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## Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) Funding Request Form

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**Date Created:** 6 April 2021  
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### Summary Information

<b>Country (or multicountry)</b>	NEPAL		
<b>Principal Recipient(s), grant name(s) and Implementation Period(s)</b>	PR: Save the Children International 1 May 2021- 31 Dec 2023		
<b>Planned start and end dates of the C19RM activities by grant</b>	1 May 2021- 31 Dec 2023		
<b>Currency</b>	USD		
<b>C19RM Base Allocation amount</b>	<b>Submission type</b>	<b>Amount (US\$/EUR)</b>	<b>Submission date</b>
	C19RM Fast-track Funding Request	USD 5,098,263.	30 April 2021
	C19RM Full Funding Request	USD	
	<b>Total:</b>	USD	
<b>C19RM Above Base Allocation amount</b>	<b>Submission type</b>	<b>Amount (US\$/EUR)</b>	<b>Submission date</b>
	C19RM Full Funding Request	USD	
	<b>Total:</b>	USD	

# Section 1. C19RM Fast-track Funding Request (PPE, diagnostics and therapeutics and costs relating to the effective deployment of such health products, including technical assistance)

## 1.1 Funding priorities

- 1.1.1. Provide a brief rationale for the proposed key interventions and activities.
  - a. Confirm that Global Fund investments are consistent with C19RM Technical Information Notes and Guidelines and applicable WHO guidance (including on COVID-19), and support and align with the intervention categories (i.e. Pillars) within the National Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 (NSPRP).
  - b. Indicate the extent to which the national COVID-19 response coordinating bodies, HIV, TB and malaria programs, central medical stores (or equivalent), and laboratory programs were consulted to ensure consistency of the C19RM Fast-track Funding Request with the NSPRP and updated operational and financial gaps, needs and priorities.

### Brief Rationale

Nepal succeeded in slowing down spread of COVID-19 in the first five months of 2020. After the initial restrictions were relaxed, the country saw a delayed first surge of COVID-19 from August through December which coincided with the local festival season.

The number of new cases started declining in December 2020 and remained under 200 per day between February 1st and April 6th, 2021. Immunization against SARS CoV-2 is in progress and approximately two million people have received at least one dose of vaccine against COVID-19 which includes the frontline workers and over 65 age group. While the second dose of vaccines are currently being administered to the frontline workers, the majority of Nepal's 30 million population remains unimmunized.

As the cases in neighboring countries have skyrocketed, cases in Nepal are also rapidly escalating. As of April 23rd, 2021, Nepal had recorded over 294,000 PCR positive cases of COVID-19 and over 3100 deaths (Source: MoHP<sup>1</sup>). A new variant of SARS CoV-2, B.1.1.7 (UK variant), which is known to be more transmissible, has been reported in the western provinces of Nepal (Source: EDCD<sup>2</sup>). As the country is struggling to prevent and control transmission of the virus without enforcing extreme measures which may cause economic and social disruptions, it is also preparing to face the massive surge of cases requiring diagnostics, hospitalization and therapeutic interventions. The census in the hospitals and intensive care units are increasing daily. The country's stockpiles of necessary supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), diagnostic kits and reagents, necessary therapeutics and oxygen are rapidly being consumed. Nepal currently has an estimated 60-day stockpile which may not last for expected duration with a rapid surge in cases. The WHO and MoHP have projected 231,000 new cases of COVID-19 in the 6-month period from May to October 2021. Of these, 46,000 (15%) are expected to be hospitalized including 11,500 (5%) critically ill patients requiring ICU beds. Therefore, based on the risk assessments, the lifesaving and essential medical supplies need to be positioned timely at national and subnational levels, to prevent, mitigate, and respond to any surge in caseload to avoid catastrophic human cost in terms of both morbidity and mortality.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions in routine services to the country's HIV, TB and malaria programs. The pandemic has impacted antiretroviral (ART) and other drug delivery services secondary to the lock downs and restrictions in transportation. Similarly, TB screening, testing and treatment services were interrupted or delayed by travel restrictions, lockdowns, and use of GenXpert for COVID-19 testing. Malaria elimination effort has been significantly impacted by the interruption and delayed testing & treatment services. COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns have created impediment for continuing malaria services, case-based investigations, and foci investigations and response.

As per Nepal's COVID-19 Health Sector Rapid Response Plan (Feb-July 2021)<sup>3</sup>, prevention and mitigation of adverse health impacts have been the central focus structured around the following six pillars: immunization against COVID-19, infection prevention and control (IPC), diagnosis and treatment,

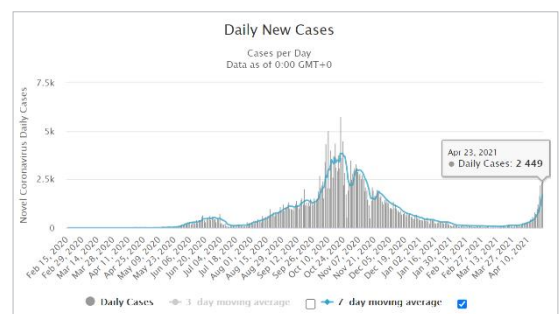


Figure 1. (Source: Worldometer.info)

<sup>1</sup> MoHP Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal

<sup>2</sup> EDCD Epidemiology and Disease Control Division, Nepal

<sup>3</sup> COVID-19 Health Sector Rapid Response Plan (Feb-July 2021), GoN, MoHP

supply management, monitoring and evaluation, and risk and immunization communication. The response plan was prepared in consultation with WHO and other external development partners. The following priority response activities and urgently needed essential health products and services have been identified after multiple meetings with National TB Control Center (NTCC), National Center for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC), Malaria Control Program, Nepal Public Health Laboratory, EDCD, MoHP leadership, WHO, and other stakeholders.

**Table 1. Prioritization of Response Activities, Necessary Health Products and Services**

Priority Response Activities	Urgently Needed Health Products and Services
<b>A. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)</b> - Procure and provide medical supplies and equipment for IPC, including PPE - Case investigation and contact tracing	- PPE: masks (N-95, surgical), gloves, gowns, face shields, goggles - Hand sanitizers
<b>B. Screening and Lab Diagnosis</b> - Identification of COVID-19 infection with RT PCR - community surveillance and case screening with Antigen based tests - Expansion of diagnostic lab capacity	- SARS CoV-2 Antigen test kits - SARS CoV-2 PCR test kits - Viral transport media (VTM)
<b>C. Case Management and Treatment</b> - Inpatient management of COVID-19 patient with severe and life-threatening infection - Ensuring hospital oxygen supply	- PPE: masks (N-95, surgical), gloves, gowns, face shields, goggles - High flow nasal cannula (HFNC) for oxygen delivery - Oxygen cylinders and concentrators
<b>D. Activities to mitigate disruption of TB/HIV/Malaria services</b> - Provision of protective equipment to facilitate service delivery to the patients - Identification of COVID-19 infection in patients with TB/HIV/malaria	- PPE: masks (N-95, surgical), gloves, gowns, face shields, goggles - SARS CoV-2 Antigen test kits - SARS CoV-2 PCR test kits

The above health products necessary for the management of COVID-19 as well as TB/HIV/malaria patients have been grouped into three categories in the attached budget: infection prevention and control (12.6%), testing (40.9%), and therapeutics (46.5%). The requested amount of USD 5 million through this C19RM Fast-Track funding will cover 8.5% of the total estimated budget (USD 59 million) needed for the six-month supply of the three categories of commodities. Resources for rest of the national funding gap are currently being explored and negotiated with the external development partners and domestic partners. Following table (Table 2) summarizes the current estimates of total national needs, current national stocks, and percentage covered by this FT funding request. Details can be found in the C19RM Quantification table submitted with this funding request. The quantification and budget estimates are subject to change with the changing dynamic of the pandemic.

**Table 2. Estimated national needs, stocks, and GF Fast-Track requests**

Commodities	National Need (USD)	National stock of requested items	Partner contribution	GF FT Request (USD)	GF FT coverage of total (%)
PPE for TB, HIV, Malaria programs	1,812,514	Close to stock out	Being explored	542,615	30%
Diagnostics for COVID-19: PCR kits and Ag kits	27,010,002	PCR: 23% of 30 million needed; Ag: 5% of 20 million needed	Being explored	1,758,000	6.5%
Therapeutics: Oxygen and HFNC	19,463,627	HFNC 50% of 760 needed; O2 concentrator 50% of 1520 needed	Being explored	2,000,090	10.3%

## 1.2 Program implementation arrangements

### 1.2.1 Describe the following:

- a. **Implementation Arrangement:** Entities (Principal Recipients, Sub-recipients and other implementing entities) responsible for managing the components requested under the Fast-track Funding Request.
- b. Measures put in place to ensure **efficient program delivery**.
- c. **Health products management:** planned mechanisms for the procurement of COVID-19 health products. Describe entities responsible for forecasting/quantification, procurement, storage and distribution and monitoring of supply availability and delivery of COVID-19-specific health products to beneficiaries and service delivery sites (and clarify if these are different from current service delivery points for HIV, TB and malaria). Please include a summary of any foreseen in-country supply chain risks, including any regulatory barriers.

#### **a. Implementation Arrangement**

Save the Children International (SCI) will serve as the Principal Recipient (PR). SCI has several years of experience in the Global Fund grant management in Nepal for TB, HIV and Malaria programs as well as implementing COVID-19 response related activities since March 2020. SCI will manage the grant through its existing structure with additional human resources who will be primarily responsible for the activities related to the C19RM funding for COVID-19. The PR will work in collaboration and coordination with MoHP, CCM, DoHS, EDCCD, NTCC, NCASC, and malaria program, and in collaboration with technical partners including WHO, to provide programmatic and technical guidance and to support implementation of the grant. A dedicated team at Save the Children USA that manage the Global Fund portfolio of awards will provide assistance with technical and financial management. The Account Management team based at SC US HQ will provide overall coordination and guidance and facilitate linkage with the GF Secretariat. Award Managers will provide oversight of management, compliance and operational aspects of the GF grants, and support start-up and closeout. They will also serve to facilitate and track project technical assistance needs and work with the GF account management Technical Advisors to provide focused technical support. The Technical Advisors are responsible for monitoring technical quality and impact, in collaboration with the PR.

#### **b. Measures to ensure efficient program delivery**

To ensure efficient programme delivery, the PR will set up a competent team of technical and programmatic experts in various areas who will work closely with the concerned agencies of MoHP for procurement and logistics management, monitoring and evaluation, and administration. Emergency procurement team will be formed to track each steps of the procurement process. The team will conduct regular meetings and get updates from the government and stakeholders. The assigned team will support in planning, provision of technical support, quality monitoring and oversight functions. A widespread COVID-19 in neighboring countries is likely to cause shortage of commodities and delay in delivery. The PR will work closely with Nepal Government, MoHP, WHO and other concerned agencies to overcome the situation and to ensure supply from alternative sources.

#### **c. Health products management**

The COVID-19 related forecasting and quantification is done by the MoHP in association with the WHO country team. The PR team will ensure uninterrupted and timely supply by establishing an effective and fast procurement and logistics management system. As per GF's recommendations, Wambo will be utilized for procurement of commodities available through the system. For other commodities, such as oxygen supply, local mechanism of procurement will be utilized. Supervision and assistance will be provided by a procurement expert assigned by the PR. The eLMIS will be used for reporting purpose.

### 1.3 Attachments supporting the C19RM Fast-track Funding Request

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C19RM Funding Request Form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C19RM Consolidated Budget
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quantification or needs assessment for COVID-19 health products (including contribution and projected pipeline from domestic and other sources of funding) (any format suitable to the applicant)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COVID-19 National Testing Strategy, where available
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C19RM Health Products Management Template (HPMT) per grant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CCM Endorsement of the C19RM Fast-track Funding Request
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endorsement of fast-track submission by the national COVID-19 response coordinating body
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 and budget (ideally for 2021)