

Geneva, 7 April 2021

Bishop Paul Mususu  
Chair, CCM Zambia  
National HIV/AIDS, STI, TB Council (NAC)  
Plot # 315, Independence Avenue  
P.O. Box 38718 – Lusaka  
Zambia

Subject: **ALLOCATION LETTER FOR C19RM FUNDING AWARDS IN 2021<sup>1</sup>**

Dear Bishop Mususu,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on global health systems and communities, the Global Fund will continue its COVID-19 Response Mechanism, C19RM, in 2021.

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.

This letter will guide applicants to access the available funding. Applicants are invited to review the contents of this letter in detail along with updated C19RM funding request materials, guidelines and technical information notes found on the [Global Fund's website.<sup>2</sup>](#)

### **C19RM Base Allocation and C19RM Above Base Allocation**

We are pleased to inform you that **Zambia** has been awarded a **C19RM Base Allocation of US\$47,286,705**. The **C19RM Base Allocation** represents an amount **equivalent to 15% of the applicant's 2020-2022 country allocation**. It is in addition to and distinct from the country's 2020-2022 allocation but will be added to the country's existing grant(s).

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. As guidance, we suggest that you develop a funding request for your full C19RM Base Allocation amount and also include requests for **C19RM Above Base Allocation** for at least **US\$47,286,705, which is equivalent to a further 15% of your 2020-2022 country**

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<sup>1</sup> This letter includes annexes and links, which should be read together and in-full.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/covid-19/response-mechanism/>

**allocation.** Applicants may receive **C19RM Above Base Allocation** funding based on the factors outlined below.

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.

Countries that have been harder hit by COVID-19, with low C19RM Base Allocations relative to COVID-19 need, or where HIV, tuberculosis and malaria services have been particularly disrupted, will receive proportionately higher amounts of C19RM Above Base Allocation funding, as long as they submit ambitious funding requests of appropriate quality.

This letter does not guarantee that an applicant will receive C19RM funding. **All funding requests will be reviewed and assessed before funding is approved.** Any C19RM Base Allocation amount that is not applied for within the defined timelines below will be considered for reallocation to other countries.

#### **Development of C19RM Funding Requests – Fast-track and C19RM Full Funding Requests**

Applicants are invited to submit requests to access C19RM Funding through a C19RM Full Funding Request and/or a Fast-track Funding Request.

#### **C19RM Full Funding Request, including the C19RM Above Base Allocation**

All eligible countries that receive this allocation letter should submit a C19RM Full Funding Request detailing how to utilise the C19RM Base Allocation (15%) and the C19RM Above Base Allocation Request (at least 15%). Countries are strongly encouraged to submit their C19RM Full Funding Request as soon as possible given the urgency needed to respond to the pandemic, and ideally by the closing date of the first submission window, on **14 May 2021**.

Recognising that some types of funding requests may take longer to develop, countries will be able to submit their C19RM Full Funding Requests in two parts if needed, as long as their complete submission is received by **30 June 2021** (refer to “Timelines” below for further details). However, we strongly encourage you to submit as much of your C19RM Full Funding Request as possible by the first submission window date of **14 May 2021**, covering requests for the C19RM Base Allocation.

The C19RM Full Funding Request may include requests for funding for three priority areas:

- **COVID-19 control and containment interventions**, including PPE, diagnostics, treatment, communications and other public measures as specified in WHO guidance;
- **COVID-19-related risk mitigation measures** for programs to fight HIV, TB 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
- **Expanded reinforcement of key aspects of health and community systems**, such as national laboratory networks, supply chains, and community-led responses, to address advocacy, services, accountability, and human-rights based approaches.

#### **Fast-track Funding Request**

To expedite the provision of **urgently required COVID-19 health products**, countries will be able to **access a portion of their C19RM Base Allocation through** a streamlined Fast-track process. Fast-track requests are specifically for the urgent procurement and deployment of

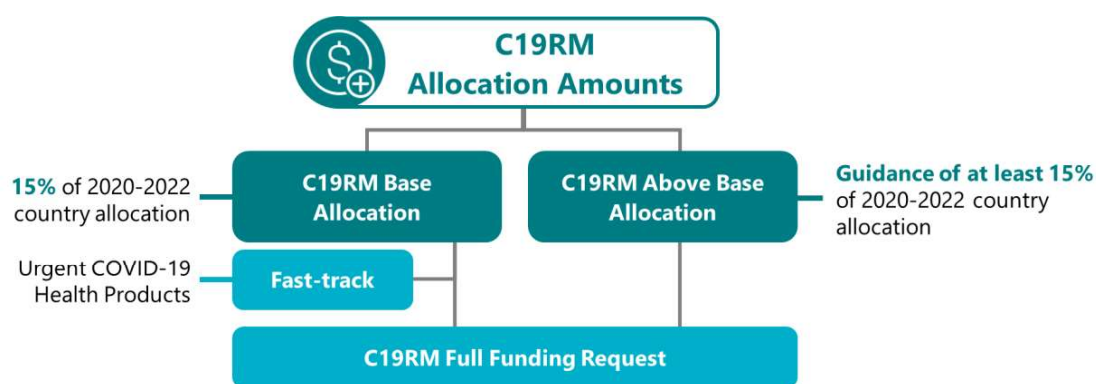
COVID-19 health products, including diagnostics, therapeutics (such as oxygen and related equipment) and personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as the support costs related to the effective deployment of these health products. More information on these health products can be found at the following [link](#)<sup>3</sup>.

How much of each country's C19RM Base Allocation should be devoted to securing urgent COVID-19 commodities through the Fast-track process will depend on individual country circumstances. As an indication, looking at the Global Fund portfolio as a whole, it is anticipated that at least half of the C19RM Base Allocation will be applied for through this Fast-track process.

Countries are strongly encouraged to use the Global Fund's Pooled Procurement Mechanism, wambo.org, especially for products where procurement challenges are expected. This will allow for countries to benefit from pre-qualified, certified and quality health products with negotiated terms and pricing while simplifying orders especially for those products that are currently scarce on the global market.

**The requirements for C19RM Fast-track and Full Funding Requests are different in scope. Applicants are invited to review the detailed guidance on the [Global Fund's website](#).**<sup>4</sup>

Fast-track Funding Requests can be submitted in advance of the C19RM Full Funding Request and will be reviewed and approved through a streamlined process. Fast track requests can be submitted from **7 April 2021**.



### Important Considerations when Developing C19RM Funding Requests

The C19RM Full Funding Request must comply with the following requirements:

- **WHO Guidance.** Be consistent with applicable World Health Organization (WHO) guidance, including on COVID-19 and aligned with National Strategic Preparedness and Response Plans;
- **Gender Equity and Human Rights.** Consider appropriate community, rights, and gender-related interventions, in line with the Global Fund's underlying principles of gender equity and human rights [link](#)<sup>5</sup>;
- **Alignment and Endorsement.** Be in alignment with the national COVID-19 response and be fully endorsed by all members of Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), including Communities and Civil Society, and in coordination with the national COVID-19 response coordinator;
- **Evidence-based and funding coordination.** Be evidence-based, demonstrating rigorous analysis of program disruptions due to COVID-19, and national HIV, TB and malaria

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/covid-19/health-product-supply/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/covid-19/response-mechanism/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/throughout-the-cycle/community-rights-gender/>

program adaptation needs and how these needs will be covered through C19RM funding, funds from other Global Fund grants, or other sources of funding;

- **Funding sources.** Identify how C19RM resources provided by the Global Fund are complementary and additional to domestic and other sources, and should provide a full picture of funding need and funding availability; and how recurrent costs supported by the Global Fund will be sustained over time;
- **Value for Money.** Explain how the proposed C19RM investments reflect Value for Money to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of C19RM resources, including identifying opportunities for integration and linkages with the broader health systems in order to maximize and sustain equitable and quality health outputs, outcomes and impact; and
- **Health Systems Investments.** Ensure that beyond responding to the COVID-19 emergency, C19RM investments lead to long-term outcomes; and where C19RM supported health systems investments contribute to future pandemic preparedness, ensure appropriate involvement of relevant actors and alignment with relevant plans where available (e.g. the National Action Plan for Health Security).

## Coordination and Engagement

C19RM Funding Requests are expected to be developed through multi-sectoral consultation, with fully-inclusive decision-making, which must engage partners, communities (including communities most impacted by COVID-19) and civil society. Key populations and communities most impacted by COVID-19 may be different than those for HIV, TB and malaria. In addition, applicants will need to **coordinate with the national COVID-19 response coordinating body and other in-country COVID-19 response partners**. We recommend applicants meet with national COVID-19 authorities and partners, to plan concrete steps to develop and submit their C19RM Funding Request(s) on time.

CCMs already have an operating budget allocated for civil society organization engagement, and flexibility to realign costed workplans to C19RM consultation priorities, as needed. Additional CCM funding is now also available, to support the engagement of key stakeholders to develop C19RM Funding Requests, coordinate with national COVID-19 response bodies and to ensure communities impacted by COVID-19, key populations and civil society organization representatives (including those not on the CCM) are included in the development of the funding requests. Please contact the [CCM Hub](#)<sup>6</sup> for further details.

Information on resources available to support inclusive and meaningful engagement of communities and civil society can be found at the following [link](#)<sup>7</sup>.

## Timelines

**Zambia 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. Specific 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**.

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<sup>6</sup> [ccm@theglobalfund.org](mailto:ccm@theglobalfund.org)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/throughout-the-cycle/community-engagement/>

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<sup>8</sup>](#) within two weeks after receipt of this letter.

After 31 July 2021, the Global Fund will evaluate any remaining unawarded funds which could mean further resources becoming available to you. Submission of a quality funding request with a prioritized and comprehensive C19RM Above Base Allocation request will be critical for this purpose.

We stand ready to support **Zambia** in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens to destroy years of progress against HIV, TB and malaria. To defeat COVID-19, protect the gains made against the three diseases, and save lives, we must unite to fight.

Please reach out directly to the relevant Fund Portfolio Manager to discuss this letter and any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.A. Eldon Edington" with a small flourish at the end.

Mark Eldon-Edington  
Division Head, Grant Management

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<sup>8</sup> [C19RM@theglobalfund.org](mailto:C19RM@theglobalfund.org)