

Geneva, 16 December 2022

Subject: 2023-2025 Allocation Letter¹

Dear Dr. Vyacheslav Dudnik,

Over 20 years, the Global Fund partnership has saved 50 million lives yet the fight to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is not over. Recent unprecedented health challenges had a devastating impact on the progress made. But together, we can get back on track to end the three diseases by 2030, to build resilient and sustainable systems for health and strengthen pandemic preparedness, to make the world healthier and more equitable.

To accelerate impact towards these goals, we must work together to ensure that the funding requests and grants for the new allocation period bring to life the vision of the new [2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy: Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World](#).² We must put people and communities at the center of all our work. We must put greater focus on equity, sustainability, efficiency, program quality and innovation. We must reduce new infections across the three diseases, addressing structural barriers and leveraging innovations in prevention tools and approaches. We must take determined action to advance gender equality and tackle human rights and gender-related barriers for lasting impact. And we will work together to mobilize increased national resources for health.

Kazakhstan Allocation

Based on the Global Fund Board's decision in November 2022 on the funding available for the 2023-2025 allocation period, **Kazakhstan has been allocated US\$14,845,982 for HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and building resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH)**.³ The allocation amounts for all countries have been determined according to a methodology approved by the Global Fund Board, primarily based on disease burden and income level. Kazakhstan is classified as an upper-middle income country.⁴

Table 1: Summary of allocation

Eligible disease component	Allocation (US\$)	Allocation Utilization Period
HIV	8,086,543	1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026
Tuberculosis	6,759,439	1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028
Total	14,845,982	

¹ This letter includes annexes and links, which should be read together and in full.

² https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/11612/strategy_globalfund2023-2028_narrative_en.pdf Note that the 10 key strategic shifts are described on page 7.

³ Investments in pandemic preparedness can be funded by this country allocation through RSSH modules, or through the separate C19RM funding stream.

⁴ Determined from gross national income (GNI) per capita using the World Bank income group thresholds for 2022.

Timing. The allocation agreed for each disease component can be used during the relevant allocation utilization period. Any remaining funds from a previous HIV, TB or malaria allocation, unused by the start of the indicated allocation utilization period, will not be additional to the new allocation amount.⁵

Program split. The Global Fund has proposed an indicative split of allocation funds across eligible disease components. However, the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) has the responsibility to assess and propose the best use of funds across these disease components and health system strengthening. Applicants can choose to accept the Global Fund split or propose a revised one, based on an evidence-based analysis of programmatic and system gaps and in consideration of the funding needed to maintain essential programming. The Global Fund will review and consider the justification for any program split change. Global Fund approval is required before the review of the first funding request.

RSSH investments in program split. Investing in RSSH, including community systems, accelerates progress in the fight against the three diseases and enables health services to be delivered in an integrated, sustainable, equitable, efficient, and effective way. The Global Fund therefore recommends that the level of country investment in RSSH be maintained where appropriate and increased where possible. To better identify synergies in system investments across the eligible diseases, as a new requirement in the 2023-2025 allocation period, applicants are required to indicate the intended investment amount for RSSH from within the allocation for each disease component. Providing this information is not considered a program split change.

COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM). C19RM is a separate funding stream that, in addition to supporting COVID-19 response activities, can be used to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on HIV, TB and malaria programs, and to address additional pandemic preparedness and health system strengthening needs. These include community health workers, integrated lab systems, end-to-end early surveillance systems, scale up of medical oxygen and respiratory care, infection prevention control beyond personal protective equipment, and novel therapeutics and test and treat programs. The Global Fund has decided to extend the utilization period for C19RM until December 2025, in order to enable countries to maximize the value of C19RM investments in health systems and pandemic preparedness. Given the extension of C19RM, and the consequent opportunities for reinvestment and portfolio optimization within the mechanism, applicants should carefully consider how to ensure investments from the two funding streams of the country allocation and C19RM complement each other to maximize overall impact.

The Global Fund will be communicating separately on the next phase of C19RM.

⁵ Any extension of an existing grant using the HIV, TB or malaria allocation will be deducted from the subsequent allocation utilization period, both in terms of time and funds used during the extension period.

Application Approach

Kazakhstan is requested to submit its applications for funding using the Tailored for Focused Portfolios funding request.

A complete set of application materials will be shared by the Global Fund Country Team.

When requested application approaches are the same, the Global Fund encourages applicants to consider developing an integrated funding request, where appropriate. In all cases applicants should consider how to bring together their investments in the three diseases and in RSSH to ensure greater efficiency and coherence.

All funding requests are required to be developed through inclusive and transparent country dialogue with a broad range of stakeholders,⁶ including key and vulnerable populations.

A variety of resources to help applicants prepare their funding requests are available on the [Global Fund website](#).⁷ We encourage all those involved in the preparation of the funding request to carefully read these guidance materials.

Aims of the Allocation

Given the current challenging economic environment and limited available resources, the Global Fund recognizes the need to prioritize investments. To enhance effectiveness and performance, the Global Fund will support investments where the greatest impact can be achieved, including in health and community systems, prevention, human rights and gender equality, according to countries' needs.

The funding request submitted to the Global Fund should be aligned with prioritized country needs and the latest global technical guidance, and guided by relevant national disease strategic plans, national health sector and sub-sector plans and program reviews.

In addition, the Global Fund would like to share the following for your consideration during the development of the funding request(s):

- The HIV allocation for Kazakhstan has been adjusted upwards (from the allocation formula amount that primarily considers disease burden and income level), to better account for key and vulnerable population burden and need. The Global Fund expects funds to be directed towards evidence-based programs for key and vulnerable populations, as per technical partner guidance, and aligned with the epidemiological context.
- The Global Fund encourages the accelerated transition to shorter treatment regimens for drug resistant TB including BPAL(M) regimen to improve treatment outcomes and reduce the

⁶ Stakeholders should include relevant government directorates, e.g., laboratory directorate, community health directorate, human resources for health directorate.

⁷ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/applying-for-funding/design-and-submit-funding-requests/applicant-guidance-materials/>

costs incurred by both patients and programs, as recommended by World Health Organization (WHO).

- The HIV epidemiological situation in the country and current levels of service provision and access highlight a particular need to focus attention on the first two 95s. The Global Fund encourages a strategic approach to prevention and testing informed by good epidemiological data and a detailed understanding of service delivery gaps by geography, specific age groups and sex/gender, that can include the following:
 - Improve access to and use of precision combination HIV prevention for people at increased risk of HIV infection, including the scale up of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and implement various modes of delivering the PrEP adapted to individuals under elevated risk of acquiring HIV;
 - Strengthen and scale up tailored to key populations HIV testing strategies and interventions that include facility-based testing, community-based testing, HIV self-testing, as well as social network-based and safe ethical partner (index) testing (i.e. differentiated testing); ensuring that relevant policy and guidelines enable the full range of testing approaches;
 - Strengthen linkage to HIV care/treatment services and bolster treatment adherence support;
 - Align the national antiretroviral therapy protocols with the latest WHO-recommended guidelines.

Conditions to Access the Allocation

CCM eligibility requirements. The Global Fund Secretariat screens all applicants for compliance with CCM [eligibility requirements](#).⁸ Compliance with requirements 1 and 2 is assessed at the time of submission of the funding request. Compliance with requirements 3 to 6 is assessed both at the time of submission of the funding request and on a yearly basis throughout the period of Global Fund financing. Continued compliance with all eligibility requirements throughout program implementation is a condition to access Global Fund financing (including CCM funding).

Co-financing requirements. While Global Fund grants represent a major financing contribution to the eradication of HIV, TB and malaria, they are only a part of more significant financing resources for health and the national responses that include Kazakhstan's own domestic contributions. Increasing domestic resources for health and spending these resources efficiently and equitably is essential to end the epidemics and strengthen the health systems that are the foundation of the disease response. To access the full 2023-2025 allocation, countries must meet the Global Fund's co-financing requirements, as set out in the [Sustainability, Transition, and Co-Financing \(STC\) Policy](#).⁹ All countries are expected to progressively increase their domestic public spending for health to improve performance for both health financing and health outcomes, and to progressively pay for a growing share of key program costs of national responses (e.g., prevention, services for key and

⁸ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/7421/ccm_countrycoordinatingmechanism_policy_en.pdf

⁹ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/4221/bm35_04-sustainabilitytransitionandcofinancing_policy_en.pdf

vulnerable populations, drugs, diagnostics, malaria bed nets, etc.), especially those currently financed entirely or in large part by the Global Fund.

To encourage increasing domestic resource mobilization, 15% of Kazakhstan's total Global Fund allocation will be accessible once Kazakhstan has committed to certain co-financing requirements. Details about the co-financing requirements for Kazakhstan, and how they have been determined, are included in Annex A.

Opportunities for Funding Beyond the Allocation Amount

Unfunded quality demand. The Global Fund requests that all applicants develop a Prioritized Above Allocation Request (PAAR) and submit this along with the allocation funding request. Interventions from the PAAR that the Technical Review Panel considers quality demand will be listed on the Register of Unfunded Quality Demand. Submitting a robust PAAR is an essential step to accessing funding beyond the allocation amount.

I thank you for your shared commitment and efforts in the global fight against HIV and TB.

Sincerely,



Mark Eldon-Edington

Division Head, Grant Management

Annex A: Supplementary Information for Kazakhstan

Allocation

Currency. The allocation for Kazakhstan is denominated in US dollar. Global Fund allocations can only be denominated in Euro or US dollar. If you would like to discuss a possible currency change for the next allocation period, kindly notify your Fund Portfolio Manager by 15 February 2023.

Critical Investments to Advance Global Goals

Importance of investments in people-centered integrated systems for health. The surest way to defeat today's infectious diseases as well as prevent, prepare for and respond to future pandemics is by rising above disease-specific silos and investing in health and community systems that support the delivery of integrated, people-centered health services. RSSH investments must support integrated delivery of services across and beyond the three diseases, and integrated health system functions that are aligned with the national health strategic plan and support national health priorities. For the 2023-2025 allocation period, RSSH investment areas encompass health sector planning and governance, health financing and financial management systems, community systems and responses, monitoring and evaluation systems, human resources for health and quality of care, health product management systems, laboratory systems strengthening, and medical oxygen and respiratory care systems. Additional cross-cutting areas include private sector engagement and digital health.¹⁰

Importance of investments to maximize the engagement and leadership of most affected communities. The Global Fund's partnership model calls for action to put people and communities at the center of everything we do, particularly those most affected by HIV, TB and malaria. To ensure greater health equity, and that services are designed to respond to the specific needs of those most affected, communities must be supported to lead as equal partners in the design, implementation, monitoring, and provision of expert technical support for disease programs. For the 2023-2025 allocation period, a set of minimum standards for community engagement have been introduced which all countries are expected to meet.¹¹

Importance of investments to maximize health equity, gender equality and human rights. Removing human rights and gender-related barriers in access to services is critical to ending the epidemics. When unaddressed, these barriers undermine effective and impactful responses and limit sustainable progress. For the 2023-2025 allocation period, countries are expected to make an accelerated effort to advance gender equality and adopt gender-transformative approaches, in line with the Global Fund's Strategy.¹²

¹⁰ More information on RSSH interventions eligible for Global Fund support is available in the RSSH Information Note:

https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/4759/core_resilientsustainablehealth_infonote_en.pdf

¹¹ More information is available in the guidance document Community Engagement: Opportunities Throughout the Grant-Life Cycle:

https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12475/crg_community-engagement_guide_en.pdf

¹² Detailed guidance on effective investments in programs and approaches that address human rights and gender-related barriers, including key interventions to consider incorporating into funding requests, can be found in the Technical Briefs.

Program essentials and critical approaches. In consultation with the broader partnership the Global Fund has introduced a set of program essentials for HIV, TB and malaria, which are evidence-based interventions and approaches critical to meeting the goals of national disease strategies and respective global targets. For RSSH, critical approaches have been identified to ensure that RSSH interventions delivered by Global Fund-supported programs are set up to achieve maximum impact. Applicants are encouraged to consider program essentials and critical approaches when developing their funding requests.¹³

Importance of enhancing the efficiency of investments. Constrained fiscal space and funding shortages call for strategic resource allocation and utilization to maximize impact. Evidence-based investment decisions are critical to ensure that domestic and grant resources are optimally allocated across disease programs, program- and system-level interventions, population groups and geographies at the country level to drive results. Optimal allocation includes ensuring resources are utilized efficiently by choosing the right inputs at the right quantities, and efficient service delivery modalities.

Value for money procurement. To maximize the impact of allocations, the Global Fund will not finance commodities purchased at a price higher than the reference price for such commodities, where one exists.¹⁴

Protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). The Code of Conduct for Recipients of Global Fund Resources sets forth prohibitions on SEAH, requirements on reporting and expectations to have policies and measures in place to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. Creating safer access to grant services is not only the “right” thing to do; programs free of sexual misconduct also help us end the three diseases as public health threats.¹⁵

Implementation

The Global Fund recognizes the value of efficient implementation and encourages all countries to explore opportunities to streamline and consolidate implementation arrangements for the coming allocation period. The Global Fund encourages all applicants to consider optimal service delivery arrangements based on country context, with due consideration to community-based and -led organizations.

In the 2023-2025 allocation period the Light tailored model, with fit for purpose requirements, will be applied for Kazakhstan. More information will be provided by the Country Team; the guidelines for this model can be found [here](#).¹⁶

¹³ More information on program essentials and critical approaches can be found in the Information Notes.

¹⁴ Please consult the Global Fund website for a consolidated reference price list (<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/sourcing-management/health-products/>) and refer to the Budgeting Guidelines (http://www.theglobalfund.org/media/3261/core_budgetingglobalfundgrants_guideline_en.pdf) for more details.

¹⁵ More information can be found in the Global Fund Code of Conduct for Recipients of Global Fund Resources (https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/6011/corporate_codeofconductforrecipients_policy_en.pdf)

¹⁶ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/focused-portfolios/>

Strengthening Sustainability and Impact of Investments

To strengthen the overall impact and sustainability of Global Fund investments, the Global Fund has two different requirements which are determined by a country's income classification. "Application focus requirements" outline how countries should invest Global Fund financing and "co-financing requirements" outline how countries should invest domestic commitments made in the context of Global Fund grants.

Application focus requirements: 100%

As Kazakhstan is classified as an upper-middle income country, 100% of allocation funding should focus on interventions that maintain or scale-up evidence-based interventions for key and vulnerable populations. Applications must include, as appropriate, interventions that respond to human rights and gender-related barriers and vulnerabilities in access to services. Applications may also introduce new technologies that represent global best practice and are critical for sustaining gains and moving towards control and/or elimination; and interventions that promote transition readiness which should include critical RSSH needs for sustainability, as appropriate, improvement of equitable coverage and uptake of services, including by funding civil society organizations' services as necessary, and transition planning and implementation, including securing sustainable domestic funding sources

Determining the total minimum co-financing requirement

To access the portion of Kazakhstan's total Global Fund allocation tied to co-financing, Kazakhstan must present a credible case that it is on track to realize an agreed total minimum co-financing requirement for HIV, TB and RSSH investments. Actual spending against the country's 2020-2022 commitment will be discussed and agreed with Kazakhstan over the coming months. This will be used to determine the total minimum co-financing commitment for the 2023-2025 period, which will be finalized by the time the funding request is submitted.

As Kazakhstan is classified as an upper-middle income country, additional co-financing contributions must be invested in disease program interventions and/or RSSH activities to address sustainability and transition challenges. A minimum of 50% must be invested in interventions targeting key and vulnerable populations.

Commitments to access the co-financing incentive portion of the 2023-2025 allocation should specify the activities to be financed, linked strongly to priority national programmatic objectives, and explain how realization of commitments will be verified and reported to the Global Fund. This includes details of what sources will be used, who in the government will collect, summarize, and report the results, and who will sign off on the report, and with what frequency.

Kazakhstan should provide confirmation of co-financing commitments through its Commitment Letter, and later, evidence of realization of those commitments from appropriate government authorities, including the Ministry of Finance and/or other relevant bodies.

The Global Fund recognizes that Kazakhstan continues to face macroeconomic and fiscal challenges, especially given the COVID-19 pandemic and its disruptions to health services and

expenditures, that could limit the fiscal space for domestic financial investments in health during the 2023-2025 allocation period. The Global Fund has taken into account these contextual factors in proposing co-financing requirements for Kazakhstan, and will work in a spirit of openness and collaboration with the Government to agree on concrete targets that are consistent with Kazakhstan's ability to pay in a manner that expresses national ownership and is sustainable over time.

While the co-financing commitment amount is maintained, the structure of proposed commitment should focus on supporting government efforts to improve efficiency of the TB/HIV service delivery.

Previous co-financing and domestic commitments for the 2020-2022 allocation:

Failure to realize previous co-financing commitments from the 2020-2022 allocation may result in the Global Fund reducing funds from existing grants and/or reducing the 2023-2025 allocation. Kazakhstan should submit evidence of the realization of previous commitments, including budget execution evidence, when submitting its funding request. Evidence of expenditure against commitments to increased government health spending, disease program spending, and specific programmatic spending should accompany the Funding Landscape Table.