

**THE GLOBAL FUND
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
MULTICOUNTRY GRANT(S)
INVITATION NOTICE**

Issue Date	15 December 2017
RFP number	GF-MC-2017-01
RFP Multicountry strategic priority	Tuberculosis: TB/MDR-TB interventions among Afghan refugees, returnees and mobile populations in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.
RFP Closing Date	30 April 2018
RFP Closing Time	5:00 PM Geneva time
Proposal and Questions Submission Address	accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org ; cc: Enkhjin.Bavuu@theglobalfund.org

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the “Global Fund”) is seeking proposals from regional stakeholders to implement a multicountry program under the Catalytic Investments for the 2017-2019 Allocation Period.

In this RFP the “Applicant” refers to an entity responding to this RFP, while “Implementer” refers to the implementing entity of the grant proposed by the Applicant. Requirements for the Applicants and the Implementers are set forth in Attachment C of this RFP.

Applicants will be notified of the outcomes of the review by the Global Fund Secretariat and Technical Review Panel (TRP), as specified below. The successful Applicant or Applicants will then, with the proposed implementing entity and the support of the Global Fund Secretariat, proceed to grant-making.

This RFP contains the following attachments and annexes:

Attachment A	Statement of Work
Attachment B	Evaluation Criteria
Attachment C	Proposal Requirements and general guidelines
Attachment D	General Instructions

Submitting a proposal in response to this RFP constitutes an acceptance of the terms indicated herein, including the Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014), and the Global Fund reserves the right to reject the proposal of any entity or individual, as the case may be, that fails or refuses to comply with, or accept, such terms.

This RFP shall not be construed as a contract or a commitment of any kind. This RFP in no way obligates the Global Fund to award a grant, nor does it commit the Global Fund to pay any costs or expenses incurred in the preparation or submission of proposals.

1. For audit and efficiency purposes, this RFP process is being managed electronically, and Applicants are required to submit their proposals by email to Access to Funding Department at accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org copying the Multicountry priority Focal Point, Senior Fund Portfolio Manager, Dr Enkhjin Bavuu at Enkhjin.Bavuu@theglobalfund.org.
2. Proposals must be submitted in the Global Fund provided format, and received by the Global Fund at the RFP Closing Date and by the RFP Closing Time, all as indicated in the RFP Information Table above. All templates will be shared with all interested Applicants upon request sent by email to Access to Funding Department at accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org copying the Multicountry priority Focal, Senior Fund Portfolio Manager, Dr Enkhjin Bavuu at Enkhjin.Bavuu@theglobalfund.org.
3. Unless otherwise indicated, proposals shall be submitted in the officially provided template in the appropriate MS Office file format, and **should be divided in three separate files** containing
 - a. The funding proposal narrative and the core supporting documents;
 - b. Relevant Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM)/Regional Organization (RO) Eligibility documentation;
 - c. Supporting documents referenced in the funding proposal.

The title of the document of your attachment must be labelled as follows:

- Funding Proposal narrative: GF-MC-01-FP-[Your organization name]
 - Performance Framework: GF-MC-01-PF-[Your organization name]
 - Budget: GF-MC-01-Budget-[Your organization name]
 - Implementation Arrangement Map: GF-MC-01-ImpMap-[Your organization name]
 - RCM Eligibility documentation: GF-MC-01-RCM-[Your organization name]
 - RO Eligibility documentation: GF-MC-01-ROE-[Your organization name]
 - Annexes: GF-MC-01-[name of annex]- [Your organization name]
- (Note: shorten the name of the annex as much as possible as if it is too long the it might not be possible to open the file)*

4. All communications with regard to this RFP shall be in writing, electronically via email to the Access to Funding Department copying the Global Fund Secretariat Focal Point. The final deadline to sending clarification questions associated to the RFP is April 15, 2018 17.00 GMT+2 hours.
5. Any communication between an Applicant and the Global Fund regarding this RFP, which is not through the designated channel, as set forth in Section V of Attachment C of this RFP, shall invalidate such Applicant proposal to this RFP.

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ATTACHMENT A STATEMENT OF WORK

The Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership organization designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. Founded in 2002, the Global Fund is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases. The Global Fund raises and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs in countries and communities most in need.

The Global Fund is a financing institution, providing support to countries in the response to the three diseases and does not implement programs on the ground. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, the Global Fund partnership strives for maximum impact.

The Global Fund is calling for proposals from qualified organizations to provide programming for the strategic priority area “Finding Missing TB Cases” under the Multicountry catalytic funding modality for the 2017-2019 Allocation Period.

Multicountry approach

1. Based on the Global Fund Board’s decision ([GF/B36/04](#)) in November 2016 on the Catalytic Investments available during the 2017-2019 Allocation Period, US\$ 65,000,000 has been made available for Finding Missing TB Cases priority area under the Multicountry approach. The amounts and priority areas for Catalytic Investments have been determined primarily by technical partners in consultation with the Global Fund Secretariat, and reflect critical needs that will assist in the delivery of the global plans for HIV, TB, and malaria and the 2017-2022 Global Fund Strategy. Under the recommendation of the Global Fund Board and technical partners, unless an ideal Applicant can be agreed through comprehensive regional consultations, the funds will be allocated through an open and competitive RFP process.

2. Of the amount made available for this priority area, this RFP refers to the **US\$ 5,000,000** made available under Multicountry priority area **Tuberculosis: TB/MDR-TB interventions among Afghan refugees, returnees and mobile populations in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.**

2.1. Problem statement

The burden of tuberculosis (TB) in Afghan returnee populations (refugees and undocumented persons) is reported to be three times higher than in the general Afghan population. Limited access of Afghan refugees, returnees and other migrant populations to TB and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) prevention, diagnosis and treatment services in the countries of residence is a consequence of both a lack of service provision in areas where Afghan settlement is prevalent in neighboring countries and upon their return to Afghanistan. This is further reinforced by the socio-economic status of returnees and their resultant poor living standards.

2.2 Geographic scope

The Multicountry grant will focus on Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, the three countries with the highest number of Afghan refugees, returnees and other migrant Afghan populations.

2.3. Epidemiological context

- Pakistan has one of the highest burdens of TB in the world. In terms of absolute numbers, it ranks fifth among 30 TB high-burden countries, and fifth as well among 30 high-burden multidrug-resistant TB countries.
- Afghanistan has slightly lower burden of TB, but TB remains one of the major public health concerns in the focus of the national government and a number of partners who are investing along with the Global Fund in health programming.
- Iran has the lowest burden of TB among these three countries and the National TB Control Program has been effectively managing it in the past years. TB is now concentrated in vulnerable populations, including prisoners and people living with HIV, and migrants from high TB burden countries – while Iran has almost eliminated tuberculosis and malaria among its nationals, the prevalence of these diseases is high among unregistered Afghans living in Iran. Some 13% of all new cases notified in 2016 ($n=1,216$) have had a non-Iranian nationality, of whom 1,179 cases (or 97%) were Afghan.

According to the 2017 WHO Global Tuberculosis Control report, the most recent data available:

Estimates of the TB burden	Pakistan	Afghanistan	Iran
Population 2016 (millions) ¹	193	35	80
Mortality (excludes HIV+TB), number	44,000	11,000	850
Mortality (excludes HIV+TB), rate per 100,000 population	23 (18-29)	33 (19-49)	1.1 (1-1.1)
Incidence (includes HIV+TB), number	518,000	65,000	12,000
Incidence (includes HIV+TB), rate per 100,000 population	268 (174-383)	189 (122-270)	14 (11-18)
Incidence (MDR/RR-TB), number	27,000	3,300	200
Incidence (MDR/RR-TB), rate per 100,000 population	14 (8.8-19)	9.5 (3.6-15)	0.25 (0.14-0.36)

2.4. Strategic focus

The grant will focus on creating a catalytic effect for increased impact by:

- Strengthening collaboration, information sharing and diagnosis/treatment service referrals between health services reaching Afghan refugees, returnees and migrants and the respective national TB control programs (NTPs) in the host countries, with the aim of finding and treating TB cases among mobile Afghan populations.
- Strengthening cross-border collaboration, information sharing and referrals among NTPs in the three countries, to ensure effective collaboration between three

¹ Population estimates were produced by the United Nations Population Division (UNPD, <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>). The UNPD estimates sometimes differ from those made by countries.

countries and to ensure treatment is not disrupted for patients relocating from one country to another.

c) Strengthening the capacity of the national TB control program in Afghanistan to effectively diagnose and treat TB cases amongst returnees.

2.5. Target populations and diseases under the grant

The target populations for this TB and MDR-TB control program include:

- There are nearly 5 million Afghan refugees and migrants in Pakistan and Iran:
 - 950,000 refugees/documentated migrants and 1.4 million undocumented migrants in Iran. Afghan refugees and documented migrants have same levels of access to health services as Iranian citizens, while unregistered Afghan migrants have limitations. As a result, this grant will target the undocumented Afghan migrants in Iran, though linkages with refugee programs should also be strengthened.
 - The situation in Pakistan is different, with 1.3 million Afghan refugees and more than a million undocumented Afghans in Pakistan all having limited access to TB/MDR-TB services. The grant will primarily target the refugees, but will also aim to have spill-over effect on other Afghan migrant populations.
- Hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants returning to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan every year.
- If resources would allow – millions of other Afghan migrant and mobile populations in the three countries.

2.6. Scope of work

This grant is meant to be a catalytic investment and as such it has to be built upon existing structures and services of the applicant and/or its implementer(s) and provide the needed resources for the additional efforts in two general areas:

- **On strengthening service delivery for TB/MDR-TB among Afghan refugees, returnees and migrants**, the applicant will improve:
 - referral and follow-up of people with symptoms of TB to local NTPs for diagnosis and treatment; this could include strengthening of prevention, diagnosis and treatment facilities reaching out to Afghan refugees and migrants in the host countries and at the point of entry of returnees with the aim of improving case finding and referral for treatment,
 - community engagement at refugee settlements and villages and at returnee concentrated areas, and
 - other relevant actions contributing to greater catchment of missing cases and successful treatment outcomes of patients.
- **On strengthening coordination and information exchange between NTPs and national surveillance systems**, the applicant will:
 - work with technical partners, government departments and NTPs to align relevant protocols and policies in three countries;
 - create cross-border referral mechanisms and information exchange tools for patients returning to Afghanistan for further follow-up and treatment completion; and

- other relevant actions contributing to finding missing cases and improving treatment outcomes of migrants crossing national borders, such as encouraging health seeking behavior in relevant population groups through social mobilization and public health awareness campaigns etc.

The above list should not be treated as an exhaustive list of activities to be financed by the Global Fund. The final list of activities shall be determined with the successful Applicant during the grant negotiation stage and subject to Global Fund Board approval.

All activities will be conducted in line with relevant national/international guidelines and standards.

2.7. Duration of the Grant

The maximum duration of each grant shall be three years from the grant implementation start date. The grant is expected to start on 1 January 2019.

2.8. Key deliverables and timeline

The proposal is due for submission on 30 April 2018.

The projected timeline for grant-making is from mid-2018 until the end of 2018, with an expected signing of the grant agreement in December 2018.

The implementer of this grant will report on a quarterly or semi-annual basis (to be determined during grant-making) against the set targets of a number of indicators and/or key milestones/work plan tracking measures and hold annual review meetings with the governments of three countries and technical partners.

This grant is not expected to be renewed and, as such, its catalytic effect must be fully realized within the three years of its implementation. The applicant should plan its proposal accordingly.

2.9. Expected outcomes and anticipated results

The grant will be expected to achieve the following:

- Harmonized national policies and protocols in the three countries for TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment, allowing seamless continuation of treatment for patients relocating across borders.
- Well-established information sharing platform between NTPs of the three countries (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan could also be part of this platform, if feasible). This platform should become a formal network of NTPs from the three countries and it could be set up with the help of WHO-EMRO, following the same or similar approach as the Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan Malaria Network (PIAMNet). Existing good practices of cross-border collaboration on TB/MDR-TB to be explored and expanded.

- Well-established linkages between NTPs of host countries and Afghan refugee/returnee settlements and villages that ensure people with symptoms of TB receive diagnostic services and patients with TB or MDR-TB receive treatment.
- Increased access of the target population to TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment services through removal of policy, legal and structural barriers and implementation of patient centered approach. Increased access can be measured through the standard indicator TCP- 6b: Number of TB cases (all forms) notified among key affected populations/ high-risk groups (other than prisoners) and custom indicators can also be constructed to measure the treatment outcomes.
- Ensured sustainability of the established linkages and systems after the end of this grant.
- Value adding for design of future national or multicountry programs in the region and across the world, by describing the lessons learned and examples of best practices for cross-border collaboration in TB/MDR-TB response.

2.10. Roles, Responsibilities, and Management Structure

The Principal Recipient and its partners will operate in the three countries at the same time. There will be one leading entity (the Principal Recipient) who will have fast and flexible systems and be highly adaptable to different operating environments. The Principal Recipient will build on its existing ongoing and strong collaboration with the relevant government agencies and ministries, including NTPs of the three countries, Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) and Principal Recipients of other Global Fund grants.

The Principal Recipient shall engage with the global, regional and in-country technical partners, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Stop TB Partnerships and others, who will be able to provide the most relevant technical expertise that the Principal Recipient and its partners can use when working to align the diagnostic and treatment protocols in the three countries and dealing with any other technical matters related to strengthening TB and MDR-TB diagnosis and treatment services.

The Principal Recipient and its partners will need to create strong linkages with NTPs in Iran and Pakistan and health services in Afghan settlements and villages, where the latter would refer all people with symptoms of TB to the NTPs for diagnostic and treatment services. Such strong linkages are also essential for strengthening the cross-border referral systems that would ensure treatment continuity for patients returning to Afghanistan. The grant will not fund anti-TB/MDR-TB medicines and diagnostic commodities, as those should be accessed from the respective NTPs, other donor funded projects and/or national Global Fund grants supporting the respective NTPs.

The Principal Recipient should have experience working with the Global Fund, implementing cross-border activities, working with refugees and migrants, and a very good understanding of TB/MDR-TB. It should also be able to collaborate with partners who have the required technical expertise. The Principal Recipient and its partners should be able to coordinate with other donors and donor-funded programs in the three countries, creating synergies and efficiencies wherever possible.

2.11. Implementation arrangements

1. The Applicant shall propose modules and interventions with clear indicators and targets, the costing of the each proposed modules and interventions, and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
2. The Applicant shall present implementation arrangements and explain how the oversight mechanism is envisioned, assuring multicountry coordination.
3. The Applicant shall propose an Implementer that satisfies the requirements of this RFP, in addition to the proposed programming and implementation arrangements outlined in the funding proposal submission.

The Applicant will provide strategic oversight to ensure effective and strategic implementation of programs. The Applicant will oversee the performance of the Implementer to ensure that it achieves the agreed targets of the programs being implemented.

The Implementer will enter into a grant agreement with the Global Fund and manage the grant. Implementation of the activities under the grant will be conducted by the Implementer and the selected Sub-recipients in close coordination and consultation with the Global Fund and relevant regional and national authorities. The Implementer for the grant must have the capacity to control the grant activities and expenditure and manage Sub-recipients in compliance with Global Fund policies.

For more information, please refer to “Guidelines on Implementers of the Global Fund Grants.”²

2.12. Applicable Global Fund Policies

All relevant policies, rules and guidelines of the Global Fund (as enacted or amended from time to time) shall apply to this Applicant selection process, the ensuing grant making process as well as implementation of the contemplated grant.

2.13. Framework Agreement and Grant Regulations

The Applicant will select an appropriate Implementer, which will enter into a Grant Agreement with the Global Fund. The Grant Agreement is governed by the standard Framework Agreement terms and Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014)³. Acceptance by Applicants of the standard Framework Agreement terms and Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014) will be taken into account in the assessment of Applicants’ proposals.

In particular, the successful Applicant along with the proposed Implementer shall confirm acceptance of the standard Framework Agreement terms, the Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014) and policies relating to maintenance of, and access to, books and records, and to full cooperation with the authorized representatives of the Global Fund, including the Office of the Inspector General, in audits, investigations, financial reviews, forensic audits, evaluations or other activities that the Global Fund deems necessary to ensure that Global Fund resources are used in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement for the purposes

² https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/5663/core_guidelinesonimplementers_guideline_en.pdf?u=636486807190000000

³ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/5682/core_grant_regulations_en.pdf

approved by the Global Fund. Cooperation includes in particular access to all relevant records, documents, personnel, sites, electronic materials and computerized records generated, or in the possession of, the Implementer, or the Implementer's agents, consultants, representatives or Sub-recipients, that pertain to activities and expenditures supported by Global Fund resources.

The Applicant and Implementer shall confirm acceptance of the standard Framework Agreement terms and Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014) in full with the technical proposal or, as the case may be, identify any proposed significant deviations from these terms in writing within the proposal.

The Global Fund shall be entitled to accept or refuse in its entire discretion any proposed deviations from its standard Framework Agreement terms and Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014) submitted in writing within the proposal.

Applicants shall not be allowed to propose any significant deviations from the standard Framework Agreement terms and Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014) after submission of their proposal under this RFP.

ATTACHMENT B EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Global Fund Secretariat will conduct a screening process to assess the extent to which proposals meet the evaluation criteria below and in accordance with **Attachment C**. All proposals considered of sufficient quality and technical rigor will be submitted to the Global Fund Technical Review Panel (the “TRP”) for independent expert review. The TRP will evaluate the proposals to ensure they are technically sound and strategically focused, and select the proposal(s) or elements of them deemed most likely to realize catalytic impact, multicountry collaboration and to demonstrate sufficient value for money in response to the targeted strategic priority. The selected proposal will be recommended to the Grant Approvals Committee of the Global Fund (the “GAC”) for final review before proceeding into grant signing.

During the Global Fund Secretariat screening procedure, applications are evaluated to ensure they fulfil the requirements outlined in **Attachment C** (Proposal Requirements and General Information) and demonstrate sufficient attention to the project described in **Attachment A**.

Only those proposals that fulfil all requirements will be considered for technical review by the TRP.

The Global Fund Secretariat evaluation:

Each proposal submitted in response to this RFP will undergo a screening process by the Global Fund Secretariat to evaluate whether it fulfils the criteria outlined in **Attachment C** and complies with relevant Global Fund policies and procedures, including the Regional Coordination Mechanism/Regional Organization Eligibility Criteria and the Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014). Applicants must demonstrate technical and programmatic capacity, sufficient regional knowledge and experience, and a commitment to open and inclusive drafting and decision-making.

Any proposal meeting the basic criteria outlined in **Attachment C**, demonstrating alignment with the Statement of Work, and in line with the relevant policies and procedures cited in the RFP, will be eligible for technical consideration by the TRP. The Global Fund Secretariat reserves a right to initially evaluate each proposal to determine a short list of candidates for further consideration by the TRP.

In addition, the Global Fund Secretariat will provide the TRP with a confidential assessment of the merits of the proposal. This assessment will address:

- How well the proposal, as submitted, meets the requirements for each criterion;
- The strengths, weaknesses and deficiencies that had a bearing upon the rating;
- Organisation’s track record/relevant experience;
- Technical approach to the requisite scope of work and achieving key objectives; and
- Any relevant regional and country-level context, which may have bearing on the TRP review.

TRP review process and criteria:

All proposals deemed eligible by the Global Fund Secretariat will be evaluated by the TRP against the framework put forth in **Attachment A**, and in line with the following general considerations:

a. Technical approach

- The extent to which the proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of the nature of the work and the environment in which the work must be performed;
- The extent to which the proposed approach and methodology are solid, appropriate, innovative, feasible, implementable and relevant as demonstrated in the proposal;
- The extent to which the proposed programs and interventions are catalytic and would encourage regional and strategic collaboration across borders; and
- The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the advantage of approaching the stated problem through a multicountry proposal and its complementarity to the existing country-level interventions and programs.

b. Expertise and qualifications

- The extent to which the regional and country implementers have the necessary capacity to implement the proposed interventions; and
- The extent to which the regional and country implementers have the necessary and relevant experience, e.g., multi-country research programs, and a strong track record of 'evidence into action', etc.

c. Country and regional expertise

- The extent to which the Applicant demonstrates the necessary and relevant understanding of country and regional context, including the impact and importance of the particular Global Fund strategic priority to which the funding proposal is oriented.

In addition to the criteria laid out above, each proposal will be evaluated by the TRP for technical soundness, strategic focus, and catalytic impact, based on the following criteria, as applicable:

1. Maximizing impact against HIV, TB and malaria towards ending the epidemics	
Strategic focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the proposal based on a comprehensive situational analysis, most recent available data, lesson learned and also aligned with the multicountry priority? - Has the Applicant identified the right critical gaps in programming? - Are the goals, objectives, expected outcomes clear, measurable and achievable?
Multicountry focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the funding proposal clearly delineate the advantage of approaching the problem through a multicountry proposal? - Is the explanation why the interventions cannot be done at the country level clearly stated? - Does the proposal enhance country programs?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the proposal involve countries in planning and implementation? - Does the proposal strengthen country health systems? - Does the proposal illustrate how multicountry approach addresses unique aspects of the disease(s) of a cross border nature?
Technical soundness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the Applicant chosen modules and interventions that are aligned with normative guidance/international standards and best practices, which are appropriate to the context?
Prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the proposal, including the budget distribution appropriately prioritize high burden areas and/or highest risk and vulnerable populations?
Evidence-based programs for key populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are globally accepted interventions for key populations that fit the epidemiological context being applied?
Scale-up and ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there sufficient scale of proposed interventions to achieve highest impact?
Leveraging partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the proposal clearly highlight synergies with other investments, including from the government, civil society and donors?
Monitoring and evaluation plan for impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the proposal clarify that appropriate investments or provisions are in place for effective measurement of expected outcomes and impact?

2. Promotes and protects human rights and gender equality	
Human rights-related barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are human rights barriers clearly identified in the proposal? - Does the proposal include programs or activities to address and remove human rights barriers?
Gender-related barriers, and gender equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the proposal identify gaps for women and girls and propose activities to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (if applicable)? - Does the proposal include age and sex-disaggregated data and are gaps clearly identified? - Does proposal include activities to address gaps in sex-disaggregated data with a view to address health inequities?
Engages key and vulnerable populations in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the program design and other information demonstrate that key and vulnerable populations were engaged in the development of the program and will be engaged in the elaboration of the grant?

Empowers and engages key and vulnerable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the proposal clarify that appropriate investments or provisions are in place for community empowerment to increase community involvement in program design in service delivery as well as advocacy and accountability?
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3. Invests in increasing program quality and efficiency of program implementation through shared ownership and mutual accountability

Technical and implementation capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do the proposed implementation mechanisms seem feasible?
Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the budget distribution across different modules appropriate for achieving highest impact given the epi and program context?
Programmatic risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are potential <u>programmatic</u> risks identified and are there concrete plans proposed to address them?
Strategies to address bottlenecks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the proposal identified challenges and barriers to implementation? - Are there clear actions, including innovative approaches as applicable, to address enduring implementation barriers/challenges?

4. Sustainability

Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the proposal include a vision for greater program sustainability of the proposed program?
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ATTACHMENT C FUNDING PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

I. Background

The objective of multicountry grants is to target a limited number of key, strategic multicountry priorities deemed critical to meet the aims of the 2017-2022 Global Fund Strategy and not able to be addressed through country allocations alone. Funding proposal for multicountry catalytic funding should focus on regional and cross-border collaboration, as well as complementarity with national disease programs, in order to achieve maximum catalytic impact in the strategic priority area.⁴ Proposal will be considered from a single organization or from a consortium,⁵ who provided the proposal that demonstrates sufficient technical capacity and strategic initiative to fulfill the terms outlined in **Attachment A**.

As part of the principle of country ownership, **Attachment A** has been shaped through a documented inclusive consultation process with partners and key stakeholders in the affected areas. Applicants are required to continue this inclusive approach to ensure the final grant reflects the interests and needs of different constituents and is sufficiently integrated with national and regional programming to achieve truly catalytic impact.

II. Requirements for Applicants

An Applicant must be a Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) or Regional Organization (RO)⁶ that demonstrates technical and programmatic capacity in the multicountry strategic priority, sufficient regional knowledge and experience in broad stakeholders engagement, and a commitment to open and inclusive dialog and decision-making.

Applicants must develop and demonstrate an inclusive and evidence-informed regional dialogue. It must be based on relevant national disease plans and regional strategies. A regional dialogue should actively engage representatives from all stakeholder groups involved in the response to the diseases, including those involved in building resilient and sustainable systems for health, and must include key and vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by the diseases.

In order to demonstrate an inclusive proposal development and to be eligible for Global Fund funding, Applicants must comply, as relevant, with the applicable Global Fund CCM/RCM Eligibility Requirements⁷ or the equivalent Global Fund principles applicable to RO proposal submissions. At the time of the submission of the funding proposal, the Global Fund

⁴ For more information on Global Fund Catalytic Investments, see [GF/B36/04 – Revision 2](#). For more information on Multicountry priority areas, see the [Guidance note on Multicountry approaches](#).

⁵ In the interest of an enhanced regional dialogue and collaborative drafting process, proposals are encouraged which incorporate multiple partner organizations operating in the region. Such proposals should demonstrate the collaborative and integrated nature of the proposal and the enhanced capacity and impact, which will result from a consortium proposal.

⁶ In order for a Regional Organization to be considered an eligible Applicant it must comply with the following requirements:

1. Demonstrate broad regional stakeholder consultation and involvement by:
 - Having a broad experience in working in the region on the issues targeted by the multicountry priority;
 - Having experience in working with other regionally / multicountry focused initiatives, programs;
 - Having a broad experience and confirmed track of working with people living with and/or affected by the diseases targeted by the multicountry priority.
2. Not be a United Nations, multilateral or bilateral agency.
3. Be a legally registered entity in at least one of the countries forming part of the funding proposal.
4. Demonstrate elements for sustainability for the regional strategic priority.

⁷ Please refer to the CCM Eligibility Requirements for further information https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/1285/ccm_requirements_guidelines_en.pdf

Secretariat evaluates compliance with CCM/RCM Eligibility Requirement 1 and 2 or the equivalent Global Fund principles applicable to RO proposal submissions these being:

Requirement 1:

- i. Coordinate the development of the funding proposal through transparent and documented processes that engage a broad range of stakeholders – including RCM members and non-members – in the solicitation *and* the review of activities to be included in the application.
- ii. Clearly document efforts to engage key affected populations in the development of funding proposal, including most-at-risk populations.

Requirement 2:

- i. Nominate one or more Implementer(s) at the time of submission of the funding proposal.
- ii. Document a transparent process for the nomination of all new Implementer(s) based on clearly defined and objective criteria.
- iii. Document the management of any potential conflicts of interest that may affect the Implementer nomination process.

RCM Applicants may not act as Implementers and shall nominate an Implementer(s) in accordance with procedures and requirements listed below. RO Applicants may nominate as Implementer(s) both themselves and any third party.

Compliance to CCM/RCM Eligibility Requirement 3 to 6 will be monitored on a yearly basis by the Global Fund Secretariat. More information on Eligibility Requirements, see [online](#) and in the [Guidelines and Requirements for Country Coordinating Mechanisms](#).

The Global Fund requires endorsement of the final funding proposal by all RCM members (or their designated alternates) or legal representative of the RO, documented in the designated form. The Global Fund requires multicountry applicants to provide evidence of endorsement from the CCMs of all participating countries⁸. For those countries with no CCM, endorsement is required from the legal representative of the Ministry of Health or other national coordinating body.

Additionally, a representative of the “Implementer” must sign off on the bottom of the endorsement sheet confirming that they endorse the funding request and are ready to begin grant making and implementation.

III. Requirements for Implementers

The Implementer will be the entity implementing the grant proposed by the Applicant⁹. At the minimum, a successful Implementer shall be a legally registered entity and needs to demonstrate the following:

⁸ The CCMs endorsements should be submitted together with the Funding Request. However, in special and well documented cases where circumstances do not allow to provide the CCM endorsements at the time of the submission, exception can be granted by the Secretariat to submit the documents during the grant making phase on case by case basis.

⁹ Eligible Global Fund Implementers are:

- Local and legal entities from the public or private sector or civil society. Locally-incorporated international non-governmental organizations are considered local stakeholders and are acceptable as PRs. The same requirements apply to SRs. For the

- 1 The Implementer demonstrates technical expertise in the multicountry strategic priority at multicountry and country levels.
- 2 The Implementer demonstrates effective management structures and planning at multicountry and country levels.
- 3 The Implementer has the capacity and systems for effective programmatic management and oversight of Sub-recipients (and relevant Sub-sub-recipients) at multicountry and country levels.
- 4 The internal control system of the Implementer is effective to prevent and detect misuse or fraud.
- 5 The financial management system of the Implementer is effective and accurate.
- 6 Data-collection capacity and tools are in place to monitor programmatic and financial performance.
- 7 A functional routine reporting system with reasonable coverage is in place to report multicountry financial and programmatic performance timely and accurately.

An Applicant should ensure that the Implementer(s) comply with the Global Fund Grant Regulations (2014).

IV. Proposal Requirements

The proposal should be concisely presented and structured, and should explain in detail the organization's strategic approach, technical capacity and resources to provide the proposed services. Applicants can include a prioritized and costed proposal for funds above the allocation amount (the "Prioritized above Allocation Proposal", or "PAAR") in case any available funds become available during the 2017-2019 Allocation Period, including savings identified in grant-making. Applicants are expected to use the official Funding Proposal Template for Multicountry RFPs and include all required documentation.¹⁰ Proposals deemed incomplete or not responsive to these criteria may not be considered in the review process. All proposals should be submitted as MS-Word documents or in the correct template, though annexes may be submitted as PDF. The Global Fund accepts application documents in English, French, and Spanish or Russian, though the working language of the Global Fund Secretariat and the TRP is English.¹¹

Appropriate application materials, instructions, and supporting documentation are only available through the relevant Secretariat Focal Point. After completing the funding proposal (including the narrative and mandatory attachments) should be submitted via email to the

purpose of this RFP local means being registered as legal entity in in at least one of the countries forming part of the funding proposal.

- In exceptional cases, should the RCM/RO conclude that there is no local entity qualified to be PR, the local office of an multilateral organization can be approved to take on the responsibilities of being PR. In this case, firm evidence must be presented by the RCM/RO that there are no local entities with the requisite capacity, and Country Teams must confirm their agreement.

- The Global Fund expects that engaging multilateral organizations or international NGOs to be PR as temporary, and that one or several local entities may be phased-in as PR(s) once their capacities had been strengthened. The Grant Agreement with a non-local entity PR may include plans for developing the capacity of one or several local entities and a timeline for passing PR responsibility to them.

- In rare cases where no other options are considered as acceptable, bilateral organizations (including the consulting arm of bilateral organizations, even if these are private entities) can be considered as PRs. This would be the case where the country context proves to be challenging and where the RCM/RO and the Global Fund Country Team conclude that no other international organizations can be appointed as PR to undertake grant implementation. The use of a bilateral organization as a PR would require approval from Global Fund Senior Management.

¹⁰ Please refer to the attached Funding Proposal Instructions

¹¹ Please refer to the Funding Proposal Instructions for Multicountry Approaches for more information on language requirements and translations.

Secretariat Focal Point and with copy to the Access to Funding Department (accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org).

a. Technical Proposal

Each funding proposal should be supported by regional and in-country data and technical guidance. It should be guided by regional disease strategies and national disease strategic plans, as appropriate, and draw on an inclusive multi-stakeholder regional dialogue process. The proposal must emphasize the strategic priority area within the specific regional and cross-national context, and describe how implementation of the resulting grant can maximize the impact of the investment by catalysing national and regional programming to increase the impact and effectiveness of both national and international investments in line with Global Fund Strategic Objectives.

In addition to the funding proposal document, the following attachments and documentation are required:

- Performance Framework (following the Global Fund Modular Framework)
- Budget (in alignment with the Performance Framework and the Global Fund Modular Framework)
- Implementation Arrangement Map
- Endorsement of the funding proposal from the RCM or RO
- Endorsement letters from CCM of each country that forms a part of the regional application (or equivalent) List of abbreviations and annexes
- Documents describing the Applicant status such as organization's status, by-laws etc.
- Documents describing the Implementers status such as organization's status, by-laws etc. (Not applicable if the Regional Organization – Applicant acts also as an Implementer).

Applicants are requested to include all relevant and necessary contextual documentation with the funding proposal as labelled annexes, including national and regional strategic plans for the relevant diseases.

For detailed instructions on the information and documentation required, refer to the Funding Proposal Instructions for Multicountry Approaches, which are available on request from the Secretariat Focal Point.

b. Budgeting Guidelines

All proposals submitted in response to this RFP are expected to use the Global Fund Modular Framework to describe the intended programming and budget. The Global Fund Modular Framework is a list of standard modules, related interventions, and associated impact, outcome, and coverage indicators through which applicants describe their intended grant programming. The Global Fund uses the modular approach to organize the programmatic and financial information about each grant throughout its lifecycle, from the funding proposal through grant-making and implementation.

Further information on the Global Fund Modular Framework may be found in the [Modular Framework Handbook](#). Instructions on completing the Performance Framework and Budget may be found in the Instructions completing a Multicountry Funding Proposal.

All proposals should additionally follow the [Global Fund Guidelines for Grant Budgeting](#), which sets forth the financial requirements for all stakeholders involved in the development, review, and implementation of the Global Fund program budgets and specific grant budgets funded by the Global Fund.

V. Proposal submission and communications

The amount of available funding and intended program outline relevant to this RFP has been outlined in **Attachment A**.

Applicants will receive the appropriate application materials, including instructions on how to generate required attachments and templates from the information management system, from the designated Secretariat Focal Point. After completing the funding proposal (including the narrative and mandatory attachments), submit all documentation via email to the Access to Funding Department (accesstofunding@theglobalfund.org) and copy the Secretariat Focal Point. The full proposal must be submitted no later than the date and time designated in the summary table and following the submission guidelines noted in the invitation notice (page 1).

ATTACHMENT D GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

By submitting a response for this RFP, the Applicant agrees to the following:

1. The Global Fund shall not be considered as making any offer of a contract, nor a grant, by posting this RFP or evaluating any response submitted in response to it, and there shall be no legal agreement or relationship, whether in contract (express, implied, or collateral) or tort, created by this RFP process between the Global Fund and any Applicant. For the avoidance of doubt, any grant agreement remains subject to Global Fund Board approval.
2. The Global Fund expressly reserves the right to change the closing date and timing of, amend, withdraw, or cancel this RFP process and/or its grant strategy, and to reject any or all responses at any time and for any reason, without liability or penalty to any party. Applicants will be informed of all amendments or other modifications to this RFP.
3. The Global Fund may (a) reject any or all proposals, (b) accept for award a proposal other than the lowest cost proposal, (c) accept more than one proposal, (d) accept alternate proposals, (e) accept part of a proposal, and (f) waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.
4. The Global Fund will be under no obligation to reveal, or discuss with any Applicant, how a proposal was assessed, or to provide any other information relative to the selection process. Applicants whose proposals are not selected will be notified in writing of this fact, and shall have no claim whatsoever for any kind of compensation.
5. All Applicants shall be responsible for and bear their own costs, expenses, and liabilities arising in connection with the preparation and submission of a response to this RFP, as updated, amended, or modified from time to time, and their involvement in the RFP process. In no circumstances whatsoever will the Global Fund be liable for any such costs incurred by any Applicant, whether direct or indirect, irrespective of the outcome of the selection process, nor if the selection process is cancelled, altered, or postponed for any reason.
6. Any dispute, controversy, claim, or issue arising out of this RFP, shall be finally settled by arbitration conducted in accordance with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The number of arbitrators shall be three, the place of arbitration shall be Geneva, Switzerland, and the language used at the arbitration shall be English.
7. The Global Fund's Code of Conduct for Recipients and the investigative, decision-making, and sanctions policies and processes of the Global Fund, including those of its Office of the Inspector General shall apply to this RFP. These documents are available at:

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/policies-guidelines-templates/governance-policies/>

8. The Global Fund has full discretion to investigate any potential fraud or abuse, whether occurring in the past, present, or future, associated with the procurement with Global Fund resources, and the Global Fund at its full discretion may publish the findings of such investigations; through participation in this process, the Applicant acknowledges these processes and will not challenge in any setting the investigation by the Global Fund of potential fraud or abuse associated with procurement with Global Fund resources, the dissemination of investigation findings, and the responses

undertaken by the Global Fund to findings of fraud or abuse, in all cases whether occurring in the past, present, or future.

9. Nothing contained in this RFP may be construed as a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities accorded to the Global Fund.

10. Nothing in this RFP shall be taken to mean or read as compelling or requiring the Global Fund to respond to any questions or to provide any clarification to a query of an Applicant. The Global Fund reserves the right not to respond to questions raised by an Applicant that it perceives as irrelevant, or not to provide clarifications if in its sole and absolute discretion it considers that no reply is necessary.

11. The Global Fund reserves the right to seek any additional information or document from the Applicant in the manner it deems fit at its sole and absolute discretion.

12. The maximum allowable email size (including all attachments) is 30Mb. In case the files exceed this limit the Applicant can share the file via sharing web sites.