

COVID-19 Situation Report #23

28 July 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 16,301,736 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 650,069 deaths confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 216 (as of 28 July, [WHO](#)). On 25 July, WHO reported the [biggest single-day rise in global COVID-19 infections](#) since the pandemic started. [China recorded highest new COVID-19 cases since April](#) after fresh clusters hit three separate regions while a [surge in Spain](#) was driving fears of European “second wave”. In the Americas, WHO declared approximately [one third of people were at increased risk](#) of developing severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying health conditions. Overall, on over 15 million cases of COVID-19, [two-thirds are from 10 countries, and almost half are from just three countries](#). As part of its support for the global COVID-19 response, WHO published [a draft landscape of COVID-19 candidate vaccines](#), and jointly launched [the COVID-19 Law Lab](#) with UNDP, UNAIDS and the Georgetown University. On Thursday 30 July, it will be six months since [WHO declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#) (PHEIC).

2. Global Fund COVID-19 Response

The Global Fund is providing up to US\$1 billion and operational flexibility to help countries fight COVID-19, shore up health systems and mitigate the impacts on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs. Emergency funding is available through the US\$500 million [COVID-19 Response Mechanism](#) and additional [grant flexibilities](#) of up to US\$500 million. Application materials for the COVID-19 Response Mechanism are available [here](#).

As part of the global response to COVID-19, the Global Fund is working with health leaders, partners and governments to ensure the global response to COVID-19 includes lessons learned from the fight against HIV, TB and malaria: protect human rights and address stigma and discrimination, particularly among key and vulnerable populations; fight gender barriers to health; engage communities in the response; and fairly allocate limited COVID-19 resources and new tools so that no one is left behind.

The [Global Fund is a founding partner](#) of the [Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#), a global collaboration of organizations and governments working to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19 technologies. As part of ACT-A, we are a co-convenor of both the [Diagnostics Partnership](#) (with FIND) and the Health Systems Connector (with the World Bank), and we are a procurement and deployment partner in the Therapeutics Partnership. We also co-lead the WHO Diagnostics Consortium along with UNICEF to negotiate pricing and procure molecular diagnostic tests for COVID-19, and we have opened our innovative online sourcing portal, [wambo.org](#), to all countries and organizations so they also can benefit from the Global Fund’s economies of scale for health products. See [COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points](#) for more detail.

Latest updates:

- **Immediate funding:** To date, US\$571.1 million is approved for 101 countries and 11 multicountry programs through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism and grant flexibilities.

All approved requests follow WHO guidance on preparedness and early response. Our [report](#) details approved funding by country.

- **COVID-19 Response Mechanism:** US\$394.1 million in immediate funding is approved for 64 countries and 3 multicountry programs through the [COVID-19 Response Mechanism](#). Country Coordinating Mechanisms continue to submit funding requests, and the Global Fund reviews them within 10 business days. Countries are currently being notified of their funding request outcomes. After countries are notified, they are added to our list of countries with funding approved.
- **COVID-19 grant flexibilities:** US\$177* million is approved for 91 countries and 11 multicountry programs through [grant flexibilities](#). The source of funds is almost exclusively from savings from existing grants, thus no negative impact on ongoing Global Fund-supported programs. The majority of countries implementing Global Fund grants are using grant flexibilities.

**The total approved is lower than last week: 19 approvals with a total US\$5.8 million are offset by a revoking of two earlier decisions of US\$4.73 million (DRC) and US\$1.95 million (Eswatini) where former grant flexibility awards are now financed through C19RM.*

- **COVID-19 Response Mechanism Funding Request:** an updated supplementary template for applicants can be downloaded [here](#).

3. Business Contingency Planning for Existing Global Fund Grants

Business Contingency Planning focuses on protecting the Global Fund's ability to deliver its core mission, prioritizing the continued delivery of impact from the current grant cycle and the development of funding requests and grants to deliver maximum impact in the 2020-2022 allocation period.

3.1 2020-2022 Allocations

- Starting on 3 August, 38 funding requests will be reviewed by the TRP in Window 2C. Submitted and registered funding requests are captured in our [tracker](#).
- To provide additional flexibility for applicants, the Global Fund updated the [funding request submission dates](#) in 2020.

3.2 Operational Guidance for Countries

- The Global Fund incorporated [flexibilities for current and upcoming grants](#) and shares guidance notes on adapting processes.
- Updated: [guidance summary for Country Coordinating Mechanisms](#)

3.3 COVID-19 Impact on HIV, TB, Malaria, Communities, Rights and Gender

- The Global Fund maintains a list of relevant [WHO and technical partner guidance](#).
- Global Fund investments and advice to implementers, shared through a series of [information and guidance notes](#), strictly follow WHO guidelines.
- The [COVID-19 Guidance Note on Community, Rights and Gender](#) is also available in [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Russian](#).
- Country-based Local Fund Agents, who monitor grant implementation and progress on behalf of the Global Fund, complete a biweekly [Local Fund Agent survey](#) online to help identify potential risks and disruptions to programs.

3.4 Procurement and Supply Chain

- As of 6 July, the Global Fund's [product and delivery outlook](#) shows the overall impact of COVID-19 on health product supply chains for Global Fund grants remains at **moderate**.
- The Global Fund has opened a [new channel through wambo.org](#), the Global Fund's procurement tool, for Principal Recipients to access quality-assured health products including personal protective equipment as part of their response to COVID-19.

4. Media and Communications

- **In the news:**
 - [Aid from Top Donors Drops Even as Need Soars](#), Associated Press, By Cara Anna, 21 July 2020
 - [Nigeria receives \\$890m from Global Fund to fight HIV, malaria, tuberculosis](#), The Vanguard, By Joseph Erunke, 22 July 2020
 - [Bill Gates: How HIV/AIDS Prepared Us to Tackle COVID-19](#), World Economic Forum, By Harry Kretchmer, 27 July 2020
 - [Virtual Meeting on The Impact of the COVID-19 On HIV Programmes In The ECOWAS Region](#), UNAIDS Blog, 27 July 2020
- **On social media:**
 - [Fighting HIV in India during COVID-19](#)
 - [The Fight Against Malaria Continues in Zambia](#)
 - [HIV testing in Nigeria during COVID-19](#)

5. External Coordination

- The Global Fund continues to work closely with WHO and global health partners at global, regional and country levels on COVID-19 preparedness and response, particularly key issues such as supply chain, technical guidance and in-country coordination.

6. Key Resources

- [Global Fund COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [Global Fund Unite to Fight webpage](#)
- [WHO Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic webpage](#)