in that case can the applicant apply a streamlined application approach to cover all the priority areas?

Applicants must ensure that the funding request covers how the access and programmatic conditions have been met for *each* priority area in order to access the Matching Funds. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to take an integrated approach in their plans to implement programs in addressing the Matching Funds priority areas.

For example, there is a clear complementarity between scaling up community-led key population programs and programs to remove human rights-related barriers to health services. Where an applicant is eligible to receive Matching Funds for both priority areas, it is important to show the interaction and intersection between the operationalization of the programs.

## HIV Prevention Priority Areas

### 15. Will Adolescent Girls and Young Women remain a Matching Funds focus in this funding cycle?

The Global Fund increased investments to address the HIV epidemic amongst adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in 13 countries in the 2017-2019 funding cycle and will continue this focus in the 2020-2022 funding cycle. Without a more rapid scale-up of prevention of HIV transmission in AGYW in sub-Saharan Africa, accelerating progress towards epidemic control will become increasingly unlikely, and gains made in the fight against HIV in the past 15 years may be threatened.

For more information on this focus, please refer to the [Adolescent Girls and Young Women Technical Brief](#).<sup>1</sup>

### 16. Are there special conditions for Matching Funds for Adolescent Girls and Young Women?

AGYW is considered a special case for Matching Funds. In order to appropriately respond to this, it is essential that the catalytic effect of awarded Matching Funds is to be significantly stepped up compared to the 2017-2019 funding cycle.

To achieve this there needs to be an increase of domestic involvement and ownership in this priority area.

It is understood that despite an increase in the Global Fund allocation for many countries in the 2020-2022 funding cycle, certain countries cannot be expected to fully cover the funding gaps for this priority area. As a result, conditions related to Matching Funds for the AGYW priority area will be evaluated and assessed on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the demonstrated scale-up of investments and coverage, as well as the potential to achieve a measurable increase in impact.

### 17. With regards to Matching Funds for Key Populations, how can communities prove that certain groups are "underserved Key Populations" if the previous population size estimates are outdated or unreliable?

The underserved Key Populations (KP) is broadly and flexibly defined and does not have to be based on validity of population size estimates. For instance, if we know most harm reduction services are focused on men, a need assessment and/or documentation of issues related to access to harm reduction services among women, including young women can be presented. That is sufficient for the Matching Funds to be used to expand the services to women who inject drugs. In addition, community participatory need assessments can be proposed as an intervention in KP matching in and of itself (it falls under Community System Strengthening) or can be funded through technical assistance, for example available through Community Rights and Gender Technical Assistance.

### 18. Are there good practice models that exist to ensure, for example, Key Populations can generate, store and share good quality data that is reliable to inform progress, e.g. on self-testing targets and/or condom use.

Based on WHO recommendations and implementation experiences, the Global Fund developed a technical brief on this topic. This technical brief on HIV and key populations: Programming at scale with sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs and people in prison and other closed settings can be found [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> "Adolescent Girls and Young Women in High-HIV Burden Settings Technical Brief" under "Technical Briefs": <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/applying/resources/>

19. **Knowing the matching funds for condom programming are not focused on commodity purchase, what is the recommendation if there is still a programmatic gap for condom supply needs for the country?**

Please note a new Global Prevention Coalition resource, the [Developing Effective Condom Programs, Technical Brief](#).

In addition, see new guidance on improving condom programming, oriented towards Global Fund funding requests [here](#).

## TB Priority Areas

20. **Is there specific guidance for TB Matching Funds priority areas?**

See the Global Fund Guidance Note on TB Matching Funds [here](#).

Please also see a case study on Program Quality Efficiency in TB [here](#).

21. **Are there special conditions for Matching Funds for the *Strategic engagement in Western and Central Africa* priority area?**

Selected countries for this priority area are not expected to satisfy the standard access conditions outlined above (i.e. a 1:1 match is not required for this priority area). However, countries are expected to have a corresponding increase in investments in the interventions supported through this initiative in their country grants or other sources of funding. In addition, countries are expected to identify high impact prioritized interventions which will be supported through this initiative in their funding request, with clear justification and rationale.

Please see Best Practices and Lessons Learned based on WCA experiences [here](#).

## Cross-Cutting Priority Areas

### 22. How are Matching Funds for *Programs to remove human rights-related barriers to health services* (i.e. Human Rights Matching Funds) assessed?

The assessment of whether an applicant has met the financial and programmatic conditions to access Matching Funds for the human rights priority area will be done on a case-by-case basis.

As a rule, applicants are required to demonstrate an increase in the allocation amount designated to the strategic priority area, compared to the budget levels in Global Fund grants from the 2017-2019 allocation period.

However, under the programmatic conditions, they **are expected to demonstrate ambitious plans and a comprehensive response to reducing human rights-related barriers.**

Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to proceed as follows, to meet both the access and programmatic conditions:

If an applicant met the 1:1 match and was awarded Matching Funds for human rights in 2017-2019, it is expected that the applicant will once again at least meet the access condition (for countries with no or minimal increase in their allocation) or exceed the financial condition proportionally to the increase in their allocation.

If an applicant received Matching Funds for human rights in 2017-2019 without meeting the 1:1 match, they are expected to demonstrate not only an incremental increase in the 2020-2022 total budget dedicated to human rights-related programs, but also a proportionate increase in line with their total allocation. For example, if an applicant's allocation was increased by 50% between 2017-2019 and 2020-2022, they are expected to increase their investment from the allocation by **at least** 50%.

Finally, applicants that received Matching Funds in 2017-2019 despite the fact that they were then only able to dedicate very little funding to programs to reduce human rights-related barriers from within the allocation, but have now received a significant increase in their allocation, are expected to show much more than just a proportionate increase, reflecting their commitment to comprehensively address human rights-related barriers in the country.

### 23. How is the implementation of the Matching Funds monitored and what mechanisms are in place to ensure the funds are programmed and operationalized appropriately?

For human rights, applicants are strongly encouraged to use the Performance Framework and/or Workplan Tracking Measures to monitor the implementation and impact of the human rights programs. Countries should use the human rights-related indicators already included in the Global Fund Performance Framework as core indicators for HIV as well as TB; and use the Workplan Tracking Measures to track the implementation.

### 24. Where should an applicant's investment in human rights-related programs come from?

Matching Funds for human rights in 2017-2019 were considered an HIV initiative and applicants were required to invest funds from their HIV allocation into programs to reduce human rights-related barriers to HIV only.

In 2020-2022, the human rights priority area is considered a "cross-cutting" initiative - meaning applicants are strongly encouraged to further scale up programs to reduce human rights-related barriers to HIV and at the same time, applicants should also support programs that will enable more equitable access to TB and malaria services. It is expected that the match from the HIV allocation is at least as high as the one in the 2017-2019 cycle; beyond this, the TB and malaria allocation could also be used to fulfill the financial requirements described above.

25. **Are there any further resources for Human rights?**

Human rights have never been more important than in the times of COVID-19. Recent Global Fund Guidance is available [here](#).

## Annex 1: Examples of the access conditions being applied

### 26. Could you provide worked examples of how applicants meet the access conditions?

Please see the following worked examples:

- Example A illustrates an applicant meeting the access conditions for a continuing Matching Fund.
- Example B illustrates an applicant receiving an exception in 2017-2019 and subsequently meeting the conditions in 2020-2022.
- Example C illustrates an applicant receiving an exception in 2020-2022 for a new Matching Fund and receiving a reduced Matching Funds amount.

#### **Example A – increase in investment – continuing Matching Funds:**

##### **2017-2019**

- In 2017-2019, \$6M was designated to Country X in Matching Funds for Finding Missing People with TB priority area.
- In order to receive the Matching Funds, Country X had to demonstrate a 1:1 match using funds from their TB allocation.
- Country X invested \$6M from their TB allocation.
- Country X's total budget in 2017-2019 for this priority area was \$12M.

##### **2020-2022**

- In 2020-2022, Country X is eligible for \$5M in Matching Funds for Finding Missing People with TB priority area.
- In order to receive the Matching Funds, Country X needs to demonstrate an increase in the total budget designated to the priority area.
- Country X needs to invest more than \$12M, so must designate **at least** \$7M +\$1 from their TB allocation into Finding Missing People with TB so the combined amount of allocation plus matching funds is more than \$12M.
- These figures are outlined in the table below. Country X plans to invest \$8.5M in order to increase the overall investment from 2017-2019 to 2020-2022.

2017-2019 Matching Funds awarded	2017-2019 Investment from allocation	<b>2017-2019 Total budget</b>	2020-2022 Matching Funds available	2020-2022 Investment from allocation	<b>2020-2022 Total budget Proposed</b>
\$6M	\$6M	<b>\$12M</b>	\$5M	\$8.5M	<b>\$13.5</b>

#### **Example B – increase in investment - exceptions – continuing Matching Funds:**

##### **2017-2019**

- In 2017-2019, \$1.5M was designated to Country Y in Matching Funds for the Key Populations priority area.
- In order to receive the Matching Funds, Country Y had to demonstrate a 1:1 match, using funds from their HIV allocation.
- Country Y only invested \$1M from their HIV allocation and therefore sought an exception from the GAC in order to receive the Matching Funds.
- The GAC decided that based on the country context, the degree of commoditization of the grant, the stated commitment of Country Y, and the importance of the programs to the HIV response, they were supportive of Country Y's request to seek an exception to the 1:1 match condition and awarded the Matching Funds on an exceptional basis.
- Country Y's total budget in 2017-2019 for Key Populations was \$2.5M.

## 2020-2022

- In 2020-2022, Country Y is eligible for \$550K in Matching Funds for the Key Populations priority area.
- Country Y cannot carry-forward the exception received in 2017-2019.
- In order to receive the Matching Funds, Country Y needs to demonstrate an increase in the total budget designated to the priority area and aim to demonstrate a 1:1 match.
- Therefore, Country Y needs to invest more than \$2.5 million, so must designate **at least** \$2M from their HIV allocation into Key Populations.
- These figures are outlined in the table below. Country Y plans to invest \$2M in order to increase the overall investment.

2017-2019 Matching Funds awarded	2017-2019 Investment from allocation	<b>2017-2019 Total budget</b>	2020-2022 Matching Funds available	2020-2022 Investment from allocation	<b>2020-2022 Total budget Proposed</b>
\$1.5M	\$1M	<b>\$2.5M</b>	\$500k	\$2M	<b>\$2.5M</b>

### Example C – 1:1 match – exceptions - new Matching Funds:

- In 2020-2022, Country Z is eligible for \$3M in Matching Funds for the new Condom Programming priority area.
- In order to receive the Matching Funds, Country Z needs to demonstrate an investment of a portion of their allocation that is greater than or equal to (i.e. 1:1 match) the amount of available Matching Funds for that priority area
- Country Z needs to invest **at least** \$3M from their HIV allocation into Condom Programming.
- Country Z can only invest \$1M and therefore will need to seek an exception from the GAC in order to receive the Matching Funds. See figures in table below.

2017-2019 Matching Funds awarded	2017-2019 Investment from allocation	<b>2017-2019 Total budget</b>	2020-2022 Matching Funds Available	2020-2022 Investment from allocation	<b>2020-2022 Total budget proposed</b>
-	-	-	\$3M	\$1M	<b>\$4M</b>

- The GAC decided that based on the relevant considerations, they rejected the exception sought by Country Z to the 1:1 match condition.
- However, the GAC revised the award downward to \$1M, and in doing so enabled Country Z to meet the 1:1 match condition.
- Country Z's revised total budget in 2020-2022 for Condom Programming is \$2M.

2017-2019 Matching Funds awarded	2017-2019 Investment from allocation	<b>2017-2019 Total budget</b>	2020-2022 Matching Funds available	2020-2022 Investment from allocation	<b>2020-2022 Total budget proposed</b>
-	-	-	\$1M	\$1M	<b>\$2M</b>