Global Overview

The Netherlands contributed an additional €52 million to the ACT-Accelerator, including €12 million to the Global Fund. Switzerland pledged US$300 million to ACT-Accelerator. The Global Citizen Vax Live “Unite the World” concert mobilized US$302 million in pledges from Canada and Croatia. US$2.5 million from the private sector in support of the ACT-Accelerator, and over 26 million COVID-19 vaccine doses for COVAX. The Greta Thunberg Foundation announced €100,000 for COVAX. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called on rich countries to keep their vaccine promises. Gordon Brown called on the G7 to support equitable access to COVID-19 tools. G7 Ministers reiterated support for the ACT-Accelerator. The Global Fund fast-tracked US$75 million for India’s COVID-19 response as the country faces a critical oxygen crisis. 23 April marked the one-year anniversary of the ACT-Accelerator with a video and an impact report. The Sixth ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council covered the scale-up of vaccine supply to COVAX and facilitating the uptake and delivery of COVID-19 tools through the Health Systems Connector. COVAX established a Manufacturing Task Force to tackle vaccine supply challenges. The Moderna and Sinopharm vaccines are now listed for emergency use. Gavi signed an agreement with Moderna to secure doses for the COVAX Facility. Dr. Bill Rodriguez has been appointed FIND’s new Chief Executive Officer to lead its new strategy, effective July 2021.

WHO and Germany launched the WHO Global Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence. WHO published a COVID-19 Research and Innovation Achievements Report. A WHO Global Infection Prevention and Control Portal will help countries identify and address gaps. The ANTICOV clinical trial, conducted in 13 African countries, has started the recruitment of participants to test a new drug combination to treat people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19. The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response published a report with recommendations to avoid another catastrophic pandemic, noting that the Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism is a fundamental part of the global COVID-19 response and is a successful example of COVID-19 financing. COVID-19 continues to disrupt essential health services in 90% of countries according to a WHO national pulse survey. The Lancet argued that COVID-19 has severely disrupted routine immunization while also catalyzing new approaches to vaccine development and mass vaccination efforts. WHO, UNICEF, Gavi and other partners launched the Immunization Agenda 2030 to help tackle immunization and support the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. A Global Youth Mobilization initiative was established for young people to combat the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities.

Global Fund Response: At a Glance

The Global Fund has deployed US$1.10 billion to fight COVID-19 and mitigate the impact on HIV, TB and malaria in 119 countries and multicountry programs since March 2020, using redeployed internal funds and contributions from donors including Canada, Denmark, the FIFA Foundation, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway and the United States. The COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) is the mechanism through which the Global Fund supports low- and middle-income countries to respond to the pandemic, as well as the mechanism through which we contribute to the targets of the ACT-Accelerator – the global collaboration to ensure the accelerated development and equitable deployment of tools to fight COVID-19. Through the ACT-Accelerator and with the extension of the C19RM in 2021, the Global Fund is now the primary channel for providing grant support to low- and middle-income countries on tests, treatments (including medical oxygen), personal protective equipment (PPE) and health systems strengthening. For the Global Fund to fulfil its responsibility to the ACT-Accelerator goals and regain lost progress against HIV, TB and malaria, an additional US$10 billion is needed. To date in 2021, the Global Fund has raised US$3.7 billion from donors including Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States.

- Total funds approved to support Global Fund’s COVID-19 response: US$1.10 billion
- Countries who received Global Fund support for COVID-19: 105 countries and 14 multicountry programs
- 2021 funds raised to date: near to US$3.7 billion
- 2021 fundraising target: US$10 billion

* 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.

To defeat COVID-19, the Global Fund advocates for a comprehensive approach that brings together testing, treatments, vaccines and the health systems and medical supplies to make it happen – vaccines alone will not be enough.

Testing is the first line of defense against COVID-19. As WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said: “Access to quality tests and laboratory services is like having a good radar system that gets you where you need to go. Without it, you’re flying blind.”

New mutations of the virus underscore the urgent need to contain COVID-19 in all countries. Even if wealthier countries succeed in rapidly rolling out vaccine and containment campaigns, if we do not do the same in low- and middle-income countries at the same time, the virus will continue to mutate and will pose a new threat to everyone – even countries that manage to control the original COVID-19 strain.

Investing in formal and community health systems worldwide is critical to our global health security, and is the only way we will fight existing epidemics like HIV, TB and malaria, new pandemics like COVID-19, and future health threats. According to a study in the medical journal The Lancet, over one-third of the Global Fund’s work supports global health security by helping countries prepare for, detect and respond to public health emergencies through funding of laboratory systems, fighting antimicrobial resistance, and the deployment of medical countermeasures and personnel.

The Global Fund helps countries fight COVID-19 with critical tests, treatments and medical supplies, protect front-line health workers, adapt lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs, and reinforce fragile systems for health. We are leveraging the Global Fund’s extensive health and community networks and our well-established health procurement and distribution system to distribute new COVID-19 tools, medical supplies and training at scale in more than 100 countries.

The Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism

The Global Fund developed the COVID-19 Response Mechanism to fight COVID-19, support countries in protecting their HIV, TB and malaria programs, and reinforce health systems.

How countries have been using COVID-19 Response Mechanism support:

- 63%: Reinforcing national COVID-19 response, including purchasing critical tests, treatments, oxygen and medical supplies; protecting front-line health workers with training and PPE like gloves and masks; and supporting control and containment interventions, including test, trace and treat/isolate.
- 28%: Mitigating COVID-19 impact on HIV, TB and malaria programs, including by delivering medicines, mosquito nets and critical supplies door to door, protecting community health workers and providing support and prevention services via digital platforms.
- 9%: Making urgent improvements to health and community systems to help fight COVID-19, HIV, TB and malaria, including by reinforcing supply chains, laboratory networks and community-led response systems.

Recognizing the integrated and cross-cutting nature of the fight against COVID-19 and the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, which rest on the same systems for health, the Global Fund is working to ensure that systems for health have the capacity and readiness to receive and deliver health tools such as tests, treatments, and vaccines, as well as mitigate the knock-on impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB, and malaria. “Combating COVID-19 and defeating HIV, TB and malaria are inextricably interconnected,” says Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund. “We won’t get back on track on the three epidemics while countries are still reeling from COVID-19.”
The Global Fund Board approved the extension of the COVID-19 Response Mechanism in 2021. With this decision and the contributions from our donors, the Global Fund will continue to provide swift additional support to partner countries. The C19RM has been refined to reinforce technical guidance as well as transparency and accountability, while sustaining the speed and flexibility of the mechanism to deliver funding as quickly as possible to countries most in need. Applicants can apply for immediate fast-track funding to support urgent needs for COVID-19 health products (including PPE, diagnostics, and therapeutics as set out in the optimal category within the Health Product Segmentation Framework) and costs relating to the effective deployment of such health products, including technical assistance.

**Total of US$1.10 billion awarded by the Global Fund for COVID-19 Response Mechanism. This includes:**

- **US$110 million** in fast-track funding requests in 2021.
- **US$990 million** awarded in 2020 to 105 countries and 14 multicountry grants.

Out of the total of 128 eligible applicants, the Global Fund has received estimated registration dates for 122 of them (as of 19 May):

- 47 out of the 122 countries that have answered the survey have indicated that they are also planning on applying for fast-track funding.
- 24 fast-track applications have already been received.
- 5 fast-track applications have already been approved.

Supporting Fast-Track Funding Requests

Applicants are encouraged to submit an ambitious Fast-Track Funding Request. How much of each country’s C19RM Base Allocation should be devoted to securing urgent COVID-19 health products through the fast-track process will depend on individual country circumstances. Countries are strongly encouraged to consider individual country contexts and reflect programmatic needs to submit considerably more than the anticipated half of the C19RM Base Allocation at portfolio level to ensure available funding of US$900 million is maximized and fully deployed in an efficient manner.

To allow eligible countries to submit their urgent demand for health products through the fast-track process, it is important to flag that the requirements for funding request documentation are considerably less than for the full funding request as described below.

- The applicant only needs to complete the summary page and Section 1 of the C19RM Funding Request form for the Fast-track Funding Request (pages 1 and 2 of the form), as indicated on page 5 of the instructions.
- **On funding priorities**, applicants will confirm that their investments are consistent with Global Fund and WHO guidelines and align the interventions with their COVID-19 national response plans. In this section, applicants will also indicate the extent to which national COVID-19 response coordinating bodies, HIV, TB and malaria programs and other relevant ones were consulted.
- Under **Implementation Arrangements**, applicants will describe the entities (Principal Recipients, sub-recipients) responsible for managing the Fast-Track Funding Request, and the measures put in place to ensure efficient program delivery. Applicants will also describe the planned mechanism for the procurement of COVID-19 health products.
- Applicants will also be required to submit a set of documents including the form, the budget, a quantification of COVID-19 health products, the COVID-19 National Testing Strategy, health product management template, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) endorsement, COVID-19 national response body endorsement and national COVID-19 response plan.

**Commodities**

- **Funded under C19RM and current grants: personal protective equipment (PPE).** Given the importance of PPE both as a fundamental COVID-19 intervention and key component of mitigation activities, PPE can be flexibly funded under either C19RM or existing grants.
- **Not funded under C19RM: HIV, TB and malaria commodities.** HIV, TB and malaria commodities are not expected to be included in C19RM Funding Requests and CCMs are requested to avoid using C19RM funding to compensate for shortfalls in domestic procurement.

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1. This includes redeployed funds approved through grant flexibilities.
Savings and reprogramming can be used for HIV, TB and malaria commodities (and mitigation and catch-up plans).

- When mitigation activities require additional HIV, TB and malaria commodities the Global Fund will work with CCMs and Principal Recipients to source those items through existing grants.
- Reprogramming flexibilities and grant savings through portfolio optimization can be used for HIV, TB and malaria mitigation and catch-up plans, but not available for direct COVID-19 needs such as diagnostics and therapeutics.

**Systems Support Contributing to Vaccine Delivery Services:**

**What does C19RM Cover? And what does it not?**

Within the ACT-Accelerator, Gavi is playing the lead role on vaccine procurement for low- and middle-income countries through COVAX. Gavi has raised a considerable amount of funding to support both vaccine procurement and deployment within National Vaccine Deployment Plans and the World Bank is taking the lead on supporting vaccine deployment through the US$12 billion Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) facility.

With UNICEF and WHO’s Emergencies Programme playing key technical implementation support roles, this leaves the Global Fund as the major multilateral financing agency supporting the other aspects of countries’ COVID-19 responses, including diagnostics, treatments, and health systems reinforcements.

Considering that other partners are leading on vaccine procurement and deployment, the Global Fund does not intend to use C19RM to fund these areas. However, the C19RM Technical Information note describes six targeted system strengthening activities to contribute to vaccine delivery services, and that are considered “in scope” within C19RM where these are not being fully supported by other partners and where they support both COVID-19 and HIV, TB, and malaria responses:

- Design social mobilization and engagement strategy/demand plan and information awareness programs to address COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccine hesitancy in communities.
- Apply Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures and provide COVID-19 response-related training of community health care workers (HCWs) that also support vaccine delivery.
- Planning activities for how to identify and reach those excluded or not covered by the public health system, e.g. detainees, migrants and refugees, and stigmatized populations, with COVID-19-related testing, treatment, and prevention services, that may support vaccination services, as appropriate.

- As part of national COVID-19 response activities under Pillar 1, conduct COVID-19 vaccine table-top (simulation) exercises to test on-going country readiness.
- Adapt and apply existing surveillance and monitoring frameworks to address vaccination coverage, acceptability and adverse events reporting, including information from facilities and contractors participating in vaccine delivery.
- Adapt and apply existing Health Management Information Systems (e.g. DHIS2) electronic and/or paper-based monitoring tools and appropriate institutional arrangements (e.g. vaccination cards/certificates, facility-based nominal registers, etc.) to monitor progress and coverage among different at-risk and marginalized groups in order to facilitate vaccine delivery and timely reporting.
- Interventions not mentioned above are not covered by C19RM. Applicants are requested to look at domestic financing, GAVI and WB funding, where possible, before applying for C19RM funding for this purpose.

**Resources for countries:**

- C19RM: Guidelines
- C19RM: Update for countries
- C19RM: How to apply
- C19RM: Funding Request Instructions
- C19RM: Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) support and engagement
- C19RM: HIV, TB and Malaria Mitigation Note
- C19RM: Health Product Management Template User Guidelines
- Office of the Inspector General’s Audit of COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM)
The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator)

As part of our efforts to mitigate the pandemic’s impact on HIV, TB and malaria, the Global Fund is playing a leading role in the global response to fight COVID-19. The Global Fund is a founding partner of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator), a global collaboration of leading public health agencies and governments working to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines and strengthen health systems. Through the ACT-Accelerator and with the extension of our COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), the Global Fund is now the primary channel for providing grant support to low- and middle-income countries on tests, treatments (including medical oxygen), PPE and health system strengthening. As part of the ACT-Accelerator, the Global Fund is a co-convener of both the Diagnostics Pillar (with FIND) and the Health Systems Connector (with the World Bank), and we are a procurement and deployment partner in the Therapeutics Pillar. Along with other partners, the Global Fund is actively involved in the WHO Diagnostics Consortium to monitor the supply and demand of molecular and rapid diagnostics tests for COVID-19 and implement the WHO allocation for scarcely available COVID-19 products. 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 quality-assured health products.

Alongside our work addressing the priorities of the ACT-Accelerator pillars, the Global Fund is continuing to mitigate the knock-on impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB, and malaria, and investing in additional interventions to support resilient and sustainable systems for health that are not currently covered in the ACT-Accelerator framework. These investments are necessary to ensure that other needs that cannot be accommodated within the scope of the ACT-Accelerator are met. In this way, the Global Fund is ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable are being addressed and that additional resources are making their way to communities.

4 strategic priorities of the ACT-Accelerator in 2021:

1. Rapidly scale up the delivery of over 2 billion vaccine doses across the world.
2. Bolster research and development, evaluation and regulatory pathways to optimize products and address the novel COVID-19 variants that have been identified.
3. Prioritize the rapid and effective uptake of tests, treatments and PPE in low- and middle-income countries.
4. Ensure a robust supply pipeline of essential tests, treatments and PPE for low- and middle-income countries.

By the end of 2021, the ACT-Accelerator aims to deliver 900 million diagnostic tests, 165 million courses of treatment and 2 billion doses of vaccine to low- and middle-income countries.
**Diagnostics Pillar.** In 2021, testing will play an even more critical role with the spread of new variants. Additional funding is needed to drive the development and at-scale availability of affordable, digitally-integrated tests; secure equitable access to tests to reduce the testing gap between high-income and low-income countries, procuring 900 million tests to contain hotspots and detect the emergence of novel variants; and stimulate rapid and effective country uptake of tests, including capacity building in countries to roll-out testing at scale. The Global Fund is supporting countries and partners to develop and implement national testing strategies using a combination of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and antigen rapid diagnostic tests (Ag RDTs). In addition, the Global Fund has leveraged its laboratory infrastructure initially designed for tuberculosis diagnosis and HIV viral load testing to immediately respond to COVID-19. The scaling up of an existing base of over 10,000 of Cepheid’s GeneXpert molecular diagnostic devices in laboratories across low- and middle-income countries, and the technicians trained to operate them, has enabled these countries to massively expand their COVID-19 testing capacities since the beginning of the pandemic.

**Progress so far**

**ACT-Accelerator**

- Over 74.5 million COVID-19 tests (35 million PCR tests and 39.5 million Ag RDTs tests) have been procured for low- and middle-income countries.
- Over 23,000 health care workers are being trained in almost 200 countries to effectively implement the tests.
- Over 60 RDTs have been independently assessed and benchmarked against quality criteria to inform government procurement of quality COVID-19 tests.
- Fast-tracked access to 120 million affordable, high quality Ag-RDTs for low- and middle-income countries has been secured.
- Regionalized manufacturing and technology transfers have been improved to increase global manufacturing capacity of quality and affordable RDTs.

**The Global Fund, as part of ACT-Accelerator:**

To date, US$183 million placed as requisitions for 20.2 million diagnostic tests (and associated costs for their effective deployment) across 88 countries through the Global Fund’s Pooled Procurement Mechanism and/or on wambo.org.

- Requisitions for 3.8 million automated PCR diagnostic tests across 82 countries
- Requisitions for 14.6 million Ag RDT tests across 35 countries
- Requisitions for 1.7 million manual PCR diagnostic tests

**Therapeutics Pillar.** The 2021 strategy prioritizes support for countries in optimizing clinical care and introducing new tools, as well as procurement of existing therapeutics, such as dexamethasone and medical oxygen products. As more than half a million COVID-19 patients in low- and middle-income countries are estimated to need oxygen treatment every day, the COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce brings together key organizations working on oxygen access under the ACT-Accelerator Therapeutics pillar to measure oxygen demand, work with financing partners, and secure oxygen supplies and technical support for worst-affected countries. With WHO and Unitaid, the Global Fund co-leads the workstream on procurement and delivery of therapeutic treatments like corticosteroids and medical oxygen for LMICs.

**Progress so far**

**ACT-Accelerator**

- 3.2 million lifesaving dexamethasone treatments have been supplied (including 2.9 million by UNICEF)
- Over 300 actionable trials across product categories have been tracked and two large randomized controlled platform trials have been supported, which led to the identification of the first lifesaving therapy, dexamethasone.
- The research agenda continues to advance for monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) adapted for LMICs, small molecule novel antivirals (SM NAV) and repurposed therapeutics.
- Global guidance has been provided on the clinical use of corticosteroids (including dexamethasone) and its use integrated with medical oxygen into good clinical care to treat those severely affected.
- 15 clinical trials have been supported, and 21 therapies are being investigated in 47 countries.

**The Global Fund, as part of ACT-Accelerator:** 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. Since August 2020, the Global Fund has made available the procurement of oxygen equipment products on wambo.org. The Global Fund has currently funded up to US$90 million for oxygen products.
Health Systems Connector. The Health Systems Connector (HSC) aims to support countries on key health systems enablers as well as be the vehicle to make personal protective equipment and medical oxygen available as high priority commodities, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). As country readiness is an absolute prerequisite to the equitable scale-up of other COVID-19 tools, the priority in 2021 is to identify and address bottlenecks in health systems and to make sure that COVID-19 tools are successfully delivered and made available, with a priority on personal protective equipment for front-line workers. The Global Fund is engaged in all workstreams, and focuses particularly on the strengthening of supply chains, supporting community-led responses, and the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) 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.

Progress so far

| ACT-Accelerator | ACT-Accelerator partners have procured more than **US$500 million** in PPE for LMICs. |
| | System requirements for the delivery of COVID-19 tools have been mapped in four out of six world regions. |
| | Country readiness for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines has been assessed in 128 LMICs. |
| | Global and regional guidance and training materials have been developed to support health financing and COVID-19 costing, strengthen community engagement in the COVID-19 response, bolster critical supply chain capabilities, and enhance engagement with the private sector and several other critical areas. |

| The Global Fund, as part of ACT-Accelerator: | **US$280 million** of C19RM funds have been approved for the provision of personal protective equipment (PPEs). This is enough to purchase more than **100 million** daily PPE kits for front-line health workers. |
| | **52 countries** have purchased PPEs on wambo.org |

ACT-Accelerator Funding Update as of 11 May 2021 (according to the Funding Tracker)

- **Funding gap**: **US$18.5 billion**
- **Total funds committed**: Over **US$14.6 billion**
  - **Vaccines**: **US$9.1 billion**
  - **Therapeutics**: **US$700 million**
  - **Diagnostics**: **US$1 billion**
  - **Health Systems**: **US$600 million**
  - **Pending allocation to/by pillars**: **US$3.3 billion**
Additional Resources:

**ACT-Accelerator**
- What is the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, how is it structured and how does it work?
- 6th ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council
- ACT-Accelerator prioritized strategy and budget for 2021
- ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker
- Interactive ACT-Accelerator’s Funding Commitment Tracker
- ACT-Accelerator Status Report & Plan
- ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Partnership Investment Case
- ACT-Accelerator Therapeutics Partnership Investment Case
- ACT-Accelerator Vaccines Pillar (COVAX)
- The ACT-Accelerator frequently asked questions
- Accelerating access to vaccines through the ACT-Accelerator & COVAX
- ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council - Terms of reference
- ACT-Accelerator latest newsletter (14 May 2021)

**Therapeutics**
- A living WHO guideline on drugs to prevent COVID-19
- Treatment and Oxygen Equipment
- List of Oxygen Products via Wambo.org
- PATH COVID-19 Oxygen Needs Tracker
- PATH COVID-19 and oxygen: resource library
- PATH Oxygen Delivery Toolkit
- WHO-UNICEF technical specifications and guidance for oxygen therapy devices

**Health System Connector**
- COVID-19 Impact on Health Product Supply: Assessment and Recommendations
- Placing orders and procuring health products in 2021
- List of Personal Protective Equipment and Oxygen Products Available for Procurement via Wambo.org
- Procurement Advice

**Diagnostics**
- Scaling-up Testing with Antigen-Detection Diagnostics
- 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
- Interim Quality Assurance Requirements for the Procurement of COVID-19 Diagnostic Products
- Diagnostics Consortium for Cepheid GeneXpert COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction Tests for the 2 million tests for the 6 months allocation period
- Antigen-detection in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection using rapid immunoassays
- FIND SARS-COV-2 Test Tracker
As of 17 May 2021, 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 monthly survey online to help identify potential risks and disruptions to programs. The tool 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 May 2021:

Countries in lockdown: 36% of countries where the Global Fund invests are experiencing nationwide lockdowns as of 1 May, slightly down from 37% on 1 April. 24% of countries are still experiencing local restrictions that impact the programs run by the Global Fund.

Costed national plans: The percentage of countries that have costed response plans in place for their COVID-19 response remains stable. On 1 May 2021, 81% of countries had a costed response plan in place, compared to 75% on 15 June 2020, and 83% on 15 November 2020.

Disruption to health service delivery: Disruption to HIV, TB and malaria services have slightly decreased since 1 April. Malaria services appear to be recovering from a period of increasing disruption risk in February and March. 50% of countries are reporting no or low disruption to health service delivery for malaria, compared to 41% of countries for HIV and 34% for TB.

Service delivery disruption
Average Score of Countries

Latest Answer Distribution (1 May)

- HIV: 41% Very high disruption, 9% High disruption, 49% Moderate/uni00A0disruption
- TB: 34% Very high disruption, 2% High disruption, 11% Moderate/uni00A0disruption
- Malaria: 50% Very high disruption, 1% High disruption, 13% Moderate/uni00A0disruption

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**Disruption to supply of key medicines:** The risk trend in the supply of key HIV medicines continues to rise between 1 April and 1 May, with a slightly less significant increase for malaria medicines. For the TB and malaria components, at least half of the countries where the Global Fund invests have a minimum 6 months’ supply capacity of key medicines. However, the situation has particularly deteriorated regarding HIV commodities: 7% of countries are still experiencing shortages of key HIV medicines, and only 44% of countries have a minimum 6 months’ supply capacity of key medicines.

**Lab services:** The improving trend observed since 1 November 2020 has halted and slightly reversed, with 48% of countries reporting no or low HIV and/or TB lab services disruption as of 1 May 2021, down from 50% on the 1 April 2021. The percentage of countries experiencing high HIV and/or TB lab services disruption has increased to 7%, up from 6% on the 1 April. In fact, the share of countries reporting high or very high disruption is now at 11%, which is the highest reported in 2021.
Medical oxygen comes in multiple formats, including cylinders, concentrators, liquid oxygen, and Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants. Health systems need adequate infrastructure to deliver oxygen products, as well as the equipment necessary to provide oxygen therapy to patients, such as masks, nasal cannulas and pulse oximeters. Strengthening systems for health and investing in oxygen now will not only help countries reduce COVID-19 deaths, but will also continue to save lives beyond the pandemic for other conditions and diseases.

The Global Fund and partners are supporting countries in accessing medical oxygen products – including through collaborations such as the COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce, part of the Therapeutics Pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator).

As the emergence and circulation of new variants highlight the urgent need to stop the spread of the pandemic everywhere, the Global Fund is encouraging countries to apply for fast-track funding through its COVID-19 Response Mechanism to prepare for future waves of COVID-19, including with diagnostic tests, personal protective equipment (PPE), and treatments – such as corticosteroids and medical oxygen.
India is currently in the grips of a deadly COVID-19 wave and is facing a severe scarcity of oxygen. So far, the country has counted over 25.4 million cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began and is now recording over 4000 deaths every day. In total, over 283,000 people have died from COVID-19 in India.

“The situation in India is heartbreaking,” says Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund. “While the most immediate gap is medical oxygen, we also need to invest in the health systems and health workers needed to treat the patients and respond to COVID-19. Oxygen will save lives, but it is only part of the solution. We must massively scale up testing and vaccinations to stop the spread of COVID-19 in India and worldwide.”

The Global Fund has approved US$75 million in fast-track funding to support India’s response to the COVID-19 crisis that is devastating the country. This new funding will support India in purchasing oxygen concentrators and Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants to help meet the medium-term needs for medical oxygen. As India’s acute oxygen needs are being addressed by its government and partners, the Global Fund’s response is supporting higher output oxygen solutions that will be beneficial as the COVID-19 response develops.

The new funding is in addition to US$36.8 million approved for India in 2020 through the Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism to help mitigate the pandemic’s impact on HIV, TB and malaria programs, purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for front-line health workers, procure testing equipment and strengthen health systems – in particular laboratory capacities and community health networks.

See the press release here.
Communication Products

- **News Releases:**
  - Global Fund 45th Board Meeting Reports Continued Progress Despite COVID-19 Pandemic (ENG | FRA)
  - Global Fund Approves US$75 million for India’s COVID-19 Response (ENG | FRA)
  - Global Fund Applauds Netherlands’ Contribution to ACT-Accelerator (ENG | FRA)

- **Stories and videos:**
  - India’s Devastating COVID-19 Crisis (ENG | FRA)
  - United Against Malaria (ENG | FRA)
  - Malaria and COVID-19: Q&A with Dr. Scott Filler (ENG | FRA)

- **Blogs and op-eds:**
  - Okinawa: Lighting a Flame for the Fight Against Infectious Diseases (ENG | FRA)
  - We Must Scale Up the Global Response to COVID-19. This Needs More Than Vaccines (ENG)
  - Malaria Elimination in the Asia-Pacific: the COVID-19 Threat (ENG)
  - In Fighting COVID-19, We Can’t Neglect Malaria (ENG | FRA)
  - One Year into the COVID-19 Pandemic, Testing Is as Vital as Ever (ENG | GER)

On Social Media

- India’s oxygen crisis (post)
- Global Citizen interview (post)
- Weber Shandwick podcast (post)
- ACT-Accelerator Anniversary (post)
- Testing is as vital as ever (post)
- Malaria in the Asia-Pacific (post)
- World Malaria Day (post)
- Washington Post Op-Ed (post)
- India’s oxygen crisis (post)
- Interview with Dr. Scott Filler (post)
- Peter Sands: “We can’t neglect malaria” (post)
- Washington Post Op-Ed (post)
- Weber Shandwick podcast (post)
- Interview with Dr. Scott Filler (post)
- Testing is as vital as ever (post)
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In the News (continued)

- Global Issues - 23 April 2021 - Pathogens, Public Health, & Political Will: Why Sustained Leadership is Critical
- Sky News - 23 April 2021 - COVID-19: Scientists say vaccines could control pandemic, as Bill Gates optimistic ‘the end will come’
- France Inter - 23 April 2021 - Accélérateur ACT: un an après, quel bilan pour les pays pauvres?
- Der Tagesspiegel - 23 April 2021 - Noch immer fehlt ärmeren Ländern das Werkzeug zur Pandemiebekämpfung
- The Telegraph - 23 April 2021 - One year into the Covid-19 pandemic, testing is as vital as ever
- Público - 21 April 2021 - Françoise Vanni: "La mortalidad por VIH, tuberculosis y malaria crecerá porque los diagnósticos se han reducido por la covid"
- Nature - 21 April 2021 - How COVID hurt the fight against other dangerous diseases
- La Repubblica - 20 April 2021 - Salute globale, al summit di maggio i leader mondiali dovranno condividere le lezioni apprese dalla pandemia

Partners’ Publications

- 20 May SDG3 GAP - Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All Progress Report
- 19 May WHO - Mid-term Results Report
- 13 May WHO - COVID-19 Research and Innovation Achievements Report
- 11 May Wellcome Trust - Putting science to work Understanding what works for workplace mental health
- 8 May Global Citizen - VAX live Impact Report
- 5 May WHO - Report by the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response
- 5 May WHO - Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
- 3 May UNICEF - Responding to COVID-19: UNICEF's 2020 key achievements
- 23 April WHO - Second round of the national pulse survey on continuity of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 23 April Wellcome Trust - Achieving Equitable Access to Health Technologies: What have we learned from Covid-19 so far?
- 23 April WHO - ACT now, ACT together 2020-2021 Impact Report
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Upcoming Events

- **21 May**: Global Health Summit
- **24 May - 1 June**: 74th World Health Assembly
- **31 May - 4 June**: Science of Eradication: Malaria 2021
- **2 June**: Gavi’s COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) Summit
- **8-10 June**: United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
- **11-13 June**: The G7 Leaders’ Summit 2021
- **17-18 June**: 3rd G20 Health Working Group Meeting
- **24-25 June**: European Council
- **30 June-2 July**: Generation Equality Forum: Paris
- **28-29 June**: G20 Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting 2021
- **28-29 June**: Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Summit for Health
- **18-21 July**: International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Science 2021