

No. 086/2021
Dated: June 03, 2021

Dr. Viktor Liashko,
Chair of the National TB and HIV/AIDS Council,
Minister of Health of Ukraine

Dear Dr. Liashko,

In April 2021, similar to a COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) country allocations, the Multicountry EECA TB grant (TB-REP 2.0) has been awarded by the Global Fund a C19RM Allocation of USD 749,846. Given that the TB REP 2.0 implementation ends on December 31, 2021, the implementation of C19RM is to end on the same date.

In view of a very limited funding envelope and tight implementation timeline of less than 6 months, the TB REP 2.0 partners have agreed that it would be better to focus on smaller number of countries in the EECA region that have limited country funding envelopes, no other donors for TB and include a few limited priorities focusing on community-led response for TB mitigation and dual TB/COVID response. The funding request includes a sub-set of TB-REP countries that have limited donor support – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.

We would welcome the opportunity to expand the C19RM allocation to all 11 TB-REP 2.0 project countries, but given the current complex context are forced to prioritize the ones with the greatest needs. In the spirit of equity and solidarity, we hope that you will share our view on the proposed approach.

The table below provides the country choices of priority interventions:

Intervention	Proposed activity	Country
Mitigation for TB programs	Priority 1: Decentralize mobile TB testing to improve access: procurement of Ultralight X-ray machine with computer-aided detection (CAD) technology for community-led TB active case finding activities and AI reader that can be lay-provider operated	ARM AZE MDA
Mitigation for TB programs	Priority 2: Community-led campaign to encourage Codiv-19 vaccination in key and vulnerable populations	ARM GEO
COVID Diagnostics and Testing	Priority 3: Engage community TB outreach platforms for bi-directional screening (making available Sars-Cov Ag rapid tests for those screened positive during TB symptom screening).	ARM AZE GEO
Case management, clinical operations and therapeutics	Priority 4: Engage TB CSO frontline workers in primary differentiated screening of people with TB/COVID in need of immediate medical care (procurement of pulse oximeters).	ARM AZE GEO
Infection prevention and control and protection of the health workforce	Priority 5: Protect community frontline workers (procurement of PPE for the immediate needs of CSO providers and TB KVPs).	GEO

Similar to national C19RM Allocations, the Multicountry C19RM application has received CCM endorsement of the 4 covered countries. After application submission, the C19RM Secretariat requested also endorsement letters from the countries that participate in TB REP 2.0, even if they are not included in the C19RM interventions. The C19RM TB REP 2.0 is to be endorsed by a CCM letter signed by the Chair and Civil Society Representative from your country as well.

In this context, we are seeking a no objection endorsement from CCM Ukraine for the TB-REP multicountry C19RM at your earliest convenience, using the attached template: Annex 1.

Should you have further inquiries, we are happy to provide further details on the email: liliana.caraulan@pas.md or at phone: +373 79 347785.

We appreciate a lot your cooperation with the TB-REP 2.0 Team in this process.

Sincerely,



Stela Bivol

Director