**Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism**

**Funding Request Instructions for 2021 Allocation**

The United States has announced that it will provide US$3.5 billion to the Global Fund COVID-19 response and Germany has announced a contribution of EUR140 million. Additional contributions are anticipated from other donors. These funds are intended for the response to COVID-19 and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, and strengthen health and community systems.

**C19RM funding may only be used for the following types of interventions:**

1. **COVID-19 control and containment interventions**, including personal protective equipment (PPE), diagnostics, treatment, communications and other public measures as specified in WHO guidance;
2. **COVID-19-related risk mitigation measures for programs to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria**, including, but not limited to, support for COVID-19 interventions needed to safely implement campaigns, community and health facility-level HIV, TB and malaria programs, and additional delivery and procurement costs for HIV, TB and malaria programs where related to addressing COVID-19 disruptions; and
3. **Expanded reinforcement of key aspects of health systems**, such as laboratory networks, supply chains and community-led response systems, to address advocacy, services, accountability and human-rights based approaches.

* C19RM funds cannot support the procurement of vaccines, or primarily focus on vaccine deployment. GAVI and the World Bank are going to be the principal sources of external support to countries’ vaccine deployment efforts.

**C19RM Allocation**

Factors to be taken into consideration in making final awards on the C19RM Above Base Allocation for each applicant will include:

* COVID-19 considerations;
* the extent of disruption of services in Global Fund-supported programs;
* the amounts of C19RM funding previously awarded and progress in implementing these funds; and
* availability of funding from other sources.



**C19RM Allocation for Lao PDR**

* Base Allocation: US$4,162,247
* Above Base Allocation: at least US$4,162,247

It is in addition to and distinct from the country’s 2020-2022 allocation but **will be added to the country’s existing grant LAO-C-MOH**

**Timeline**

Lao People's Democratic Republic is strongly encouraged to submit the C19RM Funding Request(s) as early as possible to maximize the impact of funds and immediately respond to urgent needs. Specifc timelines are as follows:

* **C19RM Fast-track Funding Requests** can be submitted immediately, starting from 7 April 2021.
* **C19RM Full Funding Requests**, including the C19RM Above Base Allocation request, can be submitted during **four submission windows: 14 May 2021, 31 May 2021, 15 June 2021 and 30 June 2021.**
* The Global Fund expects to communicate all final review outcomes in a timely manner after receipt of CCM endorsed C19RM Funding Requests.
* The purpose of C19RM funding (including awards already made) is to respond to **urgent needs due to COVID-19 and the expectation is that these funds will be put to use as soon as possible** and well in advance of the **final utilization deadline of 31 December 2023.**

Applicants should work with the relevant Global Fund Country Team to identify the most appropriate submission window for their C19RM Full Funding Request and register for the selected window by e-mail.

**Proposed Discussion Points**

* Roles of the NCPO and Technical Task Forces lead by the National Programs (CHAS, NTC, CMPE);
* Appoint the Focal Point for the proposal developing process;
* Identify the proposal submission window;
* Fund flow procedure of C19RM – *Will be the same as the country’s existing grant LAO-C-MOH*?;
* Potential and challenge of Co-financing commitment;
* Schedule for the next OC/RMC and CCM meeting.