Key Populations Engagement in the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM)
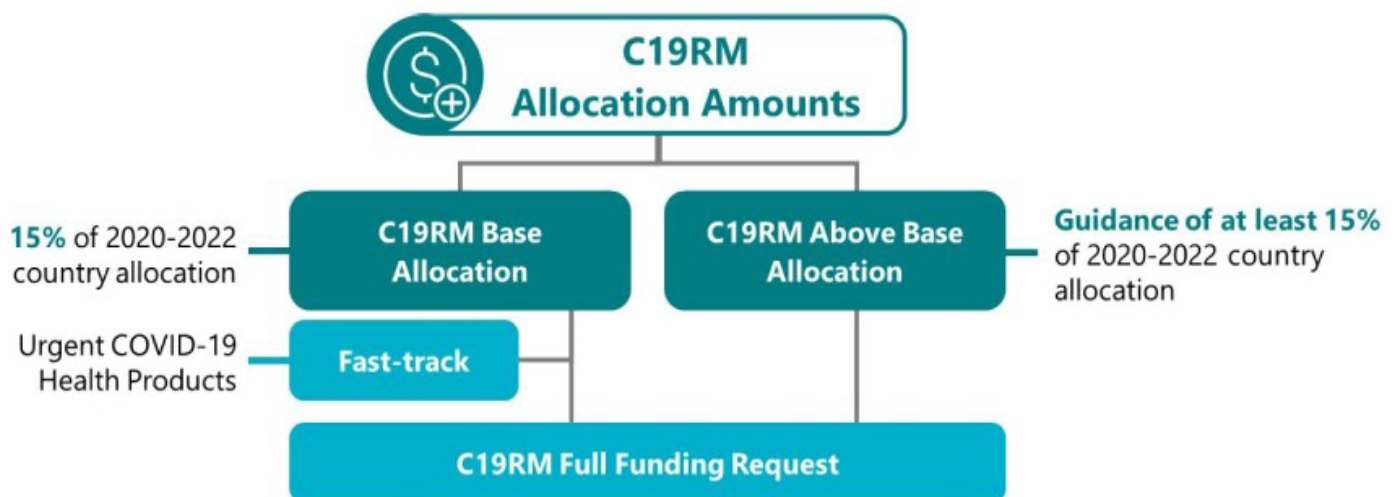
What is C19RM?

C19RM is the Global Fund response to COVID19. All countries that currently have a Global Fund grant are eligible to apply for funding to help reduce the impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and malaria programmes and support urgent improvements in health and **community systems**.

Eligible investments in 2021

1. Actions to reinforce the response to COVID-19.
2. Adapting HIV, TB, and Malaria programmes to COVID-19 context in countries.
3. Strengthening health and community systems.

By now, all CCMs should have received the C19RM allocation letters, which states how much funding has been allocated to your country (15% of the country's 2020-2022 allocation). All C19RM funding requests should align to the funding request materials, guidelines and technical information notes found on the [Global Fund's website](#).

When applying for C19RM funding all countries must consult with key populations and communities, including both CCM and non-CCM representatives. All C19RM funding requests must be endorsed by the entire CCM. See [C19RM Funding Request Instructions](#) - Page 9, 2.1.2.

Countries are required to submit a list of all civil society and community proposals in their C19RM funding request, this should include those suggestions that were not prioritised and included in the funding request. **As a guide, a minimum of 30% of the C19RM funding request should be for key populations and community responses.**

Why should Key Population's get involved in the C19RM process?

COVID-19 has severely impacted key populations[1], limiting their access to essential HIV and harm reduction programmes around the world that are not community-led. Key populations have been denied access to social protection mechanisms and have struggled for food and shelter, experienced increased rates of stigma and discrimination and violence, and targeted by law enforcement including through evictions and being rounded up in 'quarantine' centres. Key population-led groups fully stepped up during the pandemic, filling in the gaps of the health and social welfare systems, to ensure their communities survived. Therefore, it is critical that key populations are engaged in C19RM funding request development to ensure that community-led responses are funded to continue this work.

Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism Guidelines calls for consultations with "civil society, key and vulnerable populations as well as communities, including those most severely affected by COVID-19" and you can refer your CCM to those guidelines if they question the need to consult key populations.

C19RM process overview (allocation letter, CCM leadership, consultations, windows for submission etc)

1. Country allocation letters have been received by your CCMs.

2. Countries inform the Global Fund which window they will submit a funding request, including the fast-track option. (see below)

3. The CCM Secretariat is tasked with coordinating the development of the C19RM funding request, engaging all stakeholders, and submitting the C19RM funding request to the Global Fund Secretariat.

4. As the C19RM request is developed, consultations and inputs from Key Populations and Communities should be carried out.

5. All C19RM funding requests must be endorsed and signed off by the entire CCM, including community and civil society representatives. This means Communities have some leverage to negotiate. Remember that CCMs are required to submit a list of all C19RM proposals received for inclusion in the C19RM funding requests, including suggestions which were not prioritized.

6. C19RM funding request is submitted to the Secretariat.

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[1] https://www.nswp.org/page/covid-19; https://www.inpud.net/en/covid-19

SUBMISSION WINDOWS

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

Deadline to use funds:

31 December 2023

C19RM = C19RM Full Funding Request + Fast-Track

Fast track request - splitting the request

The C19RM allocation letters sent to your CCM encourage C19RM funding request submissions to be done by the first window (May 14), but this is not necessary, and countries can split their funding request. Rushing to submit the full funding request by May 14 will result in key populations and communities not being meaningfully engaged. Submitting a funding request in a later window will not directly affect the amount of your country grant.

Communities should ask their CCM representative to ask that the country select a window that will allow time for transparency and inclusion. For urgent needs such as PPE and diagnostics, countries can submit through the Fast-Track process and separate this from the overall funding request.

What Key Population organizations can do NOW

1. Ask for a copy of the C19RM allocation letter sent to your country.
2. Inform your CCM that your community would like to get involved in all C19RM-related consultations/dialogues.
3. Request your CCM to submit the full funding request in the later Window Periods to allow for proper community input.
4. If your CCM wants to urgently submit the funding request, because of the emergency in the country, request they split the submission. Submit first the fast-track request followed by the full request after transparent and meaningful consultations with key populations.
5. Try to get involved in CCM-led situational and needs assessments and in all C19RM Country Dialogues.
6. Organize consultations in collaboration with other key populations or with your key population to provide input for the C19RM request.
7. Document your needs, priorities, and recommendations in a proposal for inclusion to the C19RM funding request to your CCM and share with the global key population networks.
8. Submit your proposal to your CCM, and publicly announce that you have submitted your communities' priorities to the CCM.
9. Ask that the key population CCM representatives do not sign the C19RM funding request if key populations have not been involved.

NOTE: You do not have to be a CCM member to get involved. If you are not a CCM member, get in contact with Key Population representatives in your CCM and request to get involved.

What to do if your CCM is not involving KP networks

It is important that communities can report any challenges around engagement in the C19RM process and do so safely.

To report any irregularity, get in contact immediately with any of the Key population Networks or your CRG Regional Platform.

KP Network	Name	Email
GATE	Erika Castellanos	ecastellanos@gate.ngo
	Naomhán O'Connor	cc: noconnor@gate.ngo
INPUD	Judy Chang	judychang@inpud.net
MPACT	Johnny Tohme	jtohme@mpactglobal.org
NSWP	Mick Matthews	mick.matthews@nswp.org

CRG Regional Platforms	Name	Email
Anglophone Platform	Onesmus Mlewa Kalama	kalama@eannaso.org
EECA Platform	Ivan Varentsov	ivan@harmreductioneurasia.org
APCASO	R D Marte	rdmarte@apcaso.org
Francophone Platform	Ida Savadogo	cat@rame-int.org
		cpprf@rame-int.org
LAC Platform	Anuar Ismael Luna Cadena	ct.plataforalac@vialibre.pe

Where communities and country partners have direct contact with the GF country teams, email them with your concerns and copy your key population network and regional platform focal points.

What support is available for you

- **Technical Assistance:** GF-CRG has set up a fast-track application process for TA to around key population engagement in C19RM through providing funds to support generating strategic data for communities to use in their consultations or submissions to the C19RM applications and engage in country dialogue processes. Application forms are available in English, French, Russian and Spanish, and CRG Regional Platforms (listed above) can offer support to help develop a TA request and connect you to pre-approved TA providers

- **C19RM resources and guidelines:** GF have produced several new resources and guidelines as have some of the CRG Regional Platforms and the global key population networks have created an online collection of all the resources which will be updated as new resources become available

C19RM covers COVID-19 control and containment measures and risk mitigation, **but it will also cover community systems strengthening and key population-led responses.** It is important that key populations can advocate that C19RM funding requests include the following community priorities:

- 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
- Responding to human rights and gender related barriers to services

A list of practical examples of community, rights and gender-related activities to respond to the impact of COVID-19 can be found in the Technical Information Note on Community Systems and Responses available here.