



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Health
Cabinet
CCM Secretariat, GFATM
Lao PDR

Minutes of Teleconference
To discuss online with the Global Fund Country Team
on the additional Global Fund Financing for the Covid19 response in the Lao PDR

Following the agreement from the previous CCM Meeting on 6th April and the message from Ms. Elin Bos, Fund Portfolio Manager(FPM) of the Global Fund regarding to funding request instructions for 2021 allocation for Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism.

In order continue discussions online this matter, the teleconference with the FPM was organized at the Ministry of Health on 29th April 2021 at 15:00 PM local time at the Second Floor Meeting Room of Communicable Disease Control Department (Old Building of MOH). The teleconference chaired by H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phouthone Muongpak, Vice Minister of Health and CCM Chair which 11 participants attended in person including the representatives from PR ExCom (DPC, DOF, DCDC), NPCO, National Programs, and CCM Secretariat. Due to the current status of COVID 19 outbreak and Vientiane's lockdown, some partners has been joining the meeting online.

Ms. Elin Bos, Fund Portfolio Manager has presented the funding request instruction for 2021 allocation of the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism for the Lao PDR as below:

C19RM 2021 Allocation for Lao PDR

- C19RM Base Allocation: US\$4,162,247
- C19RM Above Base Allocation: at least US\$4,162,247
 - Deadline to use C19RM funding is 31 December 2023

The C19RM base allocation and above base allocation may also be adjusted, taking account of the:

- Lao PDRs COVID-19 burden;
- Extent of disruption of services in Global Fund-supported programs;
- Amounts of C19RM funding previously awarded and progress in implementing these funds; and
- Availability of funding from other sources.

Eligible investments

- C19RM will continue to fund the following areas:
 - COVID-19 Response
 - COVID-19 related adaption of programs to fight HIV, tuberculosis & malaria
 - Strengthening health and community systems
- 1. Applicants are encouraged to include oxygen in their future C19RM funding requests to rapidly scale-up oxygen provision and treat severe COVID-19 cases;
- 2. C19RM **will not support procurement of vaccines***, nor be primarily focused on vaccine deployment.

Activities to be funded are aligned with relevant pillars of the WHO COVID-19

Response Pillar Framework:

- **Pillar 1:** Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring
 - **Pillar 2:** Risk communication and community engagement
 - **Pillar 3:** Surveillance, including Epidemiological Investigation and Contact Tracing
 - **Pillar 4:** *Ports of Entry, International Travel and Transport*
 - **Pillar 5:** Laboratory and diagnostics
 - **Pillar 6:** Infection Prevention and Control, and Protection of the Health Workforce
 - **Pillar 7:** Case management, Clinical Operations, and Therapeutics
 - **Pillar 8*:** *Operational support and logistics*
 - **Pillar 9:** Maintaining essential health services and systems (Referred to as “Mitigation” in C19RM)
 - **Pillar 10:** Vaccination
- For Pillar 8: Operational Support and Logistics and related activities are reflected within other Intervention categories and response Pillars.

Supply Operations | Scaling Access to products

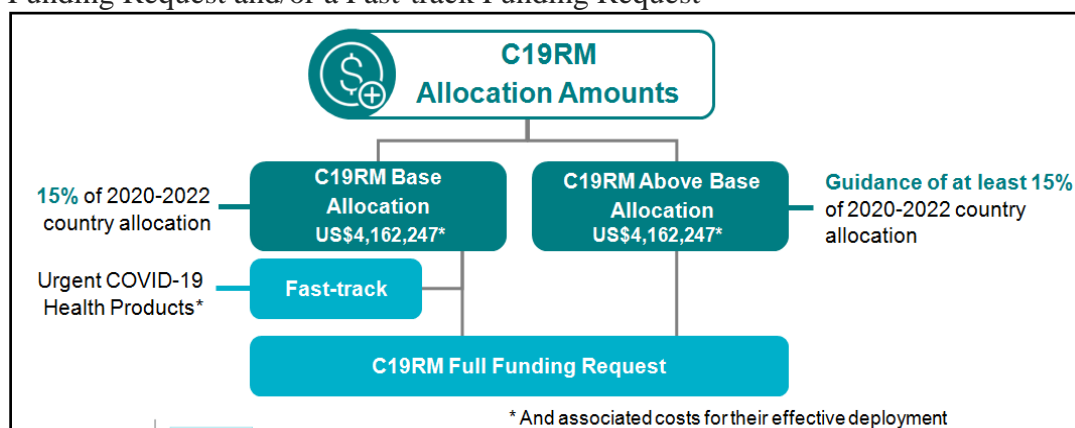
- The applicant has to **complete the C19RM Health Product Management Template**. There will be a video tutorial made available about this template.
 - **Quality Assurance:** health products including oxygen and diagnostics, need to be both approved by Stringent Regulatory Authorities (Founding Members of the Global Harmonization Task), WHO Prequalification Programme or Expert Review Panel AND national authority.
 - **Product offering on wambo.org.** Health products can also be procured outside wambo. However, please be informed that additional monthly reporting will then be required.
- Support materials including **supply availability status, reference prices, lead-times,** will continue to be posted in the [COVID-19 section pages of our website](#).

Implementation Arrangements

- The C19RM approved funding will be included under grant agreement LAO-C-MOH with DPC as Principal Recipient
- The funds will not be integrated with the World Bank HANSA project as C19RM financing will have specific reporting requirements.
- To facilitate the effective delivery of the C19RM interventions we request the PR to streamline the management of C19RM interventions with other donor funding and appoint a focal point under DPC for C19RM interventions.

C19rm Applications | Development of C19RM Funding Requests

Lao PDR is invited to submit requests to access C19RM Funding through a C19RM Full Funding Request and/or a Fast-track Funding Request



C19RM Applications | Fast-track funding requests

Countries can submit a portion of their C19RM Base Allocation to expedite fulfilment of urgent procurement requirements¹, which includes:

- PPE
- Diagnostics
- Therapeutics² (*oxygen and related equipment*)
 - in line with WHO guidance, COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plans, and consulted with national COVID-19 response coordinating bodies.

Note: Fast-track submissions to start 7 April 2021 with expedited review process.

C19RM Applications | c19RM FULL Funding Requests

- Countries are strongly encouraged to submit their C19RM Full Funding Request as soon as possible given the urgency needed to respond to the pandemic.
- To access this new financing, the Global Fund requires you to submit an ambitious and comprehensive funding request. It should outline prioritized programmatic needs requiring financing using the C19RM Base Allocation amount and beyond the C19RM Base Allocation amount.
- ❖ All C19RM funding requests must be endorsed by **CCMs** In addition to the CCM endorsement, **COVID-19 control and containment interventions** need to be endorsed by **COVID-19 response national coordinating body**.

Submission Windows & Timelines

Submission Window	Date
Fast-Track	As of 7 April 2021
Window 1	14 May 2021
Window 2	31 May 2021
Window 3	15 June 2021
Window 4	30 June 2021

Global Fund review of the full funding request will take ten working days. Once C19RM funding request have been reviewed a C19RM notification letter will be sent to applicants.

Coordination & Engagement

- **C19RM Funding Request Development**
 - Must demonstrate multi-sectoral consultation and fully-inclusive decision-making, with partners, communities (including communities most impacted by COVID-19) and civil society; and
 - Ensure coordination with national COVID-19 response coordinators and in-country COVID-19 response partners.
- **CCM Funding**
 - Minimum of 15% of the regular budget for civil society organization engagement, and flexibility to realign costed workplans to C19RM consultation priorities.
 - Additional CCM funding (up to 25% of 2021 funding) available, to support engagement of key stakeholders/communities and coordinate with national COVID-19 response bodies.

Community Engagement

- CCMs need to ensure meaningful consultation and inclusive decision-making during funding request development.
- Effective community and civil society engagement remain crucial for developing a robust response to the pandemic, including opportunities to support community-led

initiatives, both to mitigate the impact on HIV, TB and malaria services, and to strengthen the national COVID-19 response.

- CCM engagement should expand to include communities most severely affected by COVID-19.

Community Systems and Responses

Interventions covered in the guidance:

- Community-led monitoring
- Community-led advocacy and research
- Social mobilization, building community linkages and coordination
- Institutional capacity building, planning and leadership development
- Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and care
- Nutritional and mental health support
- Respond to human rights and gender related barriers to services

Note: Community-led responses should be included across the other interventions (or pillars) of C19RM; for example community-led organizations could be engaged in contact tracing of COVID-19 patients, testing, etc.

Upcoming C19rm Resources

Updated C19RM materials will be available through:

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/covid-19/response-mechanism/>

Next urgent steps

- Register for a submission window by email to the Lao GF FPM
- Designate a focal point/group for C19RM FR writing and responding to questions from the GF and ensuring link with the National Covid19 Task Force
- DPC as PR to consider how the operations can be integrated within existing structures and designate C19RM focal point
- If CCM requires more funding, please send a request funding to the GF CCM Hub

Summary Key Points from the conference

- DPC to prepare the procurement plan with the National Programs for medical equipments;
- Current PR MoH to act as the National Program Coordination Office (NPCO);
- Budgeting for all components should be integrated in one plan;
- The new ToR of C19RM should be assigned in case of the C19RM budget under management of NPCO;
- The investment should align with the National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Strategic Plan;
- Even though this budget could not cover the vaccines, the laboratories need the testing machines and the rapid test kits are needed urgently due to PCR could not supply the demand of testing;
- The Global Fund requires evidence of endorsement of the final C19RM Full Funding Request by all CCM members and the National Task Force for COVID 19 Response (where relevant);
- The submission window should be informed to the Lao GF FPM by next week;
- DPC as PR to consider how the operations can be integrated within existing structures and designate C19RM focal point;
- The reporting form of C19RM will be verified by LFA separately;
- Require more staffs to responsible for C19RM units;

- The additional budget proposed by GF is not include TA cost; the meeting encouraged to consult with the representative of French Embassy on the FEI5% to support TA cost, if needed;
- This budget is not needed to add more co-financing;

Dicision:

- The meeting agreed to choose the Window 4 to register on 30 June 2021 and should response by email to the Lao GF FPM by next week;
- **Focal Points:**
 - **For overall coordination:** CCM Secretariat, PR Executive Committee (DPC, DCDC, DoF) and NPCO.
 - **For writing funding request:** Technical Task Forces which are led by the National Programs (NTC, CHAS, CMPE). NTC will serve as a core Focal Point to facilitate the country's dialogue and funding request writing with all key stakeholder engagement and support by the TAs under the existing GF grants.
- DPC will share the information of the National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Strategic Plan to the national programs;
- The final funding request and supporting documents should be endorsed by CCM before submitting to GF.

The teleconference was taken for 50 minutes and finished at 15:50PM.

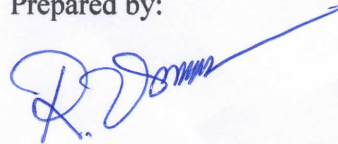
Vientiane Capital, dated 10 May 2021

Chaired by:



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phouthone Muongpak
Vice-Minister of MOH,
CCM chair

Prepared by:



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