

# Operational Update

## GC7 Resources, Updated C19RM Guidelines and SEAH Requirements

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Dear colleagues,

In this edition of the Operational Update, we are sharing updated and new resources for Grant Cycle 7 (GC7). Some funding request materials have been updated to address issues from Window 1, including the [RSSH Gaps and Priorities Annex](#), [Funding Priorities of Civil Society and Communities Most Affected by HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Annex](#), [Funding Landscape Table](#), [Health Product Management Template](#) and its [user guidelines](#).

Grant-making resources now include a [video](#) with key changes for GC7, a [Partner Portal Guide](#) and a [revised section](#) on the Global Fund website; a new [e-learning course](#) presents the revised budgeting guidelines. We are also highlighting new requirements for community engagement during grant-making.

The COVID-19 Response Mechanism continues to work with countries to adapt COVID-19 funding and reinvest in systems for health and pandemic preparedness, in complementarity with GC7 grants. Country Teams will be working with implementers of C19RM funding to further focus COVID-19 investments in surveillance, labs, oxygen, community health workers and supply chain to prepare for the next pandemic, as per the updated [C19RM Technical Information Note](#).

In addition, we remind Principal Recipients, recipient representatives and sub-recipients of Global Fund resources about [requirements on reporting and responding to allegations of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment](#).

Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment.

Best regards,

The Global Fund

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## Grant Cycle 7 (GC7)

### Applying for Funding: Updated Materials

The following application materials for the 2023-2025 funding cycle have been updated to address issues that emerged in Window 1.

- **RSSH Gaps and Priorities Annex.** The [RSSH Gaps and Priorities Annex](#) ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)) has clarified instructions and minor changes to the template. Applicants were able to submit the original version of this annex for Window 2. The most current version of the annex should have a publication date of 12 May 2023 listed on the front page below the annex title.
- **Funding Landscape Table.** The [Funding Landscape Table](#) has a Health Products tab which has been amended to be more practical to complete and has fixes to minor bugs. Applicants were able to submit older versions of this annex for Window 2. Countries submitting in Window 3 are encouraged to use the updated template. The most current version of the template is Version 1.4 with an update date of 24 April 2023, found at the top of the Instructions tab.
- **Funding Priorities of Civil Society and Communities Most Affected by HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Annex.** The [Funding Priorities of Civil Society and Communities Annex](#) ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)) has been updated to clarify that personal information related to the individuals representing the civil society

organizations and constituencies is not to be included in this annex. An initial from the focal point of each organization or constituency is requested, but full names, emails or other personal information should not be included.

This is now indicated in the template. Funding Requests submitted in Window 3 and beyond should be sure to use the most recent version of template, which has a publication date of 22 June 2023 listed on the front page below the annex title.

- **Health Product Management Template and User Guidelines.** The [Health Product Management Template](#) (HPMT) has had reference price updates (including a significant drop in the cost of TLD), additional insecticide treated nets (ITN) dimensions, the “Upfront” payment option disabled to comply with recent changes in budgeting guidelines, an Analytics worksheet added, the Catalog of products updated and fixes to minor bugs and cells formatting. The [User Guidelines for Health Product Management Template](#) ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)) have been updated to reflect those changes.

Applicants were able to submit older versions of the HPMT for Window 2. Countries submitting in Window 3 are encouraged to use the updated template. The most current version of the template is Version 2.1 with an update date of 6 June 2023, found in purple boxes at the bottom of the Setup tab, as available on [the Global Fund website](#).

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## Grant-making: Resources and New Community Engagement Requirements

The following resources are now available to support in-country partners:

- **Grant-making section on the Global Fund website.** The [grant-making section](#) on the Global Fund website has been updated for GC7. It provides an overview of grant-making and consolidates resources for Principal Recipients, Country Coordinating Mechanisms, Local Fund Agents, partners, civil society and others interested in the grant-making stage of the grant life cycle.
- **New grant-making video.** A funding request submitted to the Global Fund by country applicants is translated into one or more grants through a process called grant-making. This [new video](#) summarizes key changes regarding the grant-making process for GC7, and how Principal Recipients, the Global Fund Country Team and other in-country partners collaborate to design a quality, implementation-ready grant.

- **Partner Portal Guide.** Principal Recipients use the Global Fund Partner Portal to view the progress of grant-making, download documents and forms shared by the Global Fund, submit final grant documents, and manage Grant Entity Data. The [Partner Portal Guide](#) ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)) shows Principal Recipients how to access and carry out key actions for grant-making in the Partner Portal.

## **New requirements for community engagement during grant-making**

Meaningful engagement of community and civil society representatives in the design, implementation and oversight of grants is essential to achieve program outcomes and ensure effective disease responses. As part of the new requirements in GC7, Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) need to convene at least two meetings during grant-making for the Principal Recipient to brief and receive feedback from the CCM, including these representatives.

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## **New E-learning Course on Guidelines for Grant Budgeting**

An [e-Learning course](#) has recently been launched as a supplementary resource for grant implementers to enhance their understanding of the new Guidelines for Grant Budgeting. Effective from 1 February 2023, the Guidelines support GC7 applicants with budget requirements for the development, review and implementation of their grants, and can be found on the [Global Fund website](#).

By completing this online course, applicants will learn about the Global Fund's financial policies and procedures, including the development of budgets for funding requests and grants, eligibility criteria for grant expenditures, requirements for monitoring and financial reporting obligations. As the Guidelines are updated with every new grant cycle, key changes from the 2019 version are also highlighted.

[The course](#) takes about 20 minutes to complete and is available in English on [iLearn](#). Versions in French and Spanish are upcoming.

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# C19RM Resources Update

The COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) continues to work with countries to adapt COVID-19 funding and reinvest in systems for health and pandemic preparedness, in complementarity with GC7 grants. Country Teams will be working with implementers of C19RM funding to further focus COVID-19 investments in surveillance, labs, oxygen, community health workers and supply chain to prepare for the next pandemic, as per the updated C19RM Technical Information Note ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)).

The following documents are now available to support applicants to C19RM with integration of approved C19RM Additional Funds into grants, reinvestment, and implementation.

- **This two-pager** ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)) summarizes what is new and different for C19RM in 2023.
- The **[COVID-19 Response Mechanism \(C19RM\) Guidelines](#)** ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)) were revised to support applicants to transition C19RM funds toward health systems infrastructure and capacities for pandemic preparedness. Updates have been made in the following areas:
  - **Programmatic Priorities:** The C19RM Guidelines now reflect the C19RM strategic shift and technical priorities, moving away from addressing a pandemic emergency towards longer-term investments that strengthen health systems and support pandemic preparedness.
  - **C19RM Additional Funding Requests:** Guidance for C19RM Additional Funding Requests captures changes in (i) endorsement requirements; (ii) submission requirements; and (iii) the review and approval processes.
  - **Performance Framework:** A C19RM-specific Performance Framework has been introduced and will be required for grants that have received US\$20 million or more of C19RM funds. More information on how to integrate the Performance Framework is forthcoming.
  - **Key operating principles:** Adjustments have been made as to eligible grants for C19RM extension, timelines for using C19RM funds, reinvestment of C19RM 2021 funds, consolidating multiple C19RM grants for extension, and Principal Recipient reporting.
  - **Integration of C19RM funds into GC6 grants:** Integrating C19RM funds into a grant Implementation Period is done through an additional funding revision and only in GC6 grants (C19RM funding cannot be integrated into GC7 grants). Revisions to integrate C19RM funds must be completed by 30 November 2023 at the latest. If a grant is required to submit a C19RM Grant Performance Framework (mentioned above), an additional revision may be required to incorporate the Performance Framework.
  - **Reinvestments of C19RM Funds:** The guidance focuses on when countries can demonstrate the shift towards the C19RM strategic priorities.

- **Implementation:** Updates have been made to align with the new extension principles.
  - **Annex 1 and Risk Management Assurance** align with revised sections of the C19RM Guidelines detailed above.
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## **Reporting and Responding to Allegations of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment: Requirements and Guidance for Global Fund Recipients**

The Global Fund reminds Principal Recipients, recipient representatives and sub-recipients of Global Fund resources about requirements on reporting and responding to allegations of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. These requirements must be integrated in existing guidelines or codes of conduct, and all future contracts of receipt, disbursement or management of Global Fund resources. More information in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

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