COVID-19 Situation Report #25
11 August 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 19,905,163 confirmed. Global deaths: 731,641 deaths confirmed. Countries, areas or territories with cases: 215 (as of 11 August, WHO). The world is reaching 20 million COVID-19 cases, including five million in the U.S. and one million in Africa, where WHO expanded support to countries experiencing the most significant uptick in cases. Researchers found COVID-19 in Africa could yield potential public health consequences on malaria. In the Americas, WHO said regular health services are being disrupted as health workers are redirected to care for COVID-19 patients, and issued a warning against the use of chlorine products as treatment for COVID-19. Despite the growing number of COVID-19 cases, WHO signaled “green shoots of hope” but also decried a “vast global gap in funds” needed to fight the virus. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance announced a partnership with the Serum Institute of India to ensure affordable access to a COVID-19 vaccine for the developing countries.

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. 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-convener 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.

Latest updates:

- **Immediate funding:** To date, US$698.6 million is approved for 102 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
COVID-19 Situation Report, 11 August 2020

funding tracker lists approved funding by country (countries are added to this list once they have been officially notified of their funding approval).

- **COVID-19 Response Mechanism**: The initial US$500 million the Global Fund made available through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism has now been fully deployed; however, country needs are continuing to increase as the pandemic worsens in many low- and middle-income countries. The Global Fund is working with donors and partners to urgently mobilize an additional US$5 billion to help countries continue to fight COVID-19, mitigate the impact on HIV, TB and malaria, protect health workers and reinforce systems for health. Germany’s additional contribution of EUR150 million to the COVID-19 Response Mechanism is now being deployed; more funds are urgently needed to avoid a critical funding gap in the world’s poorest countries in the coming weeks. To date, a total of US$512.6 million in immediate funding is approved for 72 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.

- **COVID-19 grant flexibilities**: US$186 million is approved for 92 countries and 11 multicountry programs through grant flexibilities. The source of funds is predominantly from savings from existing grants, thus no negative impact on ongoing Global Fund-supported programs. As most countries have already used their program savings or are unable to shift funds from HIV, TB and malaria programs, it is expected this source of funding will soon be exhausted.

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


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

- Window 2C is running and will be done by 24 August. 38 funding requests are being reviewed by the TRP. All 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 designed a new web page on PPE procurement and 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:
  - How Lessons from Global Health Can Improve Health And The Response To COVID-19 In The US, Health Affairs, By Charles B. Holmes and Eric P. Goosby, 10 August 2020
  - How COVID-19 Threatens Global Progress in Fight Against Other Communicable Diseases, The Week, By Elana Gordon, 11 August 2020

- On social media:
  - WHO Launches #WearAMask Challenge
  - Africa’s unsung army of women wage war on COVID-19

5. External Coordination

- 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. A FAQ on COVID-19 Key Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Product Catalogue is now available.

6. Key Resources

- Global Fund COVID-19 webpage
- Global Fund Unite to Fight webpage
- WHO Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic webpage