



Working with ► **BACKUP**<sub>HEALTH</sub> – **STAGE**

## FAQs

## **Imprint**

### **Published by the**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

### Registered offices

Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

BACKUP Health

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5

65760 Eschborn, Germany

+49 (0)6196 79-1599

backup@giz.de

www.giz.de/backup

### **As at**

October 2020

### **Design**

DIAMOND media GmbH, Neunkirchen-Seelscheid, Germany

### **Photo credits**

© GIZ

### **Text**

Author's given name and family name

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of the

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ);

Division 100 Global health policy and financing

## What is STAGE?

“STAGE” is a medium- to long-term technical assistance approach that has been launched by the German Development Cooperation’s (GIZ) Project BACKUP Health. The aim of STAGE is to strengthen institutions in a country’s health system by combining specific technical assistance with organisational development. For implementers of international financing mechanisms (e.g. GF, GAVI, GFF) this means that both identified challenges in grant management as well as overarching management issues in the organization are addressed. STAGE strengthens health systems by enabling the respective organisations in a highly participatory manner to not only address particular challenges but also develop themselves in a sustainable way. STAGE is based on a modular structure, with each module containing several units that address specific challenges in programme implementation.

## Who can apply for STAGE?

STAGE is available for organisations working in the health system of countries who are eligible to apply for BACKUP support. To reflect on whether the approach is a good fit for your needs, please consult complementing documents or the section on requirements for the STAGE applicant below.

## What is the Process to Apply?

Requesting STAGE support follows a similar approach as requesting BACKUP Health support in general:

- STAGE Applicants submit a one page project outline to [backup@giz.de](mailto:backup@giz.de), which is reviewed by BACKUP
- BACKUP and the STAGE Applicant jointly identify appropriate units and define the STAGE Applicant’s own contributions
- BACKUP sends applicant the application material, STAGE Applicant submits signed application requesting the TA
- Review and refinement of application with BACKUP

## How to choose certain units within a module?

The module list outlines all available units. STAGE Applicants are encouraged to formulate a clear assignment goal based on their TA needs and select appropriate units for achieving it. BACKUP can provide guidance throughout this process to ensure that the envisioned STAGE assignment is fit for purpose. This includes developing the sequence, schedule and STAGE Applicant’s own contribution to the assignment.

## For how many units can I apply?

STAGE Applicants can select up to five units. BACKUP recommends to only select units from one module per assignment. If units from another module are selected, it should be explained how this unit contributes to reaching the overall assignment goal. Applicants may re-apply in the future, for additional modules and units, if desired.

Detailed information about the 8 modules and their units is available on our [Website](#).

## What exactly do the modules and units cover?

The 8 modules offered by STAGE cover units in the following categories:

- ▶ Planning and Programme Revision
- ▶ Managing Data Challenges
- ▶ Strengthening Financial Management
- ▶ Distribution and Reporting at the Last Mile Level
- ▶ Improved availability and maintenance of laboratory commodities and equipment at all levels
- ▶ Guidance for effective PSM at health facility level, including at peripheral levels
- ▶ Planning and support capacity for community-based activities and meaningful community engagement
- ▶ Anchoring core competencies for working with the Global Fund

## What is a project outline?

The project outline is the first step in developing a project with BACKUP. It is a one-page form in which you can provide a short overview of the project you wish to propose.

You can submit the form to [backup@giz.de](mailto:backup@giz.de) or directly to a BACKUP adviser with whom you may already be in contact. A BACKUP adviser will then provide feedback and, if the project appears to be a good fit for BACKUP's objectives, the adviser may then invite you to develop a more detailed project proposal.

## How long does an assignment take and how is it structured?

STAGE assignments typically take 6 to 18 months, depending on the units selected. As each STAGE assignment is specifically tailored to the applicant's needs, their timelines can vary significantly. In general, they consist of the following steps:

- ▶ Preparation and Application (e.g. selecting units, defining STAGE Applicant's contributions)
- ▶ Scoping Visit (1 in-country, 10 days)

Together with the STAGE Applicant, change objectives and focus visits will be planned.

- ▶ Focus Visits (2 in-country, 10 days + 1 remote, 5 days)

STAGE facilitators and STAGE Applicant work together to implement the TA Assignment plan and achieve change objectives. Facilitators will provide additional remote support in between visits.

- ▶ Follow-up Visits (2 in-country, 5 days + 1 remote, 5 days)

Assess the change objective achievement and strengthening the sustainability of the measure.

## Who will conduct the assignments for ► **BACKUP**<sub>HEALTH</sub> ?

The assignments will be conducted by highly experienced facilitators in the areas of Grant Management, Health System Strengthening, General Management and Organizational Development who have been specifically trained for STAGE assignments. BACKUP Health attaches great importance to a well-functioning and complementary team composition, so the teams will be carefully composed of international and national consultants. The assignments will be conducted in a highly participatory manner – the applicant will be closely involved and participate throughout the assignment.

## What are the advantages of STAGE?

### ► **Institutional strengthening in a systems' approach**

STAGE strengthens institutional capacities of organisations working in national health systems. This improves their ability to implement their projects and manage grants, which also allows them to better respond to the multiple expectations that various stakeholders hold towards them, including target populations and donors.

### ► **Modular approach tailored to partners' needs**

STAGE offers 8 modules with clear change objectives and different units within each module. STAGE Applicants can select up to 5 units per STAGE assignment, which allows custom-built projects based on an organisation's needs and stimulates the STAGE Applicant's reflection on opportunities to strengthen their organisational performance.

### ► **Sustainable results and institutionalising change**

STAGE is a mid- to long-term commitment (6-18 months), both by BACKUP and the STAGE Applicant. Ownership by STAGE Applicants is a key principle – they identify change objective and the STAGE facilitator encourages participation to create sustainable change processes.

### ► **Quality support**

Instead of starting from scratch, STAGE builds on existing capacities, focusing on enhancing the quality and efficiency of existing process. In doing so, STAGE integrates quality management, organizational development and technical assistance.

## What is required from the STAGE Applicant?

- Make long-term commitment to a 6-18 months implementation
- Commit to adopt changes sustainably after the STAGE assignment is over
  - 1) Either, finance a national STAGE facilitator or appoint a STAGE co-facilitator
  - 2) Or commit necessary human, financial and time resources along the entire STAGE process

