

Questions & Answers

COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM)

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Contents

General.....	1
Eligibility.....	1
Available Funding	2
Areas to be Funded	2
Applying for Funding	3
Funding Requests.....	3
Approval Process.....	4

General

What is C19RM?

It is a mechanism that the Global Fund has put in place for countries to access funds to fight COVID-19, mitigate the impact that the new pandemic is having on programs to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, and prevent fragile health and community systems from being overwhelmed.

Eligibility

Who can access these funds?

Only countries with a Global Fund allocation for the 2020-2022 period can access an amount equivalent to up to 10% of their allocation.

Countries with current grants can also reprogram (up to 5%) or use grant savings (up to 5%) for the COVID-19 response. Countries are encouraged to analyze current grant savings and reprogramming first, before applying for C19RM support.

For countries and multi-country grants with no fixed 6th replenishment allocation, support will be based on an amount equivalent to up to 10% of the current grant allocation minus amounts accessed through grant flexibilities.

Can countries who have already applied for the use of savings and reprogramming for current grants still apply for C19RM?

Yes. Countries are eligible for C19RM support of up to 10% of their respective country allocation for the 6th replenishment period minus amounts accessed through grant flexibilities.

Can a country receiving transition funding receive funds from the C19RM?

If a country is currently receiving Global Fund transition funding, it can access the C19RM. Funds must be invested through an existing grant.

Can ineligible disease components who do not receive Global Fund financing receive funds from the C19RM?

No. CR19RM funds must be invested via existing Global Fund grants.

Does the limit apply per grant or per country?

The 5% savings and 5% reprogramming ceilings are per grant. But the 10% cap to the overall 2020-2022 allocation applies per country.

Are there any conditions to accessing C19RM?

Yes. C19RM funding is contingent upon the following conditions:

- Eligible applicants include those countries that directly receive Global Fund financing. Current regional/multicountry implementers are also eligible for C19RM support.
- Applications must be submitted by CCMs (RCMs/ROs in multicountry contexts).

Available Funding

How much money is available?

The overall funding available through C19RM is currently US\$500 million.

Are C19RM funds deducted from a country's 2020-2022 allocation?

No. These funds are incremental to the country's 2020/2022 allocation. They are not deducted.

Areas to be Funded

Does the COVID- 19 Response Mechanism only fund specific areas?

Yes. Eligible investments supported by C19RM are:

- Interventions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and malaria disease programs;
- Actions to reinforce the response to COVID-19; and
- Initiatives to make urgent improvements in health and community systems, including laboratory networks, supply chains and engagement with vulnerable communities.

Is there a link between the amount allocated and the disease splits?

Funding under C19RM is not based on a country's disease split. Countries are eligible to receive an amount that is equivalent to up to 10% of their respective 2020-2022 allocation minus amounts accessed through grant flexibilities.

How will the funds be apportioned across the diseases?

There is no apportioning across diseases. CCMs should identify the greatest need for each country and integrate the new C19RM funds into the appropriate grant for most effective implementation.

Investments should focus on mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on programs for the three diseases, before considering other areas.

Applying for Funding

How can an eligible country apply to C19RM?

Eligible countries' CCMs can apply using the following documents:

- Funding Request Instructions ([English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#))
- Funding Request Form ([English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#))

More information is on the COVID-19 Response Mechanism [page](#).

Funding Requests

What are "Priority 1" and "Priority 2" funding requests?

Support through C19RM is split into two components, as the initial capacity of C19RM for all eligible countries is US\$500 million.

1. **Priority 1 or "immediate award"**. This award is funded by the initial capacity of C19RM. Therefore, a Priority 1 application should include immediate interventions required to maintain current HIV, TB and malaria programs, unless already funded through grant flexibilities. The application should not exceed an amount equivalent to 3.25% of the country's 2020-2022 allocation. Countries and multicountry grants that do not have 2020-2022 allocations should use their 2017-19 allocations as a basis for percentages.
2. **Priority 2 or "award contingent on funding"**. This award could be paid out if additional resources become available. A Priority 2 application should outline additional requirements for support, and when combined with Priority 1 and funds accessed through grant flexibilities, should not exceed an amount equivalent to 10% of the country's 2020-2022 allocation.

Can a country apply for the maximum Priority 1 activities if it has already accessed 5% savings and 5% reprogramming of its 2020-2022 allocation?

Maximum eligibility for C19RM is based on the 2020-2022 country allocation envelope. If a country has already used 5% savings and 5% reprogramming, then it can apply for C19RM support for the difference between such amount and the amount equivalent to 10% of the country's 2020-2022 allocation. This remaining amount can be requested as Priority 1 up to the limit of 3.25% of the 2020-2022 allocation, and any remainder as Priority 2.

Can a country with no savings or options for reprogramming request 3.25% under Priority 1 and an additional 6.75% under Priority 2? If yes, when will it be approved?

Yes. If the C19RM funding request is approved, the country will receive 3.25% in the Priority 1 bucket and another 6.75% can be requested as Priority 2, which may be funded if funding becomes available. An application should, to the extent possible, make requests for Priority 1 and Priority 2 at the same time.

Should the C19RM request consider HIV, TB and malaria programs in country?

Yes. It is critical that countries submit requests to support mitigation/adaptation plans for HIV, TB and malaria programs, not just COVID-19 related needs, and that these disease-specific plans should draw on the appropriate [technical guidance](#). Priority 1 requests should include immediate interventions required to maintain current HIV, TB and malaria programs, unless already funded through grants (including any grant flexibilities). However, requests can also include actions to reinforce the response to COVID-19 and initiatives to make urgent improvements in health and community systems, including laboratory networks, supply chains and engagement with vulnerable communities.

Additionally, where automated COVID-19 diagnostic tools use existing equipment, such as GeneXpert, countries must submit plans to mitigate the potential impact on TB testing and HIV viral load testing.

Can C19RM funding be used to cover the entire country if Global Fund funding normally targets specific states?

Yes. COVID-19 support is to countries and is not program-specific. However, C19RM funding must be managed by an existing Principal Recipient.

Should countries submit one or multiple requests?

One application is better, but in very exceptional cases, the CCM could submit its Priority 1 application first, while working on the Priority 2 application.

Should modifications to disease programming due to COVID-19 be funded by C19RM or normal reprogramming?

Any modifications to disease programs that would be eligible under normal programming should be addressed, where possible, through regular grant reprogramming regardless of whether the cause is COVID-19 related or not. C19RM support should target instances where reprogramming would not be allowed in the regular course of business or where reprogramming is not possible.

Approval Process

Does the decision to fund a C19RM application follow the same process as a funding request?

The Secretariat will approve requests through C19RM on a rolling basis. To ensure equity among applicants, approvals may be limited to portions (rather than the totals) of the applications. Approval for interventions within one request might also be staggered, resulting in funding being provided at different stages of the process. All decisions will be made by the C19RM Approval Committee and transparently reported on the Global Fund website.

How long is the clarification period?

The Global Fund will decide on Priority 1 funding requests within 5 working days of receipt of the request. The applicant will receive a response within ten working days from the submission date. These timelines are based on receipt of complete requests – there is no designated clarification period.