COVID-19 Situation Report #26

18 August 2020

1. Situation Overview

**Global cases**: 21,732,472 confirmed. **Global deaths**: 770,866 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases**: 216 (as of 18 August, WHO). Cases of COVID-19 are continuing to surge in many countries, while others which had apparent success in suppressing initial outbreaks are now seeing infections rise again. In the Americas, the most affected region in the past seven days, COVID-19 threatens plans to eliminate and control infectious diseases. Brazil has the second highest number of cases in the world, after the U.S. South-East Asia is the second most affected region and currently accounts for a respective 26% and 19% of newly reported cases and deaths globally in the past seven days. **India has recorded more than 2.5 million cases so far** and is averaging more than 60,000 new infections every day. In Africa, South Africa and Egypt have seen the largest outbreaks so far. In Europe, **Spain, France and Germany are seeing a surge in infections**.

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 human rights and 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$699.6 million is approved for 103 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
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$187 million is approved for 93 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 Technical Review Panel. 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 10 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. Long-lasting insecticidal nets and Diagnostics situations have been updated. See Assessment table [here](#). Ordering timelines and delivery dates have also been updated in our COVID-19 update for Principal Recipients letter (p.3).
- 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. Messaging and Advocacy – Top-line messages for the week of 17 August

- The fights against COVID-19, HIV, TB and malaria are one and the same fight. If we do not help the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries fight COVID-19 now, then other deadly diseases like HIV, TB and malaria – and related horrors like poverty and child malnutrition – will come raging back and deaths will skyrocket.
  - Decades of hard-won gains – and trillions of dollars invested to fight disease and improve health and wellbeing worldwide – will be lost if the world does not unite to fight now. We must measure success not just in reducing the death toll from COVID-19 itself but in reducing the total impact of the pandemic, including the knock-on effects on existing diseases.
- The Global Fund has already provided nearly US$700 million to help the world’s most vulnerable countries fight COVID-19, but our emergency response fund will run out of money by the end of September.
  - The initial US$500 million the Global Fund made available through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism was fully deployed as of the end of July.
  - The Global Fund also enabled countries to redirect a percentage of program savings or ongoing HIV, TB and malaria program costs to fight COVID-19 through grant flexibilities. However, as most countries have already used their program savings or are unable to shift funds from HIV, TB and malaria programs, this source of funding is expected to be soon exhausted as well.
  - Germany’s additional contribution of EUR150 million to the COVID-19 Response Mechanism is now being deployed but we expect this money will run out before the end of September.
- The Global Fund urgently needs US$5 billion over the next 12 months to continue to fight COVID-19, protect health workers and systems for health, and defend progress against HIV, TB and malaria in the countries where we invest.
  - To date, just EUR150 million has been raised (Germany).
  - Without additional funding to fight COVID-19, countries will be unable to:
    - deliver on their targets for lifesaving services for ongoing HIV, TB and malaria programs;
    - purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect their health workers, putting their lives at risk and contributing to ongoing transmission of the virus;
    - purchase additional COVID-19 tests or treatments that are critical to fighting the virus and saving lives.

5. Media and Communications

- In the news:
  - [How COVID-19 Threatens Global Progress in Fight Against Other Communicable Diseases](#), The Week, By Elana Gordon, 11 August 2020

COVID-19 Situation Report, 18 August 2020
o How to stop COVID-19 fuelling a resurgence of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, Nature, 12 August 2020

o An effective global response to covid-19 will require unprecedented levels of collaboration, innovation and money, The Economist Intelligence Unit, By Peter Sands, 12 August 2020

o The U.S. can only defeat COVID-19 through global solidarity, Time, By Ndileka Mandela, 13 August 2020

o Stalled negotiations cast doubt on US funding for global COVID-19 response, Devex, By Adva Saldinger, 13 August 2020

o Coronavirus hits India’s tuberculosis care, Reuters, By Annie Banerji, 17 August 2020

o On social media:
  o TIME
  o The Economist Intelligence Unit
  o The Global Fund

6. External Coordination

o 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.

7. Key Resources

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