

COVID-19 Situation Report #24

04 August 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 18,100,204 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 690,257 deaths confirmed. Over the past seven days, the pandemic has continued to accelerate with almost 1.8 million new cases and 40,000 new deaths reported.

The WHO Region of the Americas remains the hardest-hit, contributing over half (54%) of all newly confirmed cases reported and deaths during the past week. The Southeast Asian and Western Pacific regions also continued to see substantial increases in confirmed cases and deaths. Among all the countries, territories, and areas reporting confirmed cases, the United States of America, Brazil, and India remain the top three most affected countries in the past seven days.

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 impact on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs. As of end of July 2020, the initial allocation of US\$500 million for emergency funding was fully approved and deployed to 72 countries and 3 multicountry programs through the [COVID-19 Response Mechanism](#). Additional [grant flexibilities](#) remain available to support countries. 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\$681 million is approved for 102 countries and 12 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:** The initial funding of US\$500 million is fully approved through the [COVID-19 Response Mechanism](#) and is being disbursed to countries. Country Coordinating Mechanisms are encouraged to continue to submit funding requests, both for immediate funding needs and additional prioritized investments. The Global Fund reviews them within 10 business days and will approve them when additional sources of funding become available. 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\$181 million is approved for 92 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.
- **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 3 August, 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

- **Stories:**

- Blog and photo gallery: [Guardians of a Continent](#) ([Français](#))

- **In the news:**

- [‘The Biggest Monster’ Is Spreading. And It’s Not the Coronavirus](#) The New York Times, By Apoorva Mandavilli, 3 August
- [UNAIDS calls for global United States leadership on COVID-19](#), UNAIDS, 31 July 2020
- [Interview: Urban Weber of the Global Fund on COVID and the Big Three](#), Health Issues India, By Kerean Watts, 29 July 2020
- [Group Calls on U.S. to Invest in Order to Save Investment](#), Politico, By Dan Diamond and Adam Cancryn, with Carmen Paun, 28 July 2020
- [Fact check: Has Aid really Gone down with the Pandemic?](#) Devex, By Raquel Alcega’ 27 July 2020
- [COVID-19 Projected to Cause Surge in Deaths From HIV, TB and Malaria](#), POZ, By Benjamin Ryan, 29 July 2020

- **On social media:**

- [Guardians of a Continent](#)
- [PMTCT services in Nigeria during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

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](#)