

COVID-19 Situation Report #28

9 September 2020

Reporting period: 26 August - 8 September

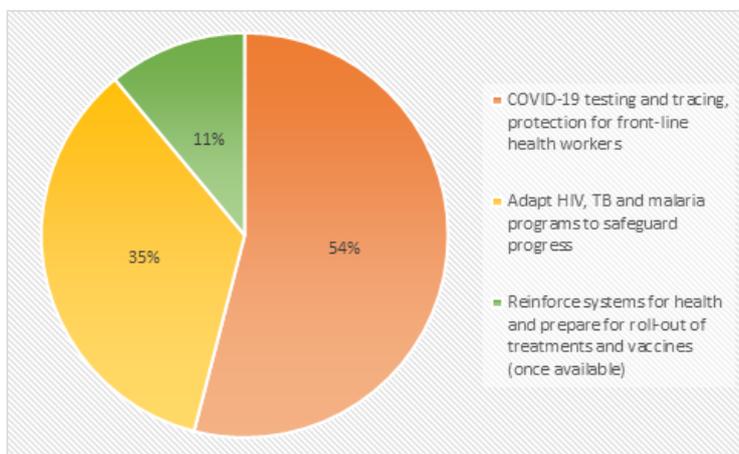
1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 27,205,275 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 890,392 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 216 (as of 8 September, [WHO](#)). The [Americas](#) carry the highest burden of COVID-19 globally. The [WHO South-East Asia Region](#) continued to show the highest increase in new cases in the past week compared to the previous week. In [Africa](#), the rate of new cases has been decreasing in the past one month, but limited testing and spikes in respiratory illnesses raise concerns that [COVID-19 could be spreading unnoticed](#). On the global response, scientists warned [misconceptions about weather and seasonality could be misleading](#) and said [steroids could be lifesaving](#). WHO emphasized [the crucial role of RSSH to resist the pandemics](#). The [11 members of the independent panel](#) reviewing the global response (IPPR) were named. Together with South Africa, [Norway was chosen to co-chair the Facilitation Council for the ACT-A to be launched on September 10th](#). [The European Commission confirmed its interest to participate in COVAX](#), joining the [172 countries](#) already engaged. The [World Economic Forum is postponed](#) due to COVID-19.

2. Global Fund COVID-19 Response

At a Glance:

- **Countries receiving Global Fund support for COVID-19:** 103 countries and 11 multicountry programs
- **Total funds approved to date:** US\$722.8 million
- **Diagnostic tests procured:** 1.7 million diagnostics tests across 73 countries
- **Global Fund fundraising target:** US\$5 billion over 12 months
- **How countries are using COVID-19 Response Mechanism support:**



NEW: Following the recent [WHO recommendation](#), the Global Fund is supporting the use of corticosteroids for COVID-19. [Global Fund implementers can include corticosteroids for COVID-](#)

[19 in C19RM funding requests](#) and/or may be funded with identified efficiencies of already approved C19RM immediate awards. The new medications can also be accessed through savings and reprogramming of current grants (2017-2019 allocation period).

In Depth:

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.

To date, US\$722.8 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\$515.8 million in immediate funding is approved for 75 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. A supplementary template for applicants can be downloaded [here](#). Our FAQ is also available in [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#).

COVID-19 grant flexibilities: US\$207 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.

Human rights in focus: In response to the rise in gender-based violence, stigma, discrimination and human rights barriers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, countries are expanding activities to address these challenges. South Africa and Cameroon, for example, are investing in:

- GBV services demand creation
- Legal services for vulnerable groups who experience violence during lockdown
- Distribute information about GBV hotline and services
- Documenting human rights violations
- Referring human rights violations to case management
- Psychosocial care for people affected by the three diseases
- Study on impact and stigma around access to health care

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.
- The Global Fund provides its country-based Local Fund Agents with a [Guidance Document on Risk and Assurance, including Financial Risk Management during COVID-19](#).

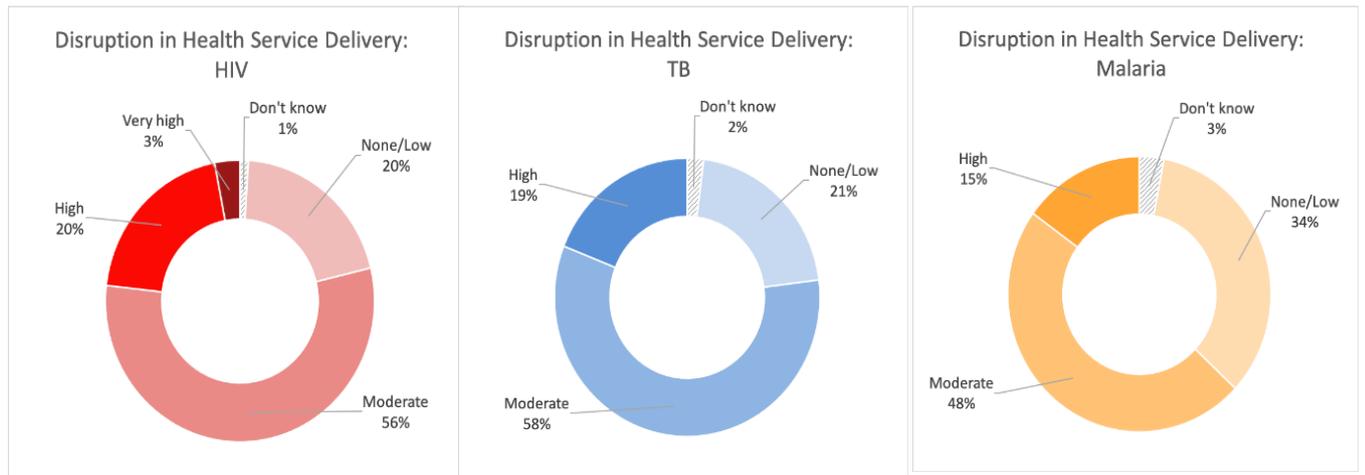
3.3 COVID-19 Impact on HIV, TB, Malaria, Communities, Rights and Gender

- 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](#).
- The COVID-19 pandemic is leaving Global Fund programs more vulnerable to wrongdoing. The Global Fund Office of the Inspector General introduces a number of common fraud schemes and provides [guidance on how to prevent fraud and abuse](#).
- **Impact on HIV, TB and malaria service delivery:** 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.

Key insights as of 1 September 2020:

- 41% of countries now are in lockdown, down from 70% on May 15th
- 78% of countries have costed response plans
- Fewer countries at very high or high risk of overall program disruption (from 38 to 35) in last 2 weeks, although no improvement among the high impact countries that were high or very high risk. Relatively stable level of disruption at regional level, with no region making substantial shifts, aside from a reduction in risk for South-East Asia.
 - 76% of programs report moderate to high levels of disruption to HIV service delivery.
 - 77% of programs report moderate to high levels of disruption to TB service delivery.

- 63% of programs report moderate to high levels of disruption to malaria service delivery.



Percentages represent the share of all countries surveyed. They can be up to one point higher or lower than the actual values due to rounding errors.

- Most implementation indicators showed a decrease in disruption over the past 2 weeks, although none of them significant.
- Steady increase in disruption to supply chain distribution and warehousing over the past 8 weeks.
- Increase in financial disruption for malaria grants over past 12 weeks, but the overall level of disruption is lower than HIV and TB.

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

- **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

- **In the news:**
 - [El covid resucita la tuberculosis, el VIH y la malaria: "Estamos retrocediendo años"](#), El Confidencial, By María Zuñil, 25 August 2020
 - [Covid-19 sets back malaria, HIV and tuberculosis fight by years](#), AS English, By Paula Naveira, 25 August 2020
 - [Members Named to Panel Probing WHO's Pandemic Response](#), The NY Times, By AP, 3 September 2020
 - [We Can't Fight COVID-19 on a Country-by-Country Basis](#), Scientific American, By Zolelwa Sifumba, 4 September 2020
- **On social media:**
 - [PPE](#)
 - [UNDP Guinea Bissau](#)
 - [UN Women](#)
 - [UNAIDS Report](#)
 - [GFAN AP](#)

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. Upcoming Events

- 10 September: IAPAC Fast-Track Cities event
- 14-15-17 September: Joint Meetings of G20 Finance and Health Ministers and Deputies
- 14-30 September: UNGA 2020
 - 14/09: Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) event with PEPFAR and UNAIDS
 - 18/09: Switchpoint event "The Future we want"
 - 21/09: African Union event
 - 22/09: Concordia Digital Summit
 - 23/09: Partnering for health: Advancing resilient health systems for all (Devex & AstraZeneca)

- 24/09: The Private Sector's Evolving Role in Health Emergencies
- 24/09: Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2020 (SDIS): "Fixing the Public Health Investment Crisis" (WEF)
- 29/09: Side event on Malaria (ALMA)
- 30/09: ACT-A event (WHO)
- 18 & 28 September: Cross sector partnerships / New Compact initiative
- 30 September: PMI / Rotarian Malaria Partners meeting

8. Key Resources

- [Global Fund COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [Global Fund Unite to Fight webpage](#)
- [Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on countries affected by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria](#)
- [WHO Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic webpage](#)