

# **TRP Update**

## **47<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

GF/B47/11  
10-11-12 May 2022, Geneva / Virtual

### **Board Information**

Purpose of the paper: The objective of this paper is to update the Board on the TRP's work since the last Board meeting in November 2021.

## Context

1. The mandate of the Technical Review Panel (TRP) is to: (i) provide rigorous, independent technical assessment of funding requests made to the Global Fund, (ii) document and share lessons learned, and (iii) act as an advisory body to the Board. The TRP carries out its mandate with support from the TRP Secretariat and under the oversight of the SC, to which it reports periodically.

## Where are we now? Progress to date

2. Since November 2021, the TRP completed its seventh and final review window of the 2020-2022 allocation period, which included review of 8 Funding Requests amounting to US\$81.3 million in allocation funding. Window 7 was the final TRP review window for the 2020-2022 funding cycle. All funding requests have been reviewed and recommended for grant-making. In the 2020-2022 allocation period, the TRP reviewed 207 Funding Requests. One hundred ninety-five were recommended for grant-making, totaling US\$12.618 billion in allocated funds.
3. The TRP is now documenting lessons learned and preparing for the next allocation period. To do so, the TRP has launched Working Groups on TRP Recruitment, Conflict of Interest, Performance Self-Assessment including revision of the TRP KPI Framework, and Application Materials. Further Working Groups will be launched later in the year, including TRP Observations from the 2020-2022 Allocation Period, Update of TRP Review Approach, Revision of the TRP Operating Manual.
4. In preparation for the next allocation period, the TRP and SC Working Group developed updated TRP Terms of Reference (TORs) in line with the new Global Fund strategy which were approved at the 18<sup>th</sup> Strategy Committee (SC) meeting in April 2022.

## Key messages and priorities

5. Updated TRP TORs
  - a. The TRP TORs have been revised to reflect consideration of the new Global Fund Strategy, recommendations from the OIG Advisory Review on the TRP model, and further Strategy Committee Working Group considerations in the following areas.
    - o **TRP Mandate:** revisions propose clearer articulation of the TRP's primary mandate i.e., to provide technical review and guidance on program design and reporting on lessons learned, observing carefully considered and SC approved differentiation.
    - o **Membership:** areas of expertise needed in the TRP pool have been aligned with the new Global Fund Strategy. Furthermore, principles for termination of TRP membership have been added; and flexibility for the TRP Chair to extend membership term by additional two years has been clarified in line with the recommendation in the OIG Advisory Review.
    - o **Governance:** revisions reflect: (a) intentional commitment to the diversity of the TRP membership and leadership, (b) clarify the function of TRP "mentors", (c) clarify that the TRP budget and work plan will be developed in consultation with the TRP Leadership and will be approved by the SC; (d) specify that the TRP will develop a set of prioritized key

- performance indicators (KPIs) to provide a holistic assessment of the TRP's performance – as recommended by the OIG Advisory; and (e) further clarify that TRP can create working groups to complete specific tasks.
- **Ethics:** wording has been included to explicitly incorporate prudent practice requiring that recruited members confirm that they will adhere to the operating guidelines of the TRP and sign a confidentiality agreement before they can serve in reviews.
  - **TRP review modalities:** edits have been included to further emphasize the need for a differentiated and more streamlined review approach for Tailored for Focused and Tailored for Transition funding requests.
  - **Honoraria and other operational costs:** clarity has been added regarding TRP honoraria input and consultation, consistent with Secretariat delegated authority to determine the structure and amounts of honoraria and SC authority to approve the TRP work plan and associated budget.
  - **Review criteria:** TRP review criteria have been updated in line with the new Global Fund Strategy to ensure that programs will contribute towards the key changes that the Global Fund Strategy seeks to achieve by focusing on the primary goal: Ending AIDS, TB and malaria, and, as appropriate to the context, mutually reinforcing contributory and evolving objectives.
- b. When presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> SC meeting in March-April 2022, the discussion covered the following points:
- SC members raised the following points:
    - Expressed support for the fully revised TORs in the context of a new Strategy, noting that the review criteria clearly illustrate the TRP's role within the ecosystem of decision making.
    - Requested information on areas of expertise outlined in the updated TORs, including how differentiated review will be done from a programmatic standpoint, and not just from a process perspective.
    - Reinforced the importance of TRP emphasis on strengthening rather than supporting health systems, referencing the 2021 TRP Advisory on RSSH.
    - Called for equally consultative and inclusive processes in developing key documents to promote ownership across the partnership. Members also reminded the TRP and Secretariat to take advantage of the wealth of data available through technical partners.
  - The TRP and the Secretariat provided the following responses:
    - On TRP expertise, the Secretariat clarified that these areas align with the new Strategy goals and objectives.
    - The Secretariat clarified that the differentiated application of the review criteria in Funding Request reviews will consider country context, type of portfolios (e.g., focused portfolio, transition, etc.), priorities of the country under review, etc.
    - The Secretariat flagged that the TRP review criteria are an important lever to encourage applicants to align funding requests to the new Strategy and will also be used to inform updated TRP operational documents.

## **What are the next steps for Committees and Board?**

1. At its July 2022 meeting, the SC will receive and provide feedback on the TRP's 2021 Performance Self-Assessment to guide the revision of the TRP's performance assessment tools, including KPIs. Additionally, the SC will receive the 2020-2022 TRP Observations Report for feedback. The SC will also decide on proposed candidates for TRP Recruitment at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in October 2022.