



Summary of Key differences between COE & ASP

CHALLENGING OPERATING ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD POLICY

OBJECTIVES

- The COE Policy provides operational guidance including flexibilities for Country Teams to manage COE portfolios in an agile and timely manner, within the principles defined in the approved COE policy.
- COE Policy was approved by the Global Fund Board in 2016

- The ASP is an important risk management tool of the Global Fund.
- ASP was approved by the Global Fund Board in 2004.
- ASP provides a number of safeguards available to the Global Fund in order to mitigate identified risks in specific contexts.

RATIONALE

- COEs are countries or unstable parts of countries or regions, characterized by weak governance, poor access to health services, limited capacity and fragility due to man-made or natural crises.
- COEs may be experiencing either acute or chronic instability which will be considered in tailoring the country approach.
- COE Policy aims to increase effectiveness and coverage of the Global Fund investments in COEs and maximize efficiency in existing and new partnerships.

- The ASP is applied when significant risks are identified in the overall portfolio or in relation to a specific disease program that compel the Global Fund to take the primary role in prescribing and deciding on implementation arrangements for a particular portfolio or disease component.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- A differentiated approach is needed to increase the impact of Global Fund investments in COEs, as COE portfolios often face heightened programmatic and implementation challenges.
- There are internal approval processes for COE Country Teams to access flexibilities under COE Policy. Rationale for application of certain flexibilities need to be consistent with core COE policy principles i.e., flexibility, partnership and innovation.
- Flexibilities enhance responsiveness and timeliness of Global Fund investments, reduce administrative burden for partners, and facilitate more effective service delivery to populations in need.
- Partnerships in COEs are essential to strengthen in-country governance, enhance service delivery, and improve technical assistance.
- Areas of innovations include, among others, partnership arrangements and service delivery mechanisms.

The ASP can be applied at any stage of the grant life cycle:

- When there are significant portfolio or disease-specific risks that compel the Global Fund to take the primary role in prescribing and deciding the implementation arrangements for a particular portfolio or disease component.
- In determining specific implementation arrangements under the ASP, the Global Fund may select the Principal Recipient and/or Sub-recipient and other implementing entities.

MONITORING

- Country Teams propose and request COE flexibilities, while ensuring agile and timely management of their COE portfolio consistent with applicable policy.

- As part of the routine operational risk management functions, the Country Team monitors identified risk factors, implementation arrangements, and considers appropriate risk mitigation measures and/or conditions related to ASP.
- As part of the regular ASP monitoring process, the Country Team may propose the revocation of ASP status for a particular portfolio, based on clear evidence that the factors that supported invocation of ASP have been sufficiently addressed and that no additional factors have emerged that would justify continued ASP application.