

Meeting Report

CRSPC Mock TRP Workshop to Review Global Fund

Malaria Funding Applications, Grant Cycle 7

19-21 July 2023

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Background

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria, through its Country and Regional Support Partner Committee (CRSPC) convened in collaboration with the Global Fund a Mock Technical Review Panel (TRP), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 19-21 July 2023 for countries submitting their Global Fund Funding request during Window 3. The workshop was held at the Getfam Hotel. The Mock TRP allowed countries comprehensive peer review of GF malaria funding applications as well as reviews by recognized experts facilitating the finalization of the application prior to submission to the Global Fund. The purpose of the workshop was to support countries to develop and submit high quality malaria applications to the Global Fund during the Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) period.

Workshop Objectives

The main goal of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for countries to conduct a comprehensive peer review of their GF malaria funding applications, with support from recognized experts, to ensure the finalization of the application prior to submission to the Global Fund. The workshop was aimed at countries that will submit their malaria funding applications to the Global Fund by 21 August 2023.

- to conduct both an expert and peer review of Global Fund malaria funding applications from participating countries;
- to increase participant's awareness of what constitutes a good funding application;
- to identify countries that will require additional support to finalize their application;
- to outline the next steps needed to address comments on each country's application and finalize it; and

- to develop an RBM CRSPC strategy (as needed) for providing additional urgent support to countries in the remaining period prior to application submission.

Methodology

The workshop was held for 3 days, during which different agenda items were presented (Annex 1). A brief update was presented by the Global Fund team, CRSPC and WHO. Countries were divided into groups of two to three countries. There was an initial plenary session during which the groups were oriented on what would take place during the workshop, to introduce the reviewers guide and to distribute copies of the funding applications. Countries then meet in their groups to review other country funding applications, discuss the applications and provide feedback to each country. A group of experts reviewed key sections of the funding applications independently. Countries then prepare a plan for addressing comments brought up in various sections.

Workshop Participants

Workshop participants included representatives from 12 malaria-endemic countries in Africa, and Asia Pacific, such as Malaria Programme Managers, M&E Officers, Global Fund focal personnel, CCM's, and local partners. Additionally, the workshop was attended by RBM Secretariat, Global Fund Secretariat, RBM consultants, WHO including NPOs from some of the invited countries, PMI Advisors, Implementation Partners, PRs and other partners. The event was held in a hybrid format, with 92 participants attending in-person and almost 13 participating virtually. (Annex 3).

Workshop Outcomes

- Countries received recommendations for improving funding applications
- Countries received strategies for addressing reviewer comments and finalizing each application
- RBM-CRSPC outlined mechanisms for rapid response strategy to address urgent country support needs prior to application submission.
- Participants evaluated and viewed the workshop as highly successful.

Workshop Evaluation

At the end of the workshop, the participants provided feedback on the logistics as well as the technical aspects of the workshop. The post-workshop evaluation revealed a high satisfaction rate among all participants and partners, indicating that the workshop will significantly improve their GF funding requests (Annex 2).

Lessons Learnt

- The pre-workshop planning activities such as communications to the participants, travel and venue arrangements given the high number of participants, made it easy to control and direct the proceedings/events during the meeting.
- Interruption of internet connectivity was a major challenge for the effectiveness of the meeting.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The conclusion is that the workshop was well organized and went well as confirmed by the participants evaluation. Overall the meeting was successfully held with a good turnout from all the countries invited except Sudan.

Annexes

Agenda for the Mock TRP Workshop, 19-21 July 2023, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible
Day 1	Wednesday 19 July	
8:00	Arrival, Registration, Printing and copying of Funding applications	RBM Secretariat
8:45	Opening remarks Opening remarks Opening remarks Official opening and welcoming	Dr Michael Charles CEO RBM Global Fund Representative WHO Representative, Ethiopia H.E Minister of Health, Ethiopia
09:00	Introductions of participating countries and Partners, Workshop Objectives, Review of Agenda of the workshop	Melanie Renshaw
09:10	Global Fund - overview of the GC 7 application process – key reminders	GF team
09:40	Review of key issues for funding applications CRSPC	Melanie Renshaw
10:00-10:30	Coffee Beak and Group Photo	
10:30	WHO Technical updates including Malaria Surveillance	WHO
11:30	Grouping of countries, Application distribution, Presentation on self assessment tools Discussion of review process	Melanie and Peter
12:00	Group work: self assessment review of GF funding applications	Countries and Facilitators
13:30-14:30	Lunch	
14:30	Group work: self assessment review of GF funding applications	Countries and Facilitators
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00	Group work: review of GF funding applications	Countries and Facilitators
18:00-19:00	Facilitators Workshop	All Facilitators
Day 2	Thursday 20 July	
08:30	Feedback Group 1	Countries and Facilitators
10:00-20:	Coffee Break	

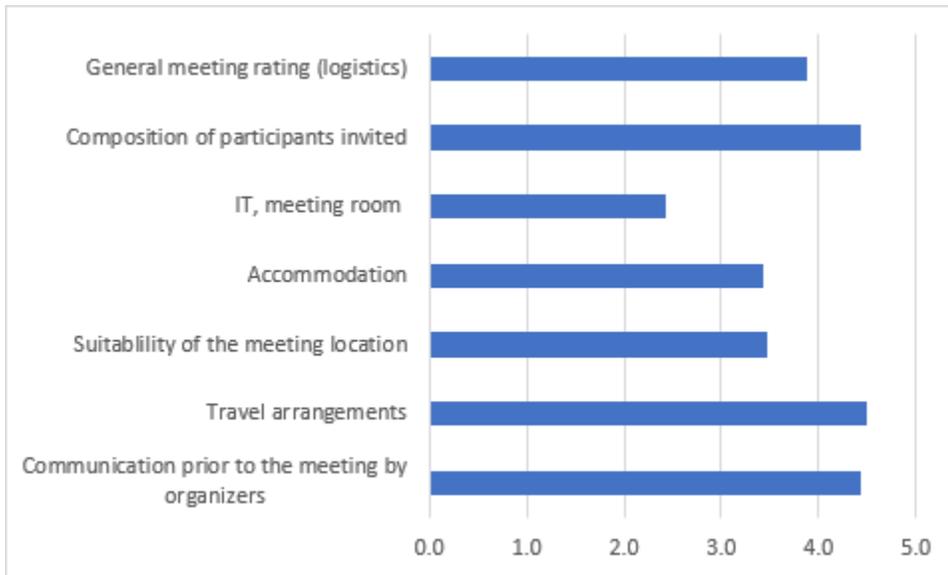
10:20	Feedback Group 1	Countries and Facilitators
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:30	Feedback Group 2	Countries and Facilitators
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00	Feedback Group 2	Countries and Facilitators
18:00	Facilitators Workshop	All Facilitators
Day 3	Friday 21 July	
8:30	Plenary feedback – outstanding issues and clarifications	Facilitators and countries, Peter Olumese
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00	Plenary feedback – outstanding issues and clarifications including timelines for finalization of funding applications including identification of additional support requirements	Facilitators and countries, Peter Olumese
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00	Continued group work and follow on discussions with facilitators	Countries and Facilitators
16:00	Coffee Break	
16:20-17:30	Continued group work and follow on discussions with facilitators	Countries and Facilitators

Annex 2: Workshop Evaluation

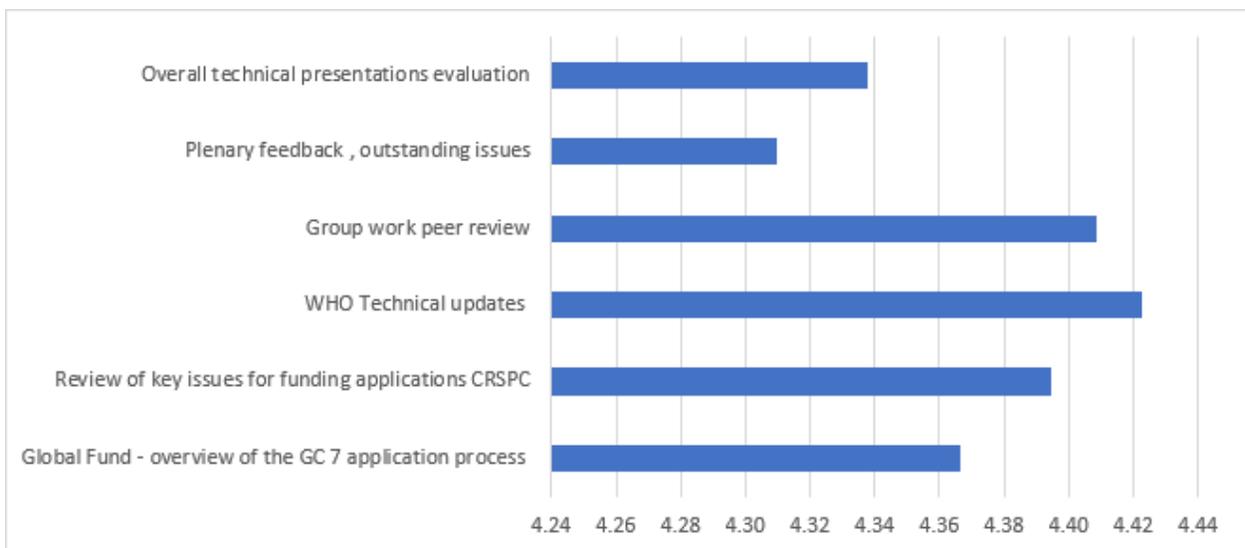
The post-meeting technical evaluation was very well rated across the board with all technical components of the workshop rated above good. The vast majority of respondents expressed that the workshop had a significant positive impact on their GF funding requests, leading to notable improvements.

Please find below the evaluation results from the Mock TRP. (note that 1 is poor, with 5 excellent).

Logistics



Technical Meeting content



The technical meeting was very well rated across the board with all components of the workshop rated above good.

Some additional feedbacks provided includes:

- I found the peer review groups very fulfilling and commend the CRSPC for this innovative process. It is no surprise that all the malaria Funding requests for countries attending the mock TRPs were successful
- Excellent mock TRP - consistent with the usual high standard
- Maintain the Mock TRP!
- Keep it up supporting the programmes
- I like the support RBM is extending to countries
- This is a very valuable process giving guidance and building confidence to country writing teams
- Looking forward to more fruitful Mock TRPs

- Great process, very informative

There were some requests for the workshop to be longer – by at least another day. Some of the responders for countries that were in mixed language groups highlighted that they would have preferred groups of the same language.

Finally, 95% of the responders said that the mock TRP improved the quality of the funding request.

Annex 3: List of participants

Link to the list can be found here

[List of Participants - Mock TRP 3, July 2023](#)