

Operational Update

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Dear colleagues,

This is our last Operational Update of the year and all of us at the Global Fund would like to sincerely thank you for your efforts in the fight against the three diseases and in building and strengthening systems for health.

In this edition Mark Edington, Head of the Grant Management Division, shares reflections from 2023 and looks ahead to 2024 in this video:



You will also find updates on GC7 related to grant-making, grant revisions, applying for funding and PR reporting, as well as an important message on complementarity of investments between C19RM and GC7. We also share information on co-financing and blended finance. We thank you again for your collaboration and look forward to continuing to work together next year.

The Global Fund

Grant Cycle 7

Applying for funding in GC7. The Global Fund would like to thank all applicants for developing quality funding requests in 2023: 70% of the funding request submissions for GC7 are completed, accounting for approximately 90% of the allocation. With extraordinary hard work and collaboration across the partnership, we expect 160 grants to be approved by the Board by the end of December. Applicants submitting funding requests during 2024 can visit the [Global Fund website](#) to access relevant resources.

Grant-making and implementing grants starting on day one. Congratulations to those portfolios that went through grant-making and are ready to implement their grants on 1 January 2024. Please share your experiences by completing this grant-making survey ([CCM survey](#) | [PR survey](#)). For those who will go through grant-making in 2024, visit the grant-making section of the [Global Fund website](#).

Grant revisions. The Operational Policy Note and new Operational Procedures have been updated, effective from 1 December 2023. The documents can be found in sections 2.5 and 2.6 of the Global Fund's [Operational Policy Manual](#). The updates offer in-country implementers more flexibility when going through grant revisions to adapt to their country context and needs, and the process has been streamlined and improved. The [Guidelines for Grant Budgeting](#) (sections 2.5.2 and 2.5.3) have also been updated to align on Budget Revisions.

Principal Recipient reporting will go through changes in 2024 to reduce duplication in reporting and expand on Partner Portal functionalities, including online data quality checks. Information sessions are planned for February or March 2024, the dates will be published on the Global Fund website.

Pooled Procurement Mechanism (PPM). The updated Operational Policy Note and Operational Procedures can be found under sections 2.7 and 2.8 of the Global Fund's [Operational Policy Manual](#). Main updates include: (1) a requirement to set the PPM ceiling amount to a cumulative three-year total after grant signature; (2) broader definition of unplanned costs resulting from importation delays and high-level incident management process to minimize these costs; and (3) annexes to reflect sub-processes for order management and PPM requirements by portfolio category.

COVID-19 Response Mechanism

C19RM on strengthening systems for health and pandemic preparedness; complementing GC7 investments

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, C19RM funding is presenting a unique opportunity to invest in strengthening systems for health and pandemic preparedness.

It is critical that portfolios that are continuing to implement C19RM investments in 2024 and 2025 focus funds on the five strategic areas approved by the Global Fund Board (C19RM Technical Information Note [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)) in order to complement and further GC7 investments. These strategic areas include surveillance systems strengthening, integrated laboratory systems and diagnostic networks, human resources for health and community systems, medical oxygen, respiratory care and therapeutics, and health care waste management.

Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) have a role to play to actively engage in implementation and monitoring of these investments for successful execution. CCMs should ensure that C19RM funding is strengthening the country's systems for health focused in the strategic areas mentioned above, according to context and need, and that the interventions show a clear benefit to pandemic preparedness and response (PPR).

Investments in resilient and sustainable systems for health and PPR are doubling in 2024 and countries will need to demonstrate that C19RM funds are building capacity in these areas and not merely filling gaps that did not fit in the GC7 allocation. We count on CCMs, PRs, sub-recipients and partners to engage in making the implementation of these funds a success.

Reporting. The C19RM Guidelines ([English](#)) have been updated and PRs will report against C19RM Performance Framework targets starting in Q1 2024. PRs are not required to report on the July-December 2023 period, even when targets were agreed in the Performance Framework. Updated [French](#) | [Spanish](#) versions will be available soon.

Domestic Financing: Co-financing and Blended Finance

Co-financing

The Global Fund commends countries that have presented funding requests in 2023 with strong programmatic and financial [co-financing](#) commitments. We call on CCMs, PRs and other country stakeholders to continue to focus on the monitoring and implementation of these commitments. For applicants presenting proposals in 2024, it is critical that domestic investments are prioritized. For detail on enhancing domestic financing and co-financing, see the Sustainability, Transition, and Co-Financing Policy ([English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)) and the Sustainability, Transition, and Co-Financing Guidance Note ([English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)).

Blended finance

An increasing number of countries are considering blended or joint investments with partners. The Global Fund Board recently approved an updated approach to blended finance, which is designed to support the Global Fund partnership in better leveraging these mechanisms. As GC7 continues, finding and maximizing opportunities to strengthen collaboration with other development finance partners will remain a key priority, especially in countries where there are opportunities to increase impact by considering blended investments.

Survey

Your opinion is important. Please take a minute to answer [two quick questions](#) about the Operational Update.