One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, testing is as vital as ever

A lack of testing in low-income countries could create the perfect conditions for more virulent and deadly strains of COVID-19 to emerge.

Inequity in testing is creating a dangerous situation

For every test conducted in a low-income country, more than 100 are being conducted in high-income countries.*

Without testing, countries cannot:

- Track and contain COVID-19 outbreaks
- Diagnose and provide appropriate treatment to patients
- Detect and sequence more virulent and potentially more deadly variants that are emerging
- Measure the efficacy of vaccines against existing and new strains of COVID-19

Through our COVID-19 Response Mechanism, the Global Fund is supporting low- and middle-income countries in procuring diagnostic tests, strengthening laboratory infrastructure and capacities, and providing training and technical assistance.

With FIND, the Global Fund co-leads the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator's Diagnostics Pillar.

In 2021, the Diagnostics Pillar aims to:

- Procure and deploy 900 million diagnostic tests to low- and middle-income countries
- Develop high-quality, affordable, and easy-to-use tests
- Support countries to strengthen their testing capacity and deploy tests widely

We face an immediate funding gap of US$6.3 billion for 2021.

* Data for May 2021 from the FIND test tracker