COVID-19 Key Personal Protective Equipment: Frequently Asked Questions

5 October 2020

Procuring COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment

The abrupt rise of the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed significant impact on the growth of personal protective equipment market globally. The Global Fund has finalized the cooperation agreement with UNICEF to make most critical COVID-19 response PPE products available on wambo.org for our Principal Recipients.

Principal Recipients may use grant or C19RM funds to purchase PPE products directly through wambo.org using the existing normal process and can login to wambo.org to browse and submit requisitions for all available COVID-19 PPE products. All recommended PPE items are currently available in the wambo.org catalogue. The Global Fund together with its partners continues to assess the PPE supply situation and will update the product offering in line with international guidance over time.

Today, the lead time for most PPE products is three months. The most up-to-date lead time information can be found in the Global Fund’s Category and Product-Level Procurement and Delivery Planning Guide: Indicative Lead Times. We urge Principal Recipients to place orders as early as possible to avoid disruption in supply since ongoing freight and logistics challenges are resulting in substantial delays and cost increases.

1. My country has demand for products which are not listed in the catalogue. How do we order these products?

Non-catalogue items are to be sourced locally directly by countries whenever possible. The Global Fund works with partners to further develop the wambo.org catalogue by continuously adding new products to meet countries’ needs.

2. Why some common COVID-19 PPE products such as disinfectants and hand sanitizers are not included in the catalogue?

Hand sanitizers and alcohol-based hand rubs are classified as dangerous goods and have high transportation risks. It is therefore recommended to source these items locally.
3. **What are the incoterms for PPE items supplied by UNICEF?**

The general standard UNICEF incoterms are CIP (Carriage & Insurance Paid) - delivered to the airport or port of entry. Countries are responsible for organizing transport on point of arrival to local warehouses or designated location.

4. **What are the Lead times for PPE items?**

When Principal Recipients’ and Global Fund’s approvals are completed within a week, lead times for key PPE products are estimated to be one to three months by air, from receipt of request to delivery in country; the lead time by sea freight is approximately three to five months. Countries with complex importation approvals or lengthy greenlight processes should add additional time as necessary. Principal Recipients should consider a mix of air and sea freight to optimize speed and freight cost. The up-to-date lead time information can be found in the Global Fund’s [Category and Product-Level Procurement and Delivery Planning Guide: Indicative Lead Times](#).

5. **Can I select the “COVID-19 PPE” items in the requisition even though we will use the products for other purposes?**

Given the long lead times related to supply constraints, the products intended for other disease programs may be procured through the COVID-19 Key PPE product catalogue.

6. **Why can’t I use the free text option in the requisition for the requested PPE items?**

The current PPE product list is limited to the items available in the catalogue. The Global Fund can ensure a reasonable lead time and supply availability for catalogue items only. The Global Fund works with partners to further develop the wambo.org catalogue, continuously adding new products to meet countries’ needs.

7. **Why can’t I find some of the PPE items previously listed in wambo.org, such as lab coat, shoe covers, and soap that are needed for my program?**

The Global Fund can ensure a reasonable lead time for the catalogue items only. Other products should be sourced locally, when possible.

8. **Where can we purchase PPE items that are not available in the wambo.org catalogue?**

Non-catalogue items are to be sourced locally directly by countries whenever possible. The Global Fund works with partners to further develop the wambo.org catalogue, continuously adding new products to meet countries’ needs.
9. **How do we compare UNICEF QA standard vs local/regional QA standards?**

Detailed product specifications can be reviewed by searching the UNICEF Material Number on UNICEF’s Supply Catalogue. All the PPE products listed in wambo.org will be supplied in compliance with the regulatory standards of the founding members of the Global Harmonization Task Force (EU, USA, Canada, Australia, and Japan).

10. **By when additional PPE items would be available in wambo.org catalogue?**

The Global Fund works with partners on identifying and developing supply sources that provide reasonable lead times. Once these sources are identified, new products will be added to the catalogue.

11. **What do we call key PPE products?**

The [COVID-19: List of Personal Protective Equipment and Oxygen Products Available for Procurement via Wambo.org](https://wambo.org) lists key PPE products. It is updated as new products are added to the catalogue.

12. **Whom can we direct our technical questions to?**

Following UNICEF Terms & Conditions: all claims related to any defect in quality, other non-conformity of supplies, or any loss or damage shall be handled directly by the Eligible Buyer with the original manufacturer, supplier, or insurance underwriter. UNICEF will provide assistance to the Eligible Buyer when such situation occurs.