

Annex 1

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CONTEXT OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS AP-5PC-2020-02

“ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.”

1. Access to care for the most vulnerable populations

Despite the fact that considerable progress has been made in promoting and facilitating access to better health services in developing countries, many barriers remain, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. The audit report on the “Key Populations” Special Initiative, conducted by the Global Fund from 2014 to 2016¹, shows that “despite progress, in many contexts, the Global Fund’s achievements remain significantly constrained by limited national commitment, investment and scale-up of rights and evidence-based programming for gender equality and key populations. This fundamental barrier is exacerbated by further process and policy challenges, such as relating to:

- Limitations to data concerning access to healthcare for vulnerable populations,
- Little attention to these issues in grant implementation,
- Variable quality of representation of key populations in decision-making processes,
- Limited civil society capacity for funding.”²

Efforts must therefore be sustained and scaled up to eliminate the obstacles that prevent access to healthcare in the broadest sense, ranging from prevention, testing, care and treatment, with a view to providing populations with the means to take responsibility for their health.

The challenge represented by access to healthcare for vulnerable populations continues to be closely linked to the many barriers they face, which may be geographical, financial, sociocultural or gender-related. Those barriers, which are common to most of the countries where the 5% Initiative is active, place the most vulnerable individuals in a situation where they do not have equal access to healthcare.

In addition, the issue of human rights is closely linked to the challenge of access to prevention, testing and treatment. Repressive policies against vulnerable groups (men who have sex with men, drug users, sex workers, etc.) lead many to keep their distance from health centres.

Moreover, gender-related inequality is particularly relevant for access to healthcare and increased social vulnerability with regard to the three pandemics. In order to propose strategies for relevant action, consideration for gender specificities is of key importance. Those specificities also apply to key populations, which are not homogeneous groups.

It is in this context that the Global Fund strategy for 2017-2022³ devotes one of its four pillars to the promotion and protection of human rights and gender equality. It lays down five operational objectives intended as a practical response aimed at reducing the barriers connected with violation of human rights and at increasing take-up of services by vulnerable populations, as well as retention of the latter in treatment:

- Scale-up programs to support women and girls, including programs to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Invest to reduce health inequities including gender- and age-related disparities

¹ Gender Equality and Key Populations: Results, Gaps and Lessons from the Implementation of Strategies and Action Plans. July 2016, Geneva.

² *Op. cit*

³ The Global Fund strategy 2017-2022, Investing to end epidemics.

- Introduce and scale-up programs that remove human rights barriers to accessing HIV, TB and malaria services.
- Integrate human rights considerations throughout the grant cycle and in policies and policy-making processes
- Support meaningful engagement of key and vulnerable populations and networks in Global Fund-related processes

Projects submitted must show how they will complement activities funded by catalyst investments in the recipient countries of these catalyst investment.

2. Mainstreaming gender equality

Promoting equality between women and men is at the top of the French international development agenda. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development recently adopted the 3rd International Strategy for Gender Equality (2018-2022) ⁴; it makes equality between women and men an ethical and political duty, not only an objective across the French development policy, but also a strategy applied throughout France's external action. 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 CSOs and increase France's contributions to international organizations that champion gender equality »; “Improve gender-responsive budgeting ».

Gender equality is also one of the four strategic objectives of the Global Fund 2017-2022 strategy: “Promote and Protect Human Rights and Gender Equality⁵.”

Therefore, and in line with the approach adopted by Expertise France and the 5% Initiative, mainstreaming gender is a priority in the present call for proposals.

⁴ France's international strategy on gender equality (2018–2022), Directorate-General for Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development, 2018.

⁵ See also : https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/1250/core_genderequality_strategy_en.pdf