



**COMMUNITY GUIDE
ON HIV**

GRANT CYCLE 7

(2023-2025 ALLOCATION PERIOD)



WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

This community guide provides key highlights from the HIV Information Note. It is meant to support the meaningful engagement of civil society and communities involved in the preparation of funding requests for HIV and joint tuberculosis (TB)/HIV programs.

To guide its investments, the Global Fund has developed an ambitious new Strategy to get progress back on track against HIV, TB and malaria and contribute to the target of achieving universal health coverage. The Global Fund will put a greater focus on equity, sustainability, program quality and innovation. In the 2023-2025 allocation period, there are new opportunities to take advantage of advances in HIV prevention and treatment and innovations in public health approaches. The Global Fund also recognizes the need for continued attention to addressing inequities and human rights- and gender- related barriers to services, to support integration between HIV services and related areas of health and to strengthen the health systems that support a wider range of services.

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL FUND'S INVESTMENT 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:

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

There is a role for communities and civil society at every stage of investment.

WHAT ARE THE GLOBAL FUND'S PRIORITIES FOR HIV INVESTMENTS

In line with the greater focus on evidence - and rights-based interventions that demonstrate impact, the Global Fund expects applicants to propose funding requests that:

- Demonstrate an intensified focus on HIV prevention, especially HIV prevention-related outcomes.
- Prioritize interventions that can be delivered at sufficient scale and quality to have significant impact.
- Prioritize people living with HIV across their life-course and key and vulnerable populations with the highest risk of HIV infection. Address human rights- and gender-related barriers to service access and continuation.
- Align with guidance from the World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other technical agencies.
- Maintain support for proven-effective products, technologies and service delivery approaches
- Support the rapid adoption and scale-up of new products, technologies and service delivery approaches, as recommended in global strategies, policies and technical guidance from the World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other technical agencies.
- Deliver integrated people-centered health services.
- Support an enabling environment for HIV and related services and programs with supportive laws and policies.

The information note identifies a set of program essentials (see Table 1 below) that are key evidence-based interventions and approaches to address the ambitious goals set out in the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026, the 2022-2030 World Health Organization Global Health Sector Strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections and the 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy.

The program essentials are supported by HIV technical partners and respond to their respective HIV technical guidelines. They are critical to ensure equity in access to high-impact intervention for those who need them most. These are new in Grant Cycle 7.

TABLE 1: PROGRAM ESSENTIALS

Note that all programming must be human rights-based, gender-responsive and informed by and respond to an analysis of inequities.

PROGRAM ESSENTIAL	DESCRIPTION	ROLE OF COMMUNITIES
HIV PRIMARY PREVENTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Condoms and lubricants are available for all people at increased risk of HIV infection. 2. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is available to all people at increased risk of HIV infection, and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is available for those eligible. 3. Harm reduction services are available for people who use drugs. 4. Voluntary medical male circumcision is available for adolescent boys (15+ years) and men in World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) voluntary male medical circumcision priority countries. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute and promote access to condoms and lubricants, as well as educate on proper use. 2. Raise awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and provide information on where to access these services. 3. Provide and advocate for harm reduction services such as needle exchange programs, overdose prevention education, and referrals to substance abuse treatment. 4. Promote voluntary male medical circumcision (VMMC) as a method of HIV prevention and provide education on the benefits and risks.
HIV TESTING AND DIAGNOSIS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. HIV testing services include HIV self-testing, safe ethical index testing and social network-based testing. 6. A three-test algorithm is followed for rapid diagnostic test-based diagnosis of HIV. 7. Rapid diagnostic tests are conducted by trained and supervised lay providers in addition to health professionals. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Provide education on the importance of HIV testing and promote the availability of testing services. 6. Provide information on the testing process and ensure that individuals informed of their test results. 7. Provide rapid diagnostic testing services in the community
ELIMINATION OF VERTICAL TRANSMISSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is available for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV to ensure viral suppression. 9. HIV testing, including early infant diagnosis (EID) is available for all HIV-exposed infants. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Promote antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence among pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV and provide support to ensure they receive necessary care. 9. Promote early infant diagnosis (EID) and ensure that infants are tested and linked to care if necessary.

<p>HIV TREATMENT AND CARE</p>	<p>10. Rapid antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation follows a confirmed HIV diagnosis for all people irrespective of age, sex or gender.</p> <p>11. HIV treatment uses World Health Organization (WHO) recommended regimens.</p> <p>12. Management of advanced HIV disease is available.</p> <p>13. Support is available to retain people across the treatment cascade including return to care.</p> <p>14. Clusters of differentiation 4 (CD4) and viral load testing, and diagnosis of common comorbidity and coinfections are available for management of HIV.</p>	<p>10. Support ART adherence and provide education on the importance of adhering to treatment.</p> <p>11. Promote adherence to World Health Organization (WHO) recommended regimens</p> <p>12. Provide support and referrals to individuals with advanced HIV disease to ensure they receive necessary care.</p> <p>13. Provide support to individuals throughout the treatment process, including reminders for appointments and referrals to additional resources if needed</p> <p>14. Provide education on the importance of regular testing and ensure individuals receive necessary care for comorbidities and coinfections.</p>
<p>TB/HIV</p>	<p>15. People living with HIV with active tuberculosis (TB) are started on antiretroviral therapy (ART) early.</p> <p>16. TB preventive therapy is available for all eligible people living with HIV, including children and adolescents.</p>	<p>15. Promote early antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation for individuals with TB/ HIV co-infection and provide support for antiretroviral therapy ART adherence.</p> <p>16. Promote and support access to TB preventive therapy for people living with HIV, and advocate for access to TB screening and preventive therapy in community settings.</p>
<p>DIFFERENTIATED SERVICE DELIVERY (DSD)</p>	<p>17. HIV services (prevention, testing, treatment and care) are available in health facilities, including sexual and reproductive health services, and outside health facilities including through community, outreach, pharmacy and digital platforms.</p> <p>18. Multi-month dispensing is available for antiretroviral therapy (ART) and other HIV commodities.</p>	<p>17. Support and provide HIV services outside of health facilities, such as through community-based organizations and outreach programs.</p> <p>18. Advocate for and support multi-month dispensing of ART and other HIV commodities by providing education and follow-up support to individuals.</p>

<p>HUMAN RIGHTS</p>	<p>19. HIV programs for key and vulnerable populations integrate interventions to reduce human rights- and gender-related barriers.</p> <p>20. Stigma and discrimination reduction activities for people living with HIV and key populations are undertaken in health care and other settings.</p> <p>21. Legal literacy and access to justice activities are accessible to people living with HIV and key populations.</p> <p>22. Support is provided to efforts, including community-led efforts, to analyze and reform criminal and other harmful laws, policies and practices that hinder effective HIV responses.</p>	<p>19. Advocate for the inclusion of key and vulnerable populations in HIV programs and provide support and resources to address human rights and gender-related barriers.</p> <p>20. Lead and support stigma and discrimination reduction activities and provide education and training to health care providers and the public.</p> <p>21. Provide legal literacy and support for accessing justice for people living with HIV and key populations who face discrimination and stigma, as well as advocating for legal reform to promote the rights of these groups.</p> <p>22. Advocate for and lead efforts to reform harmful laws and policies that hinder effective HIV responses, as well as provide evidence and expertise to inform policy and legal reform.</p>
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For funding requests during the 2023-2025 allocation period, applicants are now required to outline how advanced the country is in the implementation of each of the program essentials. Applicants from Core and High Impact countries are also asked to describe in their funding request narrative any plans to address Program Essentials that are not fulfilled.

The information note also describes priority interventions for seven program areas. Please refer to the corresponding pages in the HIV information note for more detail:

1. HIV Prevention: improve access to and use of precision combination HIV prevention for people at increased risk of HIV infection (page 15 - 22)
2. HIV testing - HIV Testing: deliver a strategic mix of tailored HIV testing modalities and linkage to prevention or treatment services (page 22-25)
3. HIV treatment - HIV Treatment: ART, treatment continuity and maintaining health (page 25-31)
4. Elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B (page 31-32)
5. TB/HIV coinfection (page 32-33)
6. Strategic information: invest in data for impact (page 33-37)
7. Human rights: remove human rights- and gender-related barriers to service (page 37-40)

WHAT ARE MATCHING FUNDS AND HOW DO THEY ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON HIV?

Matching Funds are designed to inspire innovation and ambitious, evidence-based programming approaches to increase impact in the following strategic priority areas:

- Prevention for key populations.
- Prevention for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and their sexual partners.
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Matching Funds for PrEP aim to incentivize the scale-up of PrEP for people at increased risk of HIV infection. Activities that are eligible for investment include: development, design and delivery of targeted demand creation, community engagement, peer-led and community-driven efforts to build awareness, knowledge, and demand; service delivery; monitoring and evaluation programs and program effectiveness; advocacy and policy analysis and to address barriers to access.

NEW

Applicants eligible for Matching Funds in the 2023-2025 allocation period were notified in the allocation letters sent to countries at the end of 2022. To access Matching Funds, applicants must meet specific conditions on how funds are budgeted towards the Matching Funds priority areas.

WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF A COMMUNITY PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE GLOBAL FUND?

Breaking down human rights barriers through community paralegals in Mozambique
Scaled-up assistance of community paralegals has demonstrated successes in reducing HIV-related human rights-related barriers. In collaboration with Namati, Project Viva, the Global Fund-supported community legal empowerment program in Mozambique, has trained nearly 400 community paralegals on human rights, gender and HIV. These paralegals have helped people living with HIV, women, adolescent girls and key populations reduce their HIV-related vulnerabilities. In the Tete district for example, community paralegals helped secure the release of 45 sex workers who were detained by a community safety council for the possession of used condoms. In the Zambezia, Manica and Tete provinces, paralegals and legal literacy sessions have resulted in the removal of girls from early marriages and protecting them from other rights violations. Addressing human rights and gender-related barriers empowers key and vulnerable populations and helps them out of situations that increase their risk of HIV.

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.

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSITION GUIDANCE: (Annex II – HIV and Sustainability).

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.

HARM REDUCTION FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS: PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENT AND INCREASED IMPACT IN HIV. This brief helps applicants to the Global Fund plan for and scale up effective HIV and hepatitis C programming for people who use drugs, particularly those who inject.

HIV PROGRAMMING AT SCALE FOR AND WITH KEY POPULATIONS TECHNICAL BRIEF: This technical brief provides information for countries preparing funding requests for comprehensive programs that address the continuum of HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care for the following key populations: male, female, and transgender sex workers; gay men and other men who have sex with men; transgender people; people who use drugs (especially people who inject drugs); and people in prisons and other closed settings.

HIV PROGRAMMING FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN HIGH-HIV BURDEN SETTINGS TECHNICAL BRIEF: This brief helps applicants leverage Global Fund financing

that will further advance progress in scaling up effective programming for adolescent girls and young women.

PRISONS AND OTHER CLOSED SETTINGS: Priorities for Investment and Increased Impact Technical Brief . This Brief helps applicants to the Global Fund to plan for effective HIV and HIV/TB services in prisons and other closed settings.

REMOVING HUMAN RIGHTS-RELATED BARRIERS TO HIV SERVICES TECHNICAL BRIEF : This brief focuses on supporting countries to develop strong funding requests for the module, "Reducing Human Rights-related Barriers to HIV and HIV/TB Services," as well as for the human rights interventions integrated throughout various other modules.

SUPPORTING HEALTH AND LONGEVITY AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV: PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK GUIDANCE NOTE. This note provides further details on support to interventions described in HIV Information Note Section 3.2.3b (Support health and longevity among people living with HIV) and Section 3.2.5 (TB/HIV).

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSITION ASSESSMENTS AND PLANNING FOR NATIONAL HIV AND TB RESPONSES GUIDANCE: This Guidance has been developed to support countries to assess their level of readiness for transition and assess sustainability of Global Fund support to undertake robust national planning.

UNDERTAKING A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS-RELATED BARRIERS TO HIV AND TB SERVICES: GUIDANCE AND TOOLS The guidance and tools have been prepared to support countries to gather and analyze required or recommended information on the nature of human rights related barriers to HIV and TB services, and opportunities to enhance programming and address or remove barriers.

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