

Annex 1

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CONTEXT OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS AP-5PC-2019-01
“HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING AT ALL LEVELS (NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVELS).”**

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 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.”

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

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

The 5% 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”.

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 beyond³”.

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

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

³ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/4790/core_communitysystems_technicalbrief_en.pdf, The Global Fund, 2016.

Health system strengthening at all levels has also been one of the main priorities of the 5% Initiative since its creation, in line with France's position in favour of a holistic approach to health⁴. 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 of Foreign Affairs and International Development recently adopted the 3rd International Strategy for Gender Equality (2018-2022) ⁵; 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 Equality⁶.”

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 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

⁵ France's international strategy on gender equality (2018–2022), Directorate-General for Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development, 2018.

⁶ See also : https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/1250/core_genderequality_strategy_en.pdf