



Meaningful engagement of communities in Preparing Funding Requests for C19RM in 2021



April 2021

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Objective

- Strengthening meaningful community engagement in the C19RM 2.0 funding request process in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Participants:



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Lidice López

Lessons learned from C19RM 1.0 in LAC, conclusions of the case study

- **Engagement of civil society organization**
 - Civil society organizations actively engaged in the discussions regarding C19RM applications, but there was limited engagement of people affected by TB.
 - To develop the activities, CSOs invested in electronic equipment, legal advice and food packages. They also sought to ensure the provision of ARVs that had been interrupted by the pandemic and to include other key populations not initially considered in the country's grant.
- **COVID-19 pandemic**
 - Virtualization of the strategy because socialization places were closed.
 - Sub-recipients from civil society adapted quickly and responded immediately to populations' needs.
 - Health facilities collapsed and linkage to services was affected, which delayed HIV and TB testing and care goals.
 - Uncertainty as to when activities would resume.
- **Positive aspects**
 - Resilience of civil society and with fluid communication.
 - Leadership of Principal Recipients and Country Coordinating Mechanisms.





Willan Montaña

Field experiences: What worked? How do you think community engagement in identifying needs, prioritizing actions and strategically monitoring the approved grant may be improved?

- When reviewing the needs, we did not want to be limited only to the aspects established by the guidelines, which were more closed and exclusive for requesting food aid. To overcome this limitation, we approached the portfolio manager to analyze the issue thoroughly to justify the request.
- Making decisions together and as a team helps streamline and improve this process, but a key aspect is to take a look at the criteria and involvement of leaders accredited in the CCM. Constant communication within a technical and national team is an essential element.
- Distribution plans must be improved to make them more flexible and avoid late approvals.

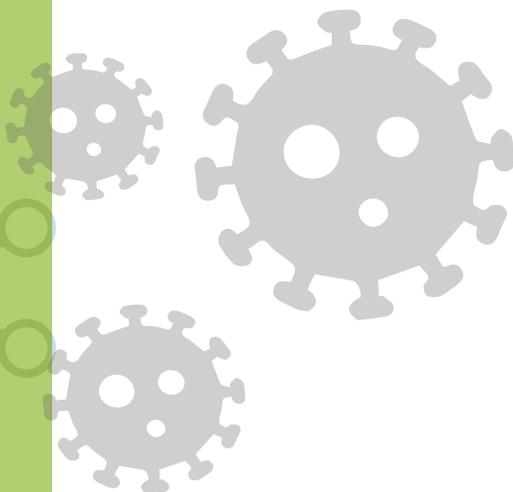




Dany Montecino

Field experiences: What worked? How do you think community engagement in identifying needs, prioritizing actions and strategically monitoring the approved grant may be improved?

- In Honduras, communication was not as effective with the portfolio manager or within the CCM. We made a baseline study regarding communities, and the main need was food, but consensus was not achieved. We, therefore, suggest a more detailed analysis of the needs of key populations and populations with HIV in the new grants, so that greater fluidity is attained in this new funding request stage.
- It is important to leave personal stances behind and work in a more collaborative manner for timely decision-making in emergency situations.
- An important element is to have timely technical assistance and mechanisms to access technology.
- Feedback regarding actions carried out as part of the mechanisms needs to be improved.





Gilles Cesari

Presentation of the new C19RM 2.0 guidelines

- **Changes for the C19RM 2021**

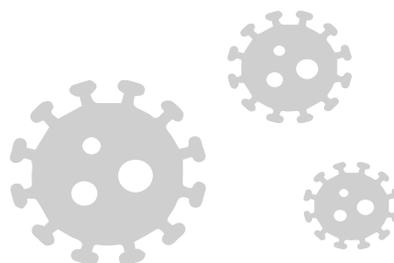
- Allocation letters above the maximum base C19RM allocation and a period for proposal submissions were sent to the CCM and eligible countries. All current implementing countries, including regional/multi-country recipients receiving funding from the Global Fund, are eligible.
- The novelty is that there is a need for engagement in the national response to COVID-19.

- **Eligibility and Funding**

- The C19RM will continue to fund cross-cutting community responses, such as the response to COVID-19, adapting COVID-19-related programs to fight HIV, TB and malaria, as well as strengthening health and community systems. However, the purchase of vaccines will not be funded.
- The activities to be funded are aligned with the pillars of the WHO COVID-19 Response Pillar Framework.
- We expect countries to submit 30% of their base allocation for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria corresponding to 2022.
- Countries can submit a portion of their C19RM base allocation to streamline compliance with urgent procurement requirements.
- The deadline for using the funds is December 31, 2023.

- **Community Engagement**

- Expanding CCM engagement and ensuring inclusive consultation and decision-making processes during funding request preparation.
- The CRG, together with the LAC Platform, will support community engagement through technical assistance for the country's baseline study and participation in national dialogue processes.





Conclusions

- Effective community and civil society engagement remains crucial to building a solid response to the pandemic, including opportunities to support community-led initiatives.
- Active involvement in the national COVID-19 response must be among the goals.
- Conducting a thorough analysis of the country's context to justify all requests, including those related to food and technical support.
- Maintaining active dialogue and communication with the portfolio manager, community members in the CCMs and leaders or community groups of the country.

