



UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Global Solidarity, Speed and Scale

*

FUND ALLOCATION GUIDELINES

*This document is amended continuously
14 April 2020*

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

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Introduction

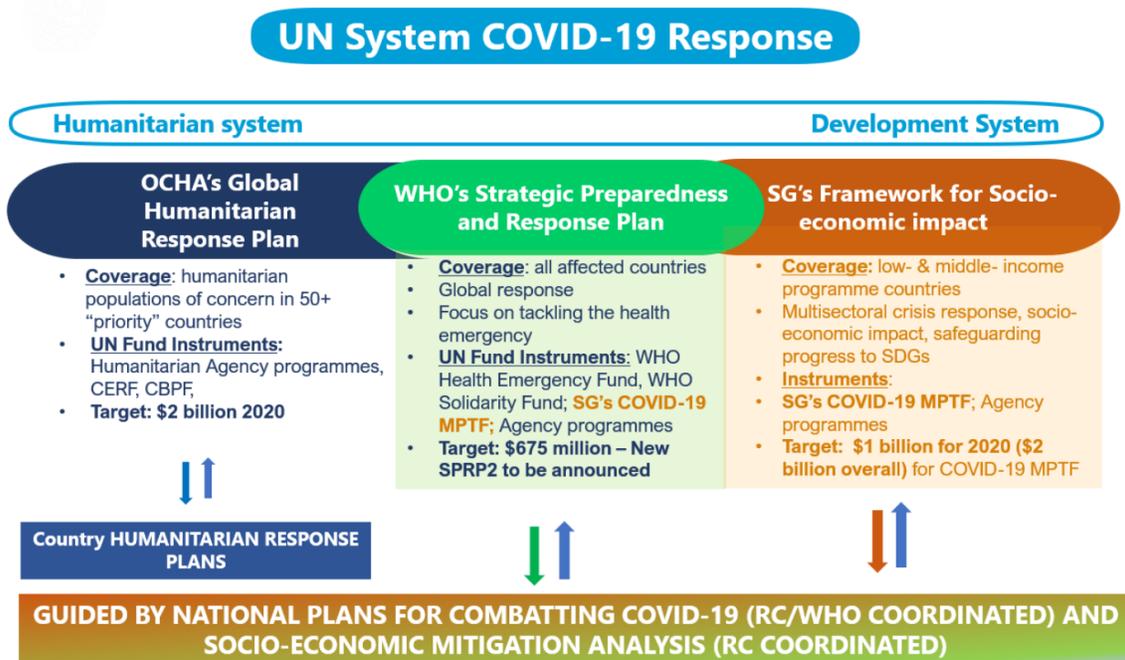
The United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN COVID-19 MPTF or the Fund) gives the Designate of the UN Secretary-General for the COVID-19 MPTF (the Designate), in consultation with the Fund’s Advisory Committee, the ability to allocate funds to priority needs, encourage early donor contributions, and allow for rapid response to unforeseen demands. This fund was launched by the Secretary-General to help scale-up integrated UN support to low- and middle-income programme countries, as they respond to this crisis and recover from its socio-economic shocks. It is designed as a humanitarian to development nexus fund.

These Guidelines describe the types of and processes for UN COVID-19 MPTF allocation rounds, which will leverage existing UN coordination and response mechanisms. They detail the roles and responsibilities of the UN Country Teams (UNCT) under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators (RC) with all stakeholders and they provide clarification and instructions for all allocation process steps and requirements so as to enhance timely and strategic allocation decisions.

Legal documents underpinning the Fund operation are:

- Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Nations
- MOU with Recipient UN Organizations (RUNO or RO)
- Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) with donors; the SAAs will be concluded with global level- and country level- partners.

Linkages to major COVID-19 Response Frameworks



Innovation and Collaboration

The Joint Pipeline Development Platform

The Fund's allocation cycles will be supported by the Joint Pipeline Development Platform (JPDP) which will be available soon, an innovative system that supports multi-stakeholder collaboration on project development, funding and implementation. It is housed on the MPTF Office GATEWAY. Set for launch in early May April 2020, the beta version of the JPDP will offer UN Resident Coordinators and their selected partners a cloud-based system to collaboratively shape proposals and submit them for approval for UN COVID-19 MPTF funding.

The JPDP will link the programmatic and donor communities, providing:

- An on-line platform for programme co-design that can be used to develop ideas, foster problem-solving and innovation, and reduce duplication;
- An SDG enabled programming tool through which results-based management can be linked to 2030 Agenda indicators and outcomes; and
- A pipeline of high-quality, implementable and fundable projects that can be used to attract donor support.

The JPDP will reduce the opportunity costs of addressing needs by linking the call side of proposals with high priority, vetted, and feasible projects likely to attract resources and spur additional action. The JPDP will be accessible through the Gateway <http://mptf.undp.org/>.

Modalities

Given the scale and pace of the pandemic, programming will be rapid and short-term, characterized by frequent (three month) tranche releases and tightly managed liquidity. Such an approach will attract new resources that grow the project pipeline and assure that money is put where the UN system can use it to quickly deliver.

To meet unparalleled needs in an unprecedented environment, the Fund will adopt over-programming as a mode of operation. This means provisionally programming above and beyond the cash in the Fund account, to assure that when resources are received they are rapidly put to work and programmes can deliver results as fast as possible.

Three Windows of Finance

The Fund's Three Windows of Finance

Window 1: Finances governments and communities to suppress COVID-19 transmission. It provides low- and middle-income countries with access to quality treatment, IPC and prevention measures through multi-sectorial aid. **Under Window 1, programming aims to:**

- Support countries to fully implement their National Plans for Combating COVID-19, helping them to close critical gaps, for example, pertaining to limiting transmission, the acquisition of essential equipment and supplies, scaling up country preparedness and response operations, and the payment of salaries and incentives to their healthcare and social workforce; and
- Assist non-health ministries and government agencies (such as ministries of education, agriculture, women's empowerment, transport, interior, labour, social welfare, and public services), along with local governments, to maintain situation rooms and to provide critical services interrupted by COVID-19.

Window 2: Mitigates the socio-economic impact and safeguards people and their livelihoods through support for social protection mechanisms. It aims to ensure that the burden of response and recovery are not disproportionately carried by the most vulnerable. **Under Window 2, programming aims to:**

- Enhance social protection mechanisms through immediate impact measures; scale-up cash transfers, insurance, food security, asset creation, and safety nets; and relieve the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 on women and children;
- Meet children's food and educational needs through school meal programmes and access to learning; and
- Promote digital innovations that boost employment, support livelihoods, and improve the provision of social services in line with COVID-19 response measures.

Window 3 on Recover Better ensures the achievement of SDG targets by 2030, despite the current and future shocks. **Under Window 3, programming aims to:**

- Strengthen and test national preparedness measures inclusive of integrated disease surveillance and response, community-based surveillance, maintenance of key services; healthcare and social worker workforce readiness, laboratory capacity; public procurement protocols and logistics; clear and targeted communications; and national plans that include dedicated budget lines for funding preparedness; cross-border collaboration;
- Invest in effective and innovative delivery of public services to achieve sustainable and inclusive economies that leave no-one behind and safeguard country SDG programmes from COVID-19-related setbacks; and
- Ensure that new investments done as part of the response to COVID are helping advance the SDGs and climate commitments.

Call for Proposal Cycle

It is estimated that 90% of the Fund's 2020 volume will be allocated in three cycles. The remaining 10% will be allocated off-cycle. There will be **six Calls for Proposals made over the course of two years**. They will adhere to the schedule below, which will be amended as necessary in line with needs and as the pandemic evolves.

For urgent needs, the Fund will adopt the Fast-Track Approach, enabling 48-hour approval of projects on a no-objection basis for up to USD \$500,000.

2020 Calls for Proposals

2020 (Call 1): First Call

The first round of allocations (First Call) will stimulate joint UN action related to: the direct mitigation of socio-economic impacts of the pandemic with focus on the vulnerable and COVID-19 responder groups; and health sector related investment gaps not covered by UN development agency programming resources.

Programmes will receive **Window I and Window II allocations**, and could be supplemented with country earmarked resources, as appropriate.

Funded interventions will build a pipeline of programmes that upscale proven methodologies and adapt them to COVID-19 circumstances, while also supporting the adoption of new technologies and innovations that can simultaneously advance coping and recovery. They will leverage the organized use of data and artificial intelligence (AI) in global projects that can service multiple countries and entities, including governments, based on economies of scale and rapid prototyping of possible innovative solutions.

This call will prioritize the least developed countries (LDCs) not covered in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Global Humanitarian Response Plan¹, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and middle-income countries heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, targeted initial grants to UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) in selected countries (up to USD \$50,000 each over the next three months) will be allocated to cover feasibility and finance studies of potential Fund investments in the affected country.

2020 (Call 2): Short Cycle of Socio-Economic Impact Mitigation

Because the COVID-19-related health and development crises are occurring simultaneously, this Call for Proposals will fall within **Window 1 and Window 2**, if new resources are available, and Window 3, complemented by country resources.

¹ see <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/952/summary>

Funded interventions will be data-driven and innovative approaches that protect progress towards the SDGs. They will support activities to mitigate socio-economic impacts and safeguard people and their livelihoods. Proposals and programmes will resource social protection mechanisms meant to help prevent people directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic from falling into or farther into poverty. It will aim to ensure that the burden of response and recovery are not disproportionately carried by the most vulnerable.

2020 (Call 3): Sustainable Pathways out of Recession

Proposals in this Call will offer sustainable pathways out of recession for people, communities and local businesses hard hit by the pandemic and the efforts to contain it.

2021 Calls for Proposals

2021 (Call 4) Extending the Safety Net

This call for proposals will further focus on mitigating the social and economic crises caused by COVID-19. Proposals will mainly fall under Window 2 of the Fund, as described above. Further details on this call will be developed in view of the evolution of needs as a result of the pandemic

2021 (Call 5) Building Resilience: Build back better

Further details on this call will be developed in view of the evolution of needs as a result of the pandemic.

2022 Calls for Proposals

2022 (Call 6) Leveraging the Joint SDG Pipeline

This final call for proposals, which will fall largely under Window 3, will create a pipeline of programmes and projects to feed into the Joint SDG Fund. Remaining funds will be allocated against the Joint SDG Fund Pipeline, confirmed by the SDG Joint Fund Technical Committee. Funds will be technically moved to the Joint SDG Fund and managed from there.

Window 3 focuses on aiding resilience and recovery and it aims to ensure the achievement of SDG targets by 2030, despite the current and future shocks.

Off-Cycle Proposals

In addition to the planned calls for proposals the SG Designate could make off-cycle calls for proposals, if funding becomes available.

Fund Completion

Operational and Financial Closing of Fund: Non-performing projects will be closed, and funds will be transferred to the Joint SDG Fund general Window. Performing projects will run their course with no project extensions.

Joint Evaluation: This will be organized relying on the Advisory Group entity Evaluation Units and through the System Widen evaluation office. Member States are invited to organize a MOPAN-like evaluation exercise. Both should focus on lessons learned and the UN system’s ability to address multi-dimensional COVID-19 response and recovery challenges and to establish SDG-based recovery pathways.

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Earmarking

Systems Considerations

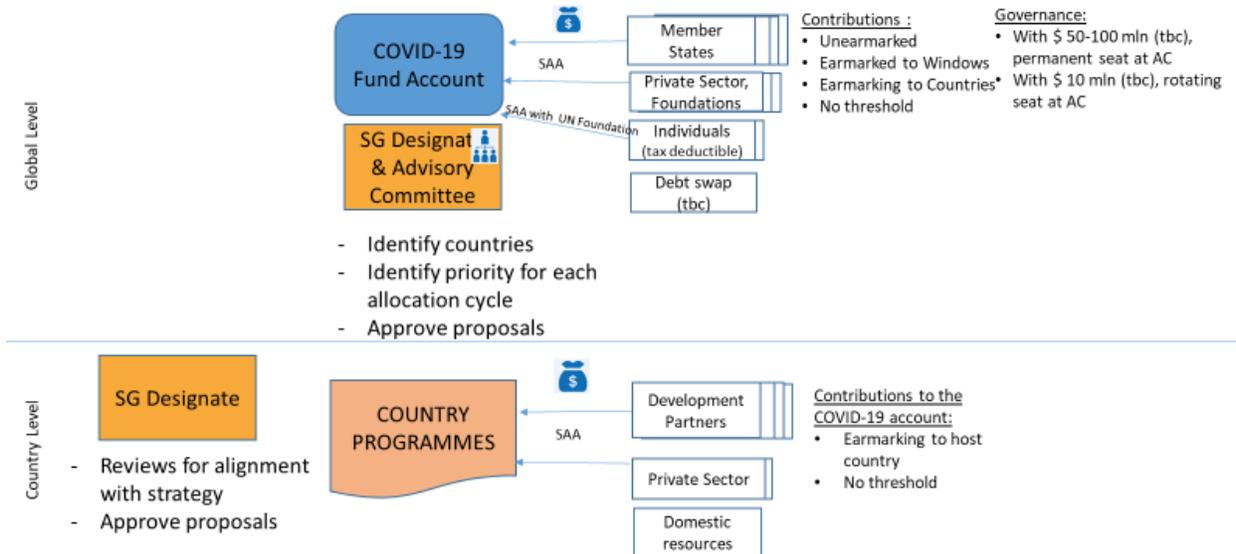
The Proposal Approval Cycle will cover:

- (a) Unearmarked Allocations;
- (b) Earmarked Allocations to Windows;
- (c) Earmarked allocations to Country/ies; and
- (d) Earmarked allocation to Country and Window.

INCOME (contribution agreement signed as per type)	Type A: Global Unearmarked	
	Type B: Global Earmarked to Window	
	Type C: Earmarked to Country	
	Type D: Earmarked to Country and Window	
ALLOCATION	Primary Channel – submission to the COVID-19 Joint Pipeline Development Platform	Funding will be channeled to Recipient UN Organizations of approved programmes
	Exceptional Channel – Existing Country-Level MPTFs	Funding will be channeled to the existing MPTF
EXPENDITURES	Each approved programme will report to the Fund	Each Recipient UN Organization will provide narrative and financial reports, using existing systems for MPTF reporting
	Existing Country-Level MPTF will report to the COVID-19 MPTF for the specific approved programme	The existing MPTF will submit the report to the COVID-19 MPTF or the funded programme

*The Fund will include process economic considerations in order to avoid burdening UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators with cost of programming pipeline that never is funded and hence avoid stranding legitimate effort of both governments, civil society and the UN to formulate bankable projects and activities.

Global Allocation and Country-level Earmarking – Contributions and Approvals



The Fund seeks to achieve substantial impacts, and therefore it encourages proposals at a commensurate scale.

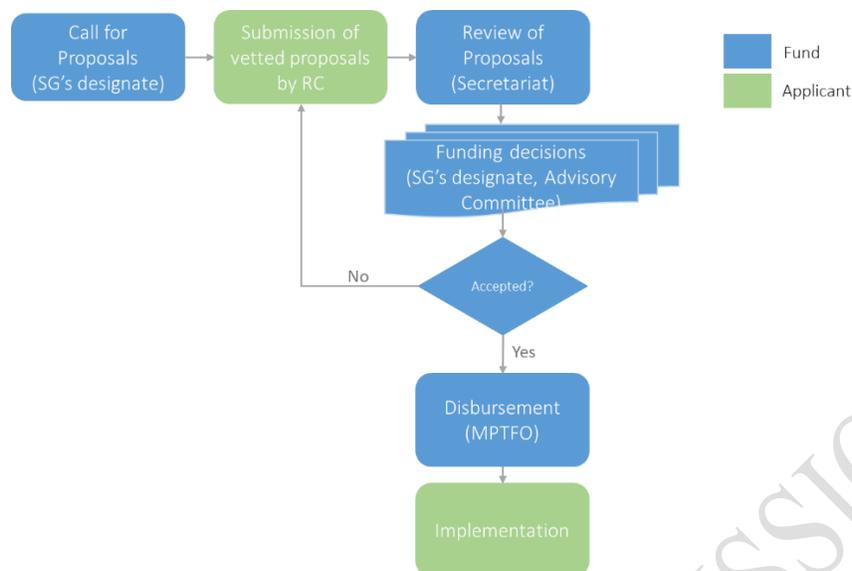
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Programming Cycle

Steps	Roles and Responsibilities	Actions	Deadline
Step 1	Resident Coordinators of selected countries are informed of the selection of their country and are invited to submit a joint proposal(s)	The Secretary-General's Designate, supported by the Advisory Committee, announces the selected countries.	
Step 2	Development of proposal at the country level in consultation with stakeholders	<p>Resident Coordinators of the selected countries are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet with UNCT members, including NRAs, to discuss the scope of needs and the good response to the priority needs, and the COVID-19 MPTF programming roadmap; • meet with key government stakeholders and civil society; coordinate with the existing COVID-19 national coordination structure, if exists; • leverage the National Plans for Combating COVID-19 (as applicable) and socio-economic mitigation analysis; use existing analysis and tools, e.g. Common Country Assessment, • develop a COVID-19 MPTF country strategy and most relevant priorities and COVID-19 MPTF Framework for Call 1 (Annex III); define which Fund Window the proposal aligns with¹; • identify up to four relevant Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs) that are best placed to deliver on the COVID-19 MPTF proposal, inclusive of but not limited to the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical expertise ▪ Capacities in-country ▪ Ability to up-scale solutions ▪ Past, ongoing and planned programmes addressing the solution proposed ▪ Cost effectiveness of interventions ▪ Maximum the number of project beneficiaries 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convene a proposal drafting process – use Standard Proposal Template (Annex 2). 	
Step 3	Submission of the finalized proposal to the SG’s Designate	The Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UNCT submits the proposal(s) by email as an attachment to Olga Aleshina olga.aleshina@undp.org and Piyoo Kochar kochar@unfpa.org	
Step 4	Review of proposals received	<p>Advisory Committee will review proposals within 5 days and provide written feedback to the Designate</p> <p>Secretariat, in parallel, will review the proposals and provide their assessment to the Designate.</p>	
Step 5	Resident Coordinators informed of proposal decisions	<p>-The selected proposals will be approved by the Designate for funding following the Advisory Committee and Secretariat feedback.</p> <p>-The Resident Coordinator will be immediately informed of this approval.</p> <p>- <i>If a proposal is approved with conditions, the Resident Coordinator and RUNOs will be requested to revise and resubmit the proposal in 5 days, taking into account the comments received.</i></p> <p>- <i>If a proposal is rejected, the UN Resident Coordinator can re-apply considering the feedback provided by the Designate</i></p>	
Step 6	Disbursement of resources by Administrative Agent	<p>The Designate will advise the Administrative Agent to disburse the authorized amount to RUNOs, including US\$ 50,000 to the UN Resident Coordinators which should be administered by one of RUNOs, as applicable.</p> <p>The request to transfer funds will be signed by the Designate [and include all relevant documentation] to enable a disbursement. The Administrative Agent will disburse the authorized amounts to RUNOs within 72 hours of receiving all the required documentation and instructions from the Designate.</p>	

UN COVID-19 MPTF Proposal Approval Cycle – Global Unearmarked Allocation and Global Earmarked Allocations to Windows



Where the country-based Multi-Partner Trust Funds, administered by the Administrative Agent, exist the in-country fund governance structures and management arrangement, led by the UN Resident Coordinators, could be used for proposal vetting, prioritization and monitoring.

Proposal Approval Cycle for Country Earmarking and Country/Window Earmarking

Donors that wish to contribute to actions that leverage the full power of the UN system to a particular country or particular Window in that Country can do so through this Fund. This will take the form of projects approved under the mechanisms of the Fund so as to ensure coherence and a coordinated UN system response.

In case of the country level contributor's **earmarking to a specific country and a specific country's window**, the UN Resident Coordinator will request the relevant Recipient UN Organizations to submit project/programme proposals. This process will be outside of the central allocation process for unearmarked contributions. The Designate of the Secretary-General for the COVID-19 MPTF will review the country earmarked proposal to ensure it is aligned with the Fund's scope and strategy and approve it for fund disbursement, in line with the earmarked funding received.

ⁱ For reporting purposes, the financial architecture of the fund is split by window. If you are submitting proposals addressing different Windows, please submit a separate proposal by Window and ensure that the overall country cap is respected.