

Annex 1

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CONTEXT OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS AP-Init-2021-01 “STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AT ALL LEVELS (COMMUNITY TO NATIONAL) (HSS).”

1. Global Fund strategy 2017-2022

One of the four strategic objectives of the Global Fund strategy 2017-2022¹ is to “build resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH) through “Investments [...] to benefit patients, not combat specific diseases, integrating service delivery, strengthening communities and promoting quality services and equitable access.” Wherever possible, those investments “will be based on strong national health strategies and disease control plans in close collaboration with partners to ensure integrated and harmonized approaches.”

Resilient and sustainable health systems are essential to ending the HIV, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics and to reach the 3rd Sustainable Development Goal: Health and Well-Being for All.

The strategy for building resilient and sustainable systems for health is based on seven operational objectives:

- a. Strengthening community responses and systems;
- b. Supporting reproductive, women’s, children’s, and adolescent health, and platforms for integrated service delivery;
- c. Strengthening global and in-country procurement and supply chain systems;
- d. Leveraging critical investments in human resources for health;
- e. Strengthening data systems for health and countries’ capacities for data analysis and use;
- f. Strengthening and aligning to robust national health strategies and national disease-specific strategic plans;
- g. Strengthening financial management and oversight;

L’Initiative call for proposals is essentially based on the first four operational objectives for building resilient and sustainable systems for health.

“The core mission of the Global Fund – to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics – can only be achieved with stronger systems for health: a combination of stronger health systems including improved facilities, health care, training for health workers, information management, and access; and stronger community systems. Global Fund investments in the treatment and prevention of HIV, TB and malaria improve the response to those diseases while improving overall health systems by boosting the quality of care, data tracking and services. At the same time, Global Fund investments recognize the centrality of citizens by promoting and reinforcing community responses and involving communities in national decision-making²”.

Since 2014, the Global Fund has increasingly encouraged an effective integration of national programs for the fight against major diseases into the wider health system. In 2018 the OIG published a report

1 “The Global Fund Strategy 2017-2022: Investing to end epidemics.”

2 https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/1309/publication_rssh_focuson_en.pdf?u=636523856750000000

on “Managing Investments for Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health”³ and analyzed the progress made on the supply chain strengthening and financial management components of the RSSH sub-objectives.

Furthermore, “Communities have always played a vital role in responses to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and the Global Fund has been at the forefront of the movement to provide more systematic support to community engagement. Understanding the synergies between the formal health system and the community system is essential in guiding investments for better outcomes for the three diseases and beyond”⁴.

Projects submitted to this call for proposals must demonstrate how they are complementary with the Global Fund in a way that can catalyze change in recipient countries.

Health system strengthening at all levels has also been one of the main priorities of L’Initiative since its creation, in line with France’s position in favour of a holistic approach to health⁵. It is not possible to combat the three pandemics effectively and seek to achieve an ever-greater impact without addressing the weaknesses of certain health systems.

2. Mainstreaming gender equality

Promoting equality between women and men is at the top of the French international development agenda. The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs recently adopted the 3rd International Strategy for Gender Equality (2018-2022)⁶; it makes equality between women and men an ethical and political duty, not simply an objective in French development policy, but also a strategy applied throughout France’s action abroad. Regarding official development assistance, objectives are: “to increase financing for projects that aim primarily or significantly to reduce gender inequality”; “to ensure that our sectoral priorities are financed by means of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and increase France’s contributions to international organizations that champion gender equality”; “Improve gender-responsive budgeting”⁷.

Gender equality is also one of the four strategic objectives of the Global Fund 2017-2022 strategy: “Promote and Protect Human Rights and Gender Equality”⁸.

Therefore, and in line with the approach adopted by Expertise France and L’Initiative, mainstreaming gender to respond to the specific needs of women, of men, and of people who do not define themselves by gender norms, is a priority in the present call for proposals. For this reason L’Initiative strongly encourages applicants to develop projects that have a specific objective or even an overall objective explicitly dedicated to promoting the rights of women and gender equality.

³ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8441/oig_gf-oig-19-011_report_en.pdf?u=637319002099770000

⁴ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/4790/core_communitysystems_technicalbrief_en.pdf, The Global Fund, 2016.

⁵ It is one of the four priorities for the French action in global health for the 2017-2022 period: strengthen health system to fight the pandemics. https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/fiche_reperes_sante_mondiale_cle89ea7b.pdf

⁶ France’s international strategy on gender equality (2018–2022), Directorate-General for Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development, 2018.

⁷ Op.cit.

⁸ See also : https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/1250/core_genderequality_strategy_en.pdf