

Gender equality is central to UNDP's mission of eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind. It is of particular importance to UNDP's HIV, Health and Development Team given that gender inequality and gender-based violence are strong drivers of poor health and development outcomes, particularly for women and adolescent girls. In line with this strategic priority, UNDP commissioned a gender scan to analyse its progress in implementing gender-responsive interventions in health programmes financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) with a view to identifying successes and challenges, and opportunities to strengthen our programming. The project was undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) and the aim was to provide recommendations to help UNDP Country Offices (CO) support countries and partners at the country level in implementing gender-responsive national HIV, TB and malaria programmes. Those were captured in a report entitled *Gender Scan of UNDP HIV, TB and Malaria Programmes Funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Gender Scan)*, and annexed case studies delving into specific country contexts.

The report highlights UNDP's comparative advantage in its capacity to leverage broader areas of expertise and organizational strengths to address underlying causes of gender inequality, women's rights and social and economic empowerment. UNDP's expertise on legal and policy frameworks can be leveraged to respond to the multidimensional nature of gender inequality and how it is both a cause and consequence of other aspects of development, such as poverty, socio-economic status, education, and access to health and other basic services within countries. Building on this, UNDP is developing operational guidance to undertake gender-responsive programming across all stages of the Global Fund grant life cycle, including context-based gender analysis to inform programme design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The guidance will be practical and profile examples of gender-responsive programming across different country contexts to facilitate CO-to-CO learning exchange and the adoption of good practices. This guidance will be disseminated to COs and will be incorporated into the [UNDP-Global Fund and Health Implementation Guidance Manual](#).

The scan was completed in 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic which continues to exert devastating effects and exacerbates inequalities worldwide. Since the start of the pandemic, in 2020 the Global Fund has mobilized approximately \$1 billion to support COVID-19 country responses through its COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM); and in 2021, an additional \$3.8 billion was made available for the C19RM. The report provided guiding points to ensure that the COVID-19 response measures were designed, implemented and evaluated in a gender-responsive manner. The Global Fund requires applicants for C19RM funding to detail how they will address gender and human rights issues in their COVID-19 responses. UNDP developed and disseminated a guidance note to support the adoption of a gender and human rights-based approach to COVID-19 programming in C19RM applications, in line with Global Fund guidelines and requirements.

All guidance materials produced drawing on the Gender Scan will be shared with the Global Fund to inform broader Global Fund gender-responsive programming beyond the grants managed by UNDP.