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COMMUNITY GUIDE ON RSSH

GRANT CYCLE 7

(2023-2025 ALLOCATION PERIOD)

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

This community guide provides key highlights from the Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) Information Note.
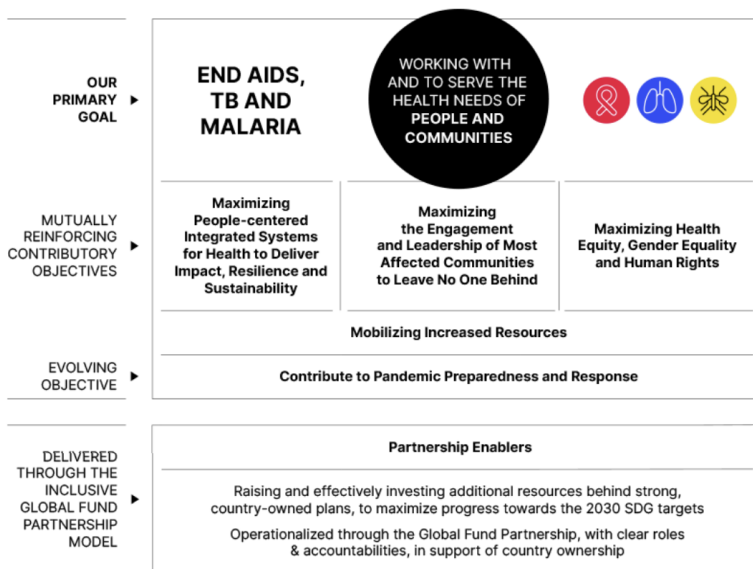
HOW DO RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH FEATURE IN THE NEW STRATEGY?

To guide its investments, the Global Fund has developed an ambitious new Strategy Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World 2023 – 2028 to get back on track against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria and contribute to the target of achieving universal health coverage. The Strategy calls for programs to move outside of disease silos and invest in Maximizing People-Centered Integrated Systems for Health.

WHY IS AN INTEGRATED, PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH NEEDED?

- *Equity in access:* For everyone, everywhere to access affordable quality health services they need, when and where they need them and free from stigma and discrimination.
- *Quality of care:* Safe, effective and timely care that responds to people's comprehensive needs.
- *Responsiveness and participation:* Care is coordinated around people`s needs, respects their preferences, and allows for people's participation in the design and delivery of services.
- *Efficiency:* Ensuring that resources are strategically allocated and utilized to optimize service delivery including avoiding duplication and fragmentation of system level investment, achieving more health for money.
- *Resilience:* Strengthening the capacity of health actors, institutions and populations to prepare for, and effectively respond to public health crises while maintaining its essential functions.

2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy Framework Overview

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL FUND APPROACH?

Global Fund investments should contribute to country-owned responses and align with national priorities. It is important to know that the Global Fund uses a four-stage strategic investment approach:

- **Understand:** continue to know your epidemic and its updated resource needs
- **Design:** prioritize an optimal mix of interventions and service delivery platforms
- **Deliver and monitor:** ensure high quality and efficient service delivery for optimal scale-up
- **Sustain:** strengthen the sustainability of national disease responses and health systems

WHAT ARE CATALYTIC MATCHING FUNDS AND HOW DO THEY ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON THE THREE DISEASES?

Matching Funds designed to inspire innovation and ambitious, evidence-based programming approaches to increase impact in specific strategic priority areas. The following priority areas are new for the Grant Cycle 7:

INNOVATION FUND
- o Incentivizes investments in one or more of the following: human resources for health and quality of care, laboratory systems strengthening, and/or supply chains systems.

DIGITAL HEALTH IMPACT ACCELERATOR. *NEW*
- o Aims to strengthen collection and use of health data in national health systems with a focus on: power and connectivity, sustainability of Electronic Community Health Information Systems in addition to use cases for improved patient monitoring and the development of data standards, interoperability solutions and access to cloud services.

INTEGRATED LABORATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING.
Aims to encourage the uptake of best practices and innovative solutions in Integrated Lab Systems and Strengthening to advance laboratory system readiness and capabilities to detect and respond to health threats of pandemic potential.

SCALING-UP PROGRAMS TO REMOVE HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER-RELATED BARRIERS. "NEW*
- o Aims to catalyze investment and scale app implementation of country owned, evidence-based, comprehensive, and quality programming to reduce human rights and gender barriers to HIV,TB and malaria services, and increase HIV, TB and malaria service accessibility, uptake and retention.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY SYSTEMS AND RESPONSES (CS&R).
- o Aims to bring to scale diverse community systems and responses. These include strengthening community health worker programming to catalyze system readiness for scale, institutionalization, and sustainability of the community health worker workforce, accelerate community systems and responses for hey and vulnerable population-led organizations through investments to build operations, technical and governance capacities of community-led community-based organizations employing community health workers.

Eligible countries were notified of matching funds in their December 2022 allocation letter.

HOW IS RSSH RELEVANT TO CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITIES?

While health systems are an integral part of systems for health, they work optimally when paired with strong community systems and responses. Community systems are a vital part of the design, delivery and monitoring of integrated, people-centered health services and play a critical role in enhancing disease prevention and treatment across the life course, including for HIV, TB and malaria. They enable addressing shared risk factors and often allow the interventions to start at an early age and contribute to healthier populations and decrease diseases incidence in the targeted and general populations.

Community systems are the processes, structures and mechanisms that communities use to coordinate and deliver responses to their health-related and broader social needs. They are essential to strengthening health systems and ensuring that services are designed and delivered to be people-centered, accessible, equitable, cost effective and accountable. Importantly, community systems and the responses they support are based in and led by communities themselves. While aligned with health facilities, reach goes further and encompass social and structural barriers to health access and are powerful means for reaching marginalized and vulnerable people where they are with services tailored to their specific needs.

BELOW ARE SOME COMMONLY-USED COMMUNITY-RELATED TERMS:

COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSES are actions and strategies that seek to improve the health and human rights of their constituencies, that are specifically informed and implemented by and for communities themselves and the organizations, groups and networks that represent them. Note: Not all health responses that take place in communities are community-led.

COMMUNITY-BASED RESPONSES are health responses delivered in settings or locations outside of formal health facilities. They can be provided by a range of stakeholders, including community groups and networks, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, government and private sector.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS are those organizations that have arisen within a community in response to needs or challenges and are locally organized by community members.

COMMUNITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND NETWORKS, irrespective of their legal status (whether formally or informally organized), are entities for which the majority of governance, leadership, staff, spokespeople, membership and volunteers, reflect and represent the experiences, perspectives, and voices of their constituencies and who have transparent mechanisms of accountability to their constituencies.

Adapted from Progress Report of the Multistakeholder Task Team on Community-led AIDS Responses.

HOW CAN COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY SYSTEMS AND RESPONSES?

The Global Fund encourages applicants to consider investments in the following priority areas:

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: The Global Fund supports

the establishment, strengthening and sustainability of community-led and community-based organizations, particularly those led by key populations, women, youth and people living with or affected by the three diseases. Capacity building of these organizations should aim to contribute to effective and quality community-led and community-based service delivery at scale while improving the sustainability of community organizing. Support for legal registration of community-led and community-based organizations are included in this intervention underpinned by strengthening institutional and organizational capacity including governance, financial management, sustainability planning, internal policies, leadership development, organizing and social dialogue, program management, monitoring, evaluation and learning and reporting.

COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING: Community-led monitoring is

an accountability mechanism that uses an independently structured and planned process designed and led by equipped, trained and paid members of community-led organizations of affected communities, to systematically and routinely collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data from health service delivery sites (i.e., facility-based and beyond) and affected communities either for a specific disease component (i.e., HIV, HIV/TB, TB, malaria) or broader primary health care. The community-led monitoring mechanism and processes are designed to provide valuable information from service user experiences on issues impacting the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of health services and human rights. It should feed into quality improvement plans and provide evidence-based solutions and suggestions for targeted action to improve the quality of programming and reduce social and structural barriers that negatively affect health outcomes, inform strategic and operational planning.

COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY: Community-led and participatory research should provide a better understanding of the barriers and gaps that inhibit effective, people-centered health services from the perspective of communities themselves. Global Fund supported research outcomes and evidence should be used to inform advocacy, with interventions that strengthen the capacities and mechanisms of community-led organizations to deliver targeted, effective advocacy campaigns.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION, BUILDING COMMUNITY LINKAGES AND COORDINATION: Activities to mobilize communities, particularly of marginalized, under-served and key and vulnerable populations, in responses to the three diseases and beyond, barriers to accessing health and other social services, social determinants of health and progress towards Universal Health Coverage are included in this priority area. Community mobilization includes interventions to map and assess the needs of community-led organizations, groups and networks who have the potential to take up a stronger role and be more meaningfully engaged in the health response. Global Fund support in this priority area should focus on developing or strengthening effective, collaborative and representative relationships to facilitate community responses and their links with the formal health system

COMMUNITY RESPONSES IN ACTION: COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING IN UKRAINE

Ensuring health services are being delivered in a manner that respects and protects human rights is an essential element of advancing program quality and effectiveness, especially for key populations. In 2018, with the support of the Global Fund, and in partnership with Frontline AIDS, the Alliance for Public Health in Ukraine began implementing REAct: Rights-Evidence-Action. REAct is a tool that assists community-based and led organizations in monitoring human rights violations experienced by individuals seeking HIV and TB services. REAct monitors the type of violations perpetrated (e.g., refusal to provide services, stigma and discrimination, physical violence, emotional violence, financial or physical damage and breach of confidentiality); the populations subjected to violations (i.e., people who inject drugs, people living with HIV and men who have sex with men); and who the perpetrators of the violations are (i.e., state healthcare workers and police).

A 'hotline' for reporting violations was established to respond to violations and the data collected informed the development of appropriate national response strategies and contributed to prevention of violations at the community and systemic levels. The program strengthened meaningful dialogue between key populations and authorities based on the evidence collected and has provided evidence on what adjustments need to be made to the national HIV/TB program.

READ MORE

GLOBAL FUND STRATEGY 2023-2028: The new strategy puts communities at the centre.

APPLICANT'S HANDBOOK: Explains how to develop a funding request and key steps required to access funding from the Global Fund.

MODULAR FRAMEWORK: Identifies the interventions that the Global Fund supports, associated budget and indicators against which progress is measured.

ACCESSING AND PROGRAMMING MATCHING FUNDS: Guidance Note that provides strategic guidance to applicants eligible for additional catalytic Matching Funds beyond the allocation amount for 2023-2025.

TECHNICAL BRIEF: COMMUNITY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING: The technical brief summarizes key concepts and investment opportunities for CSS.

COMMUNITY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING INTERVENTIONS IN GLOBAL FUND GRANTS: DECISION-MAKING GUIDE: This decision-making guide supports the conceptualization and design of effective community systems strengthening (CSS) interventions for HIV, TB and malaria to include in the Global Fund funding request.

INTEGRATED LABORATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING CATALYTIC INITIATIVE BRIEFING NOTE: This briefing note provides guidance to support the advancement in lab systems readiness capabilities to detect and respond to health threats and pandemic potential.

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