Global Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL DEATHS:</th>
<th>TOTAL CASES:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,038,534</td>
<td>35,274,993</td>
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as of 8 October – Source: WHO

Global COVID-19 toll passed one million deaths and 35 million cases. The U.S., Brazil and India make up nearly half of the total of deaths. The U.S. official caseload is the highest in the world, with more than 7.3 million cases. At 6.4 million, India's official caseload is the second-highest. The number of new cases per week has remained stable at 2 million for the past three weeks. Globally, the highest percentage of cases have been reported in the 25-39 age group, with approximately 50% of cases in the 25-64 age group. WHO estimates 10% of global population has been infected with COVID-19. Many of the hardest-hit countries by COVID-19 are also extremely hard hit by HIV, TB and malaria, particularly India (the country with the highest global burden of TB); South Africa (the country with the highest global burden of HIV); Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines and Indonesia (high TB burden countries); and Ukraine and Kazakhstan (high-burden multidrug-resistant TB countries).

On the global response, the ACT-A announced a set of agreements to make available 120 million affordable, high-quality COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic tests (Ag RDTs) for low and middle-income countries, with the Global Fund committing an initial US$50 million to enable countries to purchase the new tests. The World Bank is seeking board approval for a US$12 billion coronavirus vaccine financing plan. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Serum Institute of India (SII) announced collaboration to make further 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine available to low- and middle-income countries in 2021. Gavi approved up to US$150 million to help 92 low- and middle-income countries eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility prepare for the delivery of future COVID-19 vaccines. The United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Italy and Sweden pledged approximately US$960 million to COVAX. China officially joined COVAX.

Global Fund Response: At a Glance

- **Total funds approved to date**: US$806.4 million
- **Fundraising target**: An additional US$5 billion over 12 months
- **Countries receiving Global Fund support for COVID-19**: 106 countries and 12 multicountry programs

How countries are using COVID-19 Response Mechanism support:

- **55%**: Reinforcing national COVID-19 response
- **34%**: Mitigating COVID-19 impact on HIV, TB and malaria programs
- **11%**: Urgent improvements in health and community systems
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. 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. Countries can still access some funding 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, it is expected this source of funding will soon be exhausted.

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.

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 tests, treatments and vaccines once available. As part of the ACT-Accelerator, 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.

The Global Fund responded quickly and at scale to the COVID-19 pandemic and we are playing a critical role in the global response to COVID-19 in the poorest and most vulnerable countries. To date, the Global Fund has approved a total of US$806.4 million to support the COVID-19 response across 106 countries and 12 multicountry programs. Requests for funding have been approved within five-10 days in the majority of cases. On 30 September, the timeline for award of funds from the Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) was extended to 15 April 2021.

### Funding Approved

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<th>Grant flexibilities</th>
<th>COVID-19 Response Mechanism</th>
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<td>Use of funds remains mainly from grant savings, focused mainly on infection control, Dx activities &amp; products, and lab equipment; reprogramming requests approved in small number of cases.</td>
<td>96 funding requests have been approved. Demand for funding has exceeded available funds. Unfunded approved funding requests now total approximately US$100 million, with countries continuing to submit funding requests.</td>
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**NOTE:** Full list of countries with approved funding is available [here](#). The totals in the online table may differ from the table above because countries are only added to the online list once they have been officially notified of funding approval.

The Global Fund is leveraging its extensive health and community networks and its well-established health procurement and distribution system to distribute new COVID-19 tools, medical supplies and training at scale.

**Protecting Front-Line Health Workers:** The Global Fund is providing funding to countries to purchase personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and gowns. Countries can purchase equipment locally or can place orders for price-assured quality health products through our Pooled Procurement Mechanism or on wambo.org, the Global Fund’s online sourcing portal.

- US$201 million of COVID-19 Response Mechanism funds have been allocated for the provision of personal protective equipment (PPEs) to protect front-line health workers
- 33 countries have purchased PPEs on wambo.org
Global Fund Response
In Depth

Additional Resources:
- Personal Protective Equipment Procurement
- Key Personal Protective Equipment: Frequently Asked Questions
- List of Personal Protective Equipment and Oxygen Products Available for Procurement via Wambo.org
- Category and Product-Level Procurement and Delivery Planning Guide: Indicative Lead Times

Diagnostics: The Global Fund is the co-lead of the ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar, along with FIND. We also co-lead the WHO Diagnostics Consortium along with UNICEF to negotiate pricing and procure molecular diagnostic tests for COVID-19. To scale up the Ag RDTs, the Global Fund has made available an initial US$50 million from its COVID-19 Response Mechanism to enable countries to purchase at least 10 million of the new rapid tests for LMICs at the guaranteed price. A first requisition for Mozambique was placed on 2 October through the Global Fund’s Pooled Procurement Mechanism.

- US$117 million of COVID-19 Response Mechanism funds have been allocated for the provision of diagnostics tests
- 2.1 million automated PCR diagnostic tests have been procured and distributed

Additional Resources:
- Ordering COVID-19 Diagnostics through the Global Fund: Frequently Asked Questions
- List of SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Test Kits and Equipment Eligible for Procurement

Treatment: 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 COVID-19 funding requests. No global orders have been placed to date; corticosteroids are a standard medication in most countries and available for local purchase, and many countries and partners had existing stock.

ACT-Accelerator:

- Diagnostics Pillar update:
  > On 28 September, ACT-Accelerator partners announced that they would make available 120 million affordable, quality COVID-19 rapid tests for low- and middle-income countries. These tests provide results in 15–30 minutes, rather than hours or days, and will enable expansion of testing, particularly in countries that do not have extensive laboratory facilities or trained health workers to implement molecular (polymerase-chain reaction or PCR) tests.
  > Around 50 diagnostic tests are being evaluated; and more than 18 million molecular tests have been procured/delivered to LMICs since May through the Diagnostics Pillar of the ACT-Accelerator.

- Therapeutics Pillar update: The Therapeutics pillar is analyzing 1,700+ clinical trials for promising treatments and has secured dexamethasone for up to 4.5 million patients in lower-income countries. Approximately 20 treatments – new medication in development and existing medication repurposed to treat COVID-19 – are under close review, and more are in the development pipeline.

- ACT-Accelerator funding update:
  > At UNGA 75, governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations committed to support the ACT-Accelerator. The UK, Canada, Germany, Italy and Sweden pledged approximately US$960 million to COVAX. Overall, nearly US$1.7 billion has been raised towards the effort to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle-income countries, with at least US$300 million more urgently needed by end 2020.
  > While the vaccine pillar is making progress on funding, the therapeutics and diagnostics pillars and health systems connector all face significant immediate gaps. The current financing gap for the ACT-Accelerator as a whole stands at US$34 billion. Of the US$34 billion, US$14 billion is needed immediately to exploit the ACT-Accelerator progress to fund research and development, scale up manufacturing, secure procurement and strengthen delivery systems for tests, treatments and vaccines.
  > By the end of next year, the ACT-Accelerator aims to deliver 500 million diagnostic tests, 245 million courses of treatment and 2 billion doses of vaccine to low- and middle-income countries.

- Latest publications:
  > The ACT-Accelerator: Status Report & Plan outlines the aspiration, achievements to date, and plan for the ACT-Accelerator.
  > The ACT-Accelerator Economic Investment Case argues that investment in ACT-Accelerator is the world’s best bet and most viable solution for restarting the global economy.
As of 25 September 2020, 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.

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. The tool identifies potential risks and disruptions to programs but is not meant to be a rigorous assessment of the country situation. The data is based on in-country stakeholder views but not on verified data. Key insights as of 1 October 2020:

**Countries in lockdown**: 37% of countries are in lockdown, down from 70% on 15 May. One quarter of countries have no restrictions, up from 5% on 15 May.

**Costed national plans**: 79% of countries have costed plans for their COVID-19 response.

**Disruption to health service delivery**: The level of disruption to HIV, TB and malaria service delivery remain mostly unchanged compared to the previous two-week period. Community-based services remain the most impacted, and attendance at health facilities continues to be low.

- **HIV**: Prevention, testing and support for people living with HIV are still the most impacted. Reaching key populations – particularly sex workers – is difficult as brothels, bars etc. remain closed.
- **TB**: See “In Focus” section on page 6.
- **Malaria**: Most cited disruptions are the inability to hold large-scale trainings and workshops. Mosquito net distribution campaigns are largely unaffected, with some slight delays.

[Graphs and tables showing lockdown status and service delivery disruption]
Disruption to supply of key medicines: National stocks of HIV and TB medicines have slightly improved in the past two weeks, but 9% of countries still report shortages of HIV and TB medicines. For all three diseases, approximately 50% of countries report they have at least a 6-month supply of key medicines.

Lab services: Lab services continue to be disrupted by the COVID-19 epidemic, as laboratory staff and resources are diverted to the COVID-19 response.
The Challenge:

In addition to the devastating direct impact of COVID-19, the knock-on effects of the pandemic on the fight against TB are threatening to derail years of progress. Key challenges include financial resources, staff and laboratory and hospitalization facilities diverted from TB to COVID-19; lockdowns and travel restrictions preventing people with TB from accessing health services; increased stigma and fear toward people with TB (a disease with similar symptoms as COVID-19); and TB key populations particularly hard-hit by pandemic-related joblessness, food insecurity, and overcrowding.

We are already seeing the impact. Countries where the Global Fund invests reported significant reductions in TB case notification during COVID-19 lockdowns. The Global Fund’s catalytic fund and strategic initiative to find 1.5 million more “missing” people with TB every year (against a 2015 baseline) in the 13 highest-burden TB countries had seen impressive results in 2019, but progress has been reversed in 2020. In the first two quarters of this year, 500,000 fewer people with TB were notified compared to the same time in 2019, representing a 23% decline in case notification. This leads to an increasing number of “missing” people with TB – people who go undetected, untreated or unreported – who contribute to ongoing transmission of the disease and the spread of drug-resistant TB, and could die if they do not access lifesaving TB treatment.

For example, in India and the Philippines, two countries among the highest global TB burden, case notification has plummeted:

India: Trends in TB case notification 2019 vs 2020

Philippines: Trends in TB case notification 2019 vs 2020

If no mitigation strategies are put in place, case notification will further decline. According to a recent Stop TB Partnership modelling analysis, a 3-month lockdown and a protracted 10-month restoration could lead to:

- An additional 6.3 million cases of TB and an additional 1.4 million deaths worldwide between 2020 and 2025;
- A rise in global TB incidence and deaths in 2021 that would take us back to 2013 and 2016 levels, respectively, eliminating years of progress.
Global Fund Response
Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

**IN FOCUS** How COVID-19 impacts the fight against TB (continued)

**The Global Fund’s Response:**

The Global Fund is working with countries and partners to urgently reverse as much of the losses as possible in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of TB to pre-COVID levels in 2021; accelerate TB diagnosis, treatment and prevention to reach the goal set at the UN High-Level Meeting on the Fight Against TB of finding and treating 40 million people by 2022; and prepare and remodel TB programming in the COVID-19 situation. Specific activities as part of our COVID-19 response include:

- **Diagnosis:**
  - Continued passive, active and intensified case finding for TB without individuals gathering in one place;
  - Procurement of additional rapid molecular diagnostics such as GeneXpert machines and cartridges to ensure adequate testing capacity for TB.

- **Treatment and care:**
  - To ensure continuation of treatment and reduce the need for travel, provide patients with 1-2 months of TB drugs, and ensure follow-up and reporting of any adverse reactions is done by phone and SMS or through other digital technologies;
  - Determine a nearby rural health unit or other local provider to administer and support treatment;
  - Encouraging countries to transition to all-oral treatment regimens for drug-resistant TB;
  - Real-time community-led monitoring initiatives for COVID-19 and TB utilizing the One Impact platform in five high-burden countries (Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, Indonesia, Ukraine);
  - Nutritional support to TB patients affected by loss of livelihood so they can continue taking their medication (which must be taken with food).

- **Prevention:**
  - Distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs) for front-line health workers, community workers and people transporting sputum samples;
  - Provision of TB preventive treatment to high-risk groups including contacts of people with TB and people living with HIV.

- **Surveillance:**
  - Improve surveillance, monitoring and evaluation including through digital technologies and remote support.

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**COUNTRY CASE** How grant flexibilities and C19RM help safeguard disease programs in Nepal

The delivery of health services in Nepal was impacted significantly by COVID-19 due to lockdowns instituted repeatedly since March 2020. Service delivery of antiretroviral therapy to people living with HIV was disrupted and viral load testing decreased. TB test notifications dropped by 30%. Testing and treatment of malaria were also disrupted. With thousands of migrants returning to Nepal, the situation became even more challenging.

The Global Fund provided test kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment to hospital staff and training to health workers as part of Nepal’s initial response to COVID-19, to enable the testing and treatment of patients affected by COVID-19.

Quickly thereafter, the Global Fund began financing specific interventions to ensure the continuity of HIV, TB and malaria services during the epidemic, but also in lock-down situations. Using savings under each of the three grants, personal protective equipment was procured to enable outreach and in-reach workers under all programs to bring services to patients, and to key and vulnerable populations. Self-testing was scaled-up; take-home opiate substitution treatment (OST) and multi-month scripts for ARVs were enabled.

The Principal Recipient also worked with partners to develop policy guidelines to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the programs deployed to fight HIV, TB and malaria, and response plans to scale up activities after lockdowns eased. The Principal Recipient and the partners are currently implementing intensified community-based case detection and contact tracing, and developing specific plans to quantify and respond to the needs of migrants.
Global Fund Response
Communications, Media and Events

Communications Products
- Global Fund Results Report: Executive Summary now available in ENG, FR, ITA, SPA. Full Report now available in FRA (and here in ENG).
- Results Report Communications and Social Media toolkit: now available in FRA (and here in ENG).
- News release: “Global partnership to make available 120 million affordable, quality COVID-19 rapid tests for low- and middle-income countries” in ENG, FR.
- Multimedia: “Testing is critical to the fight against #COVID19”. Video.

Global Fund in the News
- Covid-19 tests that give results in minutes to be rolled out across world
  The Guardian – 28 September 2020
- WHO, partners roll out faster COVID tests for poorer nations
  Associated Press – 28 September 2020
- L’OMS veut 120 millions de tests antigéniques pour les pays démunis
  France Info – 28 September 2020
- WHO will Corona-Schnelltests für ärmere Länder bereitstellen
  Handelsblatt – 28 September 2020
- OMS prometió acceso a 120 millones de test para covid-19 a países de escasos recursos
  El País – 28 September 2020
- After battling TB and COVID-19, a South African doctor reaches breaking point
  Reuters – 28 September 2020
- WHO: 1 million Covid deaths an underestimate
  With Peter Sands – BBC – 29 September 2020
- A global pandemic requires a world effort to end it – none of us will be safe until everyone is safe
  By Ursula von der Leyen and Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus – The Telegraph – 30 September 2020
- A three-part plan to eliminate COVID-19
  By Bill Gates – Nikkei – 30 September 2020
- Partnering for health: Advancing resilient health systems
  With Peter Sands – Devex – 1 October 2020
- Test rapidi ai paesi poveri per frenare la pandemia
  By Peter Sands – Avvenire – 2 October 2020
- Malaria campaigns fight off Covid disruptions to deliver programmes
  The Guardian – 2 October 2020

On Social Media
- ACT-A Announcement – WHO
- ACT-A Announcement – The Guardian
- ACT-A Announcement – Video
- Peter Sands: “COVID-19 Rapid Tests: A Milestone in Fight Against the Pandemic”
- Francoise Vanni: “Con solo el 1% de los planes nacionales de rescate de los países ricos se ayudaría a combatir la COVID-19 y salvar millones de vidas en los países más vulnerables”

Upcoming Events
- 8 October: AU Virtual Ministerial Session (Eastern Africa Region)
- 9 October: AU Virtual Ministerial Session (Southern Africa Region)
- 12-18 October: WB/IMF Annual Meetings
- 14 October: G20 Finance Ministers
- 20 October: HIV 2020 panel
- 21 October: UNION conference - GF/FIND Symposium on COVID-19 and TB
- 25-27 October: World Health Summit
- 11-13 November: Paris Peace Forum
- 14 November: The Global Health Festival Padua
- 15-19 November: Wish Summit
- 21-22 November: G20 Summit