



Summary of Changes

GC8 Funding Request and Grant-making




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In Grant Cycle 8 (GC8), the Global Fund emphasizes **five strategic shifts** to support sustainable program design and prepare for effective transitions towards increased self-reliance.

From an operational perspective, the Global Fund introduces **various application approaches**, to support high quality applications across varied country and funding contexts with corresponding differentiated submission pathways. These include fewer requirements and streamlined investment guidance to further simplify completion. The aim is for informed reviews and effective decision-making whilst balancing the level of effort and information sharing.

The **new application approaches** and **submission pathways** are managed through the Global Fund's Partner Portal, an online platform that facilitates interactions between Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs¹), Principal Recipients (PRs) and the Global Fund Secretariat, improves visibility, and enhances the completeness and quality of submissions.

Objectives

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1. Support strategic shifts to increase sustainable design and support effective transitions.
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2. Enable quality applications and promote timely grant signing within the compressed 2026 timeline.
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3. Facilitate online submissions and improved quality data through the Partner Portal.

1 Support strategic shifts to increase sustainable program design and support effective transitions

Five strategic shifts emphasized to build a path to self-reliance:

- Support effective, predictable transitions from Global Fund financing
- Rigorous prioritization of Global Fund investments
- Integrate systems for health and service delivery
- Community health systems and sustainable financing
- Optimize domestic resources and effective co-financing

2 Enable quality applications and promote the timely grant signing within compressed 2026 timelines

A. Fewer requirements and streamlined guidance across all submission pathways to create more time for quality applications and grant design.

Portfolio category	High Impact / Core			Focused	
Application approach	Program Continuation	Full Review	Tailored for Transition	Tailored for Focused	CCM Investment Priorities
Submission pathway	Program Continuation Submission	Grant-ready Funding Request		Investment Priorities Request	
TRP engagement	No TRP review	Regular	Tailored		TRP Oversight

1. CCMs also refers to Regional Coordinating Mechanisms (RCMs), non-CCMs, and Regional Organizations (ROs) unless otherwise indicated. Refer to the [Country Coordinating Mechanism Policy](#) for more information.

B. Differentiated submission pathways, confirmed by the CCM and tailored to the six application approaches.



Grant-ready Funding Request: Reduces the end-to-end level of effort, ensures earlier and stronger grant design and avoids manual rework of core grant documents, by allowing CCMs to expedite grant negotiations. PRs are made responsible for the development of grant-level Performance Frameworks (PFs) and Budgets as part of the CCM's funding application. This pathway is recommended for portfolios where existing PRs continue in GC8.



Classic Funding Request: Ensures rigor in the case of significant changes to the programmatic scope and/or implementation arrangements, when CCMs nominate a new PR for one or more grants.



Investment Priorities Request:² Streamlines the engagement for Focused portfolios that are expected to receive Global Fund financing beyond GC8. By invitation only, PRs submit an Investment Priorities Request using GC8 documents, building on Country Dialogue-driven investment priorities shared by the CCM, with Technical Review Panel (TRP) oversight rather than dedicated TRP review.



Program Continuation Submission:³ Simplifies the approach for continuing programs/grants, with TRP oversight rather than dedicated TRP review.⁴ By invitation only, PRs in High Impact and Core portfolios submit grant documents with CCM endorsement, leveraging ongoing Country Dialogue.

C. An optimized Modular Framework, removing complexity, with rationalized interventions, indicators and modules.

3 Facilitate Online submissions and improved data quality through the Partner Portal

A. For GC8, the Global Fund is introducing the use of the Partner Portal to manage the new application approaches and submission pathways. This supports CCMs by:

- Facilitating online interactions between CCMs, PRs and the Global Fund Secretariat through the Funding Request module for CCMs and Grant-making module for PRs.
- Providing one entry point to access to customized funding application documents for download, completion and submission by CCMs and PRs.
- Improving visibility and enabling complete submissions, by detailing overall status as well all required application documents and their submission status on screen, supported by targeted email notifications.
- Ensuring quality data (financial, programmatic, procurement etc.) from the start, through the introduction of data quality checks for PR and CT users. These checks run on imported data at key milestones, prompting PR and CT users to review and correct issues prior to review and finalization of key documents. This also facilitates stronger implementation oversight and reduces the need for subsequent grant revisions.

B. Enhanced core grant documents:

- **Performance Framework & Health Product Management Template (HPMT):**⁵ Online completion of the grant-level PF and HPMT, with change-tracking to facilitate reviews, automated data quality checks, and a supporting Excel extract for collaboration.⁶
- **Budget:** Completion of an Excel, with on-screen visualization of the Summary Budget upon attachment and automated data quality checks.

2. Only for portfolios designated as 'CCM Investment Priorities' in the Allocation Letter.

3. Only for portfolios designated as 'Program Continuation' in the Allocation Letter.

4. Unless there are material programmatic changes.

5. HPMT is not submitted by CCM as part of the funding application. For Grant-ready 6. Funding Requests, PRs are required (highly encouraged for Classic Funding Requests) to submit the HPMT directly to the Global Fund prior to TRP for High Impact and Core portfolios.

6. The supporting Excel is for collaboration purposes only and cannot be imported or submitted.