

COVID-19 Situation Report #27

25 August 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 23,491,520 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 809,970 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 216 (as of 25 August, [WHO](#)). The COVID-19 pandemic is still expanding, but [the rise in cases and deaths has slowed globally](#), except for Southeast Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean regions. [India passed 3 million COVID-19 cases](#), posting world's highest rate of infection for 18 consecutive days as [South Korea saw biggest daily surge](#) since March. [The U.S. reported more than 5.7 million COVID-19 cases](#) since the start of the pandemic, but new cases appear to be declining in many states. [Mexico passed 60,000 deaths](#). In Africa, COVID-19 cases surpassed [1.19 million](#) and has unleashed [a myriad of "shadow pandemics" on girls](#) according to child rights groups. In efforts to respond the pandemic, WHO announced [172 nations were engaging with the COVAX Global Vaccines Facility](#), while the [Global Fund is seeking US\\$5 billion](#). Bill Gates said [the COVID-19 pandemic will be over by the end of 2021](#).

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.

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-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.

Latest updates:

- **Immediate funding:** To date, US\$701.6 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

[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\$189 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](#). Our FAQ is now also available in [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#).

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

- Window 2C is closed. 38 funding requests have been 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 maintains [flexibilities for current and upcoming grants](#) and guidance notes on adapting processes.

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 strictly follow WHO guidelines and are shared through a series of [information and guidance notes](#).
- Country-based Local Fund Agents, who monitor grant implementation and progress on behalf of the Global Fund, complete a biweekly 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**. Our [latest assessment and recommendations](#) are on our website.
- The Global Fund opened a [channel to procure personal protective equipment through wambo.org](#), the Global Fund's procurement tool, for Principal Recipients to access quality-assured health products as part of their response to COVID-19.

4. Messaging and Advocacy – Top-line messages for the week of 24 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 more than 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

- **Stories and case studies:**
 - [Video: The Fight Continues Against Tuberculosis](#)
 - [Blog: An Urgent Plea from a South African Health Worker Fighting COVID-19 and TB](#)
- **In the news:**
 - [COVID-19 has 'turned back the clock' on other infectious diseases](#), The Australian Financial review, By Jill Margo, 18 August 2020

- [We need G7 guidance to fix three big problems from the pandemic](#), The Hill, By William Danvers, 19 August 2020
- [One year ago the CEOs of some of America's largest businesses promised to do more than just hunt for profits. The pandemic gave them a chance to live up to that promise](#), Business Insider, By Mark Froman, 19 August 2020
- [The response to a new pandemic should not capture the continued treatment of known diseases](#), The Namibia Economist, By Aeneas Chuma, 21 August 2020
- [Bill Gates: We cannot lose sight of malaria during the COVID-19 crisis](#), The World Economic Forum, By Bill Gates, 21 August 2020
- [Global Fund seeks \\$5B as money runs out for COVID-19 response](#), Devex, By Jenny Lei Ravelo, 21 August 2020
- **On social media:**
 - [Story of Nombasa / South Africa](#)
 - [UNDP / Guinea Bissau](#)
 - [Gates Foundation / Benin](#)
 - [Bill Gates / World Mosquito Day](#)
 - [World Mosquito Day](#)
 - [The Fight Continues Against TB](#)
 - [World Humanitarian Day](#)

6. 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.

7. Key Resources

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