Information Note for Communities on the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism

The Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) has authorised additional funding of US$500 million to the US$500 million previously given to Countries under the grant flexibilities.

**What is it for:**

The C19RM funding is for most ‘urgent activities’, but still has to be implemented through an existing country grant or regional or multi-country grants.

It can be used for three areas, to:

1. **Support direct COVID-19 responses** in countries, such as for the purchase of diagnostics and personal protective equipment (PPE), and other emergency response supplies. These must be in line with WHO COVID-19 technical guidance and national Strategic Preparedness and Response Plans for COVID-19;

2. **Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB, and malaria programmes**, such as additional support distribution activities to protect against COVID-19 including PPE, in line with WHO technical guidance and close collaboration with partners; and

3. **Urgent improvements in health and community systems**, such as strengthening laboratory networks, supply chains, and community engagement

Some examples, but not exhaustive!

- Programmes to address gender-based violence
- Strengthening/adapting community-led HIV service delivery models for key populations (e.g. OST access, community-led ARV delivery)
- Community-led and based monitoring of HIV, TB, malaria and/or COVID responses
- Community mobilisation and advocacy
- Integration of COVID prevention and support into community-led and based HIV, TB and malaria responses
- Human rights related monitoring, access to justice, legal literacy, addressing stigma and discrimination, health provider and police training on rights and medical ethics
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Countries can access an amount equivalent to up to 10% of their 2020-2022 allocation

All applications have to show that inclusive engagement with civil society and key affected populations took place.

The Global Fund is also seeking to encourage requests aimed at sustaining and leveraging community engagement, both in adapting HIV, TB and malaria programs to the COVID-19 response.

Deadline:

The first deadline to submit applications for GF’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism is at the end of May. The Secretariat will approve requests through C19RM on a rolling basis up until September 2020.

Application Process:

The application is submitted through the Country or the regional coordinating mechanism. The funding request is divided into two parts:

- **Priority 1 for the most urgent activities.** This is capped at 3.25% of the 2020-2022 country allocation. The Global Fund will respond within 10 days to this request.
- **Priority 2 for supplementary interventions.** This is capped at 10% of the 2020-2022 country allocation minus the amounts already requested for C19RM Priority 1 and approved grant flexibilities/reprogramming. These additional requests could be awarded later if more funds are made available.

Funding must be fully utilised by June 2021. Countries are asked to submit this request form completed and endorsed by the CCM to C19RM@theglobalfund.org with the Global Fund Country Team in copy. Instructions to apply can be found here.

**How can communities access C19RM:**

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, communities and networks of people who use drugs have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response.
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It is important that communities are able to access COVID-19 Response Funds and have access to services that suit us. Some tips on how to get involved.

- Identify the community representative within the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM): get in touch with them and discuss how to make sure the activities you and your community need are included in the country proposal.
- Send a letter to CCMs/focal points in key countries calling for communities to be fully included in the consultation process and argue for the need to include harm reduction and other community-led activities in applications.
- Work closely with the CCM community or key population representative in your country to identify how people who use drugs can be involved in either accessing this fund or make sure it is being used for relevant services and programmes.
- Develop short documents outlining some of the activities you would like to see featured in the C19RM country request. It is important to list the activities in order of priority, just in case not all of them are able to be funded.

Contact:

Most information about CCM contacts is available here. Remember that you have the right to get in touch with your CCM, and they have an obligation to respond. You can also contact the Global Fund Secretariat with questions or feedback by using this email ccm@theglobalfund.org.

If you would like INPUD to follow up on the request to the Global Fund Secretariat and Community Rights and Gender (CRG) Team, please feel free to cc Mick Matthews at mickmatthews@inpud.net and Judy Chang judychang@inpud.net