COVID-19 has infected 43.3 million people and killed 1.1 million since the outbreak emerged last December. “We are at a critical juncture in the pandemic” said WHO Director-General, as many countries are now seeing an exponential increase in infections. The U.S. remains the worst-affected country. India, which recorded its lowest death toll in four months on 26 October, has the second-highest number of infections. In Latin America, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia passed 1 million infections. In Europe, many countries are tightening their virus-control measures as case numbers repeatedly set new daily records. In China, more than 4.7 million people are being tested in Xinjiang province after an asymptomatic case was reported. Africa has over 1.6 million confirmed cases. 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 economic front, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) envisions a sharp 4.4% drop in global growth for 2020 as global economy struggles to recover from the pandemic-induced recession.

On the global response, FIND announced new funding totalling close to US$60 million to accelerate progress in tests and testing capacity for COVID-19 in the context of the ACT-Diagnostics Pillar. The World Bank approved an envelope of US$12 billion for developing countries to finance the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments for their citizens. At the World Health Summit in Berlin, the WHO, the European Commission and Germany called for global cooperation and solidarity in the fight against COVID-19.
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 (US$177.26 million) to the COVID-19 Response Mechanism is 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$811.2 million to support the COVID-19 response across 107 countries and 13 multicountry programs. Requests for funding have been approved within 5-10 days in the majority of cases. The timeline for award of funds from the Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) has been extended to 15 April 2021.

Funding Approved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant flexibilities</th>
<th>COVID-19 Response Mechanism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US$217 million</td>
<td>96 funding requests have been approved. Demand for funding has exceeded available funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$594.2 million</td>
<td>To date, approved contingent on additional funding totals US$172 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)
- 42 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. Since 2 October, 9 countries have submitted a requisition 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
- PPM Reference Price List for COVID-19 Diagnostics

Treatment: Following 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.
  - Over 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:
  - FIND announced new funding totalling close to US$60 million to accelerate progress in tests and testing capacity for COVID-19 in the context of the ACT-A Diagnostics Pillar.
  - Overall, US$18 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$200 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. As of 16 October, US$3.9 billion of the US$38 billion needed has been pledged towards the ACT-Accelerator’s goals of supporting the research, development, procurement, manufacture and distribution of the tests, tools, and treatments needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic. 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.
As of 19 October 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 15 October 2020:

**Countries in lockdown:** 36% of countries are in lockdown, down from 58% on 1 June. One quarter of countries have no restrictions, up from 8% on 1 June.

**Costed national plans:** 81% 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 remains 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. 19% of countries are still experiencing high level disruption in HIV service delivery.
- **TB:** Implementation of community-based activities has restarted in most countries, however numbers are still not at pre-Covid levels due to the decrease in visits to health centers.
- **Malaria:** Service delivery is described as “normal” or “back to normal,” with minimal disruption to key interventions.
**Global Fund Response**

**Global Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring**

**Disruption to supply of key medicines:** National stocks of TB medicines have slightly improved over the past weeks, but 9% of countries still report shortages of HIV medicines. For all three diseases, around 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.

**Availability of national stock**

**Average Score of Countries**

![Graph showing availability of national stock over time for HIV, TB, and Malaria](image)

**HIV and/or TB lab services disruption**

![Graph showing lab services disruption level over time for HIV and TB](image)
Global Fund Response
Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

IN FOCUS How COVID-19 impacts the fight against malaria

The Challenge
The fight against malaria is far from being over.

Over the past few years, the reductions in malaria mortality rates and number of malaria cases have slowed markedly, with the number of malaria cases increasing in several high burden countries. Insecticide resistance across Africa threatens to undermine the effectiveness of our most powerful tools: insecticide-treated mosquito nets and indoor residual spraying. In Asia’s Mekong region, we are seeing growing resistance to today’s most effective malaria drugs. Despite ongoing political advocacy, funding has plateaued. Due to severe climate perturbations and flooding across northern Sub-Saharan Africa, an upsurge of malaria cases is looming.

In addition to these challenges, COVID-19 threatens to reverse 20 years of extraordinary progress. In some countries, mosquito net distribution campaigns have been delayed. Case management has been affected by constraints on the movement and availability of health workers, while some countries face potential stock-outs of essential anti-malaria medicines. COVID-19 symptoms, in particular fever, has led to malaria being thought to be COVID-19 and vice-versa. Too often people who feel sick are not seeking treatment, frightened of contracting COVID-19 at a health facility. Disruptions also affect the ability to hold large-scale trainings and workshops for malaria.

According to WHO, COVID-19 could result in an additional 382,000 deaths due to malaria service disruption in the context of the pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria deaths would be set back to around 2000 levels, eliminating approximately 20 years of progress.

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The Global Fund’s Response
The Global Fund is working with partners, countries and communities to adapt malaria programs to mitigate the disruptions caused by COVID-19, ensure essential services are sustained and accelerate the progress to achieve the global goal of ending malaria by 2030. Specific activities as part of our COVID-19 response include:

Prevention:
- Door-to-door distribution of long-lasting insecticidal nets to avoid large crowds at fixed distribution points. More than 200 million nets are on track to be distributed in 2020.
- Expand preventative therapy for pregnant women and maximize impact of seasonal malaria chemoprevention for children under 5. It is estimated that 20 million children across the Sahel are expected to receive seasonal malaria chemoprevention, setting it at a record high.

Testing and treatment:
- Continue to provide essential PPEs and tools to community health workers who are at the center of malaria prevention, testing and treatment in many countries.
- Increase home-based care for communities unable to access health centers due to restriction of movements.

Surveillance:
- Strengthen reporting of real time data on morbidity and monitor service disruptions.
- Deploy digital technologies to enable more efficient and accurate mapping of households.

Country Case
Seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaign reaches millions of children in Burkina Faso

The Sahel region is home to some of the world’s highest rates of malaria worldwide, with children under 5 being particularly vulnerable. But seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) campaigns are proving effective by providing children with preventive malaria treatment that protects them from the disease.

Despite the insecurity across the country and challenges related to COVID-19, the Global Fund and partners rolled out a national SMC campaign in Burkina Faso from July to October this year, with the aim of reaching 4.5 million children under 5 years old.

It is estimated that investments in SMC campaigns across the Sahel from 2015 to 2020, have prevented over 22.5 million malaria cases and 100,000 deaths.
Global Fund Response
Communications, Media and Events

Communications Products

- Global Fund Results Report:
  - Executive Summary available in 中文 | English | Italiano | Español | Français | عربية | Deutsch | 日本語
  - Full Report available in ENG | FRA
- Technical Guidance:
  - COVID-19 Information Note: “Catch-up” Plans to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 on Tuberculosis Services

In the News

- ‘Corona carriers': Stigma halts medication and meet-ups for HIV+ Malawians – Reuters – 12 October 2020
- Kenya calls for more efforts to fight other diseases in Africa amid COVID-19 – Xinhua – 20 October 2020
- Roll out of rapid testing could be a ‘game changer’ for Africa – Devex – 23 October 2020
- Africa’s miners face new TB threat as pandemic disrupts treatment – Reuters – 26 October 2020
- Experts urge countries to ramp up funding for coronavirus testing – The Telegraph – 26 October 2020

On Social Media

- 120 million rapid tests – video
- Devex on diagnostics
- Peter Sands at WHS
- Peter Sands to speak at Harvard Kennedy School
- COVID-19 disruptions in Panama – UNDP

Upcoming Events

- 3 November: 2nd ACT-A Council Meeting
- 8-11 November: AFRAVIH
- 11-13 November: Paris Peace Forum
- 14 November: The Global Health Festival Padua
- 15-19 November: Wish Summit
- 16-18 November: Geneva Health Forum
- 18 November: HIV Prevention Coalition
- 21-22 November: G20 Summit
- 1 December: World Aids Day

Partners 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.
- WHO Global tuberculosis report 2020 includes a provisional assessment of how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the TB epidemic, people with TB and progress towards global TB targets.
- The IMF World Economic Outlook Report “A Long and Difficult Ascent” presents the IMF analysis and projections of economic developments around the world. Chapter 2 of the report dissects the nature of the economic crisis in the first seven months of the COVID-19 pandemic.