In October 2019, at the sixth Global Fund replenishment conference in Lyon, France, donors pledged over US $14 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the 2020-2022 funding cycle. This is good news. With renewed investment, the vital programs supported by the Global Fund will help to save 16 million lives and cut the mortality rates from HIV, TB, and malaria in half by continue through 2023.

Meaningful engagement of key populations (KPs), including gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, and transgender people, is central to the way the Global Fund works. In addition to requiring that KPs are represented on the country coordinating mechanism (CCM), all countries must demonstrate that KPs have been engaged in the project development process through an inclusive country dialogue process.

If your organization is considering seeking funding from the Global Fund it is time to gear up engagement with your CCM.

What you should know
The process of applying for funding remains much the same as it was in the previous funding cycle, with minor changes and some improvements. In mid-December the Global Fund Secretariat will write to each CCM to advise them about their allocation for funding in the 2020-2022 period. The allocation letter will specify the total amount of funding available, the disease split (how much funding is allocated for each disease), whether any
matching funds are available, co-financing requirements, among other important information. The CCM will have the opportunity to review the disease allocation recommended by the Secretariat, and the CCM may wish to ask the Global Fund to change the disease allocation based on new information.

The allocation letter will also specify which type of funding request the country should use to submit its funding request. The differentiated funding application process takes into account the fact that country circumstances vary considerably, and the burden of completing the application for funding should be aligned with the level of funding allocated, disease burden, and risk.²

Important changes in the funding request forms KPs and communities should be aware of:

- Each funding request form asks the CCM to describe the role that community-based organizations will play under the implementation arrangements
- Matching funds for key populations are now called “Scaling-up Community-Led Key Population Programs”. The addition of the word “community-led” is important. It means the funding should go to organizations that are governed and staffed by key populations.
- There is no longer a separate request form for matching funds. This is now integrated into the main funding request form.
- There is no limit to the size of the prioritized above allocation request (PAAR). If community priorities do not make it into the funding request submitted by the CCM, lobby your CCM to include them in the PAAR. In the 2017-2019 funding cycle, 30% of the PAAR was funded through grant savings and portfolio optimization.
- The role of communities in RSSH interventions is being enhanced including through new guidance material³ and advice to CCMs.⁴

The allocation letter will also suggest when the country should submit their application to the Global Fund. This is dependent on country processes and can be negotiated with the Global Fund and changed if necessary. The application process takes approximately 6-9 months and ideally will finish before the current funding comes to an end to ensure a smooth transition from one grant to the next. Once submitted, the request will be reviewed by the Technical Review Panel (TRP).
What you should do now to prepare for the 2020-2022 funding opportunity:

- Liaise with the civil society and KP representatives on your CCM and provide your feedback on key decisions mandated by the allocation letter, including the proposed funding submission date and the disease allocation.\(^5\)
- Apply for any technical assistance (TA) you need to support your engagement. (See the following sections for info on TA opportunities)
- Convene meetings of your network and other like-minded allies to:
  - Analyze what worked or didn’t work in the previous funding cycle, what needs to change in light of new information or changes in epidemiology, what emerging threats need to be considered in the 2020-2022 funding cycle.
  - What sources of data are available to back up any recommended changes and improvements?\(^6\)
- Decide who will represent your interests in the country dialogue and funding request development process. What support will they need?

Link up with other advocates at country level to make your voices known to your CCM, health ministry, UN and other international organizations, global constituency-led networks and watchdogs like: GATE, GNP+, ICASO, ICAD, INPUD, ITPC, MPact, and NSWP.

Technical support available:

**CRG Regional Platforms**

Through the Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG SI), the Global Fund invests in six Regional Communication and Coordination Platforms. The Platforms provide information and strategic capacity strengthening to community organizations interested in meaningfully engaging in Global Fund-related processes. The Platforms also assist communities in accessing Global Fund-related technical assistance (TA) through the CRG SI, Expertise France, GIZ, UNAIDS, and others. Contact the platform host in your region to request information, or ask for support conceptualizing, drafting, and submitting TA requests.

### Regional Platform Hosts\(^8\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Platform host</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglophone Africa</td>
<td>Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organizations (EANASO)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eannaso@eannaso.org">eannaso@eannaso.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arusha, Tanzania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>APCASO Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>apcaso.org/contact-us/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)</td>
<td>harmreductioneurasia.org/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius, Lithuania</td>
<td>contact-us/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francophone Africa</td>
<td>Réseau Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels (RAME) Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretariat@rame-int.org">secretariat@rame-int.org</a>/rame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Burkina@gmail.com">Burkina@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
<td>Via Libre Lima, Peru</td>
<td>vialibre.org.pe/portal/contactenos/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>International Treatment Preparedness Coalition-MENA (ITPC-MENA) Marrakech, Morocco</td>
<td>itpcmena.org/contact-2/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key populations experience both increased impact from one or more of the diseases and decreased access to services. Widespread stigma and discrimination, state and non-state violence and harassment, restrictive laws and policies, and criminalization of behaviors or practices put key populations at heightened risks and undermine their access to services. For further information see https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/key-populations/

There are five types of funding requests for the 2020-2022 funding cycle. For details see https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/applying/materials/

See Technical Brief: Community Systems Strengthening and Building Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) Information Note

See pages 30-32 in the TRP Report on RSSH Investments in the 2017-2019 Funding Cycle for specific community systems strengthening activities that CCMs should consider for inclusion under RSSH funding Category.

If you do not know who the KP or community representatives on your CCM are, you can contact the CCM unit at the Secretariat to inquire about who you should contact ccm@theglobalfund.org.

The quality and availability of technical data related to disease burden for KPs varies from country to country. Information is particularly difficult to obtain in countries with high levels stigma and criminalization. Technical data should be available through UNAIDS, PEPFAR, WHO and other international agencies.

Requests for technical support can be submitted directly to the Global Fund Community Rights and Gender unit at: https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/search?q=crg+platforms

The Regional Communication and Coordination Platforms initiative is likely to continue for the 2020-2022 cycle although the lead organizations may change.
How Civil Society and Communities Can Engage in the Global Fund Grant-making Processes, ICASO, MSMGF June 2017

Source: 2017-19 funding cycle, page 3