



## CLAIM Guide

# GC7

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**A Guide to meaningful  
community engagement  
in Global Fund GC7  
processes**



# A guide to meaningful community engagement in Global Fund GC7 processes

## A new opportunity

The Global Fund has launched a new call for funding applications - Grant Cycle 7 (GC7), you may have heard this referred to as new funding model 4 (NFM4). In this Cycle, the Global Fund is encouraging greater community leadership and engagement, recognising “that it is communities themselves that are best placed to guide and often lead the implementation of programs tailored to address their needs.”

Most country’s will be applying for the next round of funding from the Global Fund in the first half of 2023. You should find out exactly when your country will be applying so that you can plan accordingly.

## What can you do?

To make the most of this opportunity, you need to fully understand the Global Fund funding cycle and other processes. Look at their website for more information [www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org). GNP+ has also produced some tools to help you.

### Other tools available from GNP+

- A Guide to GC7
- An Agenda to lead a community dialogue in your country.
- A Guide to develop community dialogue advocacy priorities

If you are the lead network in your country you should plan how you will engage with the Global Fund GC7 processes following each of the stages below. One important task is to develop systems to coordinate with other organisations, bringing together as many civil society partners as possible.

You should make sure you have a clear communication plan so that all interested parties can feed in to the process and are kept up to date. If you are another community group or organisation, get in touch with the national PLHIV network and find out how you can be involved.

## Phase 1 – Define community priorities

- Consult widely with communities affected by HIV to understand what their key priorities are. The consultation process should be transparent and as inclusive as possible, involving women, young people and people from key populations.
- Connect with the community CCM representatives and make sure they are engaged in the GC7 process and are aware of community priorities.
- Find out about the HIV response in your country. Which communities are underserved? What are their priorities? If your country has done the PLHIV Stigma Index, use the findings to shape your community priorities. If your country is committed to action through the Global Partnership to Eliminate Stigma, community-led interventions should be part of the community priorities.
- Review the mid-term Global Fund grant evaluation, look at what interventions have been most successful? Where are the gaps? Have there been any failings? You should also ask to see the Allocation letter and any accompanying data that your country received from the Global Fund.

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## Phase 2 – Develop the funding request

- Together with other community-led and civil society organisations **agree on one shared priorities list**.
- Every grant application to the Global Fund must include an “**Annex of Funding Priorities** of Civil Society and Communities Most Affected by HIV, TB and Malaria”. Contact the people who are writing the annex and make sure all community priorities are captured. You can also encourage any community experts that you know to apply to be part of the writing team. If your organisation is coordinating this process, make sure that all the relevant community and civil society partners are consulted and given an opportunity to feed into the process.
- Find out who is working on the **budget** and make sure all community priorities are well-costed. There is a **costing tool** to help with this process.
- Develop an **advocacy engagement plan** to influence the decision-making process as the application is being finalised. Decide who will attend important meetings and which decision makers to engage with. Be sure you understand all the interventions in the community priorities “Annex” so that you can advocate for them. Collaborate with other community and civil society organisations to amplify each other’s voices and strengthen your advocacy.
- **Engage with all the different stakeholders** in your country – this may include the CCM, government departments, UNAIDS, National AIDS Council, PEPFAR, WHO etc. Make sure you know their positions and what they consider to be the main priorities. This will help you to develop a plan to advocate for the priorities that are important to your community. If possible, organise separate meeting with each of them to outline your priorities.
- If you need extra support, there is **Technical Assistance** on offer from the Global Fund as well as other TA providers. Contact GNP+ to find out more or see here - <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/throughout-the-cycle/community-engagement/>

## Phase 3 – Grant submission and negotiation

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- CCM community representatives need to **approve the funding request**. Make sure they are engaged in this step and that they ask for enough time to review the submission.
- Once the application has been submitted, it is very important to **stay engaged in the process**. There will be discussions with the Global Fund over the details of the grant and changes may be made. Make sure your PR understands your priorities and advocates for them to be included. Push for the CCM community representatives to be kept fully up to date with developments and engaged in the negotiations so that they can try to ensure that community priorities are included in the final grant and that the funding for them is not cut.

## Phase 4 – Grant implementation

- **Reflect** on the first two stages of the grant development process and see what lessons there are to be learned for next time.
- When the Global Fund money arrives in your country, **continue to engage** with and take part in CCM decision-making processes to ensure that the grant is implemented in a way that meets the needs of communities.
- Your organisation may help to **implement some of the programmes**, as a principal recipient, sub-recipient, sub-sub recipient or at a grass roots level. There are many areas where community-led organisations are well placed to deliver interventions themselves.
- Have regular discussions with the CCM community representatives so they can update you on implementation and you can share your experiences from the ground.
- Conduct Community-led Monitoring (CLM) to assess how well the programme is implemented. Use the evidence you gather to inform discussions within the CCM and any future grant applications.