



Grant Cycle 8

Enabling Impact: Strengthening

Sustainability

Issued 17 April 2026

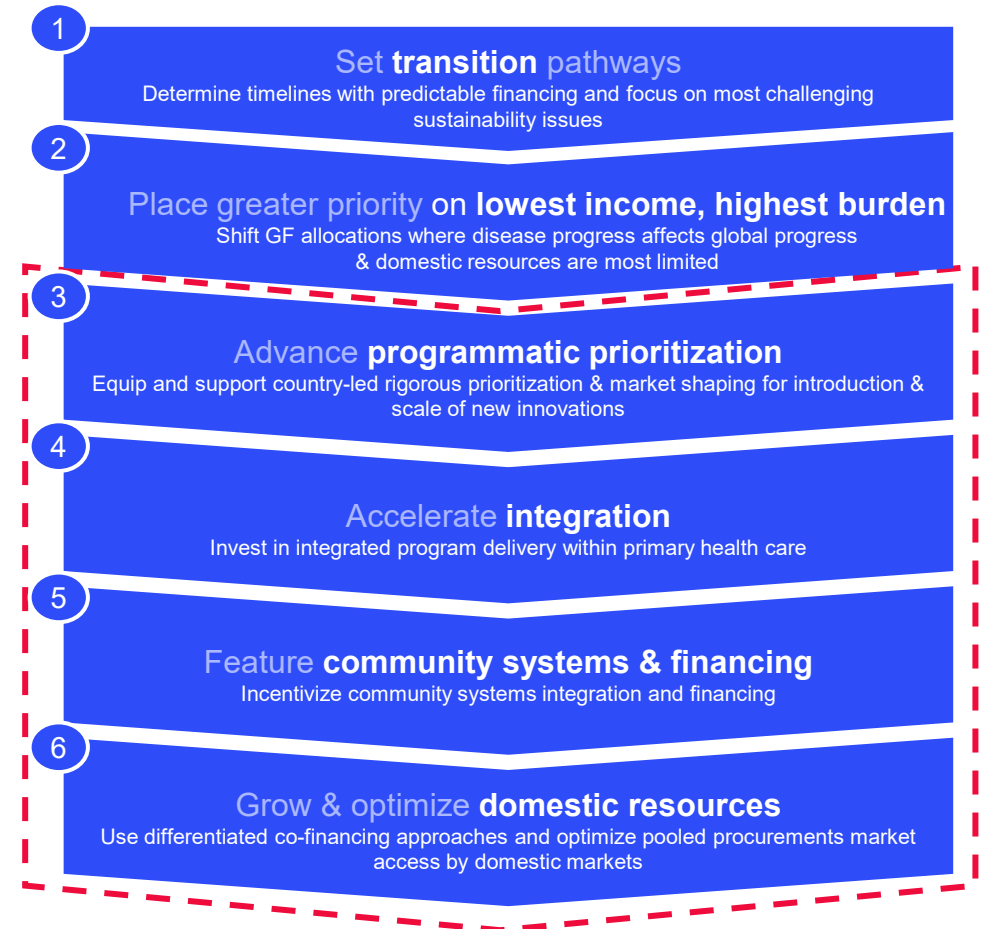
Updated 17 April 2026

Context & purpose of this GC8 guidance

The health financing landscape is changing, and countries face an urgent need to prioritize limited resources, strengthen sustainability and focus investments where they will have the greatest impact. In response, the Global Fund's February 2026 Board meeting introduced the GC8 Strategic Shifts.

This guidance on *Enabling Impact* includes **5 components** and serves as a companion tool to the HIV, TB, Malaria and RSSH *Prioritization Guidance*, with direct links to the Modular Framework. As diverse and reinforcing topics, each component expands upon principles, focus and prioritized approaches to drive results in GC8.

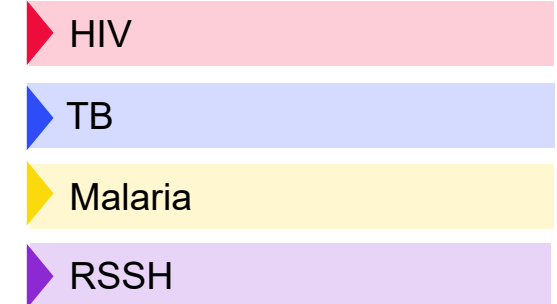
Enabling all shifts, with an emphasis on 3, 4, 5 and 6



How to use this guidance

- The cross-cutting Enabling Impact Guidance is based on **evidence-based normative and technical guidance** from across the partnership and includes relevant references.
- It complements the Global Fund’s Modular Framework Handbook, which describes the interventions eligible for Global Fund investments, and the Prioritization guidance, which lays out overall priorities for GC8 and prioritization considerations for HIV, TB, malaria and RSSH.
- The Enabling Impact Guidance informs **country-led decision-making** on how to maximize the impact of Global Fund resources, used together with National Strategic Plans to ensure alignment with overall spending plans, including domestic resources and external funding from other sources.
- Each section of this guidance includes considerations for cross-cutting interventions and priorities to increase the impact of efforts to fight HIV, TB and malaria and strengthen resilient and sustainable systems for health.
- This document will be updated as necessary to reflect innovations and changes in technical guidance.

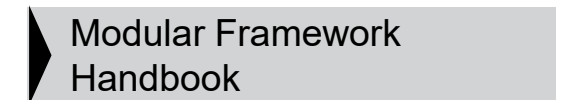
Prioritizing Investment



Enabling Impact



Programming & Monitoring for Results



Ahead of GC8, many countries experienced reductions in external financing, creating fiscal challenges and widening programmatic gaps across HIV, TB, malaria and essential health services. These developments, combined with pressures on Global Fund allocations, highlight the growing and urgent need for countries to accelerate progress toward self-reliance.

In GC8, the Global Fund will play a catalytic role as an investor in encouraging countries, regardless of income level, to strengthen sustainability and prepare for transition from external financing. This guidance equips countries in navigating this dual challenge: responding to immediate financing shifts while building the systems, institutions and transition pathways needed for sustained, country-led disease responses and health systems.



- ✓ **Outlines** core themes and practical applications of sustainability across diverse settings.
- ✓ **Emphasizes** *how* to optimize investments and drive cost effectiveness to maximize results.
- ✓ **Reinforces** that Global Fund investments should focus on evidence-based interventions and approaches that are critical for impact, as recommended in WHO normative guidance and in line with National Strategic Plans.

Sustainability serves as a foundation of effective transition

Sustainability

Refers to the long-term ability of countries to finance, manage and deliver resilient HIV, TB and malaria responses to reduce disease burden and continue achieving programmatic impact even without the support of external financing.

Transition

Describes the process to progressively shift the financing and management of the national responses away from external financing.

The same systems, capacities and financing reforms that strengthen sustainability *also* determine a country's readiness for transition and thus require **investment focus**.

Sustainability includes considerations across 9 thematic areas

- 1 Advancing **national planning**
- 2 Reinforcing **financing mechanisms**
- 3 Strengthening **public financial management**
- 4 Using **national systems**
- 5 Ensuring inclusive **governance**
- 6 **Addressing access barriers** to health services
- 7 Invest in **RSSH**
- 8 Sustaining **access to quality-assured health products**
- 9 Iterating with **value for money** dimensions

Explored here to:

- ✓ Form the guiding principles for ongoing sustainability efforts in the funding request narrative, including the development of co-financing commitments.
- ✓ Guide the development of **interventions** (see *following prioritization consideration slides*) proposed for funding through the health finance and other relevant modules that support programmatic and financial sustainability.
- ✓ Support country-level dialogue and national planning processes designed to support sustainability and effective transitions from external financing.

Prioritization approach & considerations

| Thematic area | Interventions | Prioritization considerations |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| <p>1 National planning</p> | <p>Health financing analytics, advocacy, strategies and planning</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure costing of interventions using appropriate methodologies and tools, with unit costs linked to government budget frameworks. This enables realistic planning and strengthens the connection between programmatic goals and available resources. • Use prioritization and budget impact analysis to enable policymakers to identify opportunities for optimizing the allocation of resources across interventions, geographic areas and population groups to maximize health impact. • Use the most up-to-date information/evidence on health sector financing and on the highest impact interventions to achieve specific health outcomes (and recommended by technical partners), and the latest relevant epidemiological data. |
| <p>2 Financing</p> | <p>Health financing schemes</p> <p>Health financing analytics, advocacy, strategies, and planning</p> <p>Blended Financing Arrangements</p> | <p>Health Financing Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support realistic and prioritized health financing strategies and reforms for effective domestic resource mobilization, pooling and purchasing. • Consider the government's current and future fiscal situation; the allocation and execution of the national budget; the development and implementation of a framework for increasing domestic public funding for health and alleviating the health financing burden on households (e.g., reforms to remove user fees, establishing a single payer system, costing a universal health coverage/benefits package, or strengthening social health protection). <p>Policy dialogue and advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement national health financing dialogues, which provide a multi-stakeholder platform to advocate for strengthened domestic health financing. These dialogues are government-led and owned, inclusive, partner-supported, and provide an end-to-end anchor for continuous efforts to improve domestic health financing. The Global Fund supports governments to convene and institutionalize such dialogues as part of its overall efforts to strengthen country dialogue on improved health sector financing and self-reliance. |

Prioritization approach & considerations

| Thematic area | Interventions | Prioritization considerations |
|--------------------|---|---|
| <p>2 Financing</p> | <p>Health financing schemes</p> <p>Health financing analytics, advocacy, strategies, and planning</p> <p>Blended Financing Arrangements</p> | <p>Blended Finance and Joint Investments (combining Global Fund grants with other sources of funding, primarily Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) and Development Finance Institutions (DFI) financing—in ways that complement but do not replace traditional grant investments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider blended finance as a lever to strengthen alignment with MDB operations and other external financiers and to improve the sustainability of investments supporting the national HIV, TB and malaria responses and health systems strengthening. <p>Debt2Health (arrangements that convert a portion of existing debt obligations into domestic investments for health, through agreements between government counterparts and creditors, with redirected resources committed to specified health priorities and measurable results)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Debt2Health as an innovative financing option to help expand fiscal space for priority health investments, particularly where high debt burdens and debt servicing pressures constrain domestic investments in the national HIV, TB and malaria responses and health systems strengthening <p>Absorbing externally- financed programmatic costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan how to finance and gradually absorb key programmatic costs and interventions supported by external financing as they work to strengthen sustainability. The gradual financing of these costs can help reduce dependencies on external financing for key interventions and build national capacity to implement and manage interventions that have traditionally relied on external financing. • Consider how the absorption of programmatic costs should be incorporated into sustainability planning processes and systematically addressed as countries embark on specific transition planning and transition away from Global Fund financing. |

Prioritization approach & considerations

| Thematic area | Interventions | Prioritization considerations |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 2 Financing | Health financing analytics, advocacy, strategies and planning | <p>Health-financing data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize processes for routinely analyzing and using health-financing data to strengthen resource tracking so that spending by intervention, product and funding source can inform planning, costing, budgeting and timely reporting on co-financing commitments. • Leverage established tools and analyses including National Health Accounts (NHA), UNAIDS National AIDS Spending Assessments (NASA), World Bank Public Expenditure Reviews (PER), UNICEF Budget Analyses and GFF-supported resource mapping and expenditure tracking work (RMET) to support country level decision-making. |
| 3 Public Financial Management | Public Financial Management (PFM) systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen national PFM systems to enable better planning, budgeting, execution and oversight of health expenditures, at central and decentralized levels and support stronger alignment between budget structures and actual health service delivery needs. Weaknesses in these systems can limit the absorption and effectiveness of the health budget and pose significant risks to the continuity of HIV, TB and malaria services. • Improve expenditure tracking, including through Financial Management Information Systems (FMIS) strengthening, to increase visibility and timeliness of fund flows and health spending. Draw on existing diagnostics to identify priority constraints and focus available resources on reforms most relevant to improved accountability and governance, co-financing realization, service continuity and long-term sustainability. |
| 4 National systems | Cross cutting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement through national systems whenever possible, including those related to: health information, procurement and supply chain and public financial management systems. “National systems” are not exclusively government systems and may include community systems, for instance, when government works with non-governmental organizations to provide critical health services. • Advance plans during each grant cycle to progressively use national systems when implementation is through parallel systems. • Invest in activities related to funding and processes that enable effective contracting with CSOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) for community engagement, accountability and health service delivery. |

Prioritization approach & considerations

Thematic area

Interventions

Prioritization considerations

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 5 Governance | Health financing analytics, advocacy, strategies and planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider modifying the composition of governance membership (e.g., on the Country Coordinating Mechanism or other body) to ensure appropriate engagement of actors particularly relevant to sustainability (such as the Ministry of Finance or Planning, development banks, the private sector and others) and align efforts with other national governance mechanisms that support health sector coordination. |
| 6 Addressing Barriers to Health Services | Social contracting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish mechanisms to provide public financing for the contracting of CSOs and community organizations to deliver services. Consider upfront how community-led services will be delivered and financed over time, particularly for key and vulnerable populations, even where there is no immediate expectation of reduced external financing. Public financing of civil society/community service provision (i.e., ‘Social contracting’) may require legislative, policy or procedural changes that take more time, particularly if external financing implies simplified or special procurement procedures for contracting. |
| 7 Investments in RSSH | Cross cutting | <i>See RSSH Prioritization Guidance</i> |
| 8 Access to quality-assured health products | Health Products Management Systems (module level; across interventions) | <i>See Health Products Guidance</i> |
| 9 Value for Money | Cross cutting | <i>See Maximizing Value for Money Guidance</i> |



This guidance was developed with expertise and input across the technical partnership.

The guidance draws from technical resources linked here as well (*non-exhaustive*)

Technical Guidance and Tools

- WHO Guidance- Responding to the health financing emergency Immediate measures and longer-term shifts
- Guidance for Sustainability and Transition Assessments and Planning for National HIV and TB Responses
- Sustainability Planning for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Programs in High Impact Africa Countries- Guidance on How to Support a Successful Transition to Domestic Financing
- UNAIDS: HIV response Sustainability Primer and HIV Sustainability Road-Map Guidance

Assessment Tool

- Sustain: A sustainability and transition readiness assessment tool for Malaria