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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



# Strategic Technical Assistance for Grant Excellence (STAGE)

FAQs

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## What is STAGE?

“STAGE” is a new technical assistance (TA) approach that has been launched by the German Development Cooperation’s (GIZ) Project BACKUP Health (hereunder BACKUP). The aim of STAGE is to work with Global Fund (GF) grant implementers and assist them to address challenges they have identified in managing their GF grants. The new TA approach is based on a modular structure, with each module containing several units. Each unit responds to specific challenges which GF grant implementers may have experienced.

## Who can apply for STAGE?

All Global Fund Principal Recipients (PRs) in countries who are eligible to apply for BACKUP support can apply for STAGE assignments SRs can apply by exception if their PR endorses them and confirms the relevance of their participation. Depending on the country and specific context, the following GF grant-implementing partners may apply if involved directly in grant implementation:

- National program
- Central drug purchasing office (e.g. Central Medical Stores)
- Relevant departments of MoH
- Universities

To enable BACKUP Health to provide support through STAGE to every level of GF implementer, PRs are invited to actively follow up on their SRs’ and sub-sub-recipients’ (SSRs)’ needs in grant management, to identify and group recurring challenges and to apply for combined TA assignments for one or more SRs and SSRs.

## Where does STAGE belong in BACKUPs TA offers?

STAGE is as new and additional TA offer in BACKUP’s “Grant Management” intervention area. Other TA and support in Grant Management but not covered by STAGE can still be conducted as before.

## For how many units can I apply?

There is no strict rule on the number of units in one assignment. Depending on the units selected, it may be one to five units. However, BACKUP Health recommends including no more than four units in one assignment. Applicants may re-apply in future, for additional modules and units, if desired.

## What exactly do the modules and units cover?

In the first round of applications the TA options on offer are in the following 4 categories:



Improving planning and program revision



Managing data challenges



Strengthening financial management



Distribution and Reporting at the Last Mile Level

Detailed information about the four modules and their units is available on our [Website](#).

## Do the units I apply for have to belong to certain modules?

Different units can be selected and combined, regardless of their affiliation to certain modules. The modules are classified under thematic focus areas, which can be helpful in selecting and combining units.

## What is the Process to Apply?

- Applicant submits a one- to two- page Project Outline to [backup@giz.de](mailto:backup@giz.de), which is reviewed by BACKUP
- BACKUP sends applicant the application material, applicant submits signed Application requesting the TA
- Review and refinement of application with BACKUP
- BACKUP prepares selection of facilitators and plans scoping visit with applicant
- Focus visits are conducted, implementing the TA
- Follow-up visits and remote support

## What is a project outline?

A project outline is a project description of not more than one or two pages that the applicant should provide BACKUP before filling out the official application documents for BACKUP Support. Based on that project outline the applicant and BACKUP will develop a tailored TA plan, and a time frame for the facilitator assignment.

A project outline shall contain at least a description of (i) the organisation and its role in the implementation of GF grants, (ii) the challenges faced by the applicant organisation, and (iii) the pre-selected module(s) and the related units - if already identified.

## How long does an assignment take?

The duration of a whole assignment depends on the selected modules and units. Once the Project Outline is received, the preparation phase (including application, review, planning, and start of scoping visit) should take 4-8 weeks. Depending on the scope of the assignment, the focus visit(s) should take place within 8 weeks of the initiation of the assignment, and the follow-up visits between 6 and 12 months after the first focus visit. But this will vary from assignment to assignment, depending on the scope.

## Who will conduct the assignments for BACKUP Health?

The assignments will be conducted by highly experienced facilitators in the area Grant Management who have been specifically trained in STAGE. BACKUP Health attaches great importance to a well-functioning and complementary team composition, so the teams will be carefully composed. The assignments will be conducted in a highly participatory approach – the applicant will be closely involved and participate throughout the assignment.

## What if I want to select more than 4 or 5 Units?

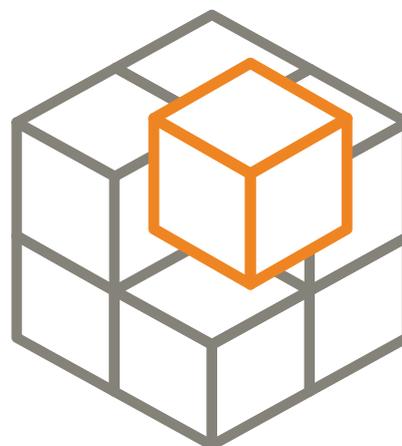
BACKUP suggests not to include too many units in one assignment, but rather to conduct separate assignments, if multiple modules/units are desired. It is possible to apply for more than one STAGE assignment at the same time. BACKUP can support the partner in deciding which Units should be combined in each assignment. The sequence and time schedule for all planned assignments can be developed by the applicant together with BACKUP.

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